

**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 11th March, 1966.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: **New Thana Building for Jorhat**

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

- *31. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
- Whether there is a proposal for construction of a new Police Station building at Jorhat ?
 - Whether Government has finalised the said proposal ?
 - If so, whether construction of the same has been started ?
 - If not, why ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

31. (a)—Plans and estimates for constructing a two-storied Thana building at Jorhat are under preparation. On receipt of the plans and estimate, Government will consider the question of execution of the project subject to the availability of funds.

(b), (c) & (d)—Do not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know from the hon. Chief Minister when the scheme will be finalised ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : That I cannot say, Sir.

Re: Memorandum from Assam Match Company's Employees' Association, Dhubri regarding grievances

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) asked:

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

- (a) Whether he has received any memorandum from the Assam Match Company's Employees' Association, Dhubri on 15th October 1965 while he was on tour at Dhubri?
- (b) If so, what were the grievances of the employees?
- (c) What steps Government have taken so far to remove those grievances?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health, Excise, etc.,) replied:

32. (a)—Yes.

(b)—(1) Alleged non-utilisation of machineries adequately resulting in fall of earnings of the employees.

(2) Delay in disposal of an Industrial Dispute pending with the Industrial Tribunal which was referred to him on 22nd July 1963; and

(3) Violation by the management of Section 72 of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

(c)—Government have already initiated enquiry into this and the Labour Commissioner will be shortly visiting Dhubri for an on-the-spot enquiry.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, may I know what is the reason for delaying settlement of the matter by 2/3 years?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the matter was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, but unfortunately it took a long time to settle it. The Government has already taken notice of it after the representation was made to the Minister. It is now expected that the matter will be finalised soon.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): When the last representation was received by the Government?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: October, 1965.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: When the matter was referred to the Industrial Tribunal?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Within a few days after the complaint was received by the Government.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, in the Memorandum which was submitted to the Minister there was a grievance regarding illegal deduction of sick leave admissible under Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. But in the reply it has not been answered, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister will please take a note of the information which has been given to the House.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I have not got the Section 72 of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 with me. Most probably other grievances must have been covered by the violation of the Section 72. I would request the hon. Member to consult Section 72 of the said Act.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether from the Government side any directive has been issued to the Industrial Tribunal to dispose of the matter within a specific time?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, I have already said about this.

Re: Appointment of Vice-Chancellors of Dibrugarh and Gauhati Universities

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked:

- *33. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether the Vice-Chancellors of Dibrugarh and Gauhati Universities have already been appointed?
 (b) If so, who are they?

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

33. (a)—Not yet. The Advisory Board for appointment of Vice-Chancellor for Gauhati University has submitted their recommendations for the Vice-Chancellorship of the Gauhati University and these are under consideration of the Chancellor; alongside the name for the Vice-Chancellorship of the Dibrugarh University is being considered by the Chancellor.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know, in absence of Vice-Chancellor, who is conducting the business of the Gauhati University?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, the present Rector has been authorised to function.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, who are the members of that Committee which submitted a panel of names for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, an Advisory Board has been constituted according to the provision of the Act and the Chairman of that Committee is Justice S. K. Dutta, one of the members is Shri Omeo Kumar Das, M.L.A., and the third member, Shri Dibakar Goswami, a retired D.P.I. One is nominated by the University Court, and one by the Chancellor.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know, Sir, whether there was any sitting of the Dibrugarh University Court?

Mr. SPEAKER: He means whether that Committee has been constituted by the Dibrugarh University Court ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, according to the provisions of the Dibrugarh University Act, there is no necessity of forming even an Advisory Committee for the purpose of appointment of Vice-Chancellor of the Dibrugarh University for the first two terms.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, according to the provision of the Dibrugarh University Act, the authority to delegate the powers and duties of the Vice-Chancellor to the Rector only rests with the Vice-Chancellor. So, Sir, may I know who has delegated those power to the Rector to function as the Vice-Chancellor ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: May I submit, Sir, in exercise of the power—there has been a Gazette Notification to that effect, Sir, which reads:—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 46 of the Dibrugarh University Act, 1965 (Assam Act VIII of 1965), the State Government hereby order empowering the Rector, Dibrugarh University to exercise the functions and responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University under the provisions of the aforesaid Act till the first Vice-Chancellor is appointed under Section 43 (1) of the Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: As pointed out by Shri Goswami, according to the provision of the Act, only the Vice-Chancellor can delegate the powers to the Rector under Section 14 of the Act ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, I want notice for replying this.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, should there be one nominee of the Dibrugarh University Court to constitute a Committee for the purpose of appointment of the Vice-Chancellor ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Not necessary, Sir, as I have said already :

Mr. SPEAKER: For the first two terms, there is no necessity of a Committee, so far as the Dibrugarh University is concerned. For the first two terms, it may be done by the Chancellor.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: According to the provision of the Dibrugarh University Act, only the Vice-Chancellor can promulgate an Act or Ordinance, etc., in respect of the Dibrugarh University. Now in absence of the Vice-Chancellor how the Rector can formulate a regulation, ordinance, etc., for that University ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Yes, Sir, as I have already read out the relevant Gazette Notification, dated 1st September 1965 that in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 46 of the Act, the State Government empowered the Rector to exercise the functions and responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor under the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether the Government has got the authority to appoint the Rector to act as the Vice-Chancellor ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Yes, Sir, the Government has got it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can you read out the relevant provision of the Act ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Yes, Sir, that is with regard to removal of difficulties, Section 46 of the Dibrugarh University Act reads: "If any difficulty arises as to the first constitution or reconstitution of any authority of the University after the commencement of this Act or otherwise in first giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the State Government may by order do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty."

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, according to the Section 46 of the Dibrugarh University Act, whenever there is any difficulty that has to be removed, the Government may by order do anything which appears to them necessary. But for that purpose that Act or different provisions of the Act shall have to come into force on a date or dates as the State Government may, by notification in the official Gazette appoint. My question therefore, is whether there was any such Notification made by the Government for giving effect to the provisions of the Dibrugarh University Act ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Yes, Sir, there was a Gazette Notification.

Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND (Jaipur): Sir, may I know how long the Rector will continue to function as the Vice-Chancellor of the Dibrugarh University ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: As long as the Vice-Chancellor is not appointed, this arrangement will continue.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): May I know, Sir, whether the Rector can act in place of the Vice-Chancellor ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The State Government has authorised, by an order, the Rector to do like that.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Whether the Government can authorise the Rector to do so, Sir ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, the relevant provision of the Act has been read out.

Re : Establishment of a Transformer Factory in the State

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked :

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

- (a) Whether there is a proposal for establishment of a transformer factory in the State of Assam ?
- (b) If so, whether the scheme has been finalised ?
- (c) Where it is proposed to be located ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries) replied.

36. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—No.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, may I know at what stage the matter stands now ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : All that I can say is that the matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : How long it will take to finalise it ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : That I cannot say now.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : Whether this will be established in the Private Sector or in the Public Sector and by which department ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I want notice for that.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, may I know whether this will be included in the 4th Five Year Plan ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes, Sir, it is so expected.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Sir, who has prepared the project report ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, if it is established in the Public Sector then the Government of India's approval will be necessary to the technical sanction, if it is by the State

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not answer to that. You have already said that you want notice for that.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Whether the Government received any intimation from the Government of India to this effect and if so when?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I want notice for that.

Re: Paper and Pulp Industry in Cachar District

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government has any scheme for starting Paper and Pulp Industry in the district of Cachar?

(b) If so, what is the latest position?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries) replied :

37. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government is actively considering setting up of a 100 tons paper mill to be expanded up to 300 tons daily capacity in the Public Sector in Cachar District.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, may I know whether the site has been selected for the purpose.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the exact site has not been selected.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, in today's Unstarred Question also it has been stated that the site has not been selected but it is said that it will be located in the district of Cachar. So it is not understood why the site has not been selected.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the district has been decided. It is still under the consideration stage.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, when the consideration stage will be over?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it is very difficult to say that.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, will it also be included in the 4th Five Year Plan?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This is the intention of the Government.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister about the estimated cost for one project?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I want notice for this.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, is it not a fact that the establishment of a paper pulp factory in the district of Cachar has been approved which has been disclosed by the Minister, Industries in his various statements?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it is very clear.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government has made any correspondence in this regard with the Government of India?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, that I cannot say.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, the proposal of setting up a paper pulp factory in Assam is not a new proposal. It is a very old proposal. Actually 5 licenses have been issued for paper and rayon factory to be established in the private sector. Now as there has been no progress in the private sector, it has been decided to do it in the public sector.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether the Government of India agreed to this proposal?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I have not got the final consent from the Government of India although I got an assurance from the then Minister Shri T. N. Singh. But that commitment has not yet been made.

Re: Roads under Third Five-Year Plan

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

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

- (a) Whether roads already taken up during the Third Five-Year Plan will be constructed and completed?
- (b) If so, whether these roads will be completed during the current year?

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

38. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No, all roads taken up during the Third Plan period cannot be completed this year. Incomplete schemes will be carried over to the 4th Plan for completion.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: May I know what was the total amount earmarked for roads during the 3rd Five Year Plan and what amount has been spent out of that ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: The total cost of the 3rd Five Year Plan Schemes of Roads and Bridges (General) is Rs.12,65,00,000 against which the expenditure target is limited to Rs.850 lakhs. It is apparent from this fact that all works taken up will not be completed during this plan period. The fact is, works on Roads and Bridges already taken up will continue according to availability of funds till their completion. Works which will remain incomplete during the 3rd Plan will be spilled over to the 4th Plan for their completion. As per Annual Plan allocation this Department received Rs.565.90 lakhs by 1964-65 which has been fully spent. The allocation for the current year, 1965-66, is Rs.187 lakhs which will also be spent in full. Thus the total anticipated expenditure by the end of this plan period will be Rs.752.90 lakhs against the expenditure target of Rs.850 lakhs; the shortage in expenditure target is due to inadequate allocations of funds in the previous years as well as the current year. That is why, Sir, all the works could not be completed.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: The target was more than 12 crores of rupees, but from the Minister's statement we find that only about 8 crores of rupees will be spent during this Plan period, leaving a gap of about 4 crores of rupees unspent. Will the Minister be pleased to state whether this 4 crores of rupees will be spilled over to the 4th Plan and this amount will also be spent along with the 4th Plan allocation ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: As I have already said, against a total provision of Rs.1,265 lakhs, a sum of Rs.850 lakhs was sanctioned. That means the target was Rs.1,265 lakhs, but the expenditure target was limited to Rs.850 lakhs. But even this amount was not available and there was a shortfall of roughly 98 lakhs. Therefore, this programme could not be completed. All the unfinished works will be spilled over to the 4th Plan.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): Out of Rs.850 lakhs sanctioned for the 3rd Plan, may I know what was the amount actually spent for construction of office buildings, staff quarters and vehicles ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I want notice.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): So far as I recollect, the programme of roads for the 3rd Plan was for Rs.12,65,00,000, with a financial programme of Rs.8½ crores. That means, plans for work to the extent of 12½ crores of rupees was taken knowing fully well that money available would be to the extent of 8½ crores of rupees. But because of diversion of funds made available to the Public Works Department for the 3rd Plan for road comes to about Rs.7,90,00,000 or so. Therefore, the remaining part will be spilled over to the 4th Plan.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Will the hon. Chief Minister be pleased to state whether as a result of spilling over of nearly 4 crores of rupees to the 4th Plan, the target of the 4th Plan will be reduced to that extent ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: These spill-overs are always there starting from the 1st Plan. You will find, Sir, that there has always been some spill-over. For example, we decide to take up a 20 mile long road, but we may be able to complete only 10 miles during a particular Plan period, the remaining 10 miles will be done in the next Plan.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): May I know whether such spill-over will affect the allocation of money for the next Plan period?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Whatever spill-over schemes remain they will have to be accommodated in the 4th Plan allocations. Similarly, from the Fourth Plan also there will be spill-over to the 5th Plan.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I know whether the spill-over amount will be utilised only for the incomplete projects or it will be mixed up with the total allocation?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The first preference will be given to completion of the spill-over schemes. For example, this year, as I said in my Budget speech, the main expenditure will be for completion of incomplete schemes.

Re: Establishment of an Industrial Estate at Jorhat

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked :

- *39. Will the Minister-in-charge of Industries be pleased to state—
- Whether it is a fact that Government had decided long ago to establish an Industrial Estate at Jorhat?
 - Whether it is also a fact that land has been acquired for the said purpose?
 - If so, why work has not been started?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health, Excise, etc.) replied :

39. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Yes, land for the purpose has been acquired.
 (c)—It took time for acquisition of land and for obtaining technical approval from the Government of India for the scheme.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know when Government are going to start this project?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It will be started soon.

Re: New Trenching ground for Gauhati Municipality

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

- *40. Will the Minister-in-charge of Municipal Administration be pleased to state—
- Whether a suitable plot of land has been made available for the purpose of Trenching ground for the Gauhati Municipality?

- (b) If so, the location of the plot ?
 (c) If not, when Government expect to select a plot for the above purpose ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Municipal Administration) replied :

40. (a)—Yes.

(b)—An area of 69B-3K-2L of land at Fatasil with an area of 14B-1K-3L at Bamuni Maidan was made over to the Gauhati Municipality for the purpose of Trenching ground in lieu of 50B-3K-5L of Municipal land taken over from the Municipality. The Chairman, Municipal Board, Gauhati, reported that the land allotted was not suitable.

A different area of 100 bighas of land at Fatasil in Ramsarani Mouza was then handed over to the Municipality. There was objection to the use of this land as trenching ground by the local people in view of which the D. C., Kamrup, wanted to have a joint enquiry locally with the Chairman, Gauhati Municipal Board, to see if any particular area out of this 100 bighas could be used for trenching purpose or some land elsewhere would be necessary. No joint enquiry could be held for one or other reason. But the D. C. has selected a new site in the village grazing ground at village Hengarabari but the Chairman, Gauhati Municipal Board, does not consider the plot suitable. The land at Fatasil is now being used as a Trenching ground.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Will the Minister be pleased to state whether the Fatasil land falls within the municipal area ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: I don't think it falls within the municipal area, but I have not got an exact idea.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: This falls within the municipal area and a separate land is necessary for the trenching ground.

Shri CHATRASING TERON: I don't know whether any reply is necessary.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Will the Minister kindly verify whether the Fatasil land falls within the municipal area and if it falls within the municipal area, will he please find out another suitable plot somewhere else ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: An alternative plot has already been suggested at Hengarabari grazing reserve, but the Chairman, Municipal Board, has said that this is also not suitable.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Will the Minister personally see along with leading persons of Gauhati whether that plot of land at Hengarabari will be suitable ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: As far as my information goes, the plot of land is marshy and low-lying. Therefore, if some kind of development is done probably it will be possible to utilise that plot of land.

Therefore, a request was made also to the municipality as to whether they would be prepared to improve that plot of land which was given to them by the Deputy Commissioner, but up till now we have not received any reply to it.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Will the Hon. Minister ask the Deputy Commissioner to obtain his report also about that land ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Yes, Sir, we can do it.

(Starred Questions Nos.34 and 35 were not put as the hon. Questioners were absent.)

Re: Memorandum submitted by the people of North Cachar Hills demanding a full-fledged district

Shri J. B. HAGJER (North Cachar Hills Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked :

53. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the people of North Cachar Hills submitted a memorandum to the Government of Assam, demanding a full-fledged district ?

(b) If so, what is the position of their demand ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister Tribal Areas and Welfare of Backward Classes Department) replied :

53. (a)—Yes, a memorandum on the subject has been submitted by the North Cachar Hills District Congress Committee.

(b)—A report was called for from the Deputy Commissioner, United District of Mikir and North Cachar Hills. His report has since been received and the matter is under examination.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Sir, in reply to (b) it is stated that a report was called for from the Deputy Commissioner, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills. May we know when the report has been received?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: The Deputy Commissioner sent the report to the Commissioner on the 23rd December, 1965 and then it was sent from the Commissioner to the Department on the 28th January, 1966.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may we know if any committee has been appointed to examine the matter ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: No, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Then who is examining it Sir?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Sir, the Government—the Department.

Re: Arrear amount due to the Dikhowmukh M. E. School in Sibsagar Subdivision.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked:

54. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—
 (a) What was the arrear amount due to the Dikhowmukh M. E. School in Sibsagar subdivision, after restoration of recognition?
 (b) Why the balance has not yet been paid?
 (c) When will it be paid?

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

54. (a)—Rupees 9,896 out of which Rs. 7,000 already paid.
 (b)—Due to paucity of funds.
 (c)—As soon as funds are available.

Re: Establishment of a Paper Pulp Mills in the State

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

55. Will the Minister, Industries be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether Government has finalised the proposal for establishment of paper pulp mills in the State of Assam?
 (b) If so, what will be the number of such mills?
 (c) Where will these be located?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries) replied:

55. (a)—State Government have finalised a project report and the proposal is under consideration of Government of India.
 (b)—At least one.
 (c)—This is under consideration.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: In reply to (b), Sir, it is stated that "At least one". May I know from the hon. Minister in charge of Industries whether by considering the availability of raw materials it will not be possible to move the Government of India for more than one project?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That we are already doing Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, in reply to (c), it is stated that "This is under consideration". But about the site the Minister had replied to the earlier starred question that it has been selected in the District of Cachar.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I have not stated that.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, with regard to the number of paper mills, licences for as many as five were issued for paper and rayon mills. But the problem is, nobody started the industry and that is why it has to be done by the State in the State Sector.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Is it for that reason that at least one has been taken up, Sir?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, even for one itself we require a very huge capital and a lot of foreign exchange.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, it was stated that the Mill is going to be started in the District of Cachar.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, Cachar is the most favourable place for this industry.

Mr. SPEAKER: In reply to starred Question No. 37 (b) it is stated that "Government is actively considering setting up of a 100 tons paper mill to be expanded up to 300 tons daily capacity in the public sector in Cachar District".

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, the hon. Chief Minister has stated that the mill is going to be established in the Cachar District. But may we know where, because Cachar is a big District?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: So, Sir, instead of putting so many questions if a question was put simply as to where this mill is going to be established, we could have replied it that it is going to be established in the district of Cachar.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The Chief Minister has stated that as many as five licences have been issued for starting paper mills. But since these licences have failed to start the industry, may I know whether Government have cancelled those licences?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, the licencing authority is the Government of India. We have recommended for cancellation of those licences and I think the licences have been cancelled already.

Re: Scale of pay for Choukidars of Schools under the State Board of Elementary Education

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

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

(a) What is the scale of pay extended to the Choukidars of the Middle Vernacular and Senior Basic Schools by the State Board for Elementary Education?

(b) With effect from which date the revised scale of pay to the Choukidars has been extended?

(c) What is the scale of pay extended to the Choukidars of the Government Middle Vernacular and Government Senior Basic Schools?

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

56. (a) and (b)—Choukidars of Schools under the State Board of Elementary Education do not get any regular scale of pay. They at present get a pay of Rs.40 per mensem, inclusive of an allowance of Rs.10 per mensem. The question of giving them a regular scale of pay is under consideration of the State Board of Elementary Education.

(c) The scale is Rs.80—1—90—2—100—2·50—115—3—130 per mensem.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: May I know if the pay scale recommended by the Pay Committee will be extended to the Chowkidars of the Middle Vernacular and Senior Basic Schools?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, the whole matter is under consideration.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Since when it is under consideration, Sir?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: In the last meeting of the State Board it was decided that we should consider the scale of pay so far as the Chowkidars are concerned. So, Sir, it is under consideration now.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): May I know, Sir, when this consideration will be completed?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know whether the State Board has recommended anything to the Pay Committee for consideration of the pay scale of the Chowkidars?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: No, Sir, it has not sent any recommendation; it is now under the consideration of the State Board.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karmiganj-North): Sir, the question was whether any recommendation for the increase of the pay scale of the Chowkidars was made to the Pay Committee.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, the Chowkidars are not Government servants. They are employees of the State Board and so the State Board is examining the matter.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether Government can give us some sort of assurance.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot get any assurance.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: So, the Deputy Minister Education consider the inadequacy of pay of Rs. 30 per month for the Chowkidars?

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not reply to that.

Re: Sundarisal Girls' M. E. School in Gauhati Subdivision

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

57. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—
- In which year the Sundarisal Girls' Middle English School in Gauhati Subdivision was given recognition?
 - Whether the School has fulfilled the conditions for obtaining grants-in-aid for maintenance?
 - Whether any grant has been extended to the School?

- (d) Whether the School has been recommended for grants-in-aid by the Inspector of Schools, Lower Assam Circle ?
 (e) When the School can expect to obtain recurring grants-in-aid ?

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

57. (a)—In 1964.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—No.
 (d)—Yes.
 (e) When funds permit.

Re: Chauki M. E. School in Gauhati Subdivision

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

58. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—
 (a) In which year the Chauki M. E. School in Gauhati Subdivision was established ?
 (b) In which year the School was recognised ?
 (c) What is the percentage of Tribal and Scheduled Caste students of the total enrolment of students in the School ?
 (d) Whether the School has been sanctioned maintenance grants and if so, from which year ?
 (e) In which year the School was recommended for grants-in-aid ?

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

58. (a)—In 1962.
 (b)—In 1964.
 (c)—Tribal students 50 per cent.
 Scheduled Caste students 16 „
 (d)—No.
 (e)—In 1966.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: In view of the fact that 66 per cent of the students of this school belong to the Tribal and Scheduled Caste Communities, and as such no tuition fees can be charged, will the Government be pleased to extend maintenance grant to this school ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Government will surely consider it.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will the grant be extended with effect from January 1966 ?

Shri KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: I cannot give assurance, Sir.

Re: Use of Birth Control Pills in Hospitals and Dispensaries

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

59. Will the Minister, Health be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether the Birth Control Pill "Ovulen" is being used in the Hospitals and Dispensaries of this State ?

- (b) If so, what quantity of this Pill has been procured by the Government for this State ?
- (c) How many women have been prescribed this Pill till January, 1966 by Government Doctors ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied :

59. (a)—No.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—As Doctors do not keep any record of what they prescribe to be secured from the market the information is not available.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: Will the Government be pleased to issue circulars to the Doctors to keep record of persons to whom this pill is prescribed for the purpose of statistical study ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That won't serve the purpose. Because when the doctors treat patients privately Government's direction to that effect is not desirable.

Mr. SPEAKER: What about the Government employees ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, we are not supplying such medicine to the Government employees. If a Government employee who practices privately issues prescription, in that case whether the patient to whom the prescription was served will purchase the thing or not, that cannot be ascertained. So that won't serve the purpose. We are not supplying that particular thing from our stock, it is very difficult to keep any information which will be of any use.

Mr. SPEAKER: The purport of the question was to get the figure to assess to what extent the family planning programme is in progress.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That depends on whether that particular thing is used. We are not using it now.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: (Rose to speak).

Mr. SPEAKER: Let some Doctors better put questions than any layman.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: Will the Government ask the Family Planning Wing to get the figures for the purpose of assessing at least the progress of birth control in our State ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir. The scheme is an all-India scheme and there is nothing like this in the scheme that we should use this.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Has the hon. Minister ever examined the effect of the pill ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, but if the hon. Member wants I can send him one to try, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether this pill for controlling birth is harmful?

Mr. SPEAKER: There are some more improved methods.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, will the Minister be pleased to state what are those improved methods?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the latest one is the loop.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: Sir, is the Minister aware this Ovulen tablet has been found to be very satisfactory?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, that is not our information

Conversion of Subsidised Dispensaries into State Dispensaries

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

60. Will the Health Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Subsidised dispensaries have been taken over as State dispensaries by the Government as was decided earlier, in the years 1962-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66.
- (b) Whether such Subsidised Dispensaries will be converted into State dispensaries in near future?
- (c) Whether Government will consider converting the Athgaon, Puthimari, Singarpara and Sunapur Subsidised dispensaries in this year?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied:

60. (a)—None.

(b)—It is the intention of Government to convert into State Dispensaries all subsidised dispensaries which are not located within 5 miles of the existing State Dispensaries provided funds are available. No fund for the purpose is likely to be available in the near future.

(c)—The cases of these dispensaries will be considered along with those of others as and when funds are available.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, in reply to (b) the answer is "No fund for the purpose is likely to be available in the near future". Will the Government be pleased to appoint Pharmacists in absence of doctors in the subsidised dispensaries and increase the subsidy of medicine?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, in answer to (b) the reply is: "It is the intention of Government to convert into State Dispensaries all subsidised dispensaries which are not located within 5 miles of the existing State Dispensaries provided funds are available. No funds for the purpose is likely to be available in the near future". Sir, will fund be allotted in the Fourth Plan?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer is that no funds for the purpose is likely to be available in the near future. You can have your own interpretation of the words "in the near future".

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, may I know whether there is any subsidised dispensary in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, Sir, not to my knowledge.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister as to how some subsidised dispensaries where there are no doctors are being run ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, in case of subsidised dispensaries, it is not the duty of the Government to supply doctors.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, in reply to (b) it is stated that it is the intention of Government to convert into State Dispensaries all subsidised dispensaries which are not located within 5 miles of the existing State Dispensaries provided funds are available. May I know whether Government has proposed to take up the scheme within the Fourth Plan ?

Mr SPEAKER: No fund for the purpose is likely to be available in the near future. The Fourth Plan is very near.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, may I submit one thing ? The questions are for specific answers. If the answers are left to the hon. Members for interpretation then....

Mr SPEAKER: "Near future" is not a vague term. The question was "Whether such Subsidised Dispensaries will be converted into State Dispensaries in near future ?" The reply is "No fund for the purpose is to be available in the near future." As such it is not vague.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir "near future" appears to be a vague term. My question is "Whether Government is proposing to take up this scheme in the Fourth Plan."

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, it will all depend on the allocation of funds for the Fourth Plan. The hon. Members are aware that the Fourth Plan for the time being has not been finalised for 1966-67. This is an *Ad-hoc* Plan. If conditions improve in the country and if we can get a bigger allocation then certainly all these matters will be considered.

Re: Annual Plan Projects for 1966-67 to be executed by the Public Works Department (R. & B.)

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

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

- (a) Whether the projects to be executed by the P. W. D. (R. & B.) under the annual plan for 1966-67 have been selected ?
- (b) Whether the proposed allocation will be utilised for the spill-over works of the 3rd Plan or new projects will also be undertaken ?

- (c) What is the proposed allocated fund of the Department during the annual plan by the Planning Commission ?

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

61. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Major portion of the allocation will be utilised for spill-over works and only a small amount for new works approved by the Working Group (Transport) of the Planning Commission.

(c)—Rupees 250.00 lakhs under General Plan including Sixth Schedule.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, in view of reply (a) will the Minister be pleased to give a list of the places selected and place the same on the Library Table ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Sir, if the hon. Members want I can give the information just now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you the information available with you ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Yes, Sir. The distribution of the allocation of Rs.250 lakhs is as follows:—

	Rs.
1. Spill-over works from 3rd Plan to 4th Plan ...	202 lakhs.
2. A few projects recommended by the Working Group (Transport) of the Planning Commission.	30 "
3. Purchase of special tools and plants, vehicles, etc. ...	18 "

A few new projects recommended by the Working Group are as follows:—

A. Improvement of existing low standard roads

1. Improvement Dhodar Ali Road ...	2.50 "
2. Improving Tinsukia-Guijan-Markongselek Road ...	2.50 "

B. Construction and improvement of roads connecting N. E. F. A. and Nagaland and other neighbouring States

1. Construction of road from Sonari to Mon ...	5.00 "
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C. Construction and improvement of roads in connection with industries

1. Widening Umtyngngar-Cherra Road ...	10.00 "
2 Widening and improvement of Damra-Darugirit Nangalbibra Road.	5.00 "

D. Providing bridges over roads on Dr. B. Barua Road 5.00 "

Total ...	30.00 "
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Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, may I know what is the total allocation for Sixth Schedule areas ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Rupees 10·00 lakhs for widening Umtyngngar-Cherra Road and Rs.5·00 lakhs for widening and improvement of Damra-Darugiri-Nangalbibra Road—these are under the Sixth Schedule Area.

Mr. SPEAKER: Out of Rs.30 lakhs, Rs.15 lakhs have been allotted to Sixth Schedule area.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Sir, I could not follow what "Spill-over" means.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the meaning of spill-over works ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Those projects which could not be finished during the Third Plan would be taken up during the Fourth Plan.

Re: Incomplete Roads of Third Plan Period

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

62. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (R. & B.) be pleased to state what step Government propose to take for completion of the incomplete roads which were taken up during the Third Plan Period for which funds were allotted but could not be completed by the Department ?

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

62.—Allocations during the Third Plan period were far too inadequate to meet our demands for completion of all schemes. However, all incomplete works will be carried over to the Fourth Plan for completion.

Re: Opening of Assam Government Emporium in New Delhi and Bombay

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Bokakhat) asked :

63. Will the Minister of Industries be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether the State Government have any emporium at New Delhi and Bombay ?
 - (b) If the answer to (a) above is in the negative, what are the causes for not opening emporia at New Delhi and Bombay ?
 - (c) Whether Government propose to establish emporia at New Delhi and Bombay ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries) replied :

63. (a)—No, but the Assam Government Marketing Corporation, Ltd., proposes to open an emporium in New Delhi for which land has already been purchased. Pending construction of the permanent building the emporium will be housed in a hired building provided by the Ministry of Works and Housing. This has already been taken possession of.

(b)—The following are the causes for not opening an emporium at Bombay:—

(i) Despite efforts on several occasions, no suitable accommodation for the purpose could be found in a commercial area of Bombay.

(ii) Because of prevalence of 'Salami' system at Bombay, it is all the more difficult to get suitable accommodation there.

(c)—Yes, as stated in reply to question (a) above and provided suitable accommodation can be arranged at Bombay also.

Re: Government aid or loan to Photographers

Srimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

64. Will the Minister Industries be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any step has been taken at Governmental level to develop photography as Industry in Assam ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that Photographers are not given any aid or loan of any kind by the Government ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries) replied :

34 (a)—Photography is not treated as an Industry.

(b)—Yes, due to the reason stated in (1) (a) above.

Re: Gram in Government Buffer Stock at North Lakhimpur

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) asked :

65. Will the Minister, Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that some gram dal was sent to North Lakhimpur to store in Government buffer stock, if so what is the quantity ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that this quantity is unfit for human consumption ?

(c) Whether Government will please make an enquiry about the condition of the gram and its supplier ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied :

65. (a)—Government is aware that the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur has received 453 quintals 1 kg. and 600 grammes of gram (not gram dal) in the Government buffer stock sent from the Punjab.

(b)—Samples of the gram were examined by the Public Analyst to the Government of Assam. According to his report, there is no abnormality in the quality of gram except for presence of wheat.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA: Sir, in reply (b) it is stated that there was wheat with the grams. May I know from the hon. Minister why wheats were mixed with grams and who supplied grams to Assam which is unfit for human consumption ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The view of the expert, *i. e.*, the Public Health Analyst is very clear. He does not say that it is unfit for human consumption. He stated that samples of the gram were examined and according to his report there is no abnormality in the quality of gram except for presence of wheat.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was the percentage of wheat?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Very little. As it appears from the report the percentage was only 3.33.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Do grams grow in the wheat field? What was the reason for mixing grams with wheat?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: That I cannot say.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East): Why grams were mixed with wheat?

Mr. SPEAKER: Because it is cheaper.

Procedure of supplying Medicines to State Dispensaries

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

66. Will the Health Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the present procedure of supplying medicines to the State Dispensaries?
- (b) Whether medicines are supplied according to necessity of each dispensary or according to some fixed quotas as regards value sanctioned for each and of some classes of medicines of uniform pattern, irrespective of local needs and demands?
- (c) Whether Government have received complains about non-availability of even common medicines in the State dispensaries of Gauhati Subdivision?
- (d) What is the amount sanctioned for medicine annually for each of the State dispensaries?
- (e) What was the amount sanctioned for Gujya State Dispensary for medicine for the year 1964-65 and for 1965-66?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied :

66. (a)—The procedure is that the Dispensaries submit their indents of requirements for the year to the Civil Surgeons. The Civil Surgeons consolidate the indents and send to the Director of Health Services. The Civil Surgeons scrutinise the indents and omit items which are not approved for being stocked in Government Hospitals and Dispensaries. The Director of Health Services then invites tender for the approved items. The tenders are placed before the Purchase Board. The list and prices as approved by the Purchase Board are then circulated to the Civil Surgeons. They then place orders for supplies to the Dispensaries from the Purchase Board list within the limitation of available funds for the items, which are not available in the Central Medical Stores.

(b)—Medicines are supplied according to the indents from the Dispensaries within the allotted funds and subject to the items being approved for stocking in Dispensaries.

(c)—No such report has been officially received. But in November last a news item in a newspaper about alleged shortage of medicines was seen. On enquiry the Civil Surgeon reported that the report was not correct.

(d)—Generally a sum varying between Rs.2,000 and Rs.9,000 is allotted according to the number of patients but further amounts are sanctioned as and when justified by the number of patients and local circumstances subject again to the availability of funds.

(e)—Rupees 2,000 for medical stores and Rs.2,000 for instruments and apparatus were allotted in 1954-65 and Rs.4,000 for medical stores and Rs.2,000 for instruments and appliances in the current year.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: May I know from the hon. Minister, out of Rs.2,000 which was sanctioned for the dispensary, how much was utilised for purchase of medicines only?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I want notice for that.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Do Government consider Rs.2,000 as sufficient for a dispensary for a year for medicines and other instruments and appliances?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It all depends on the daily average number of patients in a dispensary. In any case I cannot say that it is enough for the purpose.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Does the Minister know that in that particular dispensary the monthly average number of patients is 1,600 to 2,000?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: That is under enquiry. When the matter was brought to my notice I asked to find out the number of patients and the next allotment will be made according to the daily average number of patients.

Re: Economy measure by the Jorhat Tea Company

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

67. Will the Minister, Labour be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a large number of employees are going to be retrenched by the Jorhat Tea Company on the plea of economy?

(b) If so, what is the number of such retrenched personnel?

(c) Whether Government have taken up the matter with the management?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health, Excise etc.) replied:

67. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise

(c)—The Labour Commissioner, had a discussion with the management of Jorhat Tea Company on 31st January 1966 and he was told that the Company is proposing to set up a Committee to examine the question of effecting economy in the several departments of the Company. The report is likely to be out by April next. The Labour Commissioner is in constant touch with the management and the Union.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, in reply to (c) it is stated "The Labour Commissioner, had a discussion with the management of Jorhat Tea Company on 31st January, 1966 and he was told that the Company is proposing to set up a Committee to examine the question of effecting economy in the several Department of the Company. The report is likely to be out by April next....." May I know from the hon. Minister that if the reply to (a) and (b) is "no" and "does not arise" then why the Labour Commissioner has been directed to have a discussion with the management of the Company?

Mr. SPEAKER: Reply to (a) is "no".

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, the word "large" is there in the question and that is why the answer is "no".

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether the Company is contemplating or has taken any decision to retrench some personnel?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, it is quite evident from the answer to (c).

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): Whether the Labour Commissioner enquired that the Company while proposing to set up a Committee will also examine the amount of expenditure by the Managing Agency and the Management will be taken into consideration?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: When the report will be received certainly the Labour Department will consider all these points.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: What is the number of persons retrenched till to-day?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I want notice of that question. I do not know for which period the information is required.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, in reply to my question (a) it is stated "no". But now the Minister has said that there has been retrenchment. How is it?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have never said so.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Whether the local labour unions will be associated with the enquiry?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot say that off-hand. The procedure that is followed in such cases will be followed in this case also.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): I think the Committee will be set up by the Company and not by the Government.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Whether the local unions will be associated with the enquiry?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Not in the initial stage, it is quite clear from the answer. If it is necessary, it will be done afterwards.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: On whose complaint the Labour Commissioner was deputed to examine it?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I cannot say who gave this information. But after the question was received the matter was taken up by the Government.

Badarpur Industrial Estate

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) asked :

Will the Minister-in-charge of Industries be pleased to state—

68. (a) When the Badarpur Industrial Estate in the District of Cachar will start functioning ?
 (b) Whether it is a fact that high salaried officers have been appointed for this Industrial Estate long before its inauguration ?
 (c) If so, who are they and what is their monthly salary ?
 (d) What is their present duty ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health, Excise, etc.) replied :

68. (a)—The Industrial Estate at Badarpur is expected to start functioning very soon.
 (b)—No.
 (c)—Does not arise in view of reply to question (b) above.
 (d)—Does not arise.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Is it not a fact that although it was not opened formally, yet the Industrial Estate is functioning now ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It may be inaugurated. The question was "when the Badarpur Industrial Estate in the District of Cachar will start functioning" and the answer is "The Industrial Estate at Badarpur is expected to start functioning very soon". It may be that some prospective clients are going there and arranging things.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: I have got my personal knowledge that the Estate is functioning.

Mr SPEAKER: If you have that information you need not put that question.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, the reply to (b) is "No". But is it not a fact that one Officer was appointed in the month of January and he is drawing a salary Rs.1200 to Rs.1,500 ? But Government says that no such officer was appointed. I know that another officer has been appointed. How is it ?

Mr. SPEAKER: He will take note of it.

Moulana ABDUL JALIL CHOWDHURY (Badarpur):
 বদরপুর Industrial Estate ৰ Calendaring Machine এর কিয়দংশ ভেঙে গিয়েছে বলে সরকার জানেন কি? যদি কোনো officer এর নিযুক্তি হয় না তাহলে ইহা পরিচালিত কি ভাবে হয় ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: সেই খবর আমার নেই।

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): No expert was brought from outside. It was done by some low-paid employees who are working there as 4th Grade employees and machineries worth Rs.3,000 have gone forever.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have no such information.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: Will the Minister take the trouble of enquiring into it?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Certainly.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, the question was "whether it is a fact that high salaried officers have been appointed for this Industrial Estate long before its inauguration" and the answer is "no". Is it not a fact that high salaried officers have already been appointed?

Mr. SPEAKER: When you know this, what more information do you like to have from the Minister?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: In that case the reply should have been "yes".

Mr. SPEAKER: When you have given the information the Minister will make an enquiry.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: When the Minister-in-charge of a particular Department is coming to give reply to this or that question, Sir, it is expected that he should come prepared with facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, yes, but as you know he is not the Minister-in-charge. As the Minister-in-charge is out on public duty, he is acting on his behalf. Therefore, all the information that are required by the hon. Members may not be available with him readily at the moment. He may therefore request for some notice so that he may collect those information and supply them, and in the meantime, if he has given any wrong information I suppose he could not help it.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, whether the Minister-in-charge is out or not, we are not concerned with that. What we are concerned with is the correct information in reply to our questions, whether this is being given by the Minister-in-charge or any other Minister on his behalf.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Yes, Sir, we want correct information.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharjee, you have the correct information with you already. Is not it? Therefore, you have no need to put the question to the hon. Minister again.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: But, Sir, there is implication of putting this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: He will say that he will follow up the matter and if necessary he can supply the information tomorrow.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, I want to draw your attention to this. I say, Sir, before this House that this information supplied by the hon. Minister is not correct. We want your protection, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: We want your protection, Sir. We are not concerned whether the Minister In-charge is out or not. We want the correct information. And this information is not correct, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot say it is incorrect. I would say it may not be up-to-date. It cannot be said that it is incorrect. He may not have up-to-date information with him readily. I therefore request the hon. Minister to supply up-to-date information about functioning of the Badarpur Industrial Estate, employment of any high-salaried officer, and handling of the calendaring machinery by a layman, a IV Grade employee, tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: These will be answered to on Monday next, Sir.

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Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, regarding the Unstarred Question about the Badarpur Industrial Estate certain information has been given by the Minister here in the House earlier to-day. Sir, so far as my information goes, the Badarpur Industrial Estate has not started functioning. But the Calendar machine has been installed there and there had been experimental running of the machine. An officer was appointed for the Calendaring plant. It is gathered that a lever of that machine had cracked while trial running of that machine was going on. The suppliers of the machine will have to rectify it under the terms of the guarantee. In the mean time, Sir, an officer with a scale of Rs.1,000—1,300 has been appointed. It may be that, Sir, this question came before this appointment.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, we would like to be posted with facts and up-to-date information. So, Sir, we would like to know further on Monday next.

✓ **Privilege Motion for withholding of information by the Chief Minister relating to the situation in the Mizo Hills**

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a notice of the Privilege Motion from the hon. Members Shri Williamson A. Sangma, Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha, Shri Brington Buhai Lyngdoh, Shri Stanley D. D. Nichols-Roy, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, Shri Rothindra Nath Sen and Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee regarding the statement made by the hon. Chief Minister on the floor of the House yesterday. Before I admit the Privilege Motion I would like to hear from the hon. Members on the admissibility of the motion. Now, the hon. Members may submit their views.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know, yesterday morning in reply to the Calling attention motion moved by my friend Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee, a subsequent question was put to the hon. Chief Minister by my friend Shri Dulal Chandra Barua with regard to the missing Assam Rifles Platoon which was reported earlier in the Press. The hon. Chief Minister said that as the matter relates to the military operation, he could not disclose it in the House. Sir, about five minutes later we came out of the House and we saw a copy of the Assam Tribune of March 10th, 1966, in the Assembly Library in which there was a front page headline—"Nine Assam Rifles men killed by Mizo Hostiles."

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sangma, first of all you move the motion and then you give your views.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Then, Sir, I will read out as follows:

Under Rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, we hereby wish rather beg to move a motion for breach of privilege of the House and the members thereof committed by the Chief Minister and the leader of the House on 10th March, 1966 at about 10-40 a.m.

The facts are as follows:—

At about 10-40 a.m. the Speaker announced that he had received an adjournment motion from Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee, Shri Dulal Barua, Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha and Shri Rathindra Nath Sen. He stated that the motion related to the situation in Mizo Hills which had been already discussed previously in the House and that he therefore disallowed the motion. But the Speaker requested the Chief Minister to make a statement or give the latest information, if any, on the situation in the Mizo Hills and particularly about the subject matter of the adjournment motion. The Chief Minister then stood up and made a statement informing the House of some of the latest developments but remarked that he could not give any information about operational matters. At that stage Shri Dulal Chandra Barua requested the Chief Minister to give the latest information about the missing Platoon of the Assam Rifles in Mizo Hills which was reported earlier in the press. The Chief Minister stood up and said that it was an operational matter which in the public interest he could not disclose in the House. About five minutes later we came out of the House and we saw a copy of the *Assam Tribune* of March 10th, 1966, in the Assembly Library in which there was a front page headline—“Nine Assam Rifles men killed by Mizo Hostiles”. The above news item was disclosed to the press by “an official spokesman” who is reported to have stated that “one J. C. O. and eight other ranks of an Assam Rifles Platoon were ambushed and killed by armed Mizo rebels between March, 1 and 7”. The above platoon was the same platoon about which Shri Dulal Chandra Barua had put a question in the House and the Chief Minister had refused to give any information saying that it was an operational matter.

The abovementioned refusal of the Chief Minister to give the information to the House, but whereas the same information was made available to the press by the Government official spokesman, the previous day, is a clear breach of privilege of the House in session, which has the privilege and right to know the above matter first and foremost before the press and the public. The Chief Minister by this action has clearly shown that he does not want to take the members of the House into confidence. Hence this privilege motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you want to submit anything more, you may submit.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, in this connection I would like to read out the relevant rule regarding the admissibility of the privilege motion.

The rule says.

“The right to raise a question of privilege shall be governed by the following conditions :—

Not more than one question shall be raised at the same sitting ;.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Sangma, you are concerning sub-rule (iii). Therefore, you are to explain how the matter comes before the House. It will be better if you read out the relevant portion of the subject.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : Sir, yesterday when the hon. Chief Minister completed his brief speech Shri Dulal Chandra Barua made a reference with regard to the missing platoon. The hon. Chief Minister refused to give the information to the House on the ground that it relates to operational matter. But it is really surprising as to how this same information was made available to the press.

Mr. SPEAKER : Wherefrom you get the information ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : Now, I will read out the relevant portion from the Newspaper, *Assam Tribune*. “Shillong, March 9— One J.C.O. and eight other ranks of an Assam Rifles platoon were ambushed and killed by armed Mizo rebels between March 1 and 7. One J.C.O. and five other ranks returned to their base at Demagiri on the Pakistan border of Mizo Hills. Disclosing this an official spokesman said here today that this platoon was sent out to Lungleh from Demagiri on March, 1 for the relief of the Assam Rifles and the Border Security Force at Lungleh who were surrounded and fired on by the armed bands besieging the town”. So, Sir, this is the same platoon.

So, Sir, when Shri Dulal Barua made a reference to the particular platoon which was missing on the 3rd March last, the hon. Chief Minister yesterday expressed his inability to give the information. Yesterday, the Chief Minister said that he was not in a position, in public interest, to disclose anything as it was an operational matter. You will, therefore, agree that if that was the real reason for not disclosing it to the House, how was it possible, for his own officer to make this information known to the Press ? Therefore, it is clearly a case of breach of privilege, because a matter which could not be placed in the House, could be made available to the Press. It would, therefore, follow that the House could not be taken into confidence whereas the Press could be taken into confidence. I, therefore, submit that it is clearly a case of breach of privilege of the House and also of the Members.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, in support of the contention made by the hon. Member from this side of the House in moving the Motion, I would like to speak a few words. Sir, yesterday we moved an Adjournment Motion and you have ruled it out saying that the matter has already been discussed threadbare earlier and there is scope to discuss it in future. But you requested the hon. Chief Minister to make a statement when we specifically made reference in the Adjournment Motion about the missing platoon which was sent from Demagiri to Lungleh to reinforce the security force stations at Lungleh and who were surrounded by the hostiles. But at the time the Chief Minister was kind enough to give some information. He, however, did not give any clarification on certain points raised from our side in the Adjournment Motion. Sir, he clearly stated in his statement thus: "I would like to submit to the House that it would not be desirable in public interest to disclose any operational information at this time." Sir, we agreed to that. Again, when I raised the question about the missing platoon of Assam Riflemen the Chief Minister replied: "This is an operational information which I do not like to disclose at this time in public interest." But, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this information has already been published in the newspapers through a Government spokesman. Sir, I do not know the reason for which the Chief Minister did not like to disclose this information to the House. Sir, you have also stated: "The portion which can be disclosed has already been disclosed. About the operational information, he cannot disclose it at the moment." Then, Sir, I asked about the first column which was proceeding towards Lungleh. Then, the Chief Minister said, "There is no question of one column. Various information will crop up as to what has happened in the Mizo Hills. Some forces might have gone to some places, some might come back, some might be ambushed and some might be engaged in operational work. All these informations I cannot disclose." But, Sir, after going out, we found that the information which the Chief Minister withheld from us had been published in the papers. One of the Government spokesmen disclosed the information even when the Session was going on. Sir, we agreed to your ruling that we cannot compel a Minister to give information. But, Sir the hon. Members of this House are the first persons who should get the first hand information and these things should not be allowed to go to the Press before being placed in the House. But, the hon. Chief Minister while on the one hand refused to disclose the information on the plea that these are operational information, a high Government spokesman, on the other hand disclosed the information to the press on the day before, thereby depriving us our privilege. The Chief Minister did not take the House into confidence which we are entitled to. Sir, in considering all these things, I think, Sir, you will be pleased to allow this Privilege Motion, as there is clear breach of privilege committed by no less a person than the Chief Minister, the leader of the House to whom we look for safeguards of our privileges. So, Sir, I would submit again that you would be pleased to allow this Privilege Motion.

***Shri BRIGNTON BUHAI LYNGDOH (Nongpoh, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel this motion relates to a matter which affects very seriously the breach, right and dignity of the House itself. We learnt from the Press yesterday that the fate of the,

*Speech not corrected.

missing platoon was in the knowledge of the Government, at any rate, on the 9th and that was no longer an operational matter. Nine of them were killed. Therefore, I fail to understand how the information that these nine men were killed and ambushed can be an operational matter, which cannot be disclosed. However, we have accepted the statement of the Chief Minister and the reason for refusal to give this information about the missing platoon.

Therefore, what shocks us and with what great surprise after 5 minutes of our Chief Minister, our Leader of the House depriving us of the very same fact and the very same information, it appeared in the *Assam Tribune* in bold headlines which was given to the Press by a spokesman of the Government of Assam, while the Chief Minister knew this news for 2 to 3 nights and kept it concealed from this august House and the very fact was exposed to the press. Therefore, I feel it a breach of privilege and a serious breach of privilege that the Chief Minister and the Leader of this House has not only concealed a very important information from this House but this very information has been given to the Press by a spokesman of the Government thus revealing the fact to the public at large and to the Press. Sir, this Assembly is a sovereign body and this Government is the creation of this august House. It is the foremost duty of the Government to pass this information to this House first and this is the first privilege of this House to know about any matter of importance that happens in this State and about any action or any omissions on the part of the Government which occurs in this State. Sir, the recent upheaval in the Mizo Hills is a great concern to this House and that the news of killing of some and missing of some or one Platoon of the Assam Rifles is a great incident and therefore, it is the utmost concern of this House to know the fate of those people in detail by this House. Therefore, it is the first privilege and the right of the House to get first the information regarding the missing and killing of some people of a platoon and we are deprived of this and a spokesman of the Government gave it out to the Press, therefore it is a serious breach of privilege on the part of the Chief Minister, the Leader of the House as he knew this news since news before 9th, i.e., before the date this news appeared in the Press. The whole matter was known to the Chief Minister but he concealed this and denied the information to this august House. Therefore, I submit that this privilege to know first about the fate of this Platoon of the Assam Rifles has been infringed by the Chief Minister by concealing the same to this House, although through adjournment motions and through questions repeatedly the Members of this House sought such information from the Chief Minister. Therefore, this Motion is quite in order and since it is a very serious matter it fulfils the conditions of Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in this House, that the matter requires the intervention of the House.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 158 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of this House, we have moved this motion and under this rule it is quite in order as the first part of the rule, (i) not more than one question shall be raised at the same sitting, and we have moved one question in the same sitting; (ii) the question shall be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence. This condition has been

also fulfilled as this is a matter of yesterday and thus of recent occurrence. (iii) The matter requires the intervention of the House, Sir, this condition is also fulfilled because this incident took place on the night of 9th March, 1966 and the newsitem was published in *Assam Tribune* with the headline, "Missing of a Platoon" and it was stated in the *Assam Tribune* that this Platoon started from Demagiri towards Lungleh when it was apprehended by hostiles, so we brought an Adjournment Motion yesterday to this House but you were kind enough to disallow it and you asked the Chief Minister to make a statement on the latest situation of the Mizo Hills.

Now, Sir, our Leader and some of our hon. Members have already stated that the Chief Minister refused to give the information as it concerns an operational matter. Sir, the House is in session and it is first and foremost privilege of the House to get this information but instead we have found that this information was published in the *Assam Tribune* before giving us the same and therefore, we have brought this privilege motion before this House for the fact that our privilege has been infringed upon by the Chief Minister and the Leader of the House. This is an important matter and urgent matter requiring intervention of the House not only by the hon. Members of this side of the House but by all hon. Members of the House. So, I submit that this privilege motion should be allowed to be moved.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to make this motion admissible, the hon Members have got first to establish that there is a such privilege and that the same has been violated or breached. In all the speeches delivered just now in support of the motion, nothing has been shown that there is a privilege of the House or of the hon. Members with regard to the matters referred to in the motion. Sir, so long we do not enact a law either in this House or in the Parliament, under the Constitution of India the privilege of the hon. Members and of either of the Houses of Parliament or of the Assembly shall be the same as those of the Members of and of the British Parliament. In order to show that there was an existing privilege that has been violated, the hon. Members will have to show at first with reference to some enactment or the rules of procedure, customs, etc., established either by law or precedences, of the British House of Commons that there was such a privilege and therefore, the same privilege was or is available to us. Merely by asserting by words of mouth that this is our privilege and this has been violated, a new privilege cannot be created. Sir, even the House of Commons cannot create a new privilege. More says, "Though the British Parliament has struggled for the various privileges, it has been agreed that neither House of Parliament has power, by any vote or declaration, to create to themselves new privileges, not warranted by the known Laws and Customs of Parliament." The position with regard to us is as follows :

"But this decision, arrived at by the agreement of both the Houses in the United Kingdom, is not and will not be binding on the Indian Legislatures which have almost unrestricted powers to define by law, from time to time the privileges of each House of Parliament and of the members and, therefore, they can create new privileges not known to the British Parliament".

Sir, this is at page 169 of the Book, "Practice and Procedure of Indian Parliament" by Mr. S. S. More. Thus, it is clear that we can create new privilege only by enacting a law.

Now, Sir, withholding of information on the ground of security of the State from the house by a Minister is perfectly legitimate one.

It is perfectly legitimate for a Minister to treat some information as confidential and withhold the same from the House on the ground of public interest and the security of the State. In fact, whether an information should at all be disclosed or if disclosed, how much of it should be disclosed is a privilege of the Minister himself and you have rightly on many occasions held in this House in the past that you could not compel a Minister to give information if he was not willing to give. Sir, the same ruling has been given in the Parliament as well. Although our rules are not exhaustive but illustrative in nature I refer to them in this connection.

Sir, I refer to Rule 37, sub-clause 19 and Rule 293, of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly. I will read them for the benefit of the hon. Members—

Rule 37, sub-clause 19: "It shall not seek information about matters which in their nature are secret, such as, decisions or proceedings of the Cabinet, advice given to the Governor by Law Officers and other subjects, the disclosure of which is against public interest." Then again, Sir, Rule 293 says; I am reading the proviso—"Provided that this rule shall not apply to documents which are stated by the Minister to be of such a nature that their production would be inconsistent with public interest."

Therefore, Sir, these two Rules which are illustrative in nature as I said before, show that an information can and could be withheld from the House. This privilege has been extended to the Government and the Government Servants in the Indian Evidence Act in Sections 123 to 126. Sir, I need not read them and take the time of the House. The sum total of these provisions is that nobody can be compelled to produce documents or give evidence with regard to the affair of the State. This is what I am seeking to emphasise that it is perfectly legitimate and within the law established in this country to withhold information with regard to the affairs of the State. The law of evidence has also given a clear privilege to the Executive to decide as to which document or a part of the document or which information or a part of the information should be disclosed and which should be withheld from a Court of Law. Sir, that being the position it was perfectly legitimate on the part of the Chief Minister when he did not disclose certain information on the ground of public interest.

Next question: it appears from the notice, Sir, that the hon. Members have felt aggrieved that "the Chief Minister by this action has clearly shown that he does not want to take the Members of the House into confidence and so they consider it to be a breach of privilege. Sir, there is also a way provided in our Rules as to how the hon. Members may be taken into confidence in this House in matters considered confidential. In this connection, Sir, I would like to refer to Rules 188 to 192 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly. Sir, in these Rules it is clearly laid down as to what procedure is to be followed in holding Secret Sitzings of the Assembly, no such procedure was ever invoked in this

particular case by the hon. Members who have now felt aggrieved. The hon. Members did not ask them to be taken into confidence in a secret session under these Rules. They could have done so if they were keen to have the information which the Chief Minister withheld. In this case it was not done. It was done by way of putting certain questions openly after bringing an adjournment motion. The Chief Minister did not give them openly for public interest. I again say it was perfectly legitimate on his part; Sir, there are two grounds given in the motion—one is that the Chief Minister did not take them into confidence and the other is that the House in session had the “privilege and right to know the above matter first and foremost before the Press and the Public”. In a secret matter like this, Sir, there is, as I have already said, a distinct procedure to be followed in taking the hon. Members into confidence. There was no such occasion here and therefore, there could be no occasion for a breach of privilege. Sir, the next contention is that it is the right of the hon. Member to know matters first and foremost before the Press and the Public. Sir, this, I say, to be an effort to create a new privilege for the hon. Members.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : This is the convention.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs) : Sir, a convention is not a privilege. A privilege is something much more than a convention. Violation of a convention may be decried but cannot be punished ; but violation of a privilege amounts to an offence for which one can be punished by the House.

Sir, I have gone through the Six Chapters of May's Parliamentary Practice, the Bible on the parliamentary practice, dealing with the subject and I will also request you to go through them, but I have not come across a single case where the House of Commons took cognizance of any complaint of a breach of privilege for not disclosing any information in the House first. I have gone through the Rules of the Lok Sabha and the directions given by the Speaker. In none of these also I have come across a single case where such a matter like this had been held to have constituted a breach of privilege. Similarly More's Practice and Procedure of Indian Parliament did not lay down any such rule. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that for disclosing an information by an officer outside the House he has at all committed a breach of privilege. However, there is no motion against the officer. The Chief Minister himself did not at all give the information outside either before or after his refusal to give the same to the hon. Members in the House. The hon. Members should not have taken without any facts before them to justify that while the Chief Minister had refused to give the information in this House, had given the same to the Press outside. There is no vicarious liability in a matter like this of the Chief Minister with the Chief Secretary.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : Does the hon. Minister mean that the officer concerned did not take permission from the Chief Minister, does he mean that the officer concerned disclosed the information to the Press without the permission of the Chief Minister ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs) : Sir, the vicarious liability is a matter of Civil Court. There is no such consideration in a criminal case. When we discuss a privilege matter our position is somewhat analogous to a court exercising criminal jurisdiction. We must see if a charge has been made out.

There is no case against the Chief Minister. He is in the position where he had been yesterday. So far Government is concerned our stand, even today, is that so far as operational matters are concerned, we do not disclose them in the House till the Mizo hills operation is going on. Therefore, as I have stated, first of all it will have to be shown that every information will have to be disclosed to the House, that is the privilege of the House. While dealing with this question I beg to state that it has not been shown either by quoting any law or precedent that it is the privilege of the House that they shall get information concerning the Government affairs first and they shall have to be disclosed to the House first. Therefore, if it is not established, there is no privilege. If there is no privilege there is no question of a breach of the same.

Sir, hundreds of officers in the State in various places in the course of their duty disclose one or the other information to the public. At least not less than 14 Public Relations Officers are functioning in the subdivisions and they are giving information to the people every now and then. The Press Relations Officers in the subdivisions might have given information about important matters while the Assembly is in session. Can that constitute any offence and consequently a breach of privilege? First of all I am arguing one point, *viz.*, that there is no privilege which says that all information must be disclosed in the House. Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee has put it correctly if he does not deny now that it is 'expected' of us that information should be disclosed in the House first. I quite agree that the normal expectation of the House is that Government should speak about important matters through it and disclose such information in the House. If it is not done it may not be desirable to do so but it does not constitute an offence as this is not a privilege of the House; otherwise there will be considerable difficulties in the functioning of a Government. Everywhere people are giving information. Even some of the Ministers today after the House is over may preside over some functions and in course of their speeches may disclose about certain things. How can the House say that there will be a breach of privilege because the information has been given out by the Minister when the House is in session. So, my contention is that there is no known privilege which can be said to have been breached. There cannot be a privilege that all the information should be disclosed in the House, I repeat.

Now, the next question is regarding the 9th March publication in the *Assam Tribune* referred to by the hon. Members. Sir, there was the publication on 9th March on which the adjournment motion was based and which has been referred to by the hon. Members. It is said there that "the platoon sent out on March 1, has not so far reported at the destination and efforts to contact them have not so far succeeded. It was quite likely, the spokesman said, that some of the people have been ambushed but he completely discounted the suggestion that it might have surrendered to the armed gangs. "This was the news published on March 9, basing on which the adjournment motion was tabled. The present motion tabled is on the basis of the information contained in the *Assam Tribune*, dated the 10th March. The hon. Members have neither proved nor cared to enquire from the Government if the news, as published in the *Assam Tribune* dated the 10th March, is correct.

The Chief Secretary's contention is this; I will read the whole of this. "Some news has come out in the *Assam Tribune* of date attributing a statement of an official that 9 Assam Rifles men have been killed. There is, under Central instruction, a Centralised briefing of the Press with me and the P.R.O. At the meeting when asked about the fate of the Assam Rifles Platoon, which has set out from Demagiri, it was said that the information was that 1 J. C. O. and 5 other ranks had got back to Demagiri and that may be 1 J. C. O. and 80 Rs. had been waylaid. There was no mention of their being killed. As the briefing by word of mouth the possibility of misreporting or misunderstanding is there. In the circumstances there will now be a brief written handout.

Of course, the possibility of questioning on this and some scope for misunderstanding may still remain.

I greatly regret the unintended embarrassment to C. M. and can only assure him that certainly also no operational news was intended to be given.

It appears the Paper representative misunderstood the position because of the verbal briefing of the news."

Therefore, Sir, the information contained in the news on which this motion is based is not correct, according to the official spokesman himself. He said that he did not say 9 Assam Rifle men as killed. He only spoke on this occasion of something which was not different from what was published on the earlier date on which the adjournment motion was based. 'The spokesman' says that because the briefing was in the words of mouth there was scope for misunderstanding. So when it was said that they were missing the Press on their own deduction took them as killed. Sir, 'the spokesman' never disclosed about killing of the 9 Assam Rifle men by the Mizo hostiles. So, Sir, there is really no difference between the news on which the adjournment was based with the news which the Official spokesman disclosed later on.

Mr. SPEAEKR : Then that was a wrong report ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Certainly wrong. If what has been written by the Chief Secretary in his own handwriting which I have read is taken to be correct then there is no new disclosure by the 'official spokesman.' As I have said, Sir, even if there was any disclosure of this nature by a Secretary whether a privilege motion can come up against the Chief Minister for the conduct of an officer of the Government is a matter to be considered dispassionately. An officer does something which is not in the policy of Government.

The Government is entitled to punish him. For that reason the Minister is not hauled up for contempt. There is no vicarious liability in a matter like this as I have already stated. It will be an eminently wrong procedure if we take seisin of this matter. Even if an Officer does something wrong which is not within the policy of the Government the House always asks the Minister to punish that officer. Frequently spate of questions are put "Why this Officer or that Officer is not punished for doing certain wrongs?" Has the House ever taken a

decision that because a wrong had been done by somebody which was not authorised by the Minister, as the present case is, that the Minister should be punished for contempt? This will be a very wrong thing. So, Sir, from whatever point this matter is looked at, I would humbly submit that no *prima facie* case has been made out and you should hold the motion as inadmissible. If it is put to the House for leave I would request the House to refuse leave.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A SANGMA : Sir, the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has referred to so many laws and rulings. Sir, the matter is very very simple. Hon. Members of this House wanted certain very important information from the hon. Chief Minister. Is it not the privilege, is it not the right of the hon. Members of the House to elicit information from the Minister? Sir, I would request you to realise this fact.

Mr. SPEAKER : But according to our Rules I cannot compel the Minister to give that information.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A SANGMA : The Chief Minister has stated that this matter relates to operational matters and as such he is not prepared to disclose it, and he regretted his inability. Sir, you correctly said that you cannot compel the Minister to reply and to give information. At that stage we became helpless. But after going out from the House it had come to our notice that the same information which was sought by the hon. Members of this House but which was denied had been made available to the Press previously. If it was a security matter or an operational matter and in the interest of public the Chief Minister did not want to disclose that information how was it possible that the same information was made available to the Press? Does it not mean that the Press is more privileged than the hon. Members of the House? When the Press could get the information the previous day the Members of the House were denied that right. That it was security matter and as such it could not and cannot be discussed in the House, as advocated by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs who is also an Advocate, I would have agreed to that, but he had forgotten that the same information which was denied to the Members of the House was made available to the Press. What type of a Press Conference the Chief Secretary had with anybody we are not concerned. We are only concerned with the question which is before the House. The simple matter was that an information was sought for by the Hon. Members of the House from the Chief Minister which was denied but the same information was made available to the Press the previous day. This is the matter which must be appreciated. We do not know whether the Chief Secretary went out of his way in giving out the information without getting the approval from the Chief Minister, but it is surprising how the Chief Secretary could act according to his own desire. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has stated that the Chief Secretary did not take approval of the Chief Minister, and, as such, the Chief Minister is not responsible and no privilege could be brought against him. It may be that the Press in taking out the information released by the Chief Secretary some confusion may be there but we are not concerned about that. We are concerned about the fact that the hon. Members of the House had been denied some information on the ground that it is

an operational matter, but the same information was made available to the Press the previous day. Is it not an infringement of the privilege of the Members of the House? Are we not supposed to know the situation prevailing in the State? If it is the intention of the Government that the hon. Members of the House should not be allowed to know something regarding the situation prevailing in the State, then, I do not know why this House is existing. Therefore, my submission before you, Sir, is that this is a fit case of privilege, this serious matter of infringing the right of the House, the privilege of the House should not be allowed to go by default. I would, therefore, request that the Motion may kindly be admitted.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member from this side of the House has already met the points raised by the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs. The hon. Minister has stated that what the Chief Secretary was doing the Chief Minister might not be aware. But that is not the fact. We put the Adjournment Motion on the basis of paper report and we got the information later on, after about five minutes of our going out of the House in the paper which was denied to us by the Chief Minister. We are not so much concerned whether the statement given to the press had some little difference with the press communique issued by the Chief Secretary, but we are concerned about the news which was discussed in this House. We raised this discussion and we were discussing this matter and the House is in session, nobody should forget it.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot hold the Minister responsible for any act of omission or commission on the part of officers.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Again, Sir, the Minister-in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs has committed a breach of privilege by giving some afterthought things. Sir, In May's Parliamentary Practice, at page 113 it is stated "it is a breach of privilege to present or cause to be presented to either House or to Committees of either House, forged, falsified or fabricated documents with intent to deceive such House..."

Mr. SPEAKER: How can you say that it is a fabricated thing?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The hon. Member is going too far that I presented before the House a fabricated document.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Again in page 40 of May's Parliamentary Practice it is seen that giving false things or fabrication or suppression of truth is a case of breach of privilege. Here the hon. Chief Minister has suppressed the truth. He did not disclose the truth here in this House whereas his agency has disclosed it to the press and public. It is a suppression of facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not suppression of facts. You can say that he did not disclose it for legitimate reasons.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: He suppressed it on the plea that it was an operational matter.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, the hon. Member may be presented with a copy of the Chamber's Dictionary.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : In literary term suppression is there in the Dictionary. I would request the hon. Minister-in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs to study the proper meaning of the word. I would request him to go to the Library and to see the proper meaning of the word by consulting the Chamber's Dictionary.

Now, Sir, my submission is that even you also requested the Chief Minister to say something about this matter but the Chief Minister did not disclose the fact in the House on the plea that it was an operational matter but the Chief Secretary disclosed it to the Press and Public. This is our main point.

Mr. SPEAKER : That point was not disputed by any hon. Member. The moot point is whether for any act of omission or commission on the part of the Officers, the Minister can be made liable.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister is representing the Government and he did not disclose this fact before the House yesterday. Now, the hon. Minister-in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs wants to make a water-tight compartment between the Government and the Officers. It is not so because the Chief Minister is the head of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER : You can demand a probe against the Officer but for that reason you cannot make the Minister liable.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : The Minister ought to have told like that. But he is trying to protect the Chief Secretary. Therefore, the arguments put forward by the hon. Minister-in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs cannot be accepted. I would, therefore, request you to allow this privilege motion.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East) : The Minister is not responsible for any act of Officers.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : He is responsible because he is above the Officers. Shri Lal Bahadur Sastri, the then Railway Minister resigned because of the fault of the Officers.

(Many hon. Members stood up to speak and there was chaos in the House.)

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order, please.

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : Sir, on one point I want to submit. The question is whether this House was entitled to have the information which was public. This question has not yet been answered by the Minister-in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs. It is a question of privilege of this House that a matter which had already been Public on the previous day was not disclosed in this House by the Leader of the House. This is the main question.

Mr. SPEAKER : Suppose he did not disclose certain information, will it constitute a breach of privilege?

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY : This was the privilege of the House to know a thing which is no longer secret. It was disclosed by the Chief Secretary to the Press and therefore we were privileged to have this information.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, on the admissibility of the motion my colleague has already submitted to House. I would only like to submit to the House that the desirability of not disclosing the operational matters, I suppose, is accepted by all. Here I would like to make one thing clear that no Press communique or Press note was issued, at least on that day. Sir, according to certain arrangements made with the Army it was decided that there should be briefing to the Press by the Chief Secretary and the Public Relations Officer of the Army. They sit together and brief the Press. Yesterday as soon as I got the copy of the Privilege Motion I sent for the Chief Secretary. I had no time to go through the newspaper and so I wanted to know from him what was the briefing to the Press. My colleague read out what the Chief Secretary told to the Press I would read out again:—"asked about the fate of the Assam Rifle platoon which had set out from Demagiri it was stated that the information was that on J.C.O. and five other ranks have got back to Demagiri and that may be one J.C.O. and 8 other ranks have been way-laid". There was no mention of their being killed. This is what he has given me in writing. Sir, I cannot take the responsibility for the publications in the Press. Sir, the House may blame me for not giving that much of information which the Chief Secretary at least disclosed to the Press that one J.C.O. and 8 other ranks had got back to Demagiri and that may be one J.C.O. and 8 other ranks had been way laid. To the extent that I did not give a bit of information to the House they may find fault with me, I did give this information because I did not know that this much of information was disclosed by the Chief Secretary to the Press.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: On a point of clarification, Sir, may I know whether the Chief Secretary does not consult with the Chief Minister before he gives information to the Press people?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): No, Sir, it is not necessary for the Chief Secretary always to consult me. I was saying Sir, certainly the House can blame me whatever information was given to the Press at least that much information I should have given to the House. To that extent I may be held guilty, but for the rest about killing and all that how could we say that there was any killing when we do not have any such information? In the Chief Secretary's briefing also there was no mention of their being killed. I have already said, it would not be desirable in public interest to disclose any operational information. That is all I have to submit, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I reserve my ruling till Monday next.

Calling Attention to a matter of urgent public importance—News-item published in the "Hindusthan Standard", dated the 12th February 1966 under the caption 'Dibrugarh Students' Resentment'

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to a matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, that is, the news-item published in the 'Hindusthan Standard', dated 12th February 1966 under the caption "Dibrugarh Students' resentment" wherein it is stated that the students of some

educational institutions of Dibrugarh abstained from their classes on 9th February 1966 as a mark of protest and resentment against the Government inaction in controlling the heavy traffic on the road due to which many road accidents took place including the accident which had taken place in Dibrugarh on the 8th February 1966 in which a military truck knocked down three students on their way to school, one of whom died on the spot and two others seriously injured. Sir, this is a matter of vital importance concerning the safety of the people of the State and the demands made by the students are perfectly justified. Sir, you are fully aware of the fact that the number of road accidents is increasing day by day and there is no safety for the lives of the pedestrians. Therefore, Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Chief Minister whether any investigation has been made into this accident that took place on 9th February 1966 in Dibrugarh as a result of which one school student was killed and two others seriously injured; whether any relief has been given to the family of the deceased; and whether Government have taken any effective steps to control the heavy vehicular traffic. We have been told that one Committee was constituted to examine the feasibility and that Committee has put forward certain recommendations in respect of traffic control measures. But till today we have not seen the implementation of those recommendations for which road accidents and loss of life are on the increase. Therefore, Sir, I want definite information from the Chief Minister whether any traffic control measures as recommended by the Committee have been implemented or whether the Government is going to take definite steps to controlling the rash driving and heavy motor traffic to prevent road accidents and to protect the life of the people. And for that purpose I have brought this Calling Attention motion, Sir.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 8th February at 9-30 A.M. one army vehicle knocked down Sarvashri Siba Prasad Hazarika, Monob Kumar Hazarika and Promode Kumar Hazarika, all students of Government Aided Public High School, Dibrugarh on Assam Trunk Road in front of Gabharupathar Police Beat House within the Dibrugarh Municipality on their way to School. As a result Shri Siba Prasad Hazarika died at the spot and the other two sustained injuries. The injured students were immediately removed to the Assam Medical College Hospital for treatment. Immediately after the occurrence, a large number of students and others appeared at the spot and prevented the Police from removing the dead body. They became very much agitated. The Superintendent of Police rushed to the spot and after long persuasion succeeded in removing the dead body for post-mortem examination. The students and others followed the dead body and after the post-mortem examination, they held a meeting at Thana Charali, Dibrugarh with the dead body. The Speakers criticised the Traffic Branch of the Police for alleged inefficiency in controlling traffic. They also criticised the District Authority for inadequate steps to expand the existing roads with facility of footpath. The army personnel were also criticised for rash driving, etc. The students formed an Action Committee and organised a students' strike on February, 9. The students of all educational institutions except those of the Assam Medical College came of their classes and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town. It culminated in a meeting where resolutions demanding compensation to the parents of the deceased, immediate steps to bring the culprit to book, adequate measures to control vehicular traffic in the town were adopted. On February 10th, a few representatives of the students submitted copies of the above resolutions in the form of a memorandum to

the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur. In connection with the accident a case under Sections 279/338/304 (A) I. P. C. was registered at Dibrugarh Police Station against the military driver who was arrested for rash and negligent driving and investigation is proceeding under direct supervision of superior Police officers. Sir, these road accidents, as I have said in one of my earlier speeches, are becoming very frequent. The recommendations which the Committee submitted are in the process of executions. The increase of traffic has been very considerable. The hon. Member have noticed that in the meantime the trunk road has been widened and also Government have assisted Municipal Boards for construction of foot in paths in the towns. In any case, I feel quite concerned about the increasing number of motor accidents. Sir, we have not paid any compensation to the parents of those students killed and injured. Actually claim for compensation has to be filed before the Claims Tribunal and I hope the parents of the unfortunate students must have filed their claims before the Tribunal.

General Discussion of the Budget

Shri RUPRAM SUT (Nowgong): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহাশয় কালি সদনত মই কৈছিলো যে আমাৰ নিম্ন মাধ্যমিক স্তৰত বিভিন্ন ধৰণৰ শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থা বৰখাৰ কাৰণে নানা বেমেজালিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। মই আশী কৰিছিলো যে এই বছৰৰ বাজেটত নিম্ন মাধ্যমিক স্তৰৰ সকলো স্কুলৰ বিনা মাচুলে শিক্ষা দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰাৰ দিহা হব, কিন্তু সেই ব্যৱস্থাৰ দিহা নোহোৱা দেখি অসন্তোষ প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো। মই অনুৰোধ কৰো যে অহা বছৰৰ পৰাই সদৌ অসমত নিম্ন মাধ্যমিক স্তৰৰ শিক্ষা বিনা মাচুলীয়া হোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত যি অসামঞ্জস্যতা আছে সেই বিলাক দৰ হব, অৰ্থাৎ M. V., M.E., M.E., Madrasa আৰু চিনিওৰ বেচিক স্কুলৰ অৱসান ঘটি এক পাঠ্যক্রমৰ একোবিধ স্কুল গঢ়ি উঠিব। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে লক্ষ্য গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে যে, উঠি অহা সকলো ছাত্ৰছাত্ৰীকে অন্তত: হাইস্কুলৰ পৰ্যায়লৈকে শিক্ষিত কৰি উপযুক্ত নাগৰিকৰূপে গঢ়ি তোলাৰ দিহা কৰিব।

সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ প্ৰচলিত হাই স্কুলবোৰৰ শিক্ষাৰ যি মান সেই মান উন্নত কৰি Higher Secondary লৈ ৰূপান্তৰিত কৰি আমাৰ লৰা ছোৱালীক সেই পৰ্যায়ৰ শিক্ষা দিয়াৰ দিহা কৰিব খুজিছে। আমাৰ দেশৰ সকলো লৰা ছোৱালীয়ে যাতে Higher Secondary গাপলৈকে শিক্ষা লাভ কৰিব পাৰে সেই উদ্দেশ্যে মাদালীয়াৰ কমিচনৰ অনুমোদন ক্ৰমে Higher Secondary আৰু Three Year Degree Course ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। কিন্তু ১০ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত আমাৰ প্ৰায় দুহেজাৰ হাই স্কুলৰ মাত্ৰ ৬৮ খনহে Higher Secondary লৈ ৰূপান্তৰিত কৰিব পৰা হৈছে। যদি ১০ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত ৬৮ খনহে ৰূপান্তৰিত কৰিব পাৰে তেনেহলে সেই দৰে বছৰে বছৰে বাঢ়ি অহা হাই স্কুলবোৰ Higher Secondary লৈ পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰিবলৈ কিমান সময় লাগিব? সেই কাৰণেই আমি কৈছিলো যে Higher Secondary পাঠ্যক্রম ত্যাগ কৰি পুনৰ আগৰ ব্যৱস্থাকে বাহাল কৰিব লাগে। আগৰ ধৰণে Intermediate ২ বছৰ আৰু Degree ত ২ বছৰ পাঠ্যক্রম ব্যৱস্থালৈ ঘূৰি যাব লাগে। মধ্যমীয়ে ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণৰ ওপৰত হোৱা বিতৰ্কৰ উত্তৰ দিওঁতে কৈছিল যে সেইটো কৰিব নোখোজে। যদি সঁচাকৈ ধৰি যাব খোজা নাই তেনেহলে আমাৰ হাই স্কুলবোৰ সোনকালে Higher Secondary লৈ ৰূপান্তৰিত কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। আজি এই হাই স্কুলৰ পৰা Degree Course লৈ যাবলৈ মাজতে Pre-University ৰ শ্ৰেণী পাৰ হব লাগে। Pre-University ৰ যি পাঠ্যক্রম Higher Secondary ৰ পাঠ্যক্রমৰ তুলনাত বেচি কঠিন। আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে আটালতে মাত্ৰ ৪ মাহ ক্লাছ কৰাৰ

কৰাৰ সময় পায়। এই ৪ মাহৰ ভিতৰতে এনে এটা বিশাল পাঠ্যক্রম সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰিব লাগে। তাৰোপৰি হাই স্কুলত মাতৃভাষাৰ জৰিয়তে পঢ়ি আহি হঠাৎ Pre-University শ্ৰেণীত English medium ৰ জৰিয়তে পঢ়িব লগা হোৱাত Lecture follow কৰিব নোৱাৰি ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীয়ে ভেৰা লাগি চাই থাকে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে History ৰ কথা কৈ কৰ খুজিছে। সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰ বুৰঞ্জীখনৰ অলপ অলপ আনি এখন Pre-University শ্ৰেণীৰ বুৰঞ্জী কিতাপ লিখিছে। Pre-University শ্ৰেণীৰ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে একো আতিঙৰি নেপায়। French Revolution ৰ আগৰো নাই পিচৰো নাই, তেনেহলে French Revolution ৰ কথা কেনেকৈ বুজে? সেইদৰেই American War of Independence ৰ আগৰো নাই পিচৰো নাই; ল'ৰাই কেনেকৈ বুজে? এই Pre-University টো অন্তৰবৰ্তী কালীন ব্যৱস্থা হিচাপেহে লোৱা হৈছিল যদিও এতিয়া ই এটা স্থায়ী অৱস্থাত পৰিণত হৈছে আৰু Higher Secondary হৈ অন্তৰবৰ্তী ব্যৱস্থাস্বৰূপ হৈছে। P. U. পাচ কৰিও Three Year Degree Course ল'ব পাৰে আৰু Higher Secondary Pass কৰিও Three Year Degree Course ল'ব পাৰে। মই ভাবো যে আমাৰ স্কুলবোৰত শিক্ষাৰ কাল এতিয়া ১৩ বছৰ আছে। তাৰ ঠাইত ১২ বছৰ কৰিব লাগে অৰ্থাৎ Primary ত ৪ বছৰ, Lower Secondary ত ৪ বছৰ আৰু Higher Secondary ত ৪ বছৰ। সেইদৰেই শ্ৰেণীও ১২টাহে হ'ব লাগে আৰু Class I পৰা IV লৈকে Primary, Class V—VIII লৈকে Lower Secondary আৰু Class IX—XII লৈকে Higher Secondary হ'ব লাগে। আটাইবোৰ High School Higher Secondary লৈ কৰাসুৰিত কৰিব নোৱাৰে যদি প্ৰত্যেক মৌজাতে বা ২টা মৌজাৰ ভিতৰত একোটা Central School কৰক অৰ্থাৎ প্ৰত্যেক ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে হাতেৰে টুকি পোৱাতে একোখন Higher Secondary হ'ব লাগে। এতিয়া এনে স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা নিচেই সীমাবদ্ধ হোৱা বাবে সকলো ছাত্ৰই এই Higher Secondary শিক্ষা ল'ব পৰা নাই। গতিকে যিমানেই খৰচ নপৰক সকলো ল'ৰাই যাতে হায়াৰ চেকেণ্ডৰী স্কুলৰ মাজেদি Three Year Degree Course লৈ যাব পাৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে দৰকাৰী টকাৰ যোগাৰ প্ৰথমতে কৰিব লাগিব। শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত আমি মাত্ৰ Experiment চলায়ে আছো। আমি বুনিয়াদী Experiment কৰিলো কিন্তু সমস্ত স্কুল Junior basic আৰু Senior basic লৈ পৰিবৰ্তন কৰিবলৈ অসমৰ্থ হলো। সেই কাৰণে এই ব্যৱস্থা ত্যাগ কৰি আকৌ Elementary Education লৈ যাবলগীয়া হ'ল। আগতে বুনিয়াদীলৈ কৰাসুৰিত কৰা এইবিলাক স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকৰ অৱস্থা পানীত হাঁহ নচৰা হৈছে মাত্ৰ, কিয়নো তেওঁবিলাক আজিও অস্থায়ী শিক্ষক হৈয়েই ব'ল।

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 12th March, 1966.

Shillong,

The 22nd July, 1966

R. C. CHAUDHURI

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.