

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 9 a. m.
on Friday, the 4th March, 1966.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Report of the Committee for Administrative Reforms

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

*13. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Report of the Committee for Administrative
Reforms has been received by the Government?

(b) If so, the main features of the Report?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

13. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know
when the Government is going to finalise the Report?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, the Committee at first
prepared a draft questionnaire which was circulated to all concerned for
their reply, and, now some study teams are working. The Committee,
I do not think, will be able to complete the Report before the end of this
year.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, how many
sittings were held up till now?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The Committee had only two
sittings. At first the questionnaire had to be prepared and finalised. If I
read out some of these things the hon. Members will be able to follow the
line in which the Committee is working.

“ The draft questionnaire of the Committee was circulated to Government offices, Semi-Government, important private institutions and important individuals. The replies received and detailed information called for and received from offices have been processed and consolidated.

The Committee decided to constitute study teams for detailed study in various aspects of administration. The study teams have already completed study on some of the aspects and continuing their study on the others. Some of the reports of the study teams are under consideration of the Committee.

In Government of India, for similar studies, study teams consisting of high ranking officers as members ranging from 4 to 10 have been set up assisted by research staff of the status of Section Officers of the Central Secretariat. Time taken is from 10 months to 16 months for each study. Here the studies are undertaken by Under Secretaries, Assistant Superintendent and Assistants. They take longer time because of lack of experience both in depth and range and some of them have to undertake studies in addition to other work.

Therefore, Sir, these studies are now going on, and I understand some of our officers went to Delhi and underwent some training in the study work.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, may I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether one study team was constituted or several study teams ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : There are several study teams. I do not have the details with me at the moment.

RAJA AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Kokrajhar) : Sir, is it a fact that similar questionnaire was issued in 1957-58 and replies were received and they were being studied by the Method and Organisation Division ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, as I said the other day because of the study at the State level or at the All-India level major administrative reforms have taken place in the country like the constitution of Panchayats and Panchayati Raj. This is a continuous process, and, I suppose it will have to continue.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Sir, may I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether the report of this Committee will be made available to this House and to the public within the term of this Assembly ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : That I cannot say. I expect it would be ready by the end of this year. The term of this Assembly, I believe, will end by that time.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Sir, may I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether at the time of issue of the questionnaire any specific time was fixed for receiving replies ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Dates were stipulated for submission of replies to the questionnaire.

Re: Report of the Enquiry made against the Principal, Veterinary College

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

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

(a) Whether the report of enquiry made against the Principal, Veterinary College, Shri J. M. Bujarbarua, the Agricultural Commissioner in connection with cattle-purchase in 1963 has been submitted by the said officer ?

(b) If so, what are the main features of the report ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary) replied :

14. (a)—Yes.

(b) This is a departmental proceeding. The report of the enquiring officer, namely, the Commissioner of Agricultural Production is under examination of the Government, and the main features of the report cannot be disclosed at this stage.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, may I know from the Minister in-charge when the report is going to be finalised ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, there were proceedings against three other officers also for the same transaction. The enquiring officer has not submitted any report in these cases. As soon as he submits reports in these three cases, all these cases would be decided together.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any difference in the case of the Principal with these officers ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, all these four cases arose out of the same cattle purchase transaction.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patcharkuchi) : Sir, how long it will take for the enquiring officer to submit his report in these cases ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, we have asked the Agricultural Production Commissioner to expedite submission of the reports. He is a busy officer. At the moment he is also holding the charge of the Commissioner of Hills Division. There may be some delay before he could finalise the proceedings.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY : Sir, when the proceedings were started ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I think about a year and a half back.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, may I know, if the report concerning the Principal of the Veterinary College has been submitted by the enquiring officer why the report has not been considered so that this officer might get some benefit as a result of the decision of the Enquiring Officers ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, I have already replied that the four proceedings arose out of the same transaction, and one should not be decided in the absence of the others.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when the same officer is enquiring into the whole matter, why he has submitted a separate report concerning the Principal, if it is not a separate matter ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, the same enquiring officer is conducting the proceedings in all the cases. It is the Government who will decide. Therefore all the four reports must be before the Government. The Government is not bound to accept a report. They can reject it as well.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Sir, whether at the time of appointing the enquiring officer Government asked the officer to enquire into all the matters together or one at a time ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, the preliminary enquiry was made by the Director, Dr. C. K. Rao. On the basis of the facts coming out in that report proceedings were drawn up against four persons including Shri Bujarbarua. The proceedings will have to be separate under the law.

The findings of the enquiring officer also have to be separate in each case. Then the Government will have to take decision in each case. Since the proceedings arose out of the same transaction and also out of the same report submitted by the Director of Veterinary, an isolated view of each case should not be taken.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : The Minister said just now that Government might reject the report of the enquiry committee. As a result of the rejection of the report, if the officer concerned thinks that his future has been adversely affected, will the Government then undertake a judicial enquiry into his case ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, any question in furtherance of the cause of an officer should not be put. Such a thing puts us in an embarrassing position. As I have already said, we don't think that this officer's case should be decided separately. Moreover, the question is hypothetical.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY : May I know whether Dr. Bhupen Kakoti of Veterinary College also was involved in this case ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I cannot give the names. There are three more officers.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: Is it a fact that Dr. Bhupen Kakoti was selected to go abroad with a U. N. O. scholarship but he cannot go due to these proceedings?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: For that a separate notice may be given.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Before appointing the enquiry committee the Government asked the Director of Veterinary Department to enquire into the matter. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Director also is partially involved in this particular affair?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That is the defence of Shri Bujarbarua.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Director himself is involved in this matter in which the Principal of the Veterinary College is involved?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: This is the defence of the officer, which will have to be decided in the proceedings.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know whether the then Director Mr. Rao was also involved?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It is only the Commissioner who can advise us after his enquiry.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: May I know whether this case will be handed over to an independent commission for enquiry?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not know how the question of commission comes in. Certain officers committed some lapses and departmental proceedings have been drawn up against them. Where is the question of a commission?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know whether the Government will come to a decision as early as possible as we have just heard that one of the officers, who got a foreign scholarship, has been debarred from going abroad because of this enquiry?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We are also very eager to complete the proceedings as early as possible, but unfortunately, because of certain developments in Mizo Hills and the shortage of officers, the Agricultural Production Commissioner's hands are full. He, however, assured me that he would try to expedite the matter as much as possible.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know whether the filling up of the post of the Director of Veterinary Department will be deferred till finalisation of the enquiry?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : No assurance can be given in reply to a question.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Is it not a fact that for lingering this enquiry, the case of this officer, who is also competent to become Director of Veterinary, is going to be nullified ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : If the hon. Member knows so much about this officer, I can also convey to this House that this officer who has more than once faced proceedings, is not a very good one.

Re: Enquiry made against Dr. B. L. Choudhury, Director of Health Services on suspension

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi) asked :

*15. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the enquiry against Dr. B. L. Choudhury, Director of Health Services on suspension, has been completed ?

(b) Whether final orders have been passed by the Government ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

15. (a) & (b)—No.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : May I know when the proceedings against this officer were drawn up ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : This officer was suspended on 1st October 1963. Enquiry on the proceedings against him was completed and the second show cause notice as required by Article 311 of the Constitution was issued on him on 30th March 1965. He showed cause on 3rd June 1965. Clarification with regard to certain additional documentary evidence produced by him at this stage was sought on 30th September 1965. He furnished the clarification only on 30th November 1965. The Vigilance Commissioner was consulted and as advised by him, a further enquiry is now being held with reference to documents subsequently produced by Dr. Choudhury.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Who is the enquiring officer ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : The Additional Chief Secretary.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know whether according to rules, these proceedings are to be completed within six months or one year at the latest ? May I know the reasons for this unusual delay in this particular case ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : There is no rule as such. As a matter of fact, there are instructions to complete enquiries, if possible, within three months. It all depends upon the nature of the cause. For

example, in this particular cause, when the final show cause notice was given to this officer, he submitted some new documents. Normally new documents are not considered at that stage, but we consulted the Vigilance Commissioner and he suggested that these should also be considered. That is why it is taking such a long time. In order to complete the proceedings promptly it requires co-operation of both sides.

Re: Creation of a Separate District comprising of present North Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana, etc.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

*16. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is considering the proposal of creating a separate District comprising of present North Lakhimpur, Dhakuakhana, Dhemaji including the Transferred Areas with its Headquarters at North Lakhimpur for the purpose of administrative convenience of the areas?

(b) If so, at what stage the proposal is?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

16. (a) & (b)—The Government propose to examine the question of reorganisation of Districts and Subdivisions during the Fourth Plan period when the proposal mentioned by the hon. Members would also be given due consideration.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know whether any committee has been constituted to inquire into the matter?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : No, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know whether Government proposes to set up such a committee?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : That has not yet been decided?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re: Estimated cost for construction of Brahmaputra retirement dyke near Gohaingaon

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

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

(a) What is the original estimated cost for construction of Brahmaputra retirement dyke near Gohaingaon in Jorhat Sub-division?

(b) What is the amount spent for repair of the retirement bund after the breach has occurred ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that in the last Flood Control Board meeting at Gauhati a decision was taken not to give the excess amount over the original estimated cost for repair of the said dyke breached during the last flood ?

(d) If so, what is the reason ?

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

22. (a)—Rs.4,16,000·00 including the work of raising and strengthening of the old bund.

(b)—Up-to-date expenditure is Rs. 9,46,200·00 paise.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : In reply to (b), the Minister has stated that the up-to-date expenditure is Rs. 9,46,200. May I know whether the cost of construction of the bund during the flood season is also included here ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, the up-to-date expenditure incurred on this work is Rs. 9,46,200. Payments of bills to Indian Refineries Ltd., and the Army authorities and the adjustment with Railways are yet to be made, as bills have not been received till now. When these bills are received the amount is likely to go up.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : May I know what was the estimated cost for repair and restoration of the dyke ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : There was no question of any estimates for repair. The original work was in progress, but it could not be completed before the flood season. Then a decision was taken to complete it at break-neck speed during flood season. The original estimate for the work was Rs. 4,16,000, but this had been exceeded and, as I said, the up-to-date expenditure is Rs. 9,46,200.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN : May I know the total estimated expenditure that will be incurred for completion of the dyke ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Some of the bills have not yet been received. We had to requisition the services of a dredger from the Indian Refineries, various equipments from the Army authorities, we had also to use the services of Railways. Bills have not been received from them. It is anticipated when all the bills are submitted, they may go to somewhere between 15 to 16 lakhs of rupees.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN : Sir, may I know what are the reasons for the original cost being increased by about 4 times ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, I have already explained the reasons during the course of my replies to various questions and debates in the House. The hon. Member is requested to refer to these replies ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that if all the bills are submitted the amount will come to about Rs. 25 to 26 lakhs and not 15 lakhs.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir, it may be possible that the total amount may come to Rs. 20 to 24 lakhs when the bills are submitted by the various departments.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN : Sir, whether the Government will make an enquiry to fix responsibility for incurring the excess expenditure ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The Government have already made an enquiry through the Commissioners of Divisions and the results of the enquiry was made known to the hon. Members.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Whether the Government will set up another enquiry committee ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : No.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Whether the Flood Control Board has agreed to bear the entire expenditure of Rs. 25 lakhs ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, whenever any work of Flood Control Department is to be done it is to be done normally with the knowledge and approval of the Flood Control Board; so this Scheme must have gone through the Flood Control Board. What the hon. Member is possibly referring is that the Government of India has agreed to provide an additional amount of Rs. 20 lakhs as loan assistance as a special case to help financing this scheme.

Re: Flood protection measures in Madartola Mouza of Kamalpur Circle.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

23. Will the Minister-in-charge of P.W.D. (F.C.&I.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the flood affected areas of Madartola Mouza inundated by the flood of Kalajal river has been surveyed for taking flood protection measures ?

(b) What are the steps proposed to be taken ?

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

23. (a) and (b)—Only preliminary survey to examine the possibilities of flood control measures for this area has been carried out and no definite scheme could be formulated yet.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : Sir, may I know when this preliminary survey was made and what was the finding ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, this is still in progress. The preliminary survey to examine the possibilities of flood control measures for this area has been taken up in hand and some hydrological data are being collected.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : When was it started ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It is in progress.

Re: Major Irrigation Project in the State

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Bokakhat) asked :

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

- (a) How many major Irrigation Projects have been taken up by the Department in the State ?
- (b) What are those projects ?
(Please state sub-division-wise).
- (c) What conditions are required for sanctioning of new projects ?
- (d) Whether there are any incomplete E. and D. projects in Golaghat Subdivision ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the Brahmaputra dyke in Golaghat Subdivision of the Negriting-Dhansiri bund is not complete ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that only sixteen miles of the whole project have so far been completed ?
- (g) If so, whether remaining nine miles will be completed within this year so that the entire area comprising of about 50 villages may not have to remain under flood water ?

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

24. (a)—No Major Irrigation Project has been taken up;

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The details of the project together with the design and drawings and a prescribed *proforma* duly filled in, are required to be submitted to Government of India in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, C. W. & P. C. and Planning Commission. The project is required to be cleared first by the Ganga Basin Organisation in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power from the Indo-Pakistan angle. Thus it is scrutinised in details in the C. W. & P. C. by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation and Power and then, if recommended, the project is sent to the Planning Commission for final approval subject to availability of fund and the plan ceiling. After final approval of the project by the Planning Commission, the project becomes eligible for execution.

(d)—Yes. There are three incomplete Minor Irrigation Schemes in Golaghat Subdivision, *viz.*, (1) providing Irrigation facilities from Kan-kochang river, (2) providing Irrigation facilities in Amguri and Kharikatia Mouza, (3) Fallagani Irrigation Scheme.

(e)—The dyke from Neghriting to Rangagora as sanctioned, has been completed.

(f)—This sanctioned scheme is for sixteen miles from Neghriting to Rangagora and it has been completed.

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

Dr. HOMES ER DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi) : Sir, with regard to question 24(a) may I know whether no major irrigation projection has been taken up since its inception in our State ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : There is no major irrigation project in our State.

Shri SARBESWER BARDOLOI (Titabar) : Sir, as regards reply to (d) may I know why these incomplete projects are not completed ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, in the Golaghat Sub-division there are some incomplete projects. Sir, there is bound to be a project being incomplete at a certain point of time; the work is in progress.

Re: Posts of Weaving Superintendent

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked :

25. Will the Minister-in-charge of Industries (Sericulture and Weaving) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether some posts of Weaving Superintendents are lying vacant for 3 to 4 years ?
- (b) If so, how many ?
- (c) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative why the vacancies are not filled up ?
- (d) What are the academical and technical qualification required for these posts ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving) replied:

25. (a) & (b)—Only one post has been lying vacant for the last four years.

(c)—The post was to be filled up by direct recruitment through the Assam Public Service Commission; but in spite of repeated advertisements by the Assam Public Service Commission no qualified candidate was available.

(d)—Degree in Textile Technology with at least one year's practical experience in a commercial firm or Government Department, Industry or Research, or Diploma in Textile Technology with at least five years, practical experience in a commercial firm, Government Department, Industry or Research.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): এই দীৰ্ঘ চাৰি বছৰে এটা post খালি বখাৰ কাৰণ কি মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জনাবনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: A.P.S.C. য়ে কেইবাবাৰো Advertise কৰিও উপযুক্ত মানুহ পোৱা নাই।

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): এই post টা বার বার Advertise কৰা হৈছে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: তিনি বাৰ কৰা হৈছে; P. S. C. য়ে ৩১৭১৬৩, ৪৩১৬৪ আৰু ৩০১২১৬৪ তাৰিখে Advertise কৰিছিল কিন্তু এবাৰো উপযুক্ত প্ৰাৰ্থী পোৱা হোৱা নাই।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: এই অফিচাৰজন নিয়োগ নকৰাত কামৰ অসুবিধা হোৱা নাইনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: কামৰ অসুবিধা হোৱা নাই; Inspector ৰ দ্বাৰা কাম চলোৱা হৈছে।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: আমাৰ অসমত তাৰ কাৰণে উপযুক্ত মানুহ নায়েই নে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: এতিয়াও পোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে এই post টো প্ৰমোচনৰ দ্বাৰা পূৰণ কৰাৰ কথা বিবেচনা কৰা হৈছে।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: অন্য বিভাগতো উপযুক্ত প্ৰাৰ্থী নাই যে বিচাৰ কৰা হৈছিল নে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: কৰা হৈছিল, আৰু Shri B. C. Das নামৰ অফিচাৰ এজনক প্ৰমোচন দিয়া হৈছিল কিন্তু এতিয়াও Education Department য়ে এৰি নিদিলে।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : কিন্তু এজন তেনে Highly qualified লোক আছে তথাপি সেই post কিয় খালি বখা হৈছে, মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জনাবনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : তেনে কোনো মানুহ পোৱা নাই।

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : যদি ইমান দিনে সেই post পূৰণ নকৰিলেও কাম চলে, তেন্তে তেনে post নহলে নহয় জানো ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : এই post ৰ প্ৰয়োজন আছে। মানুহে পোৱা নাই। বৰ্তমান উপযুক্ত প্ৰবীণতম কৰ্মচাৰীক প্ৰমোচন দিলোৱাৰ বিষয়ে বিশেষ বিবেচনা কৰা হৈছে।

Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA (Kalaigaon) : ইয়াত মানুহ নাথাকিলে বাহিৰৰ পৰা অনাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছেনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : ইয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা নহলেহে তেনে ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হ'ব।

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : পুনৰ Advertise কৰিবনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : এতিয়া Departmental প্ৰমোচন দিয়াৰ বিষয়ে বিবেচনা কৰা হৈছে।

Re: Finalisation of the allocations for the Fourth Plan

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

26. Will the Minister, Planning be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the allocations for the Fourth Plan have been finalised ?

(b) If not, when it will be finalised ?

(c) If so, the highlight of the Plan ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development) replied :

26. (a)—The allocations of the Fourth Plan have not yet been finalised by the Planning Commission.

(b)—We shall be informed later by the Planning Commission as and when the Fourth Plan will be finalised.

(c)—In view of the replies above, it is premature to give the highlight of the Plan.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, may I know whether our Government has finalised the Fourth Plan ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Not yet finalised.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: When it is expected to be finalised ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I think, Sir, after the Prime Minister returns from America the Government of India will be in a position to take a view of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Then only it will be finalised.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Whether the State Government has submitted any outlay for the Fourth Plan ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, we did finalise an outlay for the Fourth Plan.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: What is the ceiling of the State Government ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: We have fixed it at Rs. 300 crores.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Whether this year's plan will form a part of the Fourth Plan ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: This year's plan is an *ad-hoc* plan.

Re: Area of fallow land in the State

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked:

27. Will the Minister-in-charge, Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) The area of fallow land under the following categories:—

- (i) Land fit for cultivation under mechanised cultivation.
- (ii) Land fit for cultivation after reclamation.
- (iii) Sarkari land not yet distributed but fit for cultivation.
- (iv) Other land fit for cultivation if irrigated.

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

27.—(a) (i), (ii), (iii) & (iv)—A survey has been conducted by an Official Technical Committee for identification of Culturable Waste Lands in blocks of 15 bighas and above in the 7 plains districts of the State. The report on the findings of the Committee is under compilation and the same will be available when it is finalised.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, may I know when it will be finalised ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: We expect to finalise this matter in this year. In fact the Government is expecting to get the report during this month.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know when the Committee was appointed and who are the members ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The Committee was appointed in 1963. The Chairman is the Director of Land Records and there are four other members including the local Sub-Deputy Collector.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: What are terms reference ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The terms of reference are very long. These were and published on 15th January 1963.

Re: Increase of population in Karimganj Town

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) asked:

28. Will the Minister, Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the population in Karimganj town and its neighbouring areas have increased by leaps and bounds ?
- (b) Whether Government is also aware of the transport and communication difficulties of the urban people and the people of the neighbouring areas ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that in the month of January, 1966 the Rickshaw Pullers, Association Karimganj suddenly, resorted to strike for unlimited period as a result of which the people had to suffer a good deal and thereafter the District Authority had to come to their rescue by arranging temporary City Bus Service in the town and its neighbouring areas ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to introduce City Bus Service in Karimganj town and its neighbouring areas covering Longai, Fakirerbazar, Girishganj bazar, Chargoola and Suprakandi ?

(e) If so, when ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

28. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There are different stage carriage (Bus) Routes including inter-state Route from Karimganj to Agartala operated by private Buses and State Transport buses starting from Karimganj town connecting other important places. There is no City Bus service exclusively for Karimganj town and neighbouring areas.

(c)—Yes, the rickshawpullers of Karimganj town resorted to strike for unlimited period during January, 1966. To redress the difficulties of the people, City Bus Service was introduced immediately by allowing the line buses of different Routes of Karimganj to ply as City Buses.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): What are the reasons for which city bus cannot be allowed in Karimganj town ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Sir, I do not say that city bus will not be allowed. If anybody comes forward to start city bus it will be considered by the R.T.A.

Shri NILA KANTA HAZARIKA (Dergaon, Reserved for Scheduled Castes) Sir, in question No.24 of Shri Naren Sharma a wrong reply has been given. Amguri and Kharikatia Mauzas are not in Golaghat Subdivision. The question was whether there was any irrigation project in Golaghat Subdivision. How is this ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The projects are in Golaghat Subdivision.

Adjournment Motion re: Armed Incursion into Rangamati Village under Longai Forest Reserve within Karimganj Subdivision of Cachar district by Mizo Rebels on 28th February, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, I have received notice an of Adjournment Motion from Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee and Shri Dulal Chandra Barua. The matter concerns the situation created by Mizo rebels. We had such a motion yesterday which was ruled out because the Chief Minister made a statement on the same subject and the statement is pending before the House for discussion which will take place tomorrow at 3 P. M. Therefore, the Adjournment Motion does not cover any new ground.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): This is a separate matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Because the incident has taken place in Cachar does not mean that it is a separate subject matter. It has been alleged as done by the Mizo rebels. We shall be discussing all these aspects tomorrow when the Chief Minister's statement would be discussed, and in the course of discussion all these things will come up.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, we bow down to your ruling. But the Chief Minister's statement only refers to the incidents in the Mizo Hills and this will not be discussed.

Mr. SPEAKER: We will discuss the Chief Minister's statement in connection with Mizo rebels and their activities anywhere in Assam or anywhere in India. All aspects of it will be discussed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Chief Minister's statement is covering Mizo district only.

Mr. SPEAKER: His statement is regarding Mizo rebellion and the disturbances created by the Mizo rebels.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: It is a completely separate matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot appreciate the argument of the hon. Member. It cannot be a separate matter. We are discussing this subject as a whole and the Chief Minister's statement has made it clear that there has been a rebellion among the Mizos and therefore everything connected with it, whether it is in Cachar or anywhere in India, will be discussed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The Chief Minister's statement will cover only Mizo district.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not concerned only with the activities of the Mizo rebels in the Mizo district; we are concerned with the activities of the Mizo rebels as a whole.

Now next item, Shri Barua.

**Calling Attention to a matter of urgent public importance—
News-item Published in the "Hindusthan Standard", dated
the 8th February, 1966 under the Caption "Armed Nagas
Clash with Patrol Party"**

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Chief Minister to an urgent matter of public importance and of recent occurrence, that is the news-item published in the *Hindusthan Standard*, dated the 8th February, 1966 under the caption "Armed Nagas Clash with Patrol Party" where it is stated that nearly 200 Naga hostiles, armed with automatic weapons clashed with an Indian Security Patrol Party in the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills district of Assam bordering Nagaland" on 6th February, 1966. This has caused anxiety to the people in the border areas.

Sir, you are aware of the fact that on every occasion we are calling the attention of the Chief Minister on important matters especially Naga trouble in the border areas and every time the Chief Minister has been stating that security measures have been tightened up and such measures have been taken. But the situation has not improved till to-day. Therefore, I would request the Chief Minister to let this House know what definite security measures have been taken to protect the life and property of the people living in the border areas. With the intention I call the attention of the Chief Minister.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, on the 6th February, 1966 at about 7 A. M. a patrol party of 16 Jat Regiment moved out from Prasadimdik Border Out-post to Bonkai in North Cachar Hills for patrol duty. On arrival at Bonkai the patrol party was ambushed by a gang of about 150 Naga hostiles at about 8.45 A. M. The hostiles opened fire on the patrol party with rifles, light machine guns, etc. As a result an exchange of fire took place between the patrol party and Naga hostiles. In the encounter one sepoy of the 16 Jat Regiment was seriously injured and succumbed to the injuries later at night. It is not known if the hostiles suffered any casualty.

On receipt of information reinforcements were rushed to the place of occurrence. Security measures were tightened up in the area and intensive patrols carried out by security forces.

Sir, the hon. Member wants to know about the security measures. I would like to inform him that the entire area contiguous to Nagaland is in the hands of the Army. Army is controlling the entire sector and they have been taking all possible measures. I suppose depredation would have been much more had not sufficient care been taken by them. I am very sorry, Sir, that in spite of all these measures the incidents are continuing to take place.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether these measures have been taken up by our Government in co-operation with the Nagaland Government and whether Nagaland Government is co-operating with us in maintaining law and order?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Inside Nagaland the entire operation is in the hands of the Army. The G. O. C. posted at Kohima is controlling the entire area.

**Point of order re: Estimated Receipts and Expenditure
pertaining to Autonomous Districts**

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the next item, Budget speech. The Budget speech and the copies of the Budget and other papers will be distributed to all the hon. Members and for this I allow five minutes time.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I want to raise a point of order. In doing so I would like to draw your kind attention to paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. According to

the provision of this paragraph the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to Autonomous Districts are required to be shown separately in the annual financial statement. The paragraph reads as follows:—

“The estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to an Autonomous District which are to be credited to, or is to be made from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam shall be first placed before the District Council for discussion and then after such discussion be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State to be laid before the Legislature of the State under Article 202”. So you will find, Sir, that it is obligatory to place first the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to an Autonomous District before the District Council concerned for its discussion and only after that the same shall be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State. But unfortunately this has not been done in respect of Garo Hills Autonomous District at least.

Sir, we received the copies of the District Budget of the Garo Hills Autonomous District which were sent through a special messenger only on 21st February, 1966. The copies of the Budget were sent from here on 20th February and the man reached Tura on 21st. Sir, in order to place the District Budget before the Council we are required to convene an emergent session of the Council. Under the Rules an emergent session of the Council can be convened only with prior approval of the Governor of Assam. Accordingly, we requested the Tribal Areas Department to obtain the Governor's approval to convene an emergent session of the Council. Sir, I left Tura only yesterday afternoon. I had been waiting anxiously for the Governor's approval till the last minute of my departure from Tura yesterday. Unfortunately Governor's approval for holding an emergent session was not received till yesterday afternoon. In absence of the approval of the Governor we could not convene the emergent session and as such the District Budget could not be placed before the District Council in session for discussion. Sir, in this connection I shall read out the relevant portion of the rule. “The District Council shall be summoned to meet four times in a year, and three months shall not elapse between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session, provided that in the event of an emergency the Chairman of the Council, with the previous approval of the Governor, may summon the District Council oftener and at shorter notice than what has been provided in sub-rule (2)”.

Sir, according to the procedure as laid down in the said Rule a notice of summon has to be sent to each member of the District Council at least thirty days before the date fixed for the meeting. But in case of emergency, the meeting of the District Council may be summoned at shorter notice, provided of course the Governor accords his approval for holding an emergent session of the Council. For holding an emergent session also we would require at least fifteen days notice due to bad communication. As stated earlier we had telegraphically requested the Tribal Areas Department for obtaining Governor's approval for holding an emergent session but till yesterday we did not receive his approval and as such we could not summon the emergent session. Sir, the most surprising thing was that though the copies of the District Budget were sent by the Under Secretary of the Finance Department only on 20th February 1966 along with an instruction that the minutes of discussion of the Council should reach the Department latest on 5th March, 1966 and thereby giving hardly

reasonable time for the Council for holding an emergent session the Government, presumably in consultation with the said Department, fixed 4th March, 1966 as the date for presentation of the State Budget to this august House. This being so, Sir, I cannot understand how the District Budget and the minutes of the discussion thereon, for the receipt of which the latest date had been fixed on 5th March, could be incorporated in the State Budget before its presentation today, *i. e.*, the 4th March, 1966. Sir, it will, therefore, be seen that in case the State Budget is presented today then there will be clear violation of the Constitutional provision. Sir, the words used under paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule are not 'may be' but 'shall be.' For the benefit of the House I shall repeat the provision: "The estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to an Autonomous District which are to be credited to, or is to be made from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam shall be first placed before the District Council for discussion....."

So, Sir, I do not think that the Hon. Finance Minister can present the State Budget to the House today under Article 202. In spite of this if it is presented it will be clear violation of the constitutional provision. I, therefore, request you not to allow the Budget to be placed before the House unless and until the District Councils have, according to the provision of the Constitution, opportunity to discuss their respective District Budgets and minutes of discussions thereof are first received by the Finance Department for showing separately in the Annual Financial Statement of the State. Only after such discussion the State Budget can be placed before the Legislature. When there is a provision in the Constitution, it should be followed both in spirit and letter.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, in support of the contention made by the hon. Member Captain W. Sangma, I want to say that we are perfectly convinced that this budget cannot be presented here to-day. As we have understood, the instruction from the Under Secretary, T. A. D., to the District Council authorities which was sent on 21st February was to present the minutes of discussions on their budgets on or before 5th March 1966, to the Government. As there was hardly any time, emergency sitting of District Council was necessary according to the rules which again could only be done with the previous permission of the Governor. And that Governor's approval was not given. Therefore, Sir, it is a clear violation of the rules and we can very clearly understand how and in what way the Government is coming forward with the presentation of the budget. More particularly as the hon. Member has already pointed out, it is a clear violation of the constitutional provision because the budget will not be able to show the viewpoints of the District Councils for which they have been empowered under the Constitution, on their respective what is called District budgets estimates, and in the absence of these estimates, how and in what way the Government can come forward to present their budget? Considering all these aspects, Sir, we are of the same view with the hon. Member, Capt. Sangma that the point of order is perfectly correct and as such this budget should not be presented to the House to-day. Sir, I am afraid, it may not be the case of Garo Hills District Council alone, it may be also with regard to other District Councils also, and as such, the Budget is incomplete and is in clear violation of the provision of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, as it will be seen at page 230 of the Constitution of India under Sixth Schedule

Chapter 13. The estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to an autonomous district which are to be credited to or are to be made from, the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam shall be first placed before the District Council for discussion and then after such discussion be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State to be laid before the Legislature of the State under Article 202. Therefore, Sir, the budget cannot be placed before the House to-day as it is a clear violation of the Constitutional provision, and the presentation of the budget shall have to be deferred to a future date till the proceedings of discussions of the autonomous District Councils in respect of the estimated receipts and expenditure of their districts can be incorporated in the budget by the Government. In the absence of this, the budget is incomplete and not in order and it should not be allowed to be placed before the House.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, in this connection I may be also allowed to read out the provision of Article 202, which reads as follows: "The Governor shall in respect of every financial year cause to be laid before the House or Houses of the Legislature of the State a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the State for that year, in this Part referred to as the 'annual financial statement'. This Article 202 is to read with paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule which, as stated earlier, clearly lays down that the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to an Autonomous District shall be first placed before the District Council for discussion and then after such discussion be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State to be laid before the Legislature. Under Article 202 it will be laid today. Sir, as I have pointed out, we received the Budget copies only on 21st February, 1966.

This untimely and late receipt of the District Budget has necessitated an emergent sitting of the District Council for which again the previous permission of the Government is necessary according to the rule. But that approval of the Governor has not been received till yesterday and as such we could not convene the meeting of the Council for discussion of the District Budget. Sir, when the Department concerned sent the Budget copies with instruction to the District Council that the minutes of discussion should reach the Department on 5th March, 1966 it should have also communicated the Governor's approval for holding an emergent meeting of the District Council and that in view of shortage of time. Actually, Sir, this was done in respect of previous year by the Tribal Areas Department. But this year we received a letter from the Finance Department signed by an Under Secretary with which the copies of the Budget were forwarded to us without any intimation of the Governor's approval to hold an emergent session of the District Council. However, we still earnestly desire to have an emergent session of the District Council for discussion of the District Budget prior its incorporation in the State Budget and presenting the same to this Legislature and as such till that is not done, the presentation of the Budget should be deferred to a later date.

Mr. SPEAKER : Have you got the Governor's permission now?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : No, Sir, I have left Tura only yesterday but till that time, I did not receive the approval of the Governor for holding the emergent session.

Sir, in the previous years the Tribal Areas Department used to inform the District Council by wire intimating the date of despatching the copies of the District Budget and also intimating therein Governor's approval for holding emergent session of the Council. Let me read out the previous telegraph—"No. TAD/R/15/64 Autonomous District Budget estimates for 1965-66 will be despatched on sixteenth February, 1965 for distribution to members of District Council for discussion in Council session. Please hold emergency session if necessary immediately to enable you to send synopsis of discussion to reach Finance Department of State Government not later than twenty-seven February, 1965". This was a wire we received from the Tribal Areas Department last year. This year, however, we received the copies of the District Budget from the Finance Department direct along with their forwarding letter No.P.B.1/113 65/4 of 19th February, 1966. We sent a wire to them to kindly convey approval of the Governor for holding an emergent session for discussing the District Budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was the date ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, probably it was 23rd February, 1966. Again, Sir, the instruction of the Finance Department was that the synopsis of the discussion should reach the Department on the 5th March, 1966 whereas the 4th March, 1966 had been fixed for presentation of the State Budget. This means that the Government does not care to receive the synopsis of the discussion prior to presentation of the State Budget. In fact in view of this no useful purpose would have been served by holding an emergent session of the District Council.

So, it is a point of order. Therefore, in my humble opinion, presentation of the Budget cannot be done today, it has got to be deferred to a later date and I request that Government my kindly give the permission for holding the emergent session of the Council. Then I will go back and discuss the Budget in my Council and thereafter the synopsis of the discussion will be sent to the Government. Then only the State Budget should be allowed to be presented to this august House.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I support the contention of my hon. friend on this point of order. It is clear in the Constitution that.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharjee, you need not repeat the argument. You can speak on the new point.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: I think, Sir, we cannot violate the Constitution and so this Budget cannot be presented.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, when there is a question of privilege, and without getting any opinion or any proposal from the District Councils, how can this Budget be presented ?

Shri SHRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI (Nalbari-West): Whose privilege ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The privilege of the House; they cannot do so, Sir.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister and Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that we have not been able to place the comments of the District Councils before the House to-day. But I do not think that there can be any objection to placing of annual financial statement before the House. According to Paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule, the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to the autonomous district which are credited to, or have to be met from the consolidated fund of the State, should first be placed before the District Councils for discussion and then after such discussion be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State to be laid before the Legislature. When a statute requires that a certain public duty shall be performed such prescription should be regarded as directory only in cases where injustice or inconvenience to others who have no control over those exercising the duty would result if such requirements were essential or imperative. Sir, this is the recognised basis for deciding whether a particular requirement of the statute should be treated as director or mandatory. The Privy Council have also summarised the law on the subject as follows:—

“When the provisions of a statute relates to the performance of a public duty and the case is such that to hold null and void done in neglect of this duty would work serious general inconvenience or injustice to persons who have no control over those entrusted with the duty and at the same time would not promote the main object of the Legislature, it has been the practice to hold such provisions to be directory only not affecting the validity of the acts done”. Sir, ever since the beginning the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to autonomous districts were used to be sent to the District Councils in the second fortnight of February and this year also the estimates were sent as usual.

The discussion of the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to the autonomous districts could be made only by the District Councils themselves and we have no control over them in this regard. It is obvious that if because.....

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : May I request the Chief Minister to repeat on this point ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : The discussion of the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining the autonomous districts could be made only by the District Councils themselves and we have no control over them in this regard. It is obvious that if because of their failure the annual financial statement cannot be laid before the Legislature very great inconvenience will be caused to the State as a whole. In the circumstances, I submit, Sir, that the provision of Paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution is only directory in nature and the failure of the District Councils to discuss the estimates sent to them cannot act as a bar to the annual financial statement being placed before the Legislature.

Mr. SPEAKER : But there is no failure on the part of the District Councils to hold the Budget session. They want the permission of the Government for holding their session. They have written for it a long time ago. But that permission is not given.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : Sir, I can show you a copy of the wire which we sent to the Finance Department. (At this stage Capt. Sangma handed over copy of the wire and also a copy of the Assam Autonomous Districts, Constitution of District Council Rules to the Chair).

Shri DEV KANT BORODAH (Minister, Education) : Sir, there was a precedent in the House when I had the privilege of occupying your seat. I think this question came up, but I don't exactly remember now.....

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : I remember, Sir. He has been kind enough to direct that the Government should incorporate the comments of the District Councils before the Budget is presented before the House. But here the question of comments does not arise.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs) : Sir, as the Chief Minister has put it, this is only a directory provision in the Constitution.

(Voices: from the Opposition)

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister did not disturb the hon. Members on the point of order. Therefore, he should be allowed to speak.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, it is only a directory provision. Nowhere in Article 202 or any Article of the Constitution, it has been said if Paragraph 13 of the Schedule is violated the budget cannot be presented or if presented, cannot be considered. In fact, nowhere in the Constitution, the consequence of violation of Paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule has been laid down, it is not laid down as to what would happen? Whether the budget can be presented or not; whether it can be considered or not. Nowhere it is said that the budget cannot be presented. This further strengthens the argument that it is directory in nature. Let us assume for a moment that we have done everything in accordance with law and the District Councils got the budget in time and they were requested to give their comments in time.

Mr. SPEAKER : But they were requested only on the 5th of March?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I will come to that later.

Thereafter, supposing for one reason or the other, may be deliberately or may be not, the District Councils did not send their comments. Suppose all but one or two District Councils sent their comments. Does it mean that till the comments from all the defaulting District Councils are received, the entire financial machinery of the State shall be at standstill? It cannot be. It cannot be the intention of the framers of the constitution. The intention is that while the House will be considering and ultimately voting on the budget demands, the Members shall have such comments, if available, before them so that they can modify their views in one way or the other. The District Councils have been given the benefit of giving their views but they cannot take a final decision about the budget. However, they can influence the Members by their opinion but the decision of

the House shall be its' own sovereign decision. If I am influenced by somebody's opinion in taking a decision that does not distract from the fact that it is my decision. This provision has been made only to enable the hon. Members to get the opinions of the District Councils so that at the time of taking the final decision they may help them in one way or the other. As such, I humbly, submit, Sir, that this provision is a directory one in nature. It being not mandatory in nature, any omission cannot result in illegalities; at best in an irregularity which is curable. If there was failure on the part of the District Council, that cannot and should not stop the proceedings of the House. Sir, if there is failure on the part of somebody outside this House including the Government, for that failure the presentation of the budget cannot be stopped. Sir, the maximum that can be done, you can direct the Government to present the comments of the District Councils to the House by certain date. For no reasons the presentation of the budget can be stopped. Assuming that they are to submit their comments by 5th March, it does not mean that the District Councils cannot submit their comments earlier. That is the last date on which the Government should receive the comments. So far as the District Councils are concerned, they could have sent their comments earlier as well. As soon as the comments, come, they can be placed before the House before the final voting takes place. In fact you can direct the Government to place the comments within a specified date, provided they would be sent.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I entirely disagree with it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rules of the District Council are obligatory on the part of this House.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Rules of the District Council are a set of a rules of a subordinate body. Rule framed by it is not to go through this House or the Committee of Subordinate Legislation. Even if they come to this House for validating the notification, they cannot supersede the provision of the Constitution or the Rules of the House.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** I would like to draw your kind attention to the communication, *viz.*, the Memo. No. TAD. R./51/65A, dated 21st January 1966 addressed by the Under Secretary, T. A. D. to all Chief Executive Members. They are further informed that the Autonomous District Budgets are likely to be despatched by the District Council concerned by the last part of February next and immediately after receipt of such budget by them, steps may please be taken to have such budget discussions in respect of decision of Councils and synopsis of such discussions should be forwarded to this department for transmission to the Finance Department. So, this advance information that the budget will be reaching them in the second part of February, was sent under Memo. No. TAD. R/51/65A, dated 21st January 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the date of the letter.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: It is 21st January 1966.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, I cannot agree with the observation made by hon. Minister, Shri Choudhury. It may be that the intention of the paragraph 13 is not to handicap the proceedings of the business of this House. But I cannot agree that it is only a direction. Sir, he has argued that there is no provision in any part of the Constitution, requiring the District Budget to be discussed first by the Autonomous District Councils. Sir, Article 202 provides for laying down the financial statement in the State Legislature. This Article, in respect of Autonomous Districts of Assam, is to be read with paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule. Under this paragraph it is obligatory to first place the District Budget before the respective District Councils for discussion and thereafter to be shown separately in the annual financial statement.

Only after this the State Budget can be placed before the House. Sir, in this connection I would like to read out some portions of the speech of late Dr. Ambedkar which was made in reply to late Rohini Kumar Choudhuri when the later raised some points regarding para 13 of the Sixth Schedule. As you know the late Dr. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee. In reply to Shri Choudhuri's observations, he said that the whole idea of para 13 was to enable the District Council Members to have their say in the matter of allotment of funds. This is the spirit of the para 13. And as rush it was expected that this District Budget would be sent in the draft form.

In fact in the previous years also the District Budgets were sent late. We have made observations number of times in this regard and objected to sending final aud printed copies of the District Budget for discussion and that also very late. As the Budget proposals are finalised before the same could be discussed by the respective District Councils whatever observations we made with regard to Budget proposals became something like post-mortem examination. You will, therefore, agree that it is not only a violation in letter but also in spirit of the Constitutional provision.

Shri MOINUL HOQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, may I have the quotation of Shri Choudhuri?

Mr. SPEAKER: Please read it out.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Yes, I am reading, "..... it the original draft, my Friend, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri has though it fit to bring in this amendment No. 130. The effect of regarding it as a financial statement within the meaning of 177 means that it will be discussed by the Assam Legislature and, voted upon. Amendments may be moved and the appropriation law would apply. The only thing is that before the Assam Lagislature deals with it, it is desirable to allow the District Councils to have their say as to how the money should be allocated".

Mr. SPEAKER: It is allowable.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: That was the reply and provision is very rigid. I may impress upon you, Sir, what was the spirit behind. The spirit behind is to allow the District Councils to discuss this and have their say in the matter of allocation of fund. Now, the Budget Session has been summoned on 21st February, 1966 but the District Budget was sent to the District Councils on 20th February which arrived Tura, only on 21st February

The Mizo and other District Councils which are far away might have received the same much later than that. In the past the T.A.D. used to give instructions to the District Councils regarding the District Budget but this time this has not been done. So, I still maintain that the provision of paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule cannot be regarded to be only a direction. It is a clear-cut Constitutional provision. Therefore, I would at least request you, Sir, that if you cannot give the ruling just now, you can give it later and if necessary after consulting legal experts in the matter, but I would humbly request you that the presentation of the Budget should be deferred till you are well-equipped with your finding about it.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is about its previous ruling ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, earlier the District Councils to had the opportunity to discuss but this time that opportunity was not given them. The Chairman of the Garo Hills District Council has written to the Governor to summon the District Council for an emergent session to discuss the Budget but the consent of the Governor was not received. I have tried to place before the House our difficulty for not being in a position to summon the session and that not for our fault. Hence the point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can I get an idea from the Chief Minister whether comments on the Budget were received from the District Council or not ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Not received.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, nowhere before I have heard the argument put forward by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and nowhere it has been clearly mentioned that this House is empowered to place the budget and financial statement without consulting or getting the comments on them from the District Councils. Nowhere it has been mentioned that Government can ignore this. In Article 202(2), regarding annual financial statement, it has been stated as follows:—

“(2) The estimates of expenditure embodied in the annual financial statement shall show separately:

(a) The sums required to meet expenditure described by this Constitution as expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State; and

(b) The sums required to meet other expenditure proposed to be made from the Consolidated Fund of the State ;”

Sir, Para 13 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution at page 249, has relation to the Article 202(2) I have cited above. Here it is clearly mentioned, “The estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to an autonomous district which are to be credited to, or is to be made from, the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam shall be first placed before the District Council for discussion and then after such discussion be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State to be laid before the Legislature of the State under Article 202.”

Here clear directive is given. Therefore, the question is perfectly right and the point of order raised is in its proper form. Again the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has practically by-passed the directive given by the Finance Department. The direction has been given to the District Councils to give their comments on or before 5th which means the budget cannot be put on that date. This is clearly a violation of the provision. We are meeting here on a democratic forum but it is disregarded by the Government. I submit, Sir, you will be kind enough to see that the point of order is accepted and the presentation of the budget to-day should be deferred to some other day.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that if a particular District Council do not submit their comments on the budget sent to them at all, would it mean that the budget of the State would not be presented?

Shri WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : That is another point.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : But this is a situation for which we must find a solution, therefore, I would like you, Sir, to give your ruling on this.

***Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY :** I am sorry that the hon. Member from Baghmara constituency has made an argument like this. I have already said, Sir, that my submission is with reference to paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule I laid stress on this. I would like to quote this: "Estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to autonomous districts which are to be credited to, or is to be made from, the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam shall be first placed before the District Council for discussion..." So far as the question of placing the estimated receipts and expenditure before the District Council is concerned the word "hall" is used here. So, this point is quite clear here. In forwarding the estimated receipts and expenditure the letter was sent to the District Council on the 4th February, 1966.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** It is not correct to say that the letter was sent at that time. It must be considered when it was actually received.

***Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY :** The letter was duly sent to the District Council requesting them to place the budget before the District Council session and to send their comments to the Government. So, Sir, what is intended in the first part of the Article has been done. So far as the second part of the provision is concerned there is no use of the word "shall". It is stated here "and then after such discussion be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State to be laid before Legislature of the State under Article 202". Here there is no use of the word "shall".

The biggest lawyer of India, Dr. Ambedkar, the premier of the Indian Constitution laid down in the Constitution that it was desirable to have the comments of the District Council. When it is mandatory on our to send the budget to the District Council we have done it. And it is on the part of the District Council to hold a discussion on the budget and to send their comments, as laid down in the second part of the provision. Now the argument is advanced that because the District Council could not hold a meeting to discuss the budget they could not send their comments. It is stated here that it is only desirable to have the comments. Sir, during a previous occasion a similar question was raised when it was not said that the budget could not be discussed. The ruling given by the last Speaker was that the

members of the House should get the comments before the budget was finally passed, namely, before the 31st of March, when all the Demands were finally voted, and before that all the comments from the District Council were to be received.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** Sir, the hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Paliamentary Affairs says that because Dr. Ambedkar says that it is only desirable to have the comments of the District Council this has so happened in this case and means to say that it is not mandatory to have the comments of the District Council. I am unable to accept this opinion. It is a very complicated question. It is violation of the provision of the Constitution. I would therefore request you to take more time before the budget is presented before the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I must admit that the Constitutional point raised in this matter is a very complicated one. Many things can be said on both sides. But we must remember, as the hon'ble Chief Minister has emphasized, that it is not the intention of the Constitution to create any deadlock in the proceedings of the Legislature or in the administration of the Government. Therefore, the reply that has already been given from the Government side is very clear. I want to repeat that "when the provisions of a statute relates to the performances of a public duty and the case is such that to hold null and void acts done in neglect of this duty would work serious general inconvenience or injustice to persons who have no control over those entrusted with the duty and at the same time would not promote the main object of the Legislature, it has been the practice to hold such provisions to be directory only not affecting the validity of the acts done." There is a suggestion that we should take some time to consult the Advocate General in this matter. I would have been glad to do so and to place his views before the House. But he is not here in Shillong. Therefore, I have to deprive the hon. Members from this benefit in this matter. But at the same time the business of the House is so tight that we are not in a position to lose a single day. Therefore, my decision on this matter may not wait for a moment.

Again it is clear from the provision of the Constitution, paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule, that sending of the budget to the District Council is obligatory ; there is no doubt about it. As the Chief Minister has pointed out, suppose the District Council is not going to send their comments on the budget. Then what would happen ? Should not the House then pass the budget ? In this case there is no alternative than to go on with the business of the House. In this particular case when the budget was sent to the District Council they should have held their discussion in last week of February, but that they have not done. Mr. Sangma argued that they require at least one month's notice to hold a meeting of the District Council and the District Council did not get one month's time from the date of receipt of the budget for holding their meeting. Therefore, they sought permission of Government to hold an emergent meeting of the District Council to take up the budget according to the rules of the District Council. The Government did not send a reply hence no emergent meeting could be held. Government of Assam must have sent their reply in pursuance of the rules of the District Council for that reason the normal business of the House cannot be stopped from being carried on. I hold that the District Council rules are not binding on this House as we have our own rules and procedure of conduct of business. The rules and procedure of conduct of business and the Constitution do govern our proceedings and not the rules of the District Council.

Therefore, the rule as such of District Council is not binding on us. It is the business of the Executive Government in the State as well as administration of the District Council which should adjust business mutually, but it has no mandatory force on this House, though I would like that when the Government was in the know of the rules they should have acted accordingly. From the Constitution it is clear that the District Council budget should be sent to the respective District Councils and the District Councils should send their comments with the minutes of discussion to the Government, and the Government in their turn should place the minutes of discussion before the table of the Members. But as the District Councils, for whatever reasons it might be, have not sent their comments or their proceedings for that reason the proceeding of the House cannot be interfered. Therefore, on this account I hope the hon. Members should be satisfied that the budget should be presented and other matters in the agenda may be taken up. I, however, repeat the same thing which my predecessor observed in this connection that all these arguments as far as possible should be avoided, and all irregularities also as far as possible should be avoided. I hope in future such things will not happen.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** Sir, I am sorry I am not quite satisfied with the ruling. I do not say that the rules of the District Council are binding on this House, but I am definite that this House must take cognizance of the provisions of the Constitution.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have tried to explain that it is obligatory on the part of the Government to send the budget to the District Councils, and the District Councils in their turn in a Session should discuss their budget and send the proceedings of that discussion to the Government. That is obligatory. But here in this case the budget was sent to the District Councils but the District Councils, for whatever reason it might be, did not send their comments up to to-day. For that reason the proceedings or the business of this House cannot be deferred. I, therefore, hold that the Budget should be presented and other items in the agenda taken up.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** Sir, there has been violation of an article of the Constitution. If this is allowed there will be occasion in future of violation of the entire Constitution. I am convinced there was a clear case of 'point of order', but unfortunately I could not get redress, and, therefore, I am sorry, I cannot participate in the proceedings.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, I am not going to question your ruling, but one thing, as we have already said we cannot ignore.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. My ruling may be right or may be wrong. My ruling may be liked by you or may not be liked. But when I have given a ruling as the Speaker of the House that cannot be discussed in any form unless by a censure motion.

(At this stage all the Opposition Members walked out of the House).

Presentation of the budget of the Government of Assam for 1966-67

Mr. SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for five minutes so that the Budget Speech and the Budget Memorandum could be distributed to the hon. Members.

(After five minutes).

The Budget memorandum has been placed in the lobby. The hon. Members after adjournment of House will take their copies. Now the Chief Minister will deliver his Budget Speech.

*Speech not corrected.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):

MR. SPEAKER, SIR, I rise to present the statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Assam Government for the financial year 1966-67.

At the outset, I would like to pay a tribute to Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed who so ably piloted the finances of the State for the past 8 years. As the House is aware, the State had to face a number of difficult situations during this period due to repeated natural calamities and the aggression committed by China in 1962 and more recently the hostilities with Pakistan. To meet the situation in the above circumstances especially with inelastic sources of revenue called for skilful and able handling of the finances. As the House is aware, Shri Ahmed discharged this onerous and extremely difficult task very well. Sir, when the services of Shri Ahmed were required by the Prime Minister in the Central Cabinet, I had to agree to his resignation from the State Cabinet, although reluctantly, in the national interest. But, I am sure all the Hon'ble Members will agree with me that the State has been deprived of the services of a very able Finance Minister.

The year 1965 has been a year of trial for the nation. Besides the heavy drain of the country's resources for the defence effort, there was a drastic fall in the production of agricultural crops due to very unfavourable weather in various parts of the country. The food production of the current year is expected to be at least 10 million tonnes below the previous year's record production of 88.4 million tonnes. The foreign exchange position showed a further deterioration with imports registering an increase over the level of the previous year and the exports registering a decrease. The price levels rose and the national price index of commodities rose from 158 in December, 1964 to 169 in December, 1965.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the present emergency and the uncertainty about the availability of adequate foreign aid have affected the launching

of the Fourth Five-Year Plan as scheduled earlier. The strained financial position of both the Centre and States has necessitated a total Plan outlay for the year 1966-67 of only Rs.2,086 crores as against the current year's Plan of Rs.2,250 crores. It is natural, therefore, that the State's Plan for the year 1966-67 will not be significantly higher in outlay than the Plan for the year 1965-66. While detailed studies on various aspects of the Fourth Plan are still under way, the formulation of an Annual Plan for 1966-67 had to be taken up to continue the development efforts having due regard to the exigencies of the situation.

On the basis of the tempo of development already reached and in view of the special needs and responsibilities of Assam, the State Government prepared a draft Annual Plan of Rs. 34 crores for the year 1966-67. When the draft Plan was discussed with the Planning Commission the size of the Annual Plan had to be reduced to Rs. 26.45 crores in view of the inability of the Central Government to commit themselves to give Central assistance exceeding Rs. 23.4 crores at this stage ; we have, however, been assured that if the financial position of the Centre and the State improved, a mid-term appraisal would be made of the possibility of increasing the outlay.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the outlay for the next financial year would be utilised mainly for continuing spill over schemes and for taking up of some new schemes. The completed schemes of the Third Plan have been normalised and the impact of such normalised schemes on the State's Budget is of the order of Rs. 7.50 crores. If we take this into account it will be seen that the tempo of development will not be slowed down in 1966-67. We are, however, not happy about the small outlay which has prevented us from going ahead with some very important productive schemes. I would particularly refer to the Jamuna Irrigation Scheme, the completion of which will increase food production by more than 25,000 tonnes in terms of rice and bring prosperity to an area suffering from chronic drought. I propose to press the Union Government to allocate additional 1.65 crores to help us complete at least this scheme during the next financial

year ; I am confident that in the present emergency when the food situation is so difficult in the country, the Centre will accede to my request.

Economic
Development.
ment.

I would like to refer briefly to some important aspects of the development programme ; a detailed study of the expenditure and achievements during the Third Plan has already been circulated to the Hon'ble Members along with the Budget Speech.

Agriculture.

The total expenditure on Agricultural Programme during the Third Plan is expected to be Rs. 12.4 crores against a planned outlay of Rs. 12.62 crores ; out of this Rs. 4.62 crores will be spent on agricultural production and Rs. 2.6 crores on minor irrigation.

During the current year the winter crop has been badly affected by drought in the Goalpara and Kamrup Districts, the Mangaldai Subdivision and the western part of Nowgong District. There has also been damage to crops due to flood in Jorhat Subdivision and in various local areas due to hail-storm. As a result, the total rice production during the year which was, according to preliminary forecast, estimated to be 19.78 lakh tonnes is now estimated at 18.46 lakh tonnes only according to final forecast. I may add that an exact forecast of the out-turn of spring rice is not possible at this stage and in making the estimate it has been assumed that the production this year will be the same as during last year.

The production of jute suffered a setback this year due to unfavourable weather in the sowing season and in the early stage of growth. However, there will be a substantial increase in production of rabi crops particularly that of mustard, potatoes and vegetables as a result of special measures undertaken during the year. The progress made in popularisation of fertilisers and adoption of plant protection measures and other improved practices is fairly satisfactory. The consumption of fertilisers during this financial year is expected to rise to 20,000 tonnes

in spite of shortage in supply during the peak season as against about 10,000 tonnes last year and 4,000 tonnes year before last ; consumption during 1966-67 is estimated at 40,000 tonnes. For supply of improved seeds, the seed farms have been strengthened and the production of paddy seeds during the year 1964-65 increased by 17 per cent over that of 1963-64 and production for 1965-66 is expected to further increase. With the help of Panchayats, minor irrigation schemes, popularisation of improved implements, seeds saturation programme and introduction of new high yielding varieties have been taken up. The Soil Testing Laboratory at Jorhat has been strengthened. Two new Laboratories are under construction at Silchar and Gauhati. The plant protection materials, both equipments and chemicals, are supplied to the farmers with 50 per cent subsidy and the funds have been placed at the disposal of Panchayats for undertaking purchase of plant protection materials and distribution to the farmers. 100 Power Sprayers have been procured this year and 50 more have been ordered. A Pilot Project for use of power for irrigation is being taken up at Mayang. In the Agricultural College, 3 new Post-graduate courses have been taken up this year on Agricultural Chemistry, Plant Pathology and Entomology. Training of the Gram Sewaks, training in minor irrigation and in maintenance and operation of farm machineries have been taken up. Besides, short training courses for farmers have been taken up. The progress of Package Programme in Cachar District has been satisfactory and the Programme which was initially started in four Blocks, now covers 11 Blocks out of a total of 15 in the district. The Rice Package Programme was extended during the last financial year to 13 new Blocks and this year, it is proposed to be extended to another 9 Blocks. The Agricultural Marketing Organisation has functioned well and in the recent emergency this Organisation has done good work by helping in the disposal of border produce in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. As an incentive to production a scheme has been introduced for awarding a prize of one tractor with a full set of implements to the best Anchalik Panchayat in each district and a prize of Rs. 2,500 to the best Gaon Panchayat in each Anchalik Panchayat.

Animal Hus-
bandry and
Veterinary.

As a result of the special efforts in the field of poultry development, Assam is now making very satisfactory progress in poultry production and birds are being supplied from Assam to N. E. F. A., Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura. The Dairy Development Scheme has been expanding and now 6,000 litres of milk are daily distributed in Gauhati and Shillong. Proposal for setting up a Pasteurization Plant at Gauhati with an initial capacity of 10,000 litres has been finalised and in order to increase the chilling capacity for milk, two more chilling Plants are being installed at Amlighat and Nayabungalow. By obtaining the milk available in the north bank of Brahmaputra, it is hoped to raise the milk supply in Gauhati by another 3,000 litres. Plans have been finalised to supply milk in Jorhat town from next year. The Department has been able to control the major diseases of livestock and poultry.

Flood Con-
trol and
Irrigation.

The total expenditure on flood control at the end of the current year is expected to be of the order of Rs. 1,133.21 lakhs benefiting a total area of 5,03,900 acres. Besides the continuing schemes, some new schemes have been taken up during the current year among which special mention may be made of the schemes for protection of Goalpara town and Karimganj town, and strengthening of the Dibrugarh Protection Works. Government have also been considering various important measures like the dredging of the river Brahmaputra. The feasibility study of the Barak Dam has been completed and now the economics of the Scheme is under examination. I am happy to inform the House that the number of breaches and cuts to the embankments during the current year are few as compared to the figures of the preceding year.

In the field of medium irrigation, the Government are very keen on the early completion of the Jamuna Irrigation Project. This Project could not be taken up during the first three years of the Third Plan due to some technical difficulties and has now been taken up in right earnest. During the year 1964-65, an amount of Rs. 31.24 lakhs has been spent on this Scheme. The allocation for this Scheme for the current year is Rs. 50 lakhs and a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs is expected to be provided in addition. The allocation

for the next year is Rs.105 lakhs. This amount will not be adequate to complete this project and as I have already indicated, efforts will be made to get additional Central assistance for completion of this project during the next year.

Transport
and Com-
munication

The Hon'ble Members are aware of the strain which the transport system of Assam had to bear during the recent Indo-Pakistan conflict. As a result of the closure of steamer routes through Pakistan and the air routes over Pakistan, the strain on the Railways and the road transport system was considerable; still during that critical period they did stand up to the demand of the economy. The construction of a broad gauge line up to Jogighopa has been completed and both passenger and goods services have started. The State Government have, however, been impressing upon the Government of India the necessity of extending this broad gauge line at least up to Gauhati.

With the help of a skelton Inland Water Transport service between Jogighopa and Dibrugarh and co-operation of the Railways, in spite of the closure of the river route through East-Pakistan there was no serious difficulty in transportation of tea and jute from Assam. The first phase of the construction of Pandu Port has already been completed and the revised estimates of the second phase have been submitted to the Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board. The revision of plans and estimates for the Inland Port at Jogighopa has been completed and Government of India's sanction is awaited.

In view of the importance of good communications in border areas we have taken up a number of projects to develop border roads along the Indo-Pak. border and Nagaland border with the assistance of the Government of India. A strategic road of about two thousand miles running through the States of Assam, West-Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has been approved by the Government of India for improvement as a double lane road and styled as "Lateral Road"; 60 miles of this road will fall within the State of Assam from the left bank of

Sonkosh to the right bank of Aie river. This important scheme has been undertaken by the State Public Works Department and is scheduled to be completed by March, 1969.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, we have constituted the Assam Government Construction Corporation Ltd., in March, 1964 for undertaking construction works on behalf of Public Works Department and other State Government Departments. Government have taken steps to entrust construction works to the Corporation as far as possible so that maximum economy and efficiency can be achieved. During the current financial year, the Corporation has undertaken additional works with a total estimated cost of a little over Rs.2.34 crores, among which special mention may be made of construction of major bridges on the National High Way and Lateral road, construction of two Silos for the Fertilizer Corporation at Namrup and construction of Silchar Medical College hostels and Gauhati Medical College.

Tourism, The Tourist Bungalow in Shillong has proved very popular and construction of another Tourist Bungalow at Shillong at an estimated cost of Rs.3 lakhs has been taken up. The rush of visitors to Kaziranga Game Sanctuary is increasing and the need for constructing another bungalow for tourists in Kaziranga has been keenly felt. Unfortunately, the Government of India could not make necessary finances available for this purpose because of the emergency. The Department have constructed a Tourist Bungalow with 10 beds at Sibsagar; departmental catering has also been arranged in this Bungalow. During the year 1966-67, the Department will undertake construction of Tourist Bungalows at Gauhati and at Thadlaskein near the lake.

Industries, The Hon'ble Members are aware that our State has not been able to attract private capital for development of industries to the extent we desire. On the other hand, industrialisation cannot be left to chance. It has become, therefore, imperative for the Government to examine the possibility of taking up industrialisation in the public sector.

Towards this end, the Government have set up the "Assam Major Industrial Enterprises Corporation Ltd." The Corporation has obtained techno-economic reports regarding setting up of various medium-sized projects. Besides, the Corporation has obtained preliminary project report for setting up a Paper and Pulp Manufacturing Factory in Cachar District with an initial capacity of 100 tonnes per day expandable up to 300 tonnes capacity of paper and pulp per day. The Corporation is also examining the possibility of taking a Cement Project with daily capacity of 600 tonnes expandable up to 1,800 tonnes per day at Bokajan where lime-stone and coal are available. The feasibility of such a plant has been established on the basis of the qualitative and quantitative analysis of lime-stone and coal made by the State Directorate of Geology and Mining and the Indian Bureau of Mines, Government of India. The Corporation has made arrangements with the Japan Consulting Institute for a Project Report on the manufacture of power tillers and transformers.

The Cement Factory at Cherrapunji is progressing satisfactorily and it is expected that the factory will go into production by the middle of 1966. The installation of Ceramic Pilot Plant has also been completed and it is expected to be commissioned shortly.

The pipe-line from Naharkatia to Namrup under the Natural Gas Distribution Scheme has been completed and commissioned. The Assam Gas Company is also examining the question of setting up a network of pipe-line in the Naharkatia-Tinsukia-Doomdoma area to supply gas to the tea gardens and other consumers. With the help of a consulting firm of engineers and the Japan Consulting Institute, the Company has obtained a comprehensive Project Report on the feasibility of establishing a viable Natural Gas based Petro-Chemical Unit. The Directorate of Geology and Mining have taken up five new projects for investigation of Assam's mineral resources, the most important of which is the drilling of lime-stone at Kailajan area to enable the State

Government to prepare a Project Report for the setting up of Cement Factory at Bokajan.

The Assam State Mineral Development Corporation has made satisfactory progress in opening a coal mine at Nangwalbbira with an annual capacity of 20,000 tonnes. The Corporation has also applied for a mining lease for exploitation of lime-stone from the Komorrah area of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

The Assam Small Industries Development Corporation's Match Splint Factory at Bijní and their factory at Tinsukia for manufacturing Jax Boards have gone into production. The Corporation have already taken over the Central Stores and Raw Materials Depot at Gauhati from the Directorate and are also expected to take over shortly the Industrial Estate and the Industrial Block at Gauhati.

The Assam Government Marketing Corporation Limited proposes to open an Emporium at New Delhi to attract the attention and interest of foreign tourists to cottage industries and handicraft produce of Assam. The Corporation have already acquired a plot of land in New Delhi for opening an Emporium in a composite building where all the State Governments' emporia will be accommodated. The Corporation has also started two Handloom Production Units, one at Gauhati and one at Nalbari; and a third one at Dhekiajuli is likely to be opened soon. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Corporation is preparing to participate in the Eighth United States World Trade Fair which begins at San Francisco on May 12.

The Assam Financial Corporation has been working satisfactorily; for the year ending 31st March, 1965, the Corporation has, besides meeting the guaranteed dividend, set apart a small sum for partial liquidation of its subvention liability to the Government of Assam.

The Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill Limited has continued its policy of advancing loans to sugarcane cultivators for getting an assured supply of

sugar-cane for crushing. The Mill has also sponsored a scheme for the installation of a Distillery Plant for utilising its by-product, namely, molasses. It is expected that this Plant will make the Mill more viable. I am glad to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Mill has produced 2,882 tonnes of sugar till 7th February, 1966 and the estimated production this year is 7671.5 tonnes as compared to 6,000 tonnes during last year.

Sericulture
and
Weaving.

Under Sericulture and Weaving, it is expected that the production of Eri cut cocoons during the year 1965-66 will be of the order of 2.50 lakh kgs. More areas have been brought under Muga food plants particularly by utilising some of the grazing reserves. By the end of 1965-66, 95 per cent of the total demand of mulberry seed within the State is expected to be met by the Mulberry Silk Worm farms of the State. Steps have been taken to encourage further production. A new high yielding variety of mulberry silk worm is being distributed to the Sericulturists in the State.

Power.

The Hon'ble Members are aware of the emphasis given during the Second and Third Plans for the development of power in the State. The Gas Turbine Station at Namrup (69 M. W.) and Gauhati (12.5 M. W.) and the Hydel Project of Umiam Stage I (36 M. W.) have been completed and commissioned. The work relating to Umiam Stage II (18 M. W.) has been taken up. The civil and preliminary works of the 30 M. W. Thermal Power Station at Gauhati and the constructional work of the 5 M. W. Thermal Power Station at Garo Hills are also under way.

Naturally, with generation of power having reached a certain level, special emphasis is being given to the distribution and sale of power. Mention must be made here of the fact that the Electricity Board have entered already into an agreement with the Tripura Administration and Nagaland for the bulk supply of power and are also negotiating with West Bengal for such sale. Of the important transmission lines taken up, mention must be made of the 220 K. V. line from Gauhati to Namrup, 66 K. V. line from Tinsukia to Margherita, 132 K. V. line

from Bongaigaon to Fakiragram and from Badarpur to Churaibari and the 66 K. V. line from Badarpur to Aijal.

Social Ser-
vices

In the Annual Plan for the current year, 25.7 per cent of the total outlay was allocated for Social Services Sector and progress made in this Sector has been impressive. The new Dibrugarh University has been started this year. The Pachhunga Memorial College at Aijal has been provincialised and steps have been taken up for the establishment of a Science College at Jorhat. Since Teachers' Training is of great importance, the intake capacity of the Post-Graduate Training College has been increased and a new one at Goalpara is being set up. In the field of elementary education, more training facilities for teachers have been provided and the adult literacy campaign taken up in a mass scale in the Nowgong District has been successful. The Government have appointed a Director of Sports for the better organisation, direction and development of sports and athletics in the State. A site for the Regional Engineering College at Cachar has finally been selected and land acquisition started; two new Polytechnics at Shillong and Dibrugarh and a Chemical Operators' Course at Gauhati have been opened.

The shortage of doctors continues. It is, however, gratifying to note that the first batch of doctors are coming out of the Gauhati Medical College this year. The hostels, administrative and college buildings and residential quarters are being constructed, and, as far as possible, shortage in the teaching staff in that college has also been reduced. Building work for the Silchar Medical College is also progressing. The Hon'ble Members are aware of the toll taken by the Cholera epidemic last year. To prevent recurrence, mass inoculation against this disease has been intensified. Special emphasis is being given to the Family Planning Programme. The Water Supply Schemes both in rural and urban areas are progressing.

Under the Housing Scheme, apart from a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs disbursed to individuals and co-operatives, a loan of Rs. 5.6 lakhs has been given to three industrial undertakings for construction of

tenements for housing their workers. The Town Planning Organisation has completed the Master Plan for Tinsukia and the work of preparing Master Plan for some other towns is in progress. Amidst the various Social Welfare Schemes implemented, I must specially mention the Bal Bhavan at Gauhati which has proved very popular and successful.

Panchayati
Raj and
Community
Development
ment.

The Hon'ble Members are aware how the concept of Panchayati Raj has taken deep roots in the State. I have already mentioned while dealing with agricultural production that the Panchayats have been given important responsibilities in the effort to increase agricultural production. To enable the Panchayati Raj Bodies to discharge their responsibilities, necessary powers for preparation and formulation of development schemes have been delegated to them. It is expected that these measures will help them formulate schemes suitable to the needs of individual localities.

Welfare of
Backward
Classes.

Government are fully aware of the need for formulating an integrated Plan for the autonomous districts to meet their special need and as the Hon'ble Members are aware, we had taken up the Special Development Programme for the Mizo District for intensive development of that area. The experience gained from this Programme has been of great benefit in planning for the hill areas. I am glad to inform the House that the Centre is also paying increasing attention to the development of the hill districts of the State with the object of bringing them to the level of the rest of the State. The Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware of the study being made by Shri Tarlok Singh, Member, Planning Commission with the assistance of the State Government Officials of the special problems of hill districts and Government expect that this study of the Planning Commission will convince the Centre of the need to assist the State Government in a more liberal manner in their efforts to bring about greater and more rapid development of the hill areas. On the non-Plan side, in addition to the schemes for assisting the District Councils and Regional Councils in running their normal administration, a loan of Rs. 1.25 lakhs was also given to the Pawi-Lakher Regional

Council to enable them to undertake productive schemes for the purpose of improving their financial resources.

Mention must also be made of the constitution of the Jowai Autonomous District. An Advisory Council has been set up for dealing with the matters falling under the jurisdiction of the District Council and preliminary steps for conducting elections to the District Council are also being taken up.

“The Area Development Approach” has been adopted in drawing up the Plan for the hill areas. The integrated Plan for each of the autonomous districts being drawn up aims at achieving all-round development. Special emphasis is being given to improvement of communications, soil conservation measures, introduction of new crops and stepping up of agricultural production. With a view to meeting additional cost of transport of food-grains and essential commodities to the hill areas, a scheme for development of transport facilities on co-operative basis has been taken up with a provision of Rs.8 lakhs for the next year. Though originally it was contemplated that this amount would be utilised in subsidising the freight rates on the hill roads, it is now proposed instead to utilise the amount in organising co-operative motor transport in the hill districts. With a view to stepping up Co-operative Development in the hill areas as well as to take up an expanded programme of extending credit and marketing facilities, it is proposed to set up a Co-operative Development Corporation for these areas. The Corporation will work on the lines of the National Co-operative Development Corporation and will have two wings, *viz.*, marketing and credit. It is also proposed to establish in a phased manner at least one milk colony in each of the hill districts. Members are aware that consequent on the Pakistani aggression, all the border markets were closed and the borders sealed off as a result of which the border people particularly of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District were put to great economic strain as they had to look for alternative markets within the country for sale of their agricultural and other produce and for purchase of essential commodities. The existing border

relief programmes consisting of rice transport subsidy and test relief schemes were found inadequate to meet the new situation and the Agricultural Marketing Organisation stepped in to lift the border produce from the interior villages in the border to the road-heads so that they could be sold economically in markets within and outside the State. More than 35 lakhs of oranges were marketed to Calcutta from these border areas within a short span of a few weeks. From the interior villages, collection was done by jeeps with trailers free of cost and for the movement from collection centres to Shillong town, departmental trucks were made available at a reasonable rate.

Hitherto only 47 Blocks—42 in the hills and 5 in the plains tribal areas were eligible for conversion into Tribal Development Blocks. The Government of India have since liberalised the existing conditions for conversion and reduced the percentage of coverage of tribal population from 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent to 50 per cent. This relaxation will help in converting another 7 Blocks in the plains areas to Tribal Development Blocks.

Relief Measures.

The Hon'ble Members are aware of the storm and cyclone damages in the subdivisions of Dibrugarh, Sibsagar and North Lakhimpur during the year under review. Flood damages this year were extensive in the Jorhat Subdivision due to breach of the Gohaingaon Bund. In the course of these floods, 8 human lives were lost besides considerable damages and loss of properties, cattle and crops. To alleviate the sufferings of the people affected by these natural calamities, the Government had sanctioned up to December, 1965, a sum of Rs.8.15 lakhs as gratuitous and test relief and Rs.17.02 lakhs as rehabilitation and seed loans.

Due to drought, there was failure in Jhum Cultivation in many hill areas particularly in Nongstoin and Bhoi areas in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Bokojan, Lamjan, Nalip and Sochung areas in the Mikir Hills, Mahur Khamlong and Laisong in th

North Cachar Hills and Songcha and Damprang areas in the Garo Hills. In the Nongstoin area, there was scarcity of food and rice had to be rushed to the affected villages.

In the Goalpara District, the Ahu crop was not successful, particularly in the Dhubri Subdivision and Supply Department rushed 6,100 tonnes of rice and paddy to the district for distribution through Fair Price Shops. But, in the interim period, before the Fair Price Shops could be fully organized, the people had to undergo considerable hardship.

During October and November, 1965, distress prevailed in an area of Kokrajhar Subdivision and the purchasing power of the people was very badly affected particularly due to havoc caused by Gastro-enteritis. In order to assist the distressed people, gratuitous relief was sanctioned and work under the pilot project for utilisation of rural man-power was undertaken in the affected area. There was also damage to crops due to hail-storm in the Fakirganj area of Dhubri Subdivision in December 1965.

The influx of refugees from Pakistan has been continuing though at a diminished rate and 11,033 persons entered Assam from 1st January 1965 to 31st December 1965. At present, about 72,500 refugees are accommodated in 22 camps in the State and it is expected that a large number of these families may have to be kept in camps next year also. We have so far spent Rs.2.97 crores on relief in 1964-65 and Rs.1.38 crores during the current year up to 31st December 1965. The estimated expenditure on this account next year is Rs.1.62 crores.

For rehabilitation, the type schemes sponsored by the Government of India are being implemented. Under the agricultural scheme, 3,142 families are being rehabilitated in different districts and the progress of other schemes is satisfactory. The State Government have informed the Government of India that it is not possible to rehabilitate all the refugees in our State without affecting our economy and have been pressing them to find alternative sites for their rehabilitation. The Government

of India have till now shifted about 1,200 families to N. E. F. A. and another 1,800 families will also be sent to N. E. F. A. for rehabilitation. They have also agreed to take away another 3,000 families to Manacamp in Madhya Pradesh for rehabilitation. Another 400 adult members of the refugee families have been sent to Andamans for reclamation of land, the ultimate objective being to transfer their families also to Andamans for permanent settlement there; it is expected that more families will be taken to Andamans for rehabilitation.

For the rehabilitation of victims of natural calamities, landless cultivators and displaced persons, Government have requisitioned 1,80,924 bighas of tea garden land and have so far allotted 1,49,509 bighas of land. The re-settlement operations are progressing satisfactorily in Nowgong and Lakhimpur Districts.

The implementation of the Ceiling on Land Holdings Act and the Assam Gramdan Act is in progress.

Essential
Supplies.

For the khariff year 1965-66, the procurement target was fixed at 4.63 lakh tonnes on an estimated crop production of 19.78 lakh tonnes. As I have already indicated, the food production has been badly affected due to drought conditions in the lower Assam Valley and floods in Upper Assam with the result that it will require strenuous effort to achieve this target. I need hardly emphasise that the greatest vigilance and co-operation by all sections of the people will be necessary to help the State to tide over the situation.

The Assam State Warehousing Corporation have extended their activities by opening 10 more centres during the year. The construction of four godowns have been completed during the year and four more godowns are nearing completion. This will bring the total number of godowns constructed by the Corporation to 14. Two more godowns are under construction. The total storage capacity so the Corporation including the hired godowns is now 50,000 tonnes and is proposed to be stepped up to 74,000 tonnes in order to stock 20 lakh maunds of paddy procured by the Government.

The Hon'ble Members are aware of the policy of the Government to maintain stocks of essential commodities as a buffer stock for use in emergency. This policy has paid ample dividends and helped in ensuring regular supplies during the last emergency. Even though cement has been decontrolled, we have managed to secure a definite assurance from the Government of India that regular supply of required quantity of cement to Assam will be maintained. I may, however, state that the difficulties in the way of getting G. C. I. Sheets are continuing and whatever quantity we are receiving now is against our earlier orders. The Government of India have now informed us that due to great scarcity of raw materials for the manufacture of G. C. I. Sheets, supply of G. C. I. Sheets nenceforth would not be possible and only black sheets will be supplied to the State. We have, therefore, no option but to order these black sheets for distribution in Assam.

Employment. The employment position continues to be unsatisfactory and the number of unemployed on the live Registers of the Employment Exchanges has shown a slight increase over the previous year's figures. The Evaluation Organization recently constituted under the Planning Department has been directed to undertake a study of the impact of the various programmes undertaken for development of Small-Scale and Cottage Industries including advancing of industrial loans and imparting technical training with a view to assess the extent to which these schemes have promoted gainful employment and of the changes required, if any, in the present procedure and techniques to achieve better results. Government hope that this study will be helpful in giving wider opportunities to the local people in securing gainful employment while at the same time speeding up the pace of industrialisation in the State.

**Commissions
Committees.**

Among the important Commissions set up during this year, mention must be made of the Assam Forestry Commission constituted to consider and recommend changes in the administrative set up, procedure, management, control and development of

orest reserves. A Municipal Finance Committee has also been constituted to go into the finances of Municipal Bodies and suggest ways and means to help them in augmenting their resources.

The Economy Committee has completed study of the Directorate of Supply and Consumer Goods during the year and the study of the Directorate of State Transport and the office of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is nearing completion. A study of economy measures relating to the P. W. D. buildings is also in progress.

The Administrative Reforms Committee had issued a detailed questionnaire relating to improvement and tightening of administration and replies received have been consolidated ; case studies by Study Teams have now been undertaken.

Civil Defence
and Home
Guards.

The activities of the Civil Defence and Home Guards Organization were intensified during the September emergency and Home Guards were deployed to help the Police and civil administration. Efforts to extend the coverage of these organizations continue.

In this connection I would like to refer to the exemplary courage displayed by the people living in the border areas of Goalpara District in assisting our Border Forces even when the Pakistani forces opened heavy fire on their villages. The Hon'ble Members may recall that Pakistani Armed Forces resorted to heavy and indiscriminate firing on our villages in the Satrasal and neighbouring areas in November and December and, as a result of firing, a woman and a minor girl died on 29th December, 1965. In spite of this indiscriminate firing, the people living in these border areas kept up their morale and continued to assist the Border Forces by helping in digging of trenches and in other ways. Sir, we are very proud of the exemplary courage and a high sense of duty of the people living in these border areas.

Village De-
fence Or-
ganization.

The Village Defence Organization has been functioning quite satisfactorily in helping the Police Force in the maintenance of law and order in the rural areas of the State. During the recent hostilities with Pakistan, the Village Defence Parties wer

engaged in security duties and did commendable work in guarding the bridges, railway track and other vital installations.

I would like to refer specially to two instances in which our Village Defence Parties showed exemplary courage in the discharge of their duties. The Hon'ble Members may recall that on 1st November, 1965, Pakistani nationals, backed by armed Pakistani Ansars, trespassed into our territory near Satrasal; the local Village Defence Party resisted the trespassers and the Naik of the party was kidnapped by the Pakistanis. Again, on 24th November 1965, armed Pakistanis committed dacoity in Sahapara village near Manka-char. The local Village Defence Party offered brave resistance during the course of which 12 members of the Village Defence Party received gun-shot injuries. Sir, we are proud of the exemplary sense of duty and courage shown by the Village Defence Parties on these occasions.

fails.

The Open Air Agricultural Colony set up at Jorhat in line with modern ideas has been running smoothly. A similar scheme known as the Khanapara Agricultural Project has also been started this year for the purpose of putting convicts at Gauhati Jail to useful agricultural work.

Law and Order.

Barring disturbances in the Indo-Pak border and Nagaland border, the law and order situation throughout the State was satisfactory till 28th February 1966. Unfortunately, from the 1st of March some very serious incidents are taking place in the Mizo District and the situation in that District continues to be very serious; I have already made a detailed statement before the House about these happenings. It is unfortunate that the progress and well being of the Mizo District in particular and the State as a whole will be adversely affected as a result of these developments.

Industrial peace has been maintained by all concerned during the year.

I would now like to refer to the accounts of 1964-65. In the revised estimates the total revenue receipts were estimated at Rs. 6,411.56 lakhs but the actuals have come to only Rs. 5,823.62 lakhs due chiefly to less receipt of Rs. 683 lakhs as grant-in-aid from the

Government of India, less revenue collection to the extent of Rs. 102 lakhs mainly under royalty on crude oil and less collection amounting to Rs.88 lakhs under Agricultural Income-tax and Excise which is partly counter-balanced by an improvement of Rs.285 lakhs under some minor items. The revenue expenditure which was estimated at Rs.5,267·31 lakhs has increased by Rs.116·74 lakhs due chiefly to higher expenditure under P. W. D.

In the capital account, the estimated receipts of Rs.6,726·86 lakhs have gone up by Rs.2,512·31 lakhs due chiefly to additional temporary loans and advances obtained from the Reserve Bank of India and an additional loan of Rs. 244 lakhs from the Government of India. On the expenditure side, the estimated expenditure of Rs.7,236 lakhs has increased by Rs. 580 lakhs due chiefly to repayment of temporary loans and advances to Government of India and Reserve Bank of India and additional expenditure on certain minor items which, however, is partly set off by less expenditure on State Trading, loans and advances by the State Government and public works. There has been a net deterioration of Rs. 350 lakhs in the Public Accounts. The net result of the transactions will bring the actual closing balance at the end of the financial year 1964-65 to (—)Rs.678·44 lakhs although the Accountant General has shown a closing balance of (+)Rs.463·56 lakhs; this is due to the fact that we have not cleared the ways and means advance of Rs.1,142 lakhs obtained from the Reserve Bank of India during 1964-65.

Now I come to the revised estimates for the year 1965-66. The revenue receipts for the year 1965-66 were originally estimated at Rs. 7,078 lakhs as against which the revised estimates stand increased by Rs. 296 lakhs. This difference is due mainly to additional revenue expected of Rs.70·74 lakhs under Sales Tax Rs.28·27 lakhs from road transport, Rs.23·58 lakhs as share of Union Excise, Rs.311 lakhs as grants-in-aid from the Government of India for Police expenditure which could not be adjusted in the earlier years for want of sanction and additional grant-in-aid of Rs. 87 lakhs on some minor items set off partly by non-realisation of Rs.150 lakhs as arrear Carriage Tax owing to the case being still pending in the hon'ble Supreme Court.

The revenue expenditure which was estimated at Rs.7,040 lakhs has increased by Rs.1,010 lakhs due chiefly to the impact of pay revision which could not be provided for in the Budget estimates; the Hon'ble Members may recall that when presenting the Budget for 1965-66, it was indicated that further expenditure would have to be incurred for implementing pay revision. The expenditure on interest charges on loans has also increased by over Rs. 198 lakhs due mainly to late finalisation of the terms of re-payment of Government of India loans and taking up of ways and means advance from the Government of India.

On the capital side, the receipts have increased from the originally estimated amount of Rs.4,747 lakhs by Rs.4,016 lakhs due chiefly to additional temporary loans and advances from the Reserve Bank of India and temporary ways and means advance from the Government of India. Similarly, on the expenditure side, the expenditure has gone up by Rs.4,561 lakhs over the originally estimated amount of Rs.4,724 lakhs due chiefly to larger repayments of temporary ways and means advances to the Reserve Bank of India and repayments of ways and means advances from the Government of India. There has also been additional expenditure of Rs.199 lakhs for paddy procurement and operation of the buffer stock and some additional expenditure on a few minor items. I may add that in the Public Account, we could not invest the proceeds of the sinking fund to the extent of Rs. 150 lakhs due to our adverse cash balance position and hence this amount has remained merged during the year in our cash balance. As a result, the closing balance for the year 1965-66 will be (—) Rs.1,770·03 lakhs.

Before I proceed to the estimates for 1966-67, I would like to state briefly the reasons for the closing over-draft at the end of the current financial year and the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the over-draft. As I have already indicated the current financial year opened with a cash balance of (—)Rs.6·78 crores. During the course of the year we had to take supplementary demands for Rs. 1·98 crores for payment of interest and Rs. 68 lakhs for payment of principal due mainly to late finalisation of the term of some Government of India loans

advanced earlier, larger ways and means advances taken from the Reserve Bank of India and revision of the bank rate. An amount of Rs.1.99 crores had to be spent in excess of the estimated expenditure on the scheme for procurement of paddy and maintenance of buffer stock as already indicated. The impact of pay revision necessitated taking a Supplementary demand of a little over Rs.5 crores. It will be noticed that these major items alone will result in raising the over-draft to Rs.16.43 crores. The balance of the over-draft is accounted for by minor variations under various heads.

The State Government have been naturally concerned by the deteriorating cash balance position and a drive has been organized to recover the arrears of revenues, taxes and loans. As a result of the special drive undertaken to collect the arrears of revenue, an amount of Rs. 1.52 crores has already been realised from 1st July 1965 to 31st January 1966 and steps are being taken to further intensify this drive. I would, however like to inform the House that even if a substantial portion of the realisable arrears are recovered, we shall still not be able to reduce the over-draft to below Rs. 10 crores. As the House is aware, we have not been allowed to levy the Carriage Tax on tea from 1st April 1962 despite our repeated requests to Government of India ; this has prevented us from raising additional resources to the extent of Rs. 10 crores during the Third Plan period. Our claim for arrear Second Plan assistance to the extent of Rs. 3.1 crores has also not been satisfied by the Government of India due to want of fuller details although we have repeatedly pointed out to the Government of India that it is impossible to furnish the details required by them at this late stage even from the Accountant General's records. Because of these factors, I am afraid, it will not be possible for us to clear the over-draft fully from the very limited resources of the State unless the Centre comes forward to help us with suitable grant in recognition of the circumstances in which the State has been compelled to resort to over-draft.

The Hon'ble Members are already aware of the economy measures under taken by the State Government. The Government have now taken a decision

not to entertain new staff unless and until the existing surplus staff are absorbed. Obviously, the impact of this decision is not likely to be felt immediately but there is no doubt that over a period of years, the economy involved in this decision will be very helpful in reducing the non-Plan expenditure. I would like to refer in this connection to the impact of the pay revision on the State's finances. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the Government have been examining the anomalies, if any, in the revision of pay scales and despite our very difficult financial position, it is the Government's intention to rectify the anomalies wherever they exist.

I will now place before the House the estimated receipts and expenditure for the year 1966-67. In the revenue account, the receipts are estimated at Rs. 8,274.47 lakhs and the expenditure at Rs. 8,189.53 lakhs. There will thus be a surplus of Rs. 84.94 lakhs in the revenue account. In the capital account, receipts are estimated at Rs. 8,475.15 lakhs while the expenditure is estimated at Rs. 8,523.12 lakhs. The capital account will thus be in deficit by Rs. 47.97 lakhs. In the Public Account, there will be a net deficit of Rs. 31.75 lakhs. The over-all position, therefore, will be a nominal surplus of Rs. 5.22 lakhs. I may add that in the budget for 1966-67, a sum of Rs. 1.2 crores has been provided for new schemes. The Hon'ble Members may recall that during the current financial year, we did not provide for any new scheme in the Budget except the provincialisation of the Pachhunga Memorial College at Aijal because of the very difficult financial position. In this context it was imperative that some expenditure be incurred for the new schemes during the next financial year for better administration and better implementation of the development programmes.

I would, however, like to point out that there are a large number of omitted posts in respect of which revised pay-scales are being prescribed and the removal of anomalies, if any, will also result in increased expenditure. In order to provide a margin for increased expenditure under these heads, it is essential that the State's receipts should be increased by additional taxation. With this object in view, Government propose to introduce a Bill to increase the rate of taxation under

the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation Act by 50 per cent in the case of cycles and private vehicles constructed and used solely for the conveyance of passengers and their light luggages and 40 per cent in the case of other vehicles. This measure is estimated to fetch additional revenue of Rs. 55 lakhs during the year 1966-67; the budgetary position during 1966-67 will, therefore, come to a surplus of about Rs. 60 lakhs. As the surplus will be required to meet the additional expenditure indicated by me, the opening over-draft will remain unchanged at the close of the year 1966-67. There is no doubt, however, that the strictest economy measures will be called for in non-Plan expenditure in order to ensure that the over-draft does not increase.

As the House is aware, Assam has some special responsibilities being a border State and Government shall have to incur unforeseen expenditure for protection of the borders, maintenance of law and order, etc. In order to be in a position to incur such unforeseen expenditure without, at the same time, adversely affecting the development programme of the State, it is essential that maximum economy should be enforced in non-Plan expenditure; and, in the successful implementation of this task, I seek the guidance and co-operation of all the Hon'ble Members of the House.

Before concluding, I will be failing in my duty if I do not express my thanks to all the Hon'ble Members of this august House for the co-operation they have been giving to the Government during these difficult days. The behaviour of the good people of Assam and the co-operation which they have been giving to the administration in all respects are indeed matters of pride. It would have been difficult to carry on the administration of this frontier State with so many peculiar and difficult problems without the help and co-operation the Government have received. I can with confidence hope that the people of Assam with their high qualities will convert Assam to a really "Lovely Assam", the description which Mahatma Gandhi gave about our State.

Finally, I must mention the helpful attitude which the Government of India have been taking towards our State throughout the difficult period.

JAI HIND

ANNEXURE A

(In thousands of Rupees)

Heads	Actuals, 1964-65	Budget, 1965-66	Revised, 1965-66	Budget, 1966-67
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
RECEIPTS				
Opening Balance	(—) 91,89	(—) 4,01,61	(—) 6,78,44	(—) 17,10,03
Revenue Receipts	58,23,62	70,78,28	73,74,39	82,74,47
Capital Receipts	92,39,17	47,47,09	87,63,35	84,75,15
Receipts under Contingency Fund.	4,47,01	..	1,65,80	..
Receipts under Public Accounts	2,72,68,67	1,71,74,89	2,66,25,75	2,78,07,06
Total—Receipts	4,27,78,47	2,90,00,26	4,29,29,29	4,45,56,68
GRAND TOTAL	4,26,86,58	2,85,98,65	4,22,50,85	4,28,46,65
EXPENDITURE				
Revenue Expenditure	63,84,05	70,59,99	80,49,91	81,89,53
Capital Expenditure	78,15,95	47,23,97	92,85,22	85,23,12
Expenditure under Contingency Fund.	4,13,48	..	1,50,00	..
Expenditure under Public Accounts.	2,76,09,54	1,71,59,39	2,64,75,75	2,78,38,81
Total—Expenditure	4,22,23,02	2,89,23,35	4,39,60,88	4,45,51,46
Closing Balance	4,63,56	(—) 3,24,70	(—) 17,10,03	(—) 17,04,81
GRAND TOTAL	4,26,86,58	2,85,98,65	4,22,50,85	4,28,46,65

Net Results—

Surplus (+)

Deficit (—)

(a) On Revenue Account	(—) 5,60,43	(+) 38,29	(—) 6,75,52	(+) 84,94
(b) Outside the Revenue Account.	(+) 11,15,88	(+) 38,62	(—) 3,56,07	(—) 79,72
(c) Net excluding the opening Balance.	(+) 5,55,45	(+) 76,91	(—) 10,31,59	(+) 5,22

ANNEXURE B

Statement showing the Development Head-wise allocation in State Plan out of approved expenditure during 1966-67

	(Rs. in lakhs.)
Agricultural Production	275.00
Minor Irrigation	110.00
Area Programmes for Irrigation Projects ...	1.00
Animal Husbandry	40.00
Dairying and Milk Supply	13.00
Fisheries	15.00
Forests	23.00
Soil Conservation	10.00
Warehousing and Marketing	4.00
Co-operation	30.30
Community Development	145.00
Panchayats	5.60
Irrigation	105.00
Flood Control	200.00
Power	525.00
Large and Medium Industries	175.00
Mineral Development	6.00
Village and Small Industries	50.00
Roads	250.00
Road Transport	20.00
Tourism and other Transport	6.00
General Education (including Cultural Programme)	190.00

Technical Education	...	...	...	50.00
Health including Water Supply and Sanitation	...	...	...	160.00
Housing and Town Planning	...	..	...	12.00
Welfare of Backward Classes	...	...	...	175.00
Social Welfare including Public Co-operation	...	...	...	5.50
Labour and Labour Welfare	...	...	...	19.50
Statistics	...	...	...	3.00
Publicity	...	...	...	15.00
Others	...	...	...	3.00
Local Bodies	...	...	...	3.00
				2,645.40
			Grand Total	...

The Assam Finance Bill, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: I read out the message from Governor:—

“Raj Bhavan,
Shillong,
The 28th February, 1966

I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance 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 Finance Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the Chief Minister leave of the House to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1966?

(Voices—Yes, yes.)

The leave is granted to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1966.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1966.

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

The Bill was introduced

The Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: I read out a message from the Governor:—

“Raj Bhavan,
Shillong,
The 1st March, 1966.

I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance (Sales 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 Finance (Sales-Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the Chief Minister leave of the House to introduce the Assam Finance (Sales-Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1966?
(Voices—Yes, yes).

Mr. SPEAKER: The leave is granted to introduce the Assam Finance (Sales-Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Finance (Sales-Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

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

The Assam Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966

The Bill was introduced

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me read a message from the Governor:—

“Raj Bhavan,
Shillong,
The 1st March, 1966.

I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Sales-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 Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the Chief Minister leave of the House to introduce the Assam Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966?

(Voices—Yes, yes.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The leave is granted to introduce the Assam Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

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

The Bill was introduced

The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1966

Mr. SPEAKER: I read out a message from the Governor:—

“Raj Bhavan,
Shillong,
The 28th February, 1966.

I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1966 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Sd /- VISHNU SAHAY,
Governor of Assam.”

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: Has the hon. Minister leave of the House to introduce the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1966 ?

(Voices—Yes, yes.)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

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

The Bill was introduced

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till to 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 5th March, 1966.

Shillong,
The 13th July 1966.

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