

**Proceedings of the Twelfth Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the Third General
Elections under the Sovereign Democratic
Republican Constitution of India.**

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 9 A. M. on Friday, the 18th March, 1966.

PRESENT

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

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Construction of a Bridge over Dikrong near Bihpuria

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) asked:

*69. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Road and Buildings) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the strong public demand from North Lakhimpur about the construction of a bridge over lower Dikrong near Bihpuria ?
- (b) Whether Government will be pleased to move the Border Road Authority to provide a bridge at lower Dikrong ?
- (c) If not, whether Government will be pleased to take up construction of the bridge top priority basis in the Fourth Five-Year Plan ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied:

69. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Necessary estimates to re-align the old N. T. Road from Narayanpur to Laluk *via* Bihpuria including construction of a bridge over Dikrong were submitted to the Border Road Authority, Government of India, who rejected the proposal.

(c)—Construction of the bridge has been included in the list of new schemes for consideration in the 4th Plan.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA : Sir, whether Government will be pleased to give top priority to this scheme in the Fourth Plan ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : It is in the consideration of the State Government.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : May I know when the State Government has sent the proposal to the Government of India for inclusion of this scheme ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : I cannot give the exact date. It has been sent long ago.

Re: Silchar Medical College

Shri RAMPIRIT RUDRA PAUL (Hailakandi) asked :

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

- (a) What is the present progress regarding the construction of Silchar Medical College ?
- (b) When classes will be started in Silchar ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied :

70. (a) & (b)—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to replies to Starred Question No.49 given on 18th December 1965.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : What is the progress of construction of the Medical College ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The question of progress of work does not arise at all.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : We want to know the present progress of work.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The situation is as it was at that time.

Shri GOURISHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : May I know, Sir, how many seats will be made available for admission ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member wants to know what will be the intake capacity of the Medical College.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In three hostels the total number will be about 600.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : When the construction will be completed ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I cannot give the exact date, but it is expected to be completed by August next year.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : Intake does not mean total number of students ; intake means admission capacity per year.

(No reply)

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : How many class rooms have been completed ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : If the hon. Members do not care to go through the replies given to the previous questions what can I do ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : In that question there was no indication of class rooms. My question is specific, how many class rooms have been completed,

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : That question does not arise because the construction work of the college has not yet started.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : Sir, does the hon. Minister still hold the same impression as was expressed by him that in the early part of 1967 Pre-medical classes will be opened ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I never said that it will be opened in the early part of 1967. I said it will be started during the 1967-68 session.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : In the last Budget Session we got an assurance that the construction will be completed soon. May I know why the construction work of college building has not been started at Silchar ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Construction work has been started for the two hostel buildings, and so far as the other hostel building and the administrative building are concerned, construction work will be started after the plan and estimates are approved and the Finance Department give their concurrence. Then the work will be allotted to the contractors. So, what I said, hardly three months back, the position is practically at that stage. Anyway, so far as the third hostel building is concerned we will allot the work soon, but so far as the college building and administrative buildings are concerned, it will take some time. We have not yet got the plans and estimates.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : What is the progress of the construction work of the hostel buildings ? The Minister has said that the position is the same as was three months back.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It does not relate to the hostel buildings. The progress of work of the hostel buildings is very satisfactory. I said that the position has not changed so far as the other buildings are concerned. The whole trouble is that the hon. Members do not remember the replies and they go on putting supplementary questions at random.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Sir, my supplementary was with regard to question (b) when the classes will be started in Silchar. That is why I want to know how many class rooms have been completed.

(No reply)

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the plans and estimates for the construction of administrative building and college building have been finalised ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Plans and estimates have not been received.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN : Has the Government enough resources to complete the college buildings and other things during the Fourth Five Year Plan ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : It is difficult to say. As it is well-known to the hon. Members that whatever allotment will be made, it will go under the Five-Year Plan schemes. Our intention is to complete it as quickly as possible but it all depends on the availability of funds.

Re: Hallidyaganj-Mankachar Road

Shri ZAHIRUL ISLAM (Mankachar) asked :

*71. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) When the construction of the Hallidyaganj-Mankachar Road cum-bund was started ?

(b) Whether compensation for land and for damage of crops has been given to the effected persons ?

(c) If not, whether Government will expedite payment of compensation ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Minister of State, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

71. (a)—In April, 1961. °

(b)—Not yet.

(c)—Yes, payment of compensation will be made as soon as the land acquisition proceedings are finalised. Finalisation of land acquisition proceedings have been delayed due to change of proposal in width of land acquisition.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : What is the total amount spent up till now for this project ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Some amount has been spent out of the total estimated amount of Rs. 18,31,000. Sir, this work has to be delayed because of change in the alignment. Formerly we had estimated Rs. 18,31,000 but it went up to Rs. 21,00,000 or so.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): When the first proposal for payment of compensation to the land-owners has been received by the Department?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I have not got that information now with me.

Shri ZAHIRUL ISLAM: What is the length of the road?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: About 18 miles.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: When the decision to change the alignment was arrived at by the Department?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Administrative approval was given on 19th March 1961 and the technical sanction was given on 22nd March 1961, and the work started in the month of April, 1961. Now the work on the road has been delayed due to non-finalisation of the question of compensation. We have asked the Deputy Commissioner, Dhubri and Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara to expedite the matter.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: May I know when the road will be completed?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: After finalisation of the land acquisition proceedings.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know when Government sent the last letter to the Deputy Commissioner to finalise land acquisition proceedings?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I have not got the information with me now.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re: **Appointment of Police Officers from outside the State on contract**

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

125. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the number of officers appointed in the Police Department on contract basis from outside the State? (Name of officers, their designations and pay and terms of contract be furnished).
- (b) What are the reasons for bringing such officers on contract basis from outside the State?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

125. (a)—Four Gazetted.

Twenty non-gazetted.

(As regards names of officers, their designations and pay and terms of contract a statement is placed on the Table of the House).

(b)—Due to dearth of State Police personnel trained in the modern weapons some *ex*-army officers from outside the State were appointed on contract basis for proper functioning of the Armed Police Battalions and for training our own men in these Battalions.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether it is not possible to train up our own officers to man these posts ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : They are being trained, but for the border security force and the armed branch, those who have got some special training in the Army are more useful. Moreover, there has been considerable expansion and our recruitment has not been able to cope with that expansion. But it is the policy of the Government to train up our own officers gradually to man these posts. As a matter of fact, many of our officers are manning these posts; only a few officers have been appointed from outside the State.

Re: Increase of traffic accidents in the State

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked :

126. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the number of traffic accidents are increasing day by day in the State ?

(b) If so, what measures Government have so far taken to prevent such accidents ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

126. (a)—There appears to be increase of traffic accidents in 1965 in comparison with 1964 ; but in comparison with 1963 it is less.

(b)—The following measures have been taken to prevent such accidents :—

(1) Besides prosecuting drivers under the Motor Vehicles Acts for violation of traffic rules, mobile courts have also been held to punish the offenders on the spot ; roadsafety weeks have been observed announcing traffic rules and regulations to public ; installation of electric traffic signals in major towns of Assam has been introduced ; road crossings have been marked for the pedestrians as well as the motorists, and constables have been posted in those places to guide them.

- (2) In all major towns of Assam, speed limit at 32 Km. per hour has been enforced. Necessary steps have also been taken to prosecute the offenders for violation of speed limit. Vehicles are checked at certain points for 24 hours by opening check-posts in the outskirts of Gauhati town and the offenders are produced before the court on the very same day.
- (3) Hⁱghway patrol with 4 pick-up vans has been introduced for patrolling the Assam Trunk Road with effect from September 1965. In order to avoid traffic congestion, some of the roads in major towns have been made one-way. Suitable parking places have been arranged for vehicles and rickshaws in major towns.
- (4) A Traffic Control Machinery has been started with suitable staff.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Kokrajhar) : Is the hon. Chief Minister aware that many of the accidents are caused by stray cattle, dogs and goats on the road? Is any step going to be taken regarding this?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Certainly, these obstruction by animals may be the cause of many accidents, but we have not so far taken any special steps in this regard.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : In view of the fact that the number of traffic accidents is increasing in between Khanapara and Burnihat, will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to see that a traffic control party is stationed at Jorabat, to prevent accidents on this road?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I will request the hon. Member to see the replies to the next question, in which the recommendations of the committee to prevent accidents, and recommendations which have already been implemented, are given in detail. For any particular portion of the road, for setting up a new control point we will have to go by the recommendations of the traffic police.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : In view of the fact that diesel trucks ply unchecked at a very high speed on the Gauhati-Nowgong Road, which is a potential cause of accidents, will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to take some steps so that their speed may be limited?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : These diesel trucks are now-a-days plying on all roads on the National Highway, the Shillong-Gauhati Road and on other roads also. I cannot say about any particular road, but the steps so far taken to control speed have been stated in reply to the next question.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : May I know whether Government would consider the desirability of enacting a legislation to prevent stray cattle on the roads in the municipal areas of the State?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I think there are provisions in the Municipal bye-laws.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : In reply to (b), the hon. Chief Minister has stated that "highway patrol with 4 pick-up vans has been introduced for patrolling the Assam Trunk Road with effect from September 1965". May I know from the hon. Chief Minister which portions of the road have been covered by these 4 pick-up vans?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I do not have that information with me now.

Shri PULAKESHI SINHA (Sonai) : It is generally observed that the main cause of accidents is the drunken condition of the drivers. May I know whether at the time of issuing driving licences the fact whether the person is addicted to drinking or not is taken into consideration?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : A drunk person should not drive vehicles, but I suppose at present there is no law to disqualify a person because he drinks.

Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND (Jaipur) : In reply to (b) (2), the hon. Chief Minister has stated that a speed limit of 32 km. has been enforced in all major towns of Assam. Does the Chief Minister know that this speed limit of 32 km. is not observed, specially in Dibrugarh town?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : It has to be enforced wherever it is not observed.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Is it not a fact that for want of suitable parking places in the greater Gauhati area this congestion has increased traffic accident? Will the hon. Chief Minister take some steps so that suitable parking places are arranged?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I have already replied to this question in reply to a question the other day.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahoal) : বিদেশত speed control ব যিটো ব্যৱস্থা আছে Mobile Court Rules ব দৰে ঠিক সেই ধৰণে আমাৰ ইয়াতো প্ৰতি দুই-তিনি মাহে তেনে ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিবনে?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I have not been able to follow the hon. Member.

Mr. SPEAKER : আন আন দেশত Speed Control ব ব্যৱস্থা আছে, আমাৰ তেনে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Of course, speed-checking has to be done.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Many accidents occur due to the lack of road sense on the part of pedestrians. May I know what steps have Government taken to teach road sense to the pedestrians?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : At present safety weeks are observed occasionally.

Mr. SPEAKER : But they are observed in towns only?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Yes, Sir.

Re: Setting up a Committee to suggest ways and means for Traffic Control in the State

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

127. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government have set up a Committee to suggest ways and means for traffic control in the State?
- (b) If so, what are the recommendations of the said Committee and what measures Government have so far taken to implement these recommendations?
- (c) Whether Government deputed any Police Officer for traffic control training?
- (d) If so, what is the number and where they have been posted?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

127. (a)—Yes. A Committee was set up in 1963 under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner of Division to examine the question of prevention of accidents in the State.

(b)—A copy of the recommendations of the said Committee is laid on the Table of the House.

The following recommendations of the Committee have so far been implemented:—

- (1) A Bureau of Accidents with suitable staff has been established under the Inspector General of Police with effect from 15th September 1964 for the purpose of conducting researches on accident cases and measures to be adopted for their prevention.
- (2) A Traffic Control Machinery consisting of 1 Deputy Superintendent of Police, 4 Sergeants, 1 Inspector, 14 Sub-Inspectors, 10 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 24 Head Constables and 294 Constables has been sanctioned for controlling traffic in major towns of Assam and functioning properly.
- (3) A prosecuting Staff consisting of 8 Sub-Inspectors, 8 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 16 Constables has been entertained and attached to Magistrate's Courts for dealing exclusively with cases arising out of violation of traffic rules.
- (4) Highway patrol with 4 pick-up vans has been introduced for patrolling the National Highway (Assam Trunk Road); the fixed speed limit of 32 Km. per hour and one side parking of vehicles facing either direction have been enforced in all major towns; heavy and slow-moving vehicles have been restricted from plying on busy thoroughfares during the peak hours of the day. This restriction also applies to loading and unloading of goods.

- (5) Police have been enlisted for taking driving test on various traffic signals and road traffic signs.
- (6) The practice of granting heavy license to those who are in possession of a provisional license for the same purpose at least for a period of six months has been enforced.
- (7) Renewal of professional license at the end of every two years, accompanied with a medical certificate of physical fitness has been introduced.
- (8) Traffic instructions have been imparted to the public through fixed loudspeakers; constables have been posted at road intersections to guide the public; steps for the unlawful use of roadsides have been taken; instructions for stacking the Public Works Department materials out of the road have been issued by Public Works Department.

(c)—Yes.

- (d) (1)—Three Sergeants trained in traffic control in Calcutta have been posted at Gauhati, Dibrugarh and Shillong.
- (2) One Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and Six Constables from Jorhat and one Sub-Inspector, two Head Constables and six Constables from Dibrugarh are at present undergoing training in Calcutta Police Traffic Training School. On completion, they will be posted to their parent districts.
- (3) Another Sergeant who is undergoing training at the Police Training College, Dergaon will be deputed to Calcutta for training.
- (4) A traffic staff consisting of 3 Sub-Inspectors, 12 Constables will be deputed to Calcutta Traffic Training School to undergo traffic training course during this year.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: In reply to (b) (2), the Chief Minister has stated "as traffic control machinery consisting of 1 Deputy Superintendent of Police, 4 Sergeants, 1 Inspector, 14 Sub-Inspectors, 10 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 24 Head Constables and 294 Constables has been sanctioned for controlling traffic in major towns of Assam and functioning properly". May I know whether these personnel have been trained up in that particular line?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Yes, Sir, the Traffic Sergeants are trained in Calcutta. I suppose the D. S. P. also is specially trained in the subject.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): May I know what are the major towns mentioned here?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Big towns in Assam.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Is it a fact that the personnel who have been trained for traffic control work are not posted for that particular work but for other executive duties ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: No, Sir, not generally but sometimes it may be necessary to transfer such officers on promotion or for other administrative reasons. Generally, however, they are put on traffic control duty.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV (Kokrajhar): Will the hon. Chief Minister consider the feasibility of publishing a bulletin containing instruction to educate the people and asking them not to allow stray cattle, etc., to graze on the road ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: This is a very useful suggestion and I am taking note of it.

Re: Sanction of post of Surgeon Superintendent

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) asked :

128. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

(a) What is the number of posts of Surgeon Superintendents that has been sanctioned ?

(b) How many have been appointed ?

(c) Which are the Districts where Surgeon Superintendents have been posted ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to post Surgeon Superintendent in the Headquarters of the Major Districts ?

(e) If so, whether Government will be pleased to appoint a Surgeon Superintendent at Tezpur ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied :

128. (a)—One.

(b)—One.

(c)—United Khasi and Jaintia Hills with Headquarter at Shillong.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): May I know what are the special duties for which a Surgeon Superintendent has been posted in Shillong and not in other places ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Because it is the capital of Assam.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: Why this special favour to Shillong ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not only there is one Surgeon Superintendent but there is a District Surgeon also because of the larger number of seats in the Hospital in the capital town of Shillong.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether any special qualification has been prescribed by the Government for a Surgeon Superintendent?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: At the time of advertisement by the Public Service Commission necessary qualifications required for this post are advertised, but I cannot give offhand the information but naturally it depends on the experience of a doctor serving in that particular branch in hospitals.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: What are the qualifications by which a Surgeon Superintendent is discriminated from a Medical Graduate ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Experience in the particular department.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the urgent necessity in the different major towns of Assam, Government will consider putting Surgeon Superintendents in those town hospitals?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is not possible at present.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: How long this Surgeon Superintendent is at the Shillong Civil Hospital ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It was most probably in the later part of 1962 when the Gauhati Civil Hospital was handed over to the Medical College.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: Will this Surgeon Superintendent retire from this very post?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, after the Civil Hospital at Gauhati was transferred to the Medical College, the Surgeon Superintendent was transferred here to Shillong. He was offered a post of Joint Director but he said that he would like to be in his present post; his request was acceded to by Government and he is working as Surgeon Superintendent in the Shillong Civil Hospital.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether this Surgeon Superintendent is to look after the surgery cases of Shillong Civil Hospital only or he is also to supervise the work in other district hospitals ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: He is to work particularly in the Shillong Civil Hospital.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): In view of the fact that in reply to (e) regarding appointing a Surgeon Superintendent at Tezpur it is stated, "Does not arise", may I know from the hon'ble Minister that in view of the large number of cases in the Tezpur Civil Hospital Government will consider to post a Surgeon Superintendent in that Hospital and also in other district headquarters hospitals?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, there are six District Surgeons but no Surgeon Superintendent in other district headquarters hospitals.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: May I know from the hon'ble Minister what is the meaning of 'major districts' of the State?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: By major district towns, I mean, Gauhati, I think, about which nobody will contest, then, Silchar, Nowgong, Tezpur, Shillong...

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean district headquarters towns?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know from the hon'ble Minister as this incumbent is the only Surgeon Superintendent in the State, whether Government will increase the number of Surgeon Superintendent for other places by raising the pay and giving special training in surgery to other incumbents?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: At present there is no such proposal.

Re: Storage buildings in Hailakandi Town

Shri RAMPIRIT RUDRAPAUL (Hailakandi) asked :

129. Will the Minister-in-charge of Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has received the revised plan and estimate after the modification of designs by the Public Works Department regarding the two storage buildings in the Hailakandi Town?

(b) If so, whether it has received administrative approval?

(c) If not, the steps taken in this respect?

(d) When the work will be started?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied :

129. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—No, they are under examination and financial scrutiny.

(d)—Work will be started by the Public Works Department after receipt of administrative approval.

Re: Couching practice in the State by quacks

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

130. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that couching practice is going on in the State by some quacks ?
 (b) If so, why such crude practice is not banned ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied :

130. (a)—No such information or report has been received.

(b)—The question of legislation for banning and penalising such practice is being taken up.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS : Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to take steps to caution the public against such quacks in view of the fact that this class is a menace to the society?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I shall welcome suggestions from my hon. friend to check this menace. Certainly I shall try to act upon his suggestions as far as practicable.

Mr. SPEAKER : In case of Kalaazar and some other diseases legislations have been passed, why not in this case also?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, we are making enquiries from other States whether there is any such legislation so that if there be any, we can take up legislation on those lines in our State.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : For banning of this practice, does the hon'ble Minister mean banning of "Jara-phuka Ojha" also ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : Is there any law now for punishing the quacks?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : বাড়া কুকায় ভূত ছাড়ানো যায় চোন্ধের ছানি সারান যায় না by couching temporarily a man can see but if there is anything wrong in this process the eye is totally lost. We have taken up the matter and have written to other States whether there is any such legislation and if there is any such legislation in any other State we will try to follow them.

Shri SRIMAN PROFULLA GOSWAMI (Nalbari-West) : May I ask the hon'ble Medical Minister whether the Department has any activity in collecting information of this practice of quacks?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The Department is collecting all such information.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Whether the Government is aware that such a party of quacks against whom a case has been registered in the Bihpuria Thana in the month of February last is illegally doing this business in the very heart of the town of Lakhimpur?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I shall enquire into it.

Re: Small-pox in Mulan Kota Village in Nowgong District

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

131. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—
- Whether it is a fact that small-pox is breaking out in epidemic form in Mulan Kota village under Kapilly Anchalik Panchayat, Nowgong District?
 - If so, what immediate measures have been taken to prevent it?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied :

131. (a)—No.
(b)—Does not arise.

Shri HALADHAR UZIR [Tamalpur; (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, may I know whether Government is aware of the fact that most of the areas of North Kamrup are remaining unvaccinated?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I want notice of that question.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Whether the Government has received any reports that there are some cases of small pox in that area?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know whether that area has been covered by vaccination?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir.

Re: Number of seats in Assam Textile Institute, Gauhati

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked :

132. Will the Minister for Industries (Sericulture and Weaving) be pleased to state—
- Number of seats in Certificate Course in the Assam Textile Institute, Gauhati?
 - Academic qualification required for admission?
 - Period of training?
 - Number of trainees who passed since 1952 to 1965?

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[18th Mar.]

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA [Minister, Industries
(Sericulture and Weaving)], etc. replied:

132. (a)—Thirty Numbers.

(b)—A candidate must have read upto Matric Standard of a recognised University or possessed qualification equivalent thereto.

(c)—Two Years.

(d)—Two hundred sixty-four Numbers.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): ইয়াৰ পৰা
যি বিলাকে পাচ কৰিব, তেওঁলোক কি কামৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত হব, নিজে কাৰবাৰ
কৰিব নে কিবা চাকৰি পাব?

Shri MAHANDRA NATH HAZARIKA: এওঁলোকে চাকৰিও
কৰিব পাৰে অথচ আমাৰ Demonstrator ব কাম কৰিব পাৰে বা নিজা ব্যৱসায়ো
কৰিব পাৰে।

Calling Attention To A Matter of Urgent Public Importance
News-item published in the "Ganatantra" dated 16th
February 1966 Re: Role of Industries
Department of the Government
of Assam in the Supply
of Defence Materials.

Mr. SPEAKER: The questions are over. Now item No. 2. Shri
Tarapada Bhattacharjee.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Mr. Speaker,
Sir, on last 16th February, on 23rd February and on 2nd
March, a news item was published under the caption
"প্ৰতিৰক্ষাৰ সা-সজলি সৰবৰাহত অসম চৰকাৰৰ উদ্যোগ বিভাগ". It this
news-item, Sir, a serious matter has been published regarding the
Industries Department. Sir, this publication needs clarification from the
Government on the serious charges brought against the Industries Depart-
ment. On representation of the Assam Government the Defence Depart-
ment of the Government of India placed orders with the State Industries
Department for supply of rifle parts and defence materials worth about
Rs. one crore. The State Industries Department obtained these orders
towards the first part of 1963. Afterwards many things had happened and
in the Assamese newspaper and other weeklies this report was published
and attention of the Government was drawn in this House by putting
questions, both starred and unstarred questions. Sir, though serious charges
have been made against the Industries Department of the Government of
Assam, the Government did not come forward to issue any Press note or
other things regarding the facts stated in that article. So we have drawn
attention of the Minister in-charge of Industries to clarify the whole matter
and let us know what actually the position is regarding the supply of
Defence articles to be made to the Defence Department of the Government

of India by the State Government Industries Department, whether these were supplied and whether there is any corrupt practice or any corruption charges against them. So far as my information goes, Sir, there were some enquiries held, but the result of these enquiries did not come to light, and for some interested persons that report was somewhere lying in cold storage. So we draw the attention of the Minister-in-charge, Industries Department to give us a clear picture about this whole deal and we would like to know what steps the Government is going to take against the corrupt officers if any, and whether Government is going to inform the public about the entire deal. With that purpose in view, Sir, I have brought this call attention motion.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I regret on behalf of my colleague, the Industries Minister that he is not present in the House to reply to this Call Attention Notice. He had to leave suddenly yesterday because of a very serious illness of his wife at Jaipur; actually he could not make time to give sufficient notice of that to us, his colleagues. So I will try to cover up the matter from the briefs given to me by the Department.

Sir, the Directorate of Industries secured orders from the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals for supply of various defence articles. Orders began to come from time to time after 1963, and up till now orders for 15,38,540 pieces of rifle half wroughts have been secured. At first departmental manufacture of rifle half wroughts was taken up mainly at the Central Workshop, Gauhati. But it was not possible to handle such large orders through departmental manufacture. It was, therefore, decided that the orders should be distributed among sub-contractors. In the beginning because of heavy rejection by the Rifle Factory Inspectors, enough sub-contractors were not coming forward to take up the work, but when the standards of inspection were relaxed more and more sub-contractors entered the field. It is said, the sub-contractors were selected on the basis of their ability to supply the goods because the orders at that time were urgent. The quantity of orders placed with sub-contractors has been estimated at 17,50,830 pieces of rifle half wroughts. But the exact quantity of the orders is under investigation, because of the fact that orders had been placed by different officers at different times and a complete record is not easily available. Presumably, an excess order to the extent of 2,12,290 pieces appear to have been placed with the sub-contractors. Various complaints and allegations were received from time to time. But before the receipt of most of these complaints, Government itself had ordered a special audit of the accounts of the defence supplies transactions. Thereafter, a preliminary departmental inquiry for finding out the facts was made. On the basis of this inquiry it has been decided to draw up departmental proceedings, in consultation with the Vigilance Commissioner, against all those who are responsible for the state of affairs.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister on whose approval, those officers had placed orders at different times?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, the position is like this. Different officers at different levels placed orders with the sub-contractors. No proper records have been maintained for these orders-

Further, the claims put forward by the sub-contractors are in far excess of the orders placed with the Directorate of Industries by the Defence Department. The records kept by them and our officers are rather shabby and from these it cannot be construed as to what would be the actual number, in more particular the different varieties.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Sir, there must be somebody above to place those orders. There must be somebody, and who is that, Sir ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, the whole matter is under enquiry and the Vigilance Commissioner has been seized with this case also. There has been, as I have stated already, departmental enquiry as well. At the moment, Sir, I would request the House to allow the Government to keep the contents of the report as confidential.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, may I know whether that special audit that had been ordered—as stated by the hon. Minister, has actually been made ?

Mr. SPEAKER : As the hon. Minister has said, the whole case is under inquiry. The inquiry is still going on. Let the inquiry be over. Now item No. 3. Shri Chalina ?

**The Code of Criminal Procedure (Assam Amendment) Bill,
1966**

Mr. SPEAKER : Now, item No. 3.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Code of Criminal Procedure (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Code of Criminal Procedure (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1966.

(The question was adopted).

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

(The Bill was introduced and the Secretary, Legislative Assembly, then read out the title of the Bill).

The Assam Village Defence Organisation Bill, 1966

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Village Defence Organisation Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Village Defence Organisation Bill, 1966.

(The question was adopted).

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

(The Bill was introduced and the Secretary, Legislative Assembly, then read out the title of the Bill.)

The Assam Agricultural Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER : There is a message from the Governor of Assam which reads as follows :—

“Raj Bhavan, Shillong,
17th March, 1966.

I recommend under Article 207 (1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Sd./-VISHNU SAHAY,
Governor of Assam.”

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

(The question was adopted.)

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

(The Bill was introduced and the Secretary, Legislative Assembly read out the title of the Bill).

The Assam Consolidation of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1966

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue) : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Consolidation of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Consolidation of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

(The question was adopted)

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

(The Bill was introduced and the Secretary, Legislative Assembly read out the title of the Bill).

The Assam Gramdan (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Gramdan (Amendment) Bill, 1966.
Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Gramdan (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

(The question was adopted)

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.
(The Bill was introduced and the Secretary, Legislative Assembly read out the title of the Bill).

The Assam Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1966

Shrimati KOMOLKUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister, Education): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

(The question was adopted)

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

The Bill was introduced. The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, then read out the title of the Bill).

The Assam Embankment and Drainage (Amendment) Bill, 1966

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control and Irrigation): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Embankment and Drainage (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Embankment and Drainage (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

(The question was adopted)

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill.

(The Bill was introduced and the Secretary, Legislative Assembly then read out the title of the Bill).

**Laying out of Report of Statutory Corporations(i) The
Audit Report on the Accounts of the Assam State
Electricity Board for 1961-62**

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control and Irrigation): Sir, I beg to lay out the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Assam State Electricity Board for 1961-62.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, I beg to draw your attention to the copy of the Audit Report placed before us. Sir, in this report there is no covering page. It seems that it was brought from the wastepaper basket. Sir, how an Audit Report can be supplied without any cover where lakhs and lakhs of rupees have been spent.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, this is one of the economic measures.

**Laying out of Report of Statutory Corporations (ii) First
Annual Report of the Assam State Mineral Develop-
ment Corporation Ltd.**

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control and Irrigation): Sir, I beg to lay out the First Annual Report of the Assam State Mineral Development Corporation Limited, 1964-65.

General Discussion of the Budget

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my last speech delivered in the House on 26th February 1966 I covered most of the criticisms levelled against the Departments under my charge. I, therefore, do not want to take the time of the House by repeating them particularly when the time at the disposal of the House is short and the day is meant for the reply of the hon. Chief Minister. Sir, I have stood for a personnel explanation.

During my absence in the House yesterday Shri Dulal Chandra Barua in course of his speech made certain allegations against a Minister contrary to the procedure laid down in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of this House and its tradition which we all value. Shri Barua should no longer be presumed as an immature member since he is here for now about four years. Therefore, his conduct can be taken as deliberate. It is not for me for the first time to remind him that he is not entitled to "reflect upon the conduct of persons in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion drawn in proper terms" or "no allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a Member against any person unless he has given previous intimation to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned". I do not know if he gave you any intimation but he did not give me any. This is not the first occasion when he has been allowed to speak like this which is contrary to the provisions of the Rules. This is not also the first occasion to bring such a violation to your notice.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, I have just referred to certain matters.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, as a custodian of the rights and privileges of the House I will request you to be please strict in this matter and prevent abuse of the rights and privileges in this case and in future. Sir, I find from the proceedings that even after you had intervened and reminded the hon. Member of the Rule of the House while he was speaking against a Minister yesterday, he continued his said speech and made some more libellous charges against the Minister. Neither any action was taken against him nor this part of his speech regarding the Minister expunged. Possibly the same has gone to the Press. I am, therefore, obliged to make this statement in self-defence.

Sir, the first statement is that "one of our hon. Ministers from Cachar met Mizo people" in the house of a P. W. D. official. There are two Ministers from Cachar ; one is myself and the other is my esteemed colleague Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee. As far as I am concerned this is a maliciously baseless allegation. This is an irresponsible and motivated attempt to insult a man abusing the privilege of the House. I asked Shri Paidyanath Mookerjee. He also told me that it was a baseless allegation so far as he was concerned. The Chief Minister had already stated in the House that no car of this official was ever used by any Mizo ; even then the hon. Member has grossly abused his position by speaking against this official in his absence and that too after facts were given by Chief Minister, when earlier this officer's case was mentioned in the House by Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee. As Shri Bhattacharjee, again in an irresponsible manner, dragged my name in that connection

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you kindly allow me to speak.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, Mr. Choudhury, go on.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: As Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee, again in an irresponsible manner, dragged my name in that connection, I asked for a clarification from this gentlemen, *i. e.*, the S.D.O., P.W.D. (R. & B.), by a letter, dated, 6th March 1966.....

(Noise)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. As far as Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee, speech is concerned, so far I remember, he has said that the car belonged to the father of the officer.

Noise

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee said that the car belonged to the officer after quoting a newspaper report. While doing so he dragged my name unnecessarily.

(Shouts from Opposition)

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Even after the Chief Minister had stated the correct position Shri Dulal Barua said—"Sir, you will be surprised to know that one of our honourable Minister from Cachar met the Mizo people in the house of a Subdivisional Officer, 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 anti-state and anti-national activities of this Subdivisional Officer whose car was detected in use by some Mizo miscreants has been detained under the D. I. Rules."

I received a reply from the Subdivisional officer concerned and I am reading from his letter:—"With reference to your letter, dated 6th March 1966, about carrying Mizo passengers in a car as published in the news item of *Assam Tribune*, dated 5th March 1966, I would like to inform you that the car that carried the Mizo passengers to Hailakandi does not belong to me. This part of the news is absolutely false and malicious. This has been done with a clear motive of maligning me". Proceeding he further said—"I shall contradict the news published in the *Assam Tribune* regarding the incident in the way as you will please find a copy of letter addressed to the Editor of the paper."

(Interruption by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua)

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. You spoke uninterrupted, and so you must be prepared to hear the reply of the Minister uninterrupted. Please go on.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : I had drawn the attention of the Minister to a Press note and I quoted from the Press Report.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, may I know why should unnecessarily a Minister be dragged in while commenting about the conduct of a gentleman outside the House basing on a press report without becoming sure of the facts by the hon. Member himself?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, we have drawn the attention of the Speaker, to this news-item.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : When a news-item was brought to the notice of the Speaker, what was the point in dragging the Minister who was not at all mentioned in that news-item or had anything to do with the incident? There are thousand and one people outside who might be doing one thing or the other; while discussing them why the Minister should be dragged?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Can he deny that he was not there on the 23rd?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It is an irresponsible and baseless statement.

The contradiction sent by the Subdivisional Officer concerned to the Editor of *Assam Tribune* on 10th March 1966, is as follows:—"My attention has been drawn to the following news item published in your esteemed paper on 5th March 1966"... .. "That the car in question does not belong to me nor I am connected with it in any way. As a matter of fact, I have no car. The report published in your paper in this connection is absolutely false and malicious. This has been done with a deliberate intention of lowering me in the estimation of public. I request you to kindly publish the above content of my letter in your esteemed paper in its next issue for which I shall ever remain grateful. I shall be glad to know from you the name of the said reporter of the above news so that I can take legal action against him".

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Can he deny that the car is not owned by the father of the S.D.O.?

Mr. SPEAKER : He has not denied.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: If his father has got a car can he be responsible for that?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The Minister is defending the anti-national elements.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Barua, order, order, please.

I am sorry that the proceedings of this have been interrupted in this way. The honourable Minister is giving his reply and you must here with patience. If any mis-statement is there you will have the opportunity to discuss it after the Minister has finished his statement.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The statement that while I was in-charge of Supply allowed transfer of a rice mill in favour of a 'convicted person' from Upper Assam to Silchar is again a baseless and irresponsible statement. I never issued any such licence in favour of a 'convicted person'. As Supply Minister—as a matter of fact for any Supply Minister,—I must have dealt with hundreds of milling license cases in my tenure running for over four years. If some amongst them have now been convicted, 4 years after I have ceased to be the Supply Minister—it cannot be described as I allowed a license in favour of 'a convicted person' particularly when the conviction in an assault case is at least 7 years after the issue of licence and the matter is, I understand, sub-judice in an appeal, in this particular case which is in the mind of the hon. Member. This is a deliberate distortion of facts and misrepresentation to this august House. I am not commenting at length on his conduct which I consider as irresponsible, to say the least. The House can judge the hon. Member and his conduct.

Sir, neither I know Shaukat Ali of Rupahi village nor I had anything to do about his release, so also of a British national referred to without disclosing his name.

Mr. SPEAKER : He has disclosed his name.

Shri MOINIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It is not there in the proceedings of the House which is before me. What was the name ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : His name is Mr. Parker.

Shri MOINIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : That gentleman too I do not know.

(Interruption by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua)

Shri MOINIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : You bring a motion against me if you have the courage and then discuss me. Do not abuse the privilege in the manner you are doing.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, he is casting aspersions on you. Action should be taken against the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs from your end. Sir, we have placed the facts before you and these are true. He may say thousand times.

Shri MOINIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : In fact, I don't know of the arrest of any such person or persons even today, far less to speak of having anything to do with them or their release. These are again some baseless and motivated statements made by a member who, the House may remember, was expelled from this House some months back for his repeated and continued unparliamentary conduct within the House. I thought he would rectify himself since then but alas! this has not happened. What a pity!

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. Mr. Molia Tanti.

Shri MOLIA TANTI (Doom Dooma) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী ডাঙরীয়াই যি খন বাজেট সদনত দাঙি ধৰিলে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ দিছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বৰ্তমান যি নিবনুৱা সমস্যাই দেখা দিছে সি দিনক দিনে বাঢ়িহে গৈছে। আমাৰ Employment Exchange ৰ জৰিয়তে কিছু কাম হৈছে যদিও অসমৰ ডেকা গাঁওৰক উপৰল পৰিমাণে কাম দিব পৰা নাই। যদি কোনোৱাই কাম পাইছে তেওঁ কাৰোৱাৰ চাৰ্টিফিকেট বা কিবা সহায় হলেহে সেই জনে কাম পাইছে। কিছুমানে ৪-৫ বছৰ চাকৰিৰ বাবে Employment Exchange ৰ জৰিয়তে চেষ্টা কৰিও কাম পোৱা নাই। এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে যাৰ হকে মাতোঁটা কোনো নাই তেনেকুৱা মানুহৰ বা সমাজৰ উন্নতিও নাই। আজি ১ লাখ ৭৫ হেজাৰ জনসংখ্যাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰি আমাৰ নিজৰ নিজৰ এলেকাৰ অভাৱ-অভিযোগবোৰ চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত দাঙি ধৰিছে। অফিচাৰ বিলাকে যেতিয়ালৈকে গাৰ্ভৰ বাইজে তেওঁলোকৰ ওচৰত নাচাপে তেতিয়ালৈকে কোনো কামকেই কৰা দেখা নেযায়। চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী ইমান থকা সত্বেও গাঁৱৰ দুখীয়া বাইজ কিয় শিলঙলৈ আহিব লাগে? উদাহৰণস্বৰূপে আপুনি চাওক Assembly ৰ চাৰিওফালে দেখিবলৈ পাৰ গাৰ্ভৰ দুখীয়া বাইজ আৰু দেখিবলৈ পাৰ গেলেৰিত বহি আছে। যদি তেওঁলোকৰ অভাৱ দূৰ কৰিবৰ বাবে অফিচাৰ বিলাকে ভালকৈ কাম কৰিলে-হে তেনে তেনেহলে এই মানুহবোৰে বাইজৰ কাম কৰিবৰ বাবে ইয়ালৈ আহিব নেলাগিলহে তেনে। গতিকে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো অফিচবিলাকত চোকা দৃষ্টি ৰাখিবৰ বাবে।

মই এতিয়া অসমৰ চাহ বাগিচাৰ বিষয়ে ক'ম। যদিও বনুৱা সকলে ভাবে Minimum wage আৰু Bonus দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে তথাপি মজদুৰ সকলৰ বিশেষ একো লাভ হোৱা নাই। কাৰণ হাজিৰা Bonus দি বনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা কমোৱাই আমাৰ লক্ষ্য। বাগিচাত বনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা য'ত আঢ়ৈ হেজাৰ বা তিনি হেজাৰ মজদুৰ আছিল তাত এতিয়া তেৰ শ, চৈধ্য শ মজদুৰহে কৰিছে। আৰু জীৱন ধাৰণৰ মান বাঢ়ি যোৱাৰ লগে লগে যেনেকৈ Minimum wage আৰু Bonus দিবলৈ ঠিক কৰিছে—যদিহে বনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা কমোৱাতোৱেই ইয়াৰ লক্ষ্য তেনে বনুৱাক হাজিৰা দিয়া কোনো মানে নাই। আনহাতে বুনচ আৰু হাজিৰা দিয়াৰ ফলত চাহ বাগিচাবোৰত নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা বাঢ়ি গৈছে। কেৱল মজদুৰেই নহয়, কেৰাণী মহৰীৰ সংখ্যাও দিন-দিন কমাই আনিছে। আগতে ১০-১২ জন কৰ্মচাৰী থকা অফিচ এতিয়া ৩-৪ জনেহে চলাইছে। এই নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সম্পৰ্কে enquiry কৰিবলৈ এই সদনৰ সদস্যক লৈ এখন কমিটি গঠন কৰিবলৈ মই অনুৰোধ কৰিলো। আৰু এই কমিটি অতি সোনকালে গঠন কৰিব লাগে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দেশত খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানের কারণে উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করিবর বাবে সদস্য প্রস্তুত নিজে নিজে সমন্বিত যত্ন করিছে আক সেই হিচাপে গারান্টিয়া মানুহেও উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করিছে। কিন্তু marketing করার সুবিধা নথকার বাবেই তেওঁলোকব বিশেষ একো লাভ হেরা নাই। এই marketing ব সুবিধা নথকার বাবেই যেনে ছেঁপোরা, ডুমডুমা অঞ্চলত বন্ধা কবি, কুল কবি খুব সম্ভাব্যে বিক্রি কবিব লগা হৈছিল আক বহু পরিমাণে শাক-পাচলি নষ্ট হৈছে। চবকাবে Grow More Food কবিছেনে গক-ন'হব food কবিছে। (ভাঙবকৈ হাঁহিব বোল উঠে)।

নব আক এটা কথা কবলৈ আছে যে মোব সমন্বিত Asam Frontier Tea Co. ব এটা plot আছে আক সেই plot টো নাটহীন মানুহক দিয়াবর বাবে মই ১৯৬১ চনবে পরা চবকাবর লগত লিখালিবি কবি আছে। তাব নাটি মানুহে ২০২২ বছর পর্যন্ত খাই আছে আক সেই নাটিক শ্রীরামগোপাল চহরীয়া নামেবে এজন মানুহে কিনিবলৈ চেষ্টা কবি আছে আক তাত থকা মানুহবোরক বব জ্বলন কবি আছে। মই তাত নথকা সময়ত মানুহক বেচি জ্বলন কবে। এবাব নগাও অনিছিল মানুহক জ্বলন কবিবর কারণে। ইকালে চবকাবেও Requisition কবিবর চেষ্টা কবি আছে। Settlement দিবর কারণে Revenue Minister এবাব গৈছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়ালৈকে একো হোরা নাই। L.S.O. জনক মই যেতিয়া সোধো যে কেতিয়া বিতরণ কবিব তেওঁ মোক কৈছিল যে ১৫০ বিঘা নাটি তেওঁক দিলে রাইজক একো জ্বলন নকবে। কিন্তু সেই কাম মই কেনেকৈ কবিব? সেইটো জানো M.L.A. ব কান? S.D.C. ক কোরা বভেও একো কবা নাই। সেই কাবনে চবকাবক অনুবোধ কবিছে অতি সোনকালে Settlement দিয়াব ব্যবস্থা কবিব লগে। নহলে কিবা গণ্ডগোল হলে ইয়ার বাবে দায়ী চবকাব হব।

Shri ZAHIRUL ISLAM (Mankachar): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় ১৯৬৬-৬৭ সালের যে বাজেট বা আদ-ন্যয়ের হিসাব দাখিল করেছেন তা অত্যন্ত হতাশাব্যঞ্জক। আমি এই বাজেটকে আসানের অর্থনীতির দেউলীয়ারূপের নগ্নপ্রকাশ বলে অভিহিত করতে চাই। ১৯৬৫-৬৬ সালে যেখানে opening balance minus ৬.৭৮ কোটি টাকা ছিল—আজ তা বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে minus ১৭.১০ কোটি টাকায় দাঁড়িয়েছে। এবং আগামী বছরের শেষেও এই অবস্থার কোন উন্নতির আশা প্রকাশ করা হয়নি। Arrear revenue, নতুন taxation এবং loan আদায়ের উপর জোর দেওয়ার কথা বলা হয়েছে। স্যার, এ বাজেট দিনমজুরের বাজেট—দিনে বা রোজগার করে—তাই দিয়েই সে দুবেলা কোনরকমে দু'মুঠো ভাত পায়। বাকী পুয়োজনের জন্য তাকে অপরের কাছে হাত পাততে হয়। গত কয়েক বছরে আসানে এই দন-মজুরের বাজেটেই চলে আসছে। উন্নতিশীল দেশের অর্থনীতি নাটির খাজনার উপর কখনই নির্ভরশীল নয়—অথচ আমাদের অর্থনীতি ১৮ বছরের স্বাধীনতার স্বাদ পাওয়ার পরও একাত্তরভাই নাটির খাজনার উপর নির্ভরশীল। দুঃসাহসিকতার অভাবে, বৈপুলিক চিন্তাধারার অভাবে আসানের অর্থনীতি গতিহীন হয়ে পড়েছে—stagnant অবস্থায় দাঁড়িয়ে আছে। এই বাজেটে রাজ্যের উন্নতির জন্য বিশেষ কিছুই ধরা হয় নাই। গতিহীন অর্থনীতিতে প্রাণ সঞ্চার করতে হলে চাই বলিষ্ঠ এবং দুঃসাহসিক পুটেটা। করতার বৃদ্ধির দ্বারা, arrear আদায়ের দ্বারা রাজ্যের আর্থিক উন্নতির কিছুমাত্র আশা নেই। এই বন্ধা বা stagnant অবস্থা যদি আরো কিছুদিন চালু থাকে—তাহলে দেশের অর্থনীতি এক বিপদজনক অবস্থার সৃষ্টি করবে। সময়ে হাশিয়ার হওয়া দরকার।

স্যার, বাজেট প্রস্তাবে প্রায় ২৩ পাতা জুড়ে Agriculture, Embankment-Irrigation, এবং রাজ্যে supply ব্যবস্থা সম্বন্ধে বলা হয়েছে। অনেক সুক্ষ্ম-হিসাব পাতিও এর মধ্যে রয়েছে। কিন্তু প্রকৃত অবস্থা কি? Man behind the plough বারা—তারা ধুকছে। E. & D. বা Agriculture Department এর কথা আসা যাক। জলসেচ বা বাঁধের অভাবে মানকাচার আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়েতের অধীনে গাঢ়ুয়াবিলের চারদিকে প্রায় ৫০ হাজার বিঘা নাটি জলের তলায় ডুবে আছে। ৮টি গাওঁগড়ার কৃষকের আজ মর্মান্তিক অসহায় অবস্থা। মাত্র ৩ বছর আগেও এখানে চাষ-আবাদ হতো। সরকারের inaction এর জন্য এই ৫০ হাজার বিঘা নাটিতে আজ কোনো ফসলই হয় না। স্যার, শুধু কাগজের কথা খাদ্য বাড়বে না—শুধু বজ্রতা দিয়ে ফসল বাড়ানো যাবে না। এখনো যদি মাত্র কয়েকহাজার টাকা ব্যয় করে ২৩ মাইল একটি নাল্লা তৈরী করে পানী বার করে দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হয় তাহলে এই বছরেই কমপক্ষে ১ লক্ষ মণ ধান এই অঞ্চলে অতিরিক্ত উৎপাদন হতে পারে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Deputy Minister, Panchayat): কোন নাটি জোখব?

Shri ZAHIRUL ISLAM: মানকাচার আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তের গাছুয়াবিলের চারপাশে।

স্যার, এবারে Supply Department এর কথাই আসা যাক। নামে যোগান বিভাগ—কাজে কিন্তু যোগান নাই। গোয়ালপাড়া জিলা এবং বিশেষ করে ধুবড়ী মহকুমায় গত ৬৭ নম্বর থেকে খাদ্য-শস্যের তীব্র সংকট চলছে। মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় প্রকৃত অবস্থা জানার জন্য স্বয়ং গং ডিসেম্বর মাসে এই অঞ্চল পরিদর্শন করে এসেছেন। মানকাচার এবং দক্ষিণ শালমারা অঞ্চলে এখন ধানের দাম চলছে ২৭ টাকা থেকে ৩৩ টাকা পর্যন্ত। ক্রমশঃমতীর অভাবে এই অস্বাভাবিক দাম দিয়ে বান কেনা সাধারণ মানুষের পক্ষে কতখানি কষ্টকর তা সহজেই অনুমেয়। এই অঞ্চলের বহুলোককেই আজ অর্ধভুক্ত বা একবেলা খেয়ে থাকতে হচ্ছে। মানুষের পেটে আজ ক্ষুধার আঁগুন জ্বলছে। যদি প্রয়োজনীয় খাদ্য supply না করা হয় তাহলে এই অঞ্চলে দূর্ভিক্ষ অনিবার্য। সরকার এই তীব্র খাদ্যাভাব মিটাবার জন্য এবং অস্বাভাবিক দাম কমানোর জন্য কি ব্যবস্থা করছেন? প্রকৃতপক্ষে কিছুই করেন নাই। মানকাচার আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তের ২৪টি গাওঁগড়ায় সরকার আজ পর্যন্ত মাত্র ১৮০ কুইন্টল ধান supply করেছেন। দক্ষিণ শালমারার অবস্থাও তাই। কাগজের হিসাব আর বক্তৃতা দিয়ে মানুষের ক্ষুধা নিবারণ করা বাবে না। পশ্চিম বাংলার আঁগুন দেখে সরকার শিক্ষা গ্রহণ করুন। সরকারের জানা উচিত আজ এই বিংশ শতাব্দীতে না খেয়ে কেউ মরতে রাজী নয়।

স্যার, রাজ্যপালের ভাষণের উপর আমি একটি বিষয়ের বিস্তারিত আলোচনা করেছিলাম। আজ আবার সেই বিষয়ে আলোচনা করার প্রয়োজন হয়ে পড়েছে। স্যার, গারোপাহাড় জেলায় পাকিস্থানী বহিস্কারণের নামে প্রায় ৫০০ লোকের উপর Quit India notice দেওয়া হয়েছে। এরা পাকিস্থানী হলে আমার বলার কিছুই ছিল না। কিন্তু আমি জানি—আমার জন ও বিশ্বাসমতে এরা সকলেই ভারতীয়; এদের একজনও পাকিস্থানী নয়। এদের সকলেরই জন্ম এখানে—এদের বাপ-দাদার জন্মও এই আসানে। এরা যে ভারতীয় নাগরিক—তার সর্ব-রকমের পূর্ণাঙ্গই এদের আছে। এবিষয়ে এই বিধান সভায় আমি স-বিশেষ আলোচনা করতে চাই না। যদি মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় আমাকে সময় দেন—তাহলে সদনের বাইরে আমি তাঁর কাছে বিস্তারিতভাবে আমার বক্তব্য পেশ করবো। Quit India র অর্থ পাকিস্থানী বহিস্কারণ—ভারতীয় মুগলমান বিতাড়ন নয়। গারোপাহাড় জিলায় যে অবস্থা চলছে—তা অনতিবিলম্বে বন্ধ হওয়া প্রয়োজন।

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari—East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to speak on the Budget. I congratulate the Chief Minister for presenting a moderate budget, moderate in the sense that in his Budget we do not find any new measure for taxation save and except one item and to that extent also if we can pay our wholehearted attention to the economy in the State we may be able also to do away with that measure of taxation. I feel, Sir, by this taxation the common people—I mean the customers will be affected and the total assessment made out of this item is about Rs. 55 lakhs of rupees. As it appears from the Budget about 14 crores of rupees is in arrears towards revenue, etc. So, if we make an honest effort to realise all the arrear revenue, Sir, it may not be necessary at all to levy this tax as is contemplated by the Chief Minister.

Now, Sir, all is not well in the land of Mizo Hills. It is very unfortunate that in a free India, after 18 years of Independence we have to hear news that certain section of the people of India does not like to remain in India and with that object in view they want to go out of India and have declared a rebellion. In this respect there are no two voices. We can assure the Chief Minister and the Leader that not only this part of the State and for that matter the people of whole of India have given their support to strengthen the hand of Chief Minister to put down the rebellion.

Now, Sir, one baseless propagandist seems to have been made by some interested people in the State.

Sir, I am very sorry to mention that it appears as if the Assamese language and the Assamese people are responsible for all the ills that may be thought of by the extremist section of the Mizo people. That is not a fact. If we carefully go through the provisions of the Act, if we read between the lines it would be as crystal clear as possible that no provision whatsoever is there so as to impose the Assamese language upon any section of the people.

Shri HOOVER HYNNEWTA (Shillong) : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Member whether a tribal who works in the plains area is it necessary for him or not to know the Assamese language, and whether an Assamese employee who works in the Hills, is it compulsory for him to know the language of the area in which he works ?

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, at this stage I do not like to enter into any controversy or to go into the details of the Act, but the broad principle of the Act is that there is no provision of imposing Assamese language on any section of the people. If we go to the background of the Act we will find that with the common consent of various interests of this State this Act was enacted.

Sir, I want to submit how it could be described that for the rebellion amongst the Mizos the Assamese people are responsible. Sir, in a certain paper described to be the report of one military observer of the 4th March, 1966, as far as I remember, it is stated that for the ills in Nagaland and also for the ills in the Mizo Hills the Assamese people are responsible. It is not borne out by any facts. If there be any difficulty on the part of the Mizo people it is not for the reason that the Assamese people are imposing the Assamese language on the people or guiding the destiny of the people. I find, Sir, there is also one section of people in our State, very responsible section, who have not uttered a single word as to condemn the anti-national action of the extremist Mizos. On the other hand, it appears from their statements, as we read, that out and out they may not be held responsible. If we go between the lines we would see that there is some sort of sympathy with the rebellion as launched by the Mizo people. This is very unfortunate. To whatever section the people may belong it is the bounden duty of the Indian citizen to be loyal to the Constitution, and we must see that the rule of law prevails. If we could sacrifice our boys in the front for an inch of our territory we would not care for a single moment to defend our territory and put down the rebellion in the Mizo Hills. Sir, our Chief Minister is primarily a man of peace. Honestly he believed the words of honour given by the leaders of the Mizo National Front. Accordingly he believed it. Ultimately it was found that it was an act of betrayal committed by these people. Now, Sir, what should be our approach not only towards our brethren in the Mizo Hills but also towards our brethren living in the Hill areas? I feel up till now our approach was like over-leniency without any extra firmness. As I feel, Sir, our approach should be with a judicial blend of indulgence and firmness. Firmness must be there and also indulgence must be there but with a judicial blend of indulgence. Then and then only we would be able to cement the good feelings between the people of the hills and plains.

Sir, I would like to speak a few words about separation of judiciary from the executive. As enjoined in Art. 50 of the Constitution the State shall separate the judiciary from the executive. But so far as our State is

concerned except in four districts judicial administration is up till now in the hands of the executive. On the other hand if we take into consideration the progress of judicial administration in other states we find that in Kerala, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madras judicial separation is complete. Here in Assam only a few persons belonging to the executive were lent out by the Government for judicial service. I am told that a scheme was asked to be formulated by the State Government for integration of the judicial service. Now I am reported that the High Court has sent back that scheme to the Provincial Government for necessary suggestions.

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, a few minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER : You are taking up the time of the Hon. Chief Minister.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, all the requisites for establishing a Subdivision at Nalbari are fulfilled. So in this connection I appeal to the Chief Minister that in no distant time an S. D. O. at Nalbari be placed and invested with judicial powers.

Ruling by the Speaker Re: Procedure to be followed while bringing allegations against any person

Mr. SPEAKER : Before I request the hon. Chief Minister to give his reply to the debate on the budget, I would like to say a few words. Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Moinul Hoque Choudhury, has been pleased to make a few remarks about the duties of a Speaker who is the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House. I have a few remarks to make in this regard. According to the accepted Parliamentary practice and procedure a Speaker can intervene in the proceedings only when a question is raised either on point of order or on a matter unparliamentary or any irrelevant statement not in conformity with rules is made by some hon. Member of the House. When no such question is raised by any hon. Member the Speaker may not take cognisance of them. But here in this House even in spite of this clear guidance to the Speaker, I intervene frequently when Members deviate from the line. Yesterday also on my own I cautioned Shri Dulal Chandra Barua not to bring in names of persons who were not present in the House to answer to the charges levelled against them without giving prior information to the Speaker and Ministers concerned so that they may come forward with all facts against the allegations. Hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury while Shri Dulal Chandra Barua was speaking was not present in the House. In his absence he was criticised and I was unable to stop it as I did not know anything about the truth or otherwise of them. The best thing would, therefore, be that hon. Ministers remain present in the House when discussions are progress in the House so that all such allegations when levelled can be rightly dealt with. I hope in future the hon. Ministers will be kind to abide by it.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on the Budget Speech. Their criticisms and their suggestions are very valuable, and, I have no doubt that the administration would profit very much from their observations. I am sincerely very sorry, Sir, that during this Session it has not been possible for us to place the comments of all the District Councils on the Budget.

This difficulty we have been facing in almost every session. The reason appears to be that the period between the completion of the Budget and the presentation of the Budget is so short always that it becomes difficult to secure the comments in time. We are seriously considering how we can get away with this difficulty and I hope what happened this time will not be repeated.

Sir, I would try to deal with as many points as possible which the hon. Members have raised in the course of this debate. I have collected information in respect of each and every point and some of these have already been replied to by my colleagues Minister of State, Revenue ; Deputy Minister, Education and Deputy Minister, Panchayat and the Minister, Agriculture. I am sure that the Minister for Power who, as you know, because of his wife's serious illness, had to leave all on a sudden, would have been very glad to reply to all the points. As a matter of fact he availed himself of the opportunity on more than one occasions to explain to the House the plans of his Department.

Sir, the allegation or the charge that has been made against the Government is that we have not been able to impress upon the Government of India about the special treatment which this State deserves, and the instances that are cited in proof of that are that we have not been able to get adequate money for the Jamuna Irrigation Project, nor have we been able to secure the permission of the Government of India to reimpose the carriage tax. Sir, our impression is that the Government of India is gradually appreciating the problem of our state more and more and as a matter of fact they have been giving due weightage to us in various matters. For example, in the matter of contribution from the Centre for the annual plan, I suppose the contribution of the Government of India to our State on the basis of percentage would be the highest. For example, in 1966-67 their contribution to our plan would come to about 88 per cent. This is quite a big amount. Out of the total of Rs. 26.45 crores about Rs. 23.4 crores are expected from the Government of India. So, this is a weightage which they are giving to us. But I would not say that we have been able to prevail upon the Government of India to the extent we desire. Nevertheless, I do appreciate, as I have mentioned in my budget speech also, Government of India is gradually appreciating more and more our problems. Sir, at the beginning I would like to mention that the visit of Shri Tarlok Singh is an important visit and I am sure it is going to do some good for us. Otherwise what happened is that whenever the case of a particular district is presented before them they look into the literacy percentage and determine the rate of literacy and say 'how this can be called an undeveloped district, its percentage of

literacy is so much? The other reasons are difficult for them to understand. Therefore, when they come and see for themselves, they appreciate the problems more and more. Sir, about the size of the annual plan we are not satisfied with the size which has been fixed by the Planning Commission for the next year. But taking into consideration the overall situation in the country there is no other alternative but to accept it. But we are looking forward for better times and when the Fourth Plan would be formulated we will get due consideration.

Sir, about agricultural production, my colleague the Minister for Agriculture, while he intervened in the earlier debate, spoke in great details, and so I do not want to take up the time of the House by repeating them. I would only repeat my conviction that three things cannot happen unless we succeed in organising the man behind the plough. There cannot be increased agricultural production, exploitation by money-lenders cannot be stopped and we cannot have land reform. Although this august House has passed very stringent legislations but because of ignorance and lack of organisation of the agriculturists, men behind the plough, these legislations have not produced the results we expected. The solution lies in providing education, organising them and providing alternative institution from which they can get their finance and other requirements. Sir, in this connection I would like to mention about a small experiment. I am glad to inform this House that even in Barabazar, Shillong, most of the Khasi ladies who spend their whole day in Barabazar used to go to the money-lender for finance and pay a very high rate of interest because they lack finance. My information is that if Rs. 20 is lent in the morning, the lady has to pay Rs. 22 in the evening. But through co-operation of the hon. Members like Mr. Hoover Hynniewta and others a Co-operative Bank has since been established which lends money to these ladies, and I understand that it has become very popular and there is no arrear at all. So this small experiment has shown that if like institutions are started elsewhere it will be possible to provide great relief to the working classes. The people have responded to the call made by the public leaders.

This time when there was an appeal from Government as well as from public leaders for grow-more-food, the people responded very well, but we are confronted again today as just a few minutes back what Shri Molia Tanti said that there is the problem of marketing the produce as large quantities of vegetables are not finding a good market whereas there are demands for vegetables today in some places of Assam, such as, Gauhati and Shillong, where things are very costly. So, the Marketing Organisation is to be strengthened many times than what it is today.

About the use of tractors and pumps, hon. Member, Shri Sarat Goswami has very rightly stated that unless there is a servicing organisation for these tractors and pumps these are going to be difficulties in repairing them. I fully agree with him. Sir, you are aware that in the mean time a large number of agriculturists and Panchayats have purchased quite a large number of tractors and pumps but without having the facilities for servicing these and for want of spare parts for them all these tractors and pums are going to be wasted and that is a matter in which we are going to give our attention and in the meantime, our Agriculture Department, I understand, is going to start mobile workshops for the purpose.

Much emphasis has been given by hon. Member to prevent smuggling. The check-gates in our borders have now been increased. We have set up 11 check-gates between Goalpara and Garo Hills borders and 7 parties are working night and day to check smuggling. Besides, 5 check-gates have been established between Naga Land and Assam and with the help of Village Defence Parties and Police checkings are being done.

Sir, the buffer stock question is a difficult one. If we do not hold a buffer stock we cannot control the market and because of uncertain communications the State may be in difficulty at different times. In the meantime, we have passed through a difficult period, but nevertheless because the Government held a buffer stock the position of essential commodities in the State did not deteriorate to the extent otherwise it would have happened. But holding of buffer-stock is a great loss to the Government as there are charges for ware-housings, charges for storage, marketing, etc., but we must be prepared to bear a substantial amount of loss for this purpose. During the last Emergency, we held a buffer stock for 3 months but now we have decided to hold it for one month and with this we should be able to meet any difficulty.

Sir, the other day, Srimati Lily Sen Gupta mentioned about transport difficulties in Dibrugarh for which prices of essential commodities were higher but at that time I was not clear in my mind about this but now I find that what she has stated is correct because commodities are to be brought to Dibrugarh from distant places of Assam for which additional expenditure has to be incurred and consequently the freight expenditure is added to the foodstuff. This is happening for Dibrugarh because Dibrugarh is a deficit area in foodstuff which has to be supplied from say, Nowgong, Gauhati and other places, transport for which means additional cost which is added to the price of the foodstuff.

With regard to Panchayats, the Deputy Minister of Panchayats made a detailed speech yesterday so I would not like take time of the House by repeating what he said, but I fully agree with him that any institution to grow and attain maturity takes time. We have seen by our own eyes that these Panchayats at one time were very conscious about amenities and social services but afterwards we have found that Panchayats are more conscious about more production and improved methods of agriculture, and I hope, given time and proper guidance these Panchayats will be able to produce good results.

Regarding the working of the Panchayats, there have been periodical reviews at the national level as well as at the State level. Various States have various kinds of experiences. Our Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Planning visited some States of India and they came back with very valuable experiences of other States and we have accepted their recommendations for our States with the result that there has been considerable improvement in the working of Panchayats in the fields of agriculture and co-operative.

Sir, we have no closed mind in this regard and are open to accept all that is good and all that is going to help to improve the economy of our State.

Hon. Member, Shri Durgeswar Saika, mentions about transfer of some Gaon Sabhas from Sonari Panchayat to Sapekhati Panchayat. Sir, I find that because of the lack on the part of the office at Sibsagar this transfer could not be effected up till now. It is difficult to transfer them at this stage but we have decided to give effect to the transfer just before the next general election.

Hon. Member, Shri Akshoy Kumar Das, mentioned about prevalence of corruption in Panchayats. So far as this evil is concerned, it is not isolated in the Panchayat organisation alone, it is a serious evil which has stretched in the administrative machinery as well as in the society itself. We are trying to tackle it and I hope, it would be possible to tackle it. The hon. Members of this House will have the occasion to see the report of the Vigilance Commissioner in this regard which will be presented to this House with his recommendations and the things which we have done in the meantime and what we are contemplating to do.

About giving judicial powers or creating Panchayat Adalats. We feel that it will be better to keep the Panchayats free from this so that they may engage themselves fully with the programme of production. We will have time to introduce the Panchayati Adalats some time later.

Sir, there have been some criticisms about the delay of not dredging the Brahmaputra river in order to prevent erosion and flood. Sir, this is a very mighty river, and even the best scientists and engineers have not been able to say even now very definitely whether this dredging will really solve the problem. But the Assam Flood Control Board have decided that this dredging be taken up on an experimental basis at the beginning. For that purpose a dredger has been ordered for, but because of the conflict with Pakistan in recent time, we could not bring that dredger to Assam. As soon as the river route will be through, we will bring it. The problem of erosion is being studied by a Joint Study Team of the State Government and the Government of India. They have submitted one report and that report is now under consideration of the Water and Power Commission.

Sir, with regard to embankments, as a matter of fact, quite a large length of embankment has been constructed in the State. Sir, If I remember aright, at the time of independence there was embankment of the length of about 300 miles only or even less than that. But in the mean time more than 2000 miles of embankment have been constructed. As regards the suggestion for putting more embankments, this is already under consideration. The hon. Member, Shri Gouri Sankar Rai mentioned that Hailakandi Subdivision has not been given due attention for flood control. Sir, we are fully aware of the problem of Hailakandi subdivision. So far as many as eight schemes of embankment and drainage have been taken up and completed benefitting an area of approximately 35,000 acres. Some more schemes for construction of embankments along the left bank of Katakhal from Mohanpur to Kucilla Ferry, from Kuchilla Ferry to Lalcherra and from Sahabad to Manipur and on the right bank of Katakhal from Gaglacherra to Rupacherra and also for the revival of the Daleswari channel are under examination and would be taken up if found technically feasible.

Sir, while discussing about the Public Works Department roads, most of the Members were critical for non-completion of the schemes taken up during the third Plan period. The position is like this: During the Third Plan period, roads costing about Rs. 12,65,00,000 were planned with a financial target of Rs. 8.50 crores. Sir, in matters of road and the like schemes, always the financial plan has to be little bigger than the actual cost. So, out of this amount of Rs. 8.50 crores, because we had to divert some money for power as well as for irrigation, the actual amount which was made available to the Public Works Department was even less than 8½ crores of rupees. That is why, we will have large number of spilled-over schemes. As was replied to by my colleague, the Minister for Public Works Department the other day, out of Rs. 250 lakhs provided for in the next Plan for road programme, about Rs. 220 lakhs are going to be utilised for spilled over schemes, and the rest will be utilised for new schemes. Maulana Abdul Jalil Choudhury has mentioned about non-completion of some road and not taking up construction of certain road falling within his constituency. Sir, the reason for this is the difficulty in getting possession of land. Generally it has been the experience in that area that whenever any land acquisition is started there is always some litigation causing a lot of delay. Sir, as soon as the litigations are over and land are made available, this road construction will be completed. Sarimati Padma Kumari Gohain has mentioned about Senchua Ali for which sanction had been accorded in 1962. It is regretted that the road is not yet through for non-completion of approaches to a bridge. We have instructed to complete them immediately.

Sir, the hon. Member from Gauhati would be glad to know that it has already been decided to put up another over-bridge over Dr. Bhubaneswar Baruah Road, because the hold-up of traffic on that road is very great.

Sir, there are some suggestions made for stopping collection of toll from certain bridges. We are contemplating to remove the toll collection from all the bridges in our State. But we will take some more time to arrive at a final decision because along with the withdrawal of toll bridges, we will have to forego a revenue amounting to 7 lakhs of rupees approximately per year. So, as and when we decide to forego this amount of revenue, we will have to find out the other ways to recoup it. But nevertheless, our contemplation is to do away with this toll. It may not be from the month of April, but it will be within 1966.

Sir, about the Motor Vehicle taxation, the rise in tax if spread out on per passenger per kilometer basis is .00028 paise and in the case of public carrier for a six metric tonnes truck, it is .000125 paise per quintal per kilometer. I think the hon. Members will agree that this a very small amount and unless again we get some revenue, it will be difficult to manage the finances of the State. The hon. Members are aware that the Kagni Commission's report is expected very soon. That also, I suppose, is going to increase the establishment cost if the recommendations have to be implemented. Therefore, we will have to give our best consideration to the suggestions made by the hon. Members and if that is to be done, we do not know how to meet the financial requirements of the State unless we have this revenue.

Hon. Member, Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury has mentioned that there is great difference between the amount of tax to be paid quarterly and the amount of tax to be paid annually. Sir, the whole idea is to encourage annual payment of tax in which case the amount of tax is less than the total amount of taxes paid quarterly, and unless there is any incentive provided by way of less tax payment, nobody will be interested to make annual payment of this tax. From the economic consideration and from the administrative point of view also, it was thought desirable to fix it like that and to encourage annual payment of tax.

Sir, with regard to State Transport undertaking there were some criticisms made that it is running at a loss. Sir, it is not a fact. The Assam State Transport earned a net income of Rs. 8,39,729 in 1962-63; Rs. 9,15,531 in 1963-64; and Rs. 5,71,141 in 1964-65. This fall in income is due to increase in the cost of establishment, petrol, diesel, lubricating oil, tyres and other spare parts.

Mr. SPEAKER: The bulk of the profit comes from the Shillong-Gauhati road. Is not it?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): It may be, Sir. In Shillong-Gauhati road also, we had reduced the rate for transporting potato, etc., as a result of which the income from this route also has considerably gone down. As it is a public utility service, we have thought that even if it runs on a marginal profit basis, it is good.

The question of forming of a Corporation is under active consideration of the Government. Sir, we believe that this forming of a Corporation will improve the workings. Therefore, it is under active consideration of the Government.

Sir, the hon. Member Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta mentioned about the provision of training facilities for navigation in our State. A scheme to the effect has been taken up, which will train people for their certificate courses for running ferries and motor launch, etc. Of course for higher training they will have to go to outside. Sir, with regard to Power generation, I would like to make one thing clear to the hon. Members that it is not the intention of the Government to undertake any scheme anywhere against the will of the people. Sir, I particularly reply to Mr. Stanley Nichols-Roy and Mr. Lyngdoh. Of course he is not here. Sir, if our people do not want that any more Hydro Electric Scheme should be taken up, we will not go in for the same. If the people think that it is going to do harm then Government will not take it up. Therefore, let there be no apprehension in the minds of the hon. Members that we do something without the consent of the people. Sir, in this matter the consent of the hon. Members of the Hills will be taken before any scheme is drawn up. Sir, even in the 'Tennessy Valley Scheme' when it was first initiated, as we saw in the picture, there were lot of opposition. But later on people understood it and gave up the opposition. So, the Tennessy Valley was developed. Similarly, Sir, in a democracy there cannot be anything without the consent of the people. As a matter of fact, I am going to issue an instruction to the State Electricity Board asking not to take up any Hydro Electric Scheme without the consent of the local people and the public representatives. I hope, Sir, that will remove any apprehension in this regard.

Sir, we are quite conscious that quite a large number of dispensaries and hospitals particularly in inaccessible areas are going without doctors. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. Sir, this is engaging the attention of the Medical Department and the Government are still trying to evolve some methods by which we can give more incentives to the doctors to go to these areas. Sir, we have about 100 Subsidised Dispensaries and not long back we took over the Local Board Dispensaries. But we have not been able to do justice to them by providing good buildings and other facilities because of the reason of finance. Practically there are two reasons— one is mostly financial and the other is shortage of doctors. Sir, we do not dare to take over all the Subsidised Dispensaries. But we are considering to do so. Even then we recognise that these Subsidised Dispensaries are providing medical facilities to quite a large number of population in the State. Sir, in many Subsidised Dispensaries neither there are doctors nor any compounder. Therefore, we are considering some proposals with a view to improve the conditions.

With regard to Family Planning, the hon. Member Shri Hopingstone Lyngdoh has stated that there is no necessity for Family Planning in the Hill areas. I feel I need not impress upon the Member at this stage the necessity and importance of this programme. But, Sir, I am sorry it is a national policy and we cannot deviate from it. Moreover there is a national programme on it, and as the hon. Member knows it, there is no compulsion on it. But nevertheless it is considered to be a social need. Otherwise the development will never catch up with the increasing population.

Shri HOOVER HYNNEWTA (Shillong) : Sir, I also agree with Mr. Lyngdoh in this point. We do not discourage the Family Planning as a whole but we are against the decrease of the rate of birth as far as our Khasi people are concerned.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, as I have stated it is not made compulsory.

Sir, there are already 180 Family Planning Clinics in the State of which 154 are in the rural areas attached to the existing hospitals, dispensaries, Public Health Centres, Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. Over and above these Family Planning Clinics, there are 126 contraceptive distribution centres which receive token grants from the Government and other private organisations. Instructions have already been issued to all the District Medical Authorities to make Family Planning facilities available in all the Medical Institutions of the State. 11 District Family Planning Bureaus, 11 Family Planning mobile units and 18 Rural Family Planning units in the Community Development Blocks have been set up under the reorganised pattern for strengthening the Family Planning Programme.

These are primarily for organising publicity, education and other necessary services for the implementation of this programme in the rural areas. There are also three honourary family planning education leaders appointed by the Government of India for the District of Darrang, Kamrup and United K. and J. Hills whose duties are to organise training camps in the interior areas through voluntary organization.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Bishnulal Upadhyaya stressed the necessity of improving the Mental Hospital at Tezpur and suggested that a section to deal with mental patients in every Medical College Hospital should be provided. Sir, I may inform the hon. Member that these plans are there in the Fourth Plan.

About leprosy in Garo Hills, hon. Member Shri Emerson Momin wanted Government to take early steps to stop spread of leprosy. Sir, this is really a problem not only in Garo Hills, as a matter of fact, in many parts of our State. Actually a scheme for survey and control of leprosy has already been started. Sir, depending on what allocation we can make in the Fourth Plan, we will do much in this regard.

Sir, regarding the enquiry about the cholera epidemic which was declared as Gastro-enteritis, Shri Dharmananda Das enquired the whole matter and he has submitted a report which is under consideration of the Government.

Sir, in my reply to the debate on the Governor's Address, I had already dealt with various matters relating to education. The Deputy Minister, Education has also dealt at length with the points raised by the hon. Members. I had already pointed out that expenditure on education has been considerably increased, so it has not been possible for the Government to take over more schools as the Government desire. Sir, one of the Members wanted to know the fate of the Hindi College. Actually Public Works Department are preparing plans and estimates for the construction of the College buildings at North Gauhati. Meanwhile, Government of India's approval has been obtained for starting the college in a temporary building and steps are being taken to select and appoint the Principal and other staff.

Sir, there was a suggestion about desirability of revision of pay scales of the Aided College Teachers. I hope the hon. Members knows the position very well. The position briefly was that the college teachers were paid on the basis of the national pay scales of college teachers that was decided by the University Grant Commission and we accepted that recommendation. But in the mean time the pay scales of teachers both in colleges and schools have been raised. It is up to the University Grants Commission to consider the matter. But they have not done so up till now for the simple reason that whatever recommendations have been given earlier, these have not been implemented in many States. Most of the States are also not agreeable to enhance pay scales of College Teachers, and the University Grants Commission is not going to revise the scales of pay. The Assam College Teachers' Association is trying to find out some ways by which this grievance may be made. From our side, I would like to say that our resources are not such that we can increase the pay scales in the manner we like. Our financial position is very bad. Nevertheless, I never discourage the College Teachers. They have done very useful services. I can say only this much that we will do whatever we can.

Shri Rupram Sut has given an enlightened speech on education. The defects in educational system which he has pointed out are very real. Sir, the education, as had been said once by Shri Shymaprasad Mukherjee, is never perfect. So, periodical review from time to time of the policy of educational system is necessary, and we should not follow the narrow

policy of education at the State level. We should follow the policy and system of such education which have been laid down at the national level. I fully agree with the hon. member that whatever defects he has pointed out these should be rectified.

Sir, the hon. Member Shri Stanely Nichols-Roy raised a question regarding establishment of the Shillong University. I would like to say in this connection that we referred the matter to the Government of India regarding establishment of the University. They replied that they would agree to establish the University at Shillong provided we can provide land for the purpose. Sir, from our side we will provide land. In any case, we will never allow the University to be held up for land alone. Except giving land there is nothing which we can do from our side at present. I contacted the Chief Minister, Nagaland in this connection. He said that he would consider the matter.

Shri HOVER HYNNEWATA: Sir, who will bear the cost ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): The Government of India will bear the cost. So far as the State Government is concerned, they will provide the land. Some funds should have to be made available, but this is the matter for which we are worried about.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, whether the entire expenditure will be borne by the Government of India ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I suppose the entire expenditure will have to be borne by the Government of India. If any part of it is to be borne by us, we will have to do it, there is no reason why we should not do it.

Sir, education and health schemes, it requires a huge expenditure and for this purpose I suppose at one time it would be found impossible to meet the expenditure unless we have checks on education and health. Sir, this is only my reaction because we know that even in some primary schools, as pointed out by many hon. members, there are no black boards so on and so forth. Sir, the schools are daily increasing and this will mean a colossal amount.

Sir, hon. member Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee felt that there is a huge wastage in the Department of Information and Public Relations and he cited the supply of radio sets and organizing of exhibitions as instances which have led to huge wastage. Sir, a total number of 1900 radio sets were purchased at the cost of Rs.4,85,000 on a 50-50 basis between the State Government and the Central Government between the years 1954-55 and 1961-62. Government of India also supplied 1,370 radio sets free of cost after the Chinese aggression. 869 of these sets have been already installed and the balance are in the process of being installed. The department have been experiencing difficulty in ensuring proper maintenance of the sets at places where they were distributed, mainly for want of spare parts and dry battery packs. This matter has also been taken up with the Government of India. The dry battery packs are expected to be purchased very soon. Petty repairs, however to the radio sets are carried out by the department's wireless section but the difficulty arises in getting spare parts.

Sir, as a matter of fact, our expenditure on publicity is very insignificant as I told you once that the budget of this department is less than Rs.8 lakhs or so. That is a very small amount and my impression is that since this is a democracy, publicity must be increased very considerably. Without that particularly those schemes where we have to mobilise the public enthusiasm for successfully implementing these schemes, publicity is very much essential. Therefore, I would not admit that there have been wastages in this department.

Sir, hon. member Shri Khogendra Nath Nath mentioned something about the education of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes which is not very clear to me. Sir, the tuition fee for scheduled caste and scheduled tribe boys is free in the schools. There is a system of scholarship for pre-Matric stage. Under the existing rules the value of scholarship is Rs.5 per month in the Middle School stage and Rs.7 per month in the High School stage. These scholarships do not carry with them the benefit of free studentship. That is why the hon. member said the other day that if the tuition fee is deducted, this carries no benefit to the students. Sir, I stand corrected to this extent. We have considered this matter to see how far it would be possible to exempt such scholarship holders from payment of tuition fees. It was worked out and the figure rose to the colossal amount. So it not found feasible.

Sir, hon. member Mr. Hopingstone Lyngdob, from Nongstoin mentioned that there was no adequate facility for training of basic school's teachers. Sir, it is true that the Basic Education Centre is not upto the standard. The accommodation is not enough. Plans and estimates have been prepared for another institution. One such institution has already been established at Saihow. There is also one basic training centre at Jowai. I hope that when these institutions will be completed, this problem will not be there. Sir about other backward classes I had the occasion to discuss this matter in this House when I replied to the Governor's Address that we would review the position and we have provisionally decided that we shall spend about one crore for this educational facility and other details of the scheme are being drawn up.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Devendra Nath Sarma said that the amount of Rs.3 lakh is a very small amount. Sir, that may be true, but we have to cut our coat according to the cloth. If the financial condition improved then we shall try to increase.

Sir, an important question was raised by the members particularly by those who are connected with the labours about the labour unemployment problem in tea garden. Sir, it is assuming a very serious proportion. With the modernization that is to say for using some machinery and also technique the employment potential in the tea garden is decreasing. Therefore the problem of surplus labour has become very acute in the Cachar district particularly. That problem is showing its face elsewhere also. We discussed this matter and in the course of discussion it was decided that there should be no recruitment and the surplus labour of one garden should be absorbed in another garden. The Indian Tea Association co-operated with this proposal but the other organization did not co-operate with that scheme. But I am glad to inform you that other association also agreed to co-operate with this scheme. Nevertheless, this problem requires a serious attention. Sir, the Plantation Labour Act is being implemented except the housing part of it. As a matter of fact, where there is failure, prosecution has been started against the Management.

Sir, my colleague, the State Minister for Revenue has made a detailed statement on the revenue department yesterday. So I would not like to take much time of this House by repeating this. But there is a suggestion given by Dr. Ghanashyam Das that the present Mauzadari system should be substituted by Tahsildari system. We have not taken any decision like this. But we have decided that where the Mauzadari system has failed, the Tahsildari system should be introduced. But we cannot say now how far and with what result this will be implemented. In Dibrugarh subdivision where the Mauzadar has been suspended, this system has been introduced. Sir, it was also mentioned that the forest villages have been very much neglected and that they require very much attention. We will see that the forest villages are also given the benefit. The hon. Members would be interested to know about the expansion and bringing in new areas under plantation. The Department are growing annually about 9.6 square miles of fast growing species under the Centrally sponsored schemes besides 3 square miles of natural regenerations annually.

Sir, about the refugee problem hon. Members feel that enough has not been done. Well, I would also not say that we have been able to do much for the simple reason that the number of refugees is so big that we just cannot accommodate them. Therefore, we accepted the responsibility to rehabilitate certain number of families. We requested the Government of India to find place for the others. Government of India also have their own difficulties, but they have removed some families to NEFA and others are going to be rehabilitated in Mana Camp. In 1965, 1,123, Chakma families were shifted under Government of India's instruction to NEFA for rehabilitation. 993 families of Hajong were also transferred to Ledo Transit Centre for rehabilitation in NEFA. Out of these 537 families are transferred to Bihar for rehabilitation. 400 adult males have also been shifted to Andamans with the idea of ultimately rehabilitating them there with their families. Government of India have also agreed to take 1,000 more families of Chakmas to NEFA for rehabilitation.

Shri Haren Talukdar mentioned about the necessity of revitalisation and reorganization of the land mortgage banks. The Government have already taken up a scheme for revitalisation of Assam Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank and the scheme was forwarded to the Government of India. The scheme provides for payment of managerial subsidy of Rs.90,000 and an advance of Rs.9 lakh spread over a period of 3 years. We hope we will receive the sanction for it.

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu mentioned about the necessity of organisation of Co-operative Societies in areas inhabited by plains tribals. Government have so far sanctioned grants in aid of Rs.80,000 to 53 societies in 1961-62, Rs.1 lakh to 50 societies during 1962-63 and Rs.79,000 to 34 societies in 1963-64. It is proposed to organize 50 more co-operative societies among the plains tribals during the Fourth Plan period.

Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha mentioned about establishment of a Forest Co-operative Society as in the State of Gujarat. In fact 11 such societies of Forest Labours have already been organised and registered. Government have also sanctioned grants to six of these societies.

Sir, there has been some criticism about the working of the Economy Committee set up by the Government. I had already explained the working of this Committee while replying to the debate on Governor's address and this was also explained at length by the former Finance Minister during the last session of the Assembly in the month of December, 1965. I had also replied to questions on the subject during the same session. There appears to be some misconception that the Government have singled out only Third and Fourth grade staff for purpose of effecting economy. Government's decision was only to impose 7 per cent cut straightway in respect of further recruitment of Grade Three and Grade Four staffs. Detailed studies may reveal surplus in other categories and grades also. I must also clarify that the surplus staff so located are not being retrenched but are to be absorbed in different offices of the State Government and whenever necessary their pay would be protected. To ensure that these staff are absorbed without difficulty, an employment cell has also been formed within the Appointment Department.

Sir, the delay in submission of the report of the Kagi Commission has not been liked by some hon. Members. I would like to inform the House that he is examining about 2 thousand representations and that is why he is taking time. I had a talk with him and he expects that he may be able to submit the report in course of a week. Because the number of such representation is so large it was not possible on his part to work more speedily and hence the delay.

Shri Md. Umaruddin in his speech referred to the disproportionate distribution of the national income. In this connection I would like to point out that India's planning objectives embrace both economic and social goals. Every successive Five Year Plan has laid emphasis not only in securing rapid increase in the National income but also in bringing about a reduction in inequality of distribution of income and wealth. In fact, the pre-occupation of the social goal is considered by some to have interfered with our progress towards achievement of the economic goal. The important steps taken by the Government for the equitable distribution of income, wealth and economic power are—

(1) Selective Taxation, (2) Growth of the Public Sector and control of private Sector, (3) growth of the co-operative movement (4) land reform and ceiling on land holdings, (5) trade union movement, labour welfare and social security measure and (6) social services. The tax structure in India has also become deeper and more broad-based.

Sir, I would like to explain that there seems to be some fundamental misconception that the State Budget is heavily dependent upon the Central resources and that to meet our requirements we have to borrow from the Centre. I would like to make a distinction between financing for the normal administration of the State and for the Plans. Plan financing is made by supplementing our resources, Central assistance and also by way of public loan. The State Government do not normally borrow from the Central Government or from the market for meeting expenditure on normal administration. These loans being sanctioned by the Government of India, the terms and conditions as to the period of payment and interest rate thereon is primarily decided by them. Due to delay in finalisation, the State Government is not put to any loss and we do not have to pay any extra or penal interest on these loans as a result of the delayed finalisation

of the terms and conditions. For such non-plan schemes as State Trading on Foodgrains and maintenance of bufferstock, we do get loan from the Government of India or obtain it from the State Bank of India by way of cash credit accommodation. The temporary ways and means advances from the Government of India come under this category but these ways and means advances are immediately adjusted as and when our financial position improves in the account of the Reserve Bank of India. As regards the loan obtained from the State Bank of India by way of cash credit accommodation, it is generally cleared within a period of time and therefore there is no question of loss due to delay in finalisation of terms and conditions.

I may add that the burden of Plan loans taken from the Central Government is the common problem of all the States of the country because all the States are not going to the market themselves. They are borrowing through the Government of India.

About the yield from investment, Sir, our biggest investment has been on Electricity and also Flood Control. The Electricity projects after completion would be giving us revenue. So long they are not giving us any revenue.

Sir, the hon. Members Shri Dulal Chandra Barua and others made some observations which were not quite correct. He used certain words which, of course, you held as unparliamentary. I make no secret of the fact that the Government has taken overdraft from the Government of India, i. e., Reserve Bank of India. That has been shown in the Budget Speech, and we shall also be closing with a huge over-draft. But that does not mean that when the Revenue Account and the Capital Account for the year show the surplus how can I say before the House that it is not surplus? I have not withheld from the hon. Members the information that the Government has a big over-draft with the Reserve Bank of India. Even with our best attempts this year we will close with a very big over-draft with the Reserve Bank, but so far as this year is concerned, the Revenue and Capital Accounts combined show a very nominal surplus.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, considering the deficit of the last year which will be spilled over to this year it cannot be said that it is a surplus budget. That was my point.

Shri BIMLA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, it is a question of accounting. The Auditor-General of India has a system of accounting, and we have to follow it. We cannot have our own accounting system. It is true, of course, in examining my household budget I would not accept this surplus. The Auditor-General's system is different.

Sir, some hon. Members have very rightly mentioned about the necessity of tightening up the leakage in revenue. Sir, some efforts have been made in that direction. So far 421 cases of evasion have been detected by the staff. Targets have also been fixed in respect of each Superintendent of Taxes for realisation of arrear of revenue. Penalties have been imposed in deserving cases. Pressure has been put on the Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officers and Bakijai Officers to realise the arrear taxes. Materials have been collected from the Railways, Steamer

ghats and other carriers in order to ascertain the quantity of goods imported by the different dealers and the Railways, Steamers and other transport authorities have been requested not to give delivery of the consignment of goods without countersignature of the Taxation Officers.

Sir, it was mentioned that while our *per capita* income is the lowest our *per capita* taxation is the heaviest. It seems, Sir, this impression is not quite correct. It is true that the *per capita* tax incidence in Assam has been steadily rising. The present *per capita* tax is 20.99 and we have seventh highest *per capita* taxation in the country. We hold the seventh position. It is not a fact that the *per capita* income of Assam is the lowest. In fact, on the basis of 1960-61 figures we rank sixth in India with about Rs. 311 as *per capita* income, Maharashtra leading with Rs. 392 and Bihar being the lowest with Rs.188. However, it has been the effort of the Government all along to see that the tax burden does not fall heavily on the poorer section disproportionately. Most of the important taxes like the Agricultural Income Tax, Professional Tax, Motor Vehicles Tax do not affect the poorer section of the people. Under Sales-tax also though the rates of taxes have been increased on items like the motor vehicles, refrigerators, photographic goods, leather goods, petrol, diesel etc., the items which are commonly required by the poorer section like rice, wheat, pulses, atta, fish, ghee, meat, vegetables, gur, mustard oil, milk etc., have been exempted from the sales-tax. Government, however, are not unaware that the tax burden on the people as a whole has increased. Government have been impressing this fact on the Government of India and the Planning Commission that in the absence of sufficient industrial development, in the absence of Government of India's concurrence to the levy of carriage tax on tea and increased royalty from crude oil extracted in Assam, the Government are hard put to find resources from the already heavily burdened and inelastic sources of revenue for their development programme.

Mr. SPEAKER : I think the hon'ble Chief Minister will take a long time to finish. Is the House agreeable to sit after lunch ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : No, Sir, I shall not take long. I shall finish within fifteen minutes.

Sir, Hon'ble Member, Shri Biswadev Sarma, referred to the increase of show tax. It appears that the Motion Pictures Association and the Film Distributors and Exhibitors have submitted representations to the Government. These are under our active consideration.

Sir, I would like to refer to the Mizo Hills situation.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, we have not heard anything about the second refinery.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, about the Mizo Hill situation some of the Hon'ble Members have stated that we are under-estimating. In fact we are not. As a matter of fact it is a distressing situation, and I am very sorry for this. I am glad that some Hon'ble Members have stated, even Shri Hoover Hynniewata, that the Government cannot submit to armed rebellion. A question has been raised as

to the calling of the Army. When it was felt that the situation demanded that Army should be called in we had to call in the Army. I think as an administrator I would have failed in my duty if I had not done so, and, I am glad that because the Army was called in the situation is gradually coming under control.

A question has been raised about the use of Air Force. The authoritative information which I have is that it was used because of communication difficulties with regard to movement of officers and personnel and for distribution of supplies. A number of our Police and Assam Rifles posts in the Mizo Hills District were in many places surrounded by the unlawful elements. When planes went to drop supplies they were fired at from very close quarters from the hills nearby. Our posts were running short of food supplies and water. Transport aircraft and helicopters sent to drop supplies were fired upon and, in fact, two transport aircraft were hit by bullet fire by the hostiles. It was under these circumstances that the Air Force to support the Army operation was used in the limited way. The Air Force aircrafts were used in firing machine guns on the hilly areas where the hostile fire was coming from. This was done purely in self-defence. There were definite orders that the civilian population should be avoided. The hon. member Mr. Hoover Hynniewta wanted to know whether any bombs were dropped. I have been authoritatively told that no bombs were dropped. In this connection, Sir, I would like to make a submission. Who does not want a peaceful settlement? But when people resort to violence and when in this House the hon. members in course of their speeches do not refer to that aspect at all as if it was no concern of theirs and only try to blame the Government for its failure to solve the problem, you do create an impression which indirectly gives encouragement to the lawless elements, I suppose that should not happen.

Sir, the hon. Member Mr. Nichols-Rôy mentioned about the Government's Memorandum before the Pataskar Commission. This was published in the Press and I place a copy on the Table of the House. If anybody can point out that we have stated anything unreasonable against the Hill people, we are quite prepared to modify it. I place the Memorandum on the Table of the House.

Sir, about the Language Bill, that is an unfortuuate chapter in our history. The hon. Member mentioned the I betrayed and that is why the Mizo National Front betrayed. Sir, that is not so. I will read out what I said in my speech. This is what I said:

"Some of the hon. Members have raised the question of State language and absence of my mention about it in the Governor's Address. The Governor has not mentioned about it in his Address because the Government have not taken a decision on the subject yet. I would, however mention that Government have not under-estimated its importance or the request that has been made by the Assam Sahitya Sabha and other institutions for declaration of Assamese as the State language. Perhaps there are two important reasons which warrant enactment on a State language. The first is to make the official communications easily understandable to the common man and the second is to break the barrier of language which now separates the diverse population of Assam. I highly appreciate the zeal and enthusiasm with which the the demand for declaration of Assamese as the State language has been made, more

particularly, by the Assamese-speaking section of our population. Government would prefer to wait till they get the same demand from the non-Assamese speaking population for declaration of Assamese as a State language”.

It is true that we could not wait, but what was our Language Bill. Can anybody say that we are imposing any language, whether Assamese, Bengali or any other, on anybody ?

(A Voice :—Yes.)

No, we have not. I would request the hon. member to go through our Bill. So far as the Hill districts are concerned, it will be entirely upto the Districts Councils to decide which language is to be used. He has raised the question whether and officer from the Hills working in the plains districts is bound to learn Assamese for his work. Well, Sir, in a sense it is better for an officer serving in a place to know the local language. Nevertheless, what does the Act say ? It says : “in regard to anything in the offices in the region or districts, if any member of the staff is unable to note in any of the district language, the use of English shall be permitted by the Heads of Departments so long as the use thereof is permissible under Article 343 of the Constitution of India.” It was not the intention of the Act to impose any language on anybody. Any impression of that kind should be removed.

Sir, Mr. Hoover Hynniewta gave us a very wise advice not to use grant for political purposes. I accept his advice cent per cent. To my knowledge I have not used any grants for political purposes. I have also one advice to give him not to use any situation for political purposes. I hope he will also accept it.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA : On a point of clarification, Sir, I would like to know from the Chief Minister why in the appointment of members to committees peoples’ representatives have been ignored and members belonging to the ruling party have been preferred ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : There are many committees. If the hon. Member tell me about any particular committee or committees where such things have been done, we can set matters right.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA : The R. T. A. for example, and many other bodies.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : My whole point is this we have a lot of difference, let me say, between the Hill leaders and the people who are sitting on this side of the House. But my mind is quite clear that whatever difference we may have, either on language issue or economic issue, or any other issue, it will have to be solved by us. Therefore, my appeal to everybody would be that let us solve these problems, let us discuss and solve them. We have a responsibility to our posterity and that responsibility has to be shared by all people. I may have lot of defects and I may be doing something in a wrong way. But if you open my eyes I shall certainly correct it. Certainly you may have certain defects. But as a

friend, as a citizen and as a responsible public leader if I draw your attention and seek co-operation, will you not work jointly? Have we not worked jointly? I ask Mr. Hoover Hynniewta, is he not happy with the Barabazar Co-operative Bank?

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA : I am very very happy.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Therefore, my point is that after all we are not going to occupy this seat for all time to come, nor have we come to this world for all time to come. Therefore, let us do things which will really bring good to the people. You do not wish anything ill for the people of the hills and I do not wish anything ill for the people of the hills and plains. Something might have happened in the past and something may be going wrong now. But is there no way to solve them? Let us try and solve the problems. With these appeals I conclude my speech.

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reservsd for Scheduled Tribes) : Sir, since the Leader of the Opposition is not here, may I ask the Chief Minister to reply to the important points raised by him? May we know whether Martial Law has been declared in the Mizo Hills, whether the Army was used according to the Military Manual in aid of the civil power and whether the Army was using minimum force or excessive force? These are the points raised by Captain Sangma. Unfortunately he is not here because he is in the hospital. I would request the Chief Minister to reply to these points.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : No. Martial Law has not been declared. The Army was called in aid of the Civil power and with regard to the size of the force used, I suppose they are using minimum force.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA : May we know whether Army can be used in aid of Civil power without Martial Law being declared?

(Voices: Yes, yes).

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I have already given the reply.

Adjournment.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A.m., on Saturday, the 19th March 1966.

Shillong :
Tue 1st September, 1966.

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