

Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the First General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M., on Thursday, the 29th March, 1956.

PRESENT

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the two Parliamentary Secretaries and sixty-four Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Provision of Bedsteads for the Convicts Lodged in Shillong Jail

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

(a) Whether the convicts lodged in the Shillong Jail have to sleep on the cemented floor of the prison house ?

(b) Whether the Government propose to provide the convicts lodged in the Shillong Jail with bedsteads in view of the fact that Shillong is one of the coldest places in the State ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) replied :

17. (a)—Not all.

(b)—Steps have already been taken to supply wooden sleeping berths for all the prisoners. Sixty-one wooden sleeping berths have already been provided during 1955-56. Seventy-seven more will be provided as soon as possible.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: With regard to (b), Sir, may I know the number of convicts and under-trial prisoners lodged at present in the Shillong Jail?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): I want notice of this question, Sir.

Maps of the Districts of Assam with Fixed Boundaries

†**Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA** asked:

*18. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there are surveyed maps of the districts of Assam with fixed boundaries?
- (b) Whether Government propose to maintain the existing fixed boundary line between the different districts?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Government has recently defined afresh the boundary line between the Districts of Darrang and Nowgong as the channel of the river Brahmaputra by which the steamers would ply during winter season?
- (d) Whether Government has obtained any technical advice to the effect that steamers ply during winter in the Brahmaputra between Nowgong and Darrang through a fixed channel without any variation in any year?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied:

18. (a) & (b)—There are no maps of the districts of Assam depicting their boundaries based on actual ground

† The question was put by Shri Biswadev Sarma on authorisation.

survey by the Government of Assam. District boundaries are depicted on 1" inch scale topographical maps of the Survey of India.

In cadastrally surveyed areas where the district boundary is conterminous with the boundary of cadastral villages, the inter district boundary is quite fixed. In non-cadastral riverain areas where the district boundary follows changing natural features, the inter district boundary is not quite fixed.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, I am putting this question on behalf of Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, as this is a matter of great public importance, under rule 44 of the Assembly Rules, I want to have a discussion on this for about half an hour after the Question Hour.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the point for a discussion?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: The boundary was fixed by the Government very recently stating that the main channel of the river Brahmaputra would become the boundary between the Districts of Nowgong and Darrang. This has caused a great resentment among the people living in the Chaparies and so, Sir, as this is a matter of great public importance for us, I want to have a discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is this a shifting boundary?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, previously the south bank of the river Brahmaputra was the boundary. But recently an order was issued by the Government stating that the main channel of the river Brahmaputra will be the boundary between the Districts referred to. So, Sir, this is an important matter and we want to discuss this matter in the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: You want to discuss regarding the boundary.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Originally the boundary was fixed by the Survey of India, but that has been changed, *vide*, the order of the Secretary of the Revenue Department and this has caused a resentment among the people concerned.

How the main channel can be the boundary when it changes year by year?

Mr. SPEAKER : Have you got any documents in your possession to show that the main channel cannot be the boundary ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : How can there be documents of a river changing, its course year by years, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER : I have heard Mr. Sarma. No specific idea has been given as to what should be the exact boundary of the Districts. Therefore, I do not think that this is a matter fit for discussion for half an hour after the Question Hour. I disallow that question.

Re : Co-operative Department

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*19. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative Department be pleased to state—

- (a) If the Co-operative Department has lately been re-organised ?
- (b) If some posts of Assistant Registrars have been created ?
- (c) If so, by whom these posts have been filled up ?
- (d) What are the qualifications and experience of the persons appointed to the above posts ?
- (e) Whether a post of Joint Registrar for the Co-operative Department was created ?
- (f) If so, whether this post has been filled up ?
- (g) If so, who was the person appointed to this post ?
- (h) What are his qualifications and experiences ?

*20. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative Department be pleased to state —

- (a) The number of visits paid by the Special Officer and the Deputy Registrar during the last five years to the rural areas of Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?
- (b) If not, why not ?
- (c) If so, with what results ?
- (d) What places were visited by the above officers in the plains of Assam during the above period ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

19. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—These posts have been filled by the Department by promotion from the Senior Inspectors of Co-operative Societies.

(d)—All of them except J. Rongpi, a Mikir, now deceased, are graduates and Senior Officers of the Department. They have put in 10 to 15 years service in the Department serving in various capacities from time to time. Seven of them are trained in Co-operative Training College, Poona, under the Reserve of India Training Scheme ; one is trained in Madras and the rest (including the deceased Rongpi) did not receive training outside Assam.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Yes, by Departmental promotion.

(g)—Shri J. Gogoi, C.H.D., S.Sc.D. (Manchester) and Diploma in Social Studies (Birmingham), who was Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies. This officer has since been selected by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Union Public Service Commission for the post of Deputy Director in the Co-operation Division, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, in the scale of Rs.600—1,150.

(h)—He had training in United Kingdom for about 7 years and obtained Diploma in Social Studies, Birmingham University. Diploma in Social Science, Co-operative College, Honours Diploma in Co-operation, Co-operative College, England.

As for his experience this officer has been serving since 1945 in the Co-operative Department and as Deputy Registrar since 1948.

20. (a)—The post of Special Officer was created only a year ago for Co-operative Planning. The officer is not required to visit Societies.

Except for special reasons the Deputy Registrar who also functioned as *Ex-Officio* Under Secretary was not required to visit Societies in Rural areas of Khasi and Jaintia Hills. He, however, visited the following places to check up the work of the field staff—

- (1) Cherrapunji.
- (2) Dawki.
- (3) Laitkroh.

(b)—Refer to answers against 20(a).

(c)—Do.

(d)—Except for special reasons the Deputy Registrar who functioned also as *Ex-Officio* Under Secretary was not required to visit Societies. He visited the following places to check up work of the field staff.

Deputy Registrar—

1. Jorhat.
2. Dibrugarh.
3. Gauhati.
4. Silchar.
5. Dawki.
6. Goalpara.
7. Tura.
8. Dhubri.
9. Gauhati.
10. Badlipara.
11. Jorhat.
12. Golaghat.
13. Barpathar and Sarupathar.
14. Sibsagar.
15. Dibrugarh.
16. Tipling.
17. Nowgong.
18. Tezpur.
19. Mangaldai.
20. Barpeta.
21. Nalbari.
22. Hailakandi.
23. North Lakhimpur.
24. Missamara.
25. Dergaon.
26. Gauripur.

Special Officer—

Regarding visit of Special Officer a reference may be made to answers against question 20(a).

Peons and Orderlies under the High Officers of the Co-operative Department

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*21. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative Department be pleased to state—

- (a) How many peons and orderlies the high officers of the Department of Co-operative are entitled to have at the cost of Government ?
- (b) The number of the above peons and orderlies, if any, dismissed by them during the last two years ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

21. (a)—35.

(b)—None was dismissed. But 23 of them left services and substitutes had to be appointed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (a), whether all the 35 personal orderlies are for officers ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Yes.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (b), what is the reason of so many of them resigning their jobs ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : This is a new question which I cannot answer without notice.

Kaziranga Rest House

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

*22. Will the Forest Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Who was given the contract work for building the Kaziranga Rest House ?
- (b) What was the total amount spent on the said Rest House after it was constructed ?

- (c) Whether it is a fact that due to unseasoned and immature raw timbers being used, various holes are visible through the joints ?
- (d) Whether the Rest House was departmentally constructed ?
- (e) If so, why ?
- (f) Who gave the contract work ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

22. (a)—There is nothing called “Kaziranga Rest House”. The questions are obviously in respect of the “Kaziranga Tourist Lodge” and on that assumption replies are being given.

(a) Sardar Sahab Sohan Singh and Sardar Tahal Singh of Jorhat.

(b)—The figure is being collected.

(c)—No

(d)—Yes.

(e)—It is the usual practice for the Forest Department to construct its own buildings, the Officers of the Department having undergone some training in building construction. In this particular case the Forest Officer in immediate charge of the construction was a trained Overseer.

(f)—Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : When was the Rest House completed ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) : About 1½ years ago.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : With regard to (b), may I expect this information which is being collected within a short time ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) : Yes,

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether any tender was called for giving assignment to contractors ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Yes.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Who called for the tenders ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): The Conservator.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Who was in charge of the plan and specification ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Why this question, Sir ? (*Loud laughter*). It is the Conservator who submitted the plan and estimate.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : In answer to (f), it is said that the contract was given by Government. Should we understand that it was given by the Conservator ?

Mr. SPEAKER : He is a part of the Government.

City Bus Service in Shillong

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*23. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to enquire and state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that the City Buses of Shillong have frequent breakdowns causing great inconvenience to the citizens using these vehicles ?
- (b) If so, what steps are being taken to put a stop to it ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the City Buses of Shillong almost always run behind schedule timings ?
- (d) If so, why ?
- (e) Whether the above City Buses carry over-load ?
- (f) Whether Police Officers and Constables travel in these Buses free of charge ?

- (g) Whether Government propose to enquire into the matter ?
- (h) Whether the above City Buses have shock absorbers ?
- (i) If not, why not ?
- (j) Whether the management sees that tickets are issued to the passengers ?
- (k) If not, whether Government propose to insist on this ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

23. (a)—No such complaint has been received by Government up-till-now. However, the Regional Transport Authority, Shillong, has recently decided not to encourage placing vehicles of pre-1945 model on roads as Public Service Vehicles.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—No. There may be some cases of over-loading. Action is always taken to check this evil as will be apparent from the fact that during the period from 1st January 1956 to 13th March 1956, 18 cases of over-loading by City Buses were detected and action taken against the permit-holders, drivers and conductors.

(f)—Government have no such information nor any such report has been received.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—There is no shock absorber equipment in the existing fleet of City Buses in Shillong.

(i)—The laminated suspension springs resist shock while driven at normal (moderate) speed over paved highways and as such shock-absorber equipment is not necessary.

(j)—The question is not clear. The tickets are, however, issued to passengers.

(k)—Does not arise.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: With regard to (j), is the Government aware that the City Buses running between Bazar to Happy Valley and Laban do not issue tickets to the passengers ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): As far [as I know, tickets are issued to the passengers.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Specifically in these two routes ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I could have, of course, replied categorically if any specific question was put.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Tickets are not issued to anybody. They take the money, but do not issue tickets. Thereby they evade taxation.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The hon. Member might have put that question along with his other questions and I could have enquired and replied.

(Starred question No.24, 25 and 26 standing in the name of Shri Hareswar Goswami were not put and answered as the hon. Questioner was absent)

Trading Co-operative Societies and Co-operative Banks on Liquidation

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*27. Will the Minister-in-charge, Co-operative Department, be pleased to state—

(a) (i) The numbers of Trading Co-operative Societies went on liquidation during last 5 years ?

(ii) The number of Co-operative Banks went on liquidation during last 5 years ?

(b) The reasons for their failure ?

(c) The amount of monetary loss incurred by the share-holders ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

27. (a) (i)—398.

(ii)—49.

(b)—

- (1) Withdrawal of controls.
- (2) Lack of co-operative education.
- (3) Apathy of members.
- (4) Lack of business experience of members.
- (5) Inefficient management of Societies.
- (6) Lack of knowledge in keeping accounts.
- (7) Inadequacy of departmental audit and inspecting staff.
- (8) Absence of adequate, cheap and regular credit.
- (9) Small size of the primary unit.

(c)—Monetary loss incurred by the share-holders can be ascertained only after closure of liquidation proceedings.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re: Refugees in Mikir Hills]

Shri BARELONG TERANG asked :

61. Will the Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total population and families of refugees in Mikir Hills at present ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the number of refugees in Mikir Hills is increasing day by day ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that there are refugees who after getting lands and loan in the other districts are encroaching into Mikir Hills ?

- (d) If not, whether Government proposes to make an enquiry immediately ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that refugees belonging to a joint family are getting and are trying to get loan and land in the name of different person of the same family in Mikir Hills ?
- (f) If not, whether Government propose to make an early enquiry ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

61. (a)—The total population of displaced persons at present in the Mikir Hills could not be ascertained. A statistical survey of displaced persons in the State is now in progress, and it will be possible to furnish the figures in respect of the Mikir Hills also after the survey is completed. However, it is known that the total number of displaced families in the Mikir Hills who are in unauthorised occupation of lands at the disposal of the District Council is 2,530.

(b)—No. As far as could be ascertained, there has been no influx of displaced persons into the Mikir Hills after July, 1955.

(c) & (e)—Reports have reached Government that some of the families who are in unauthorised occupation of lands in the Mikir Hills are really part of families which have received rehabilitation benefits in other districts. This is being enquired into. No loans have been paid to such families in the Mikir Hills.

(d) & (f)—As stated earlier, Government are instituting enquiries in respect of the displaced families now in the Mikir Hills to ascertain full particulars in regard to them, including whether they are part of families who have already received rehabilitation benefits, such as loans, lands, etc., in other districts.

Re: Personal Peon

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked :

62. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Executive Engineers of the Public Works Department have got two personal peons each ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that neither the Public Works Department, Subdivisional Officers nor the Overseers have got any personal peon ?

- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Assam Subordinate Engineering Association passed resolutions for providing them with at least one personal peon?
- (d) What action Government has taken on it?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that even a Sub-Inspector of Schools is provided with a personal peon?
- (f) Whether Government propose to see that the Public Works Department Subdivisional Officers and the Overseers are provided with at least one personal peon?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

62. (a), (b) & (c)—Yes.

(d)—The question of providing personal peons for the Subdivisional Officers is under consideration of Government, and the Association has already been informed accordingly. So far as sanction of personal peon for the Overseers is concerned, the Association was also informed that this cannot be considered at present.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Same as reply to question (d) above.

Re: Assam Engineering Class II Service
Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDA Lasked:

63. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) How many persons were appointed in the Assam Engineering Service Class II since 1951 up till now (figures to be given year by year)?
- (b) How many of them are Muslims (figures of appointment to be given year by year)?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

63. (a)—1951—Nil.

1952—10 (direct recruits of graduates in Civil Engineering).

1953—Nil.

1954—5 (promoted from S. E. S. Overseers).

1955—Nil.

(b)—1951—Nil.

1952—2 (direct recruits).

1953—Nil.

1954—Nil.

1955—Nil.

Result of Lower Primary Scholarship and School Leaving Certificate Examination of Mikir Hills

Shri NIHANG RONGPHER asked :

64. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) If it is a fact that the result of Lower Primary Scholarship and School Leaving Certificate Examination of Mikir Hills held in January, 1955 has not been out as yet ?
- (b) If so, what are the reasons of delay ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

64. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Examination of papers and tabulation of marks take time and hence it is not possible to publish the results before middle of April next.

Circuit Judges in Sibsagar

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI asked :

65. Will the Minister-in-charge of Judicial be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Bar Association, Sibsagar, lately represented to Government to have Circuit Judges in Sibsagar to alleviate the hardships of the litigant public ?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to have Circuits of the Judges in Sibsagar ?
- (c) If not, why ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

65. (a)—No representation for a Circuit Judge at Sibsagar was received by the Government of late.

One representation was, however, received on the 27th August, 1952 for occasional sitting of the Sub-Judge and the Additional Sub-Judge at Sibsagar for disposal of suits. The Government instead conferred higher pecuniary powers on the Sibsagar Munsiff to meet the requirements.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Plantation Provident Fund Scheme**Shri DALEIR SINGH LOHAR** asked :

66. Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware or have received reports to the effect that the exemptions provided under the Plantation Provident Fund Scheme, on the basis of both acreage and crop, have been utilised by employers to the disadvantage of labour by spreading the crop over unplucked, diseased and unproductive area ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to look into the matter with a view to taking necessary steps to remove this defect ?

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that members of Indian staff in Tea Plantations are enjoying Provident Fund benefits much below the rate provided for in the Plantation Provident Fund Scheme ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to take steps to give the members of Indian staff the minimum benefits of the Provident Fund Scheme ?

68. Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware or received reports to the effect that in course of change of hands of tea gardens, Provident Fund account of staff members are wound up and paid, defeating the purpose of the scheme ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to take steps to remove this defect by substituting Company-wise Trust Boards by a Central Board of Trust to administer the staff Provident Fund Scheme with workers participation in it ?

69. Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware or received reports to the effect that because of exemption of non-resident workers from the purview of the Plantation Provident Fund Scheme regular workers who cannot be provided with quarters within the plantations by employers are being deprived of the benefits of the Scheme ?

- (b) Whether Government propose to take steps to remove this defect from the Plantation Provident Fund Scheme ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

66. (a)—Government have not received any such report.

(b)—Under section 2 (g) of the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme Act, plantations which have 25 acres under tea and whose crop output per acre is more than 456 lbs. are covered by the Act. The expression “under tea” includes areas unplucked, diseased and unproductive and only average output is taken into consideration. In view of this, no action is called for.

67. (a)—It may be true in some cases.

(b)—It is not understood what is meant by “minimum benefits of Provident Fund Scheme”. Government may consider the proposal of covering Indian staff in Tea Estates for Provident Fund benefits in due course.

68. (a)—No specific report to that effect has been received.

(b)—Information has been called for and if the report is true, Government will examine the suggestion.

69. (a)—Yes, Government received representations about exclusion of Faltoo labourers working in tea gardens from the benefit of the Provident Fund Scheme.

(b)—Government will be prepared to examine the question of extending the benefits of the present Tea Plantation Provident Fund Act to permanent non-resident workers in Tea Estates.

New Government High School in Sibsagar Town

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

70. Will the Minister of Public Works Department be pleased to State—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the construction of the new Government High School in a new site in Sibsagar Town was begun since two years back and that the same is not complete for use and occupation of the school ?

- (b) If so, how long will it take for its completion and the reasons for such unusual delay ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

70. (a)—Yes. The work was started in April 1954 and time for completion of work allowed as per tender in March 1956.

(b)—The main building has been completed in December 1955 and the remaining works, *e. g.*, gallery, water supply, latrine and compound fencing are expected to be completed by the end of April 1956.

The work has been delayed due to difficulties in getting materials timely.

Chairman, Silchar Basic Education Board and Hailakandi Basic Education Board.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

71. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Who has been nominated by the Government as the Chairman of the Silchar Basic Education Board ?

(b) What is the educational qualification of this gentleman ?

(c) What are the other names suggested for nomination to this post and what are the educational qualifications of those persons (to be given separately in each case) ?

(d) Who was the last Chairman of the Silchar School Board ?

(e) Whether Government received any complaint of corruption, nepotism and inefficiency from any member of the public against that Chairman of Silchar School Board and if so, what action was taken in that connection ?

- (g) Whether Government received any complaint or information to the effect that the last Chairman of the Silchar School Board came to Shillong during the last Adjourned (Budget) Session of the Assembly with two female teachers of Silchar serving under the said Board (not related to him) and stayed for several days with them in the same room at Earle Sanatorium, Shillong, allotted to him?
- (h) Whether Government received any representation for and on behalf of the members of the Minority Community of Silchar for selecting a Muslim as the Chairman of the aforesaid Basic Education Board on the grounds amongst other that no Muslim is holding any Executive position as Chairman or Vice-Chairman in Silchar Local Board, Silchar Municipal Board or any of the Rural Panchayats of Silchar Subdivision?
- (i) Whether their request has been complied with?

72. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Who has been nominated by the Government as the Chairman of the Basic Education Board of Hailakandi?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that he does not reside at Hailakandi and that he permanently stays at Silchar where he practises as a lawyer?
- (c) Whether Education Department considered the public opinion in this connection and consulted the Minister of Local Self-Government, a resident of Hailakandi prior to the appointment of the present Chairman?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that this gentleman was a candidate for election as Chairman, Hailakandi Local Board but the people rejected him on the ground of his stay outside the Subdivision amongst others?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied:

71. (a)—Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha, M. L. A.

(b)—Matriculate.

(c)—There was no other name suggested from the official sources.

- (d)—Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha, M.L.A.
 (e)—No.
 (g)—No, Government neither received any complaint nor have any information.
 (h)—Yes.
 (i)—Their request could not be complied with.

72. (a)—Shri Muzzaraf Ali Laskar.

- (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—No, he was not a candidate for election as Chairman to Hailakandi Local Board.

**Chairman, Silchar Basic Education Board and
 Hailakandi Basic Education Board**

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked :

73. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—
- (a) Who has been nominated by the Government as the Chairman of the Silchar Basic Education Board ?
- (b) What is the educational qualification of this gentleman ?
- (c) What are the other names suggested for nomination to this post and what are the educational qualifications of those persons (to be given separately in each case) ?
- (d) Who was the last Chairman of the Silchar School Board ?
- (e) Whether Government received any complaint of corruption, nepotism and inefficiency from any member of the public against that Chairman of Silchar School Board and if so, what action was taken in that connection ?
- (f) Whether Government received any complaint or information to the effect that the last Chairman of the Silchar School Board came to Shillong during the last adjourned (Budget) Session of the Assembly with two female teachers of Silchar serving under the said Board (not related to him) and stayed for several days with them in the same room at Earle Sanatorium, Shillong, allotted to him ?

(g) Whether Government received any representation for and on behalf of the members of the Minority Community of Silchar for selecting a Muslim as the Chairman of the aforesaid Basic Education Board on the grounds amongst others that no Muslim is holding any Executive position as Chairman in Silchar Local Board, Silchar Municipal Board or any of the Rural Panchayats of Silchar Subdivision ?

(h) Whether their request has been complied with ?

74. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Who has been nominated by the Government as the Chairman of the Basic Education Board of Hailakandi ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that he does not reside at Hailakandi and that he permanently stays at Silchar where he practises as a lawyer ?

(c) Whether Education Department considered the public opinion in this connection and consulted the Minister of Local Self-Government, a resident of Hailakandi prior to the appointment of the present Chairman ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that this gentleman was a candidate for election as Chairman, Hailakandi Local Board but the people rejected him on the ground of his stay outside the Subdivision amongst others ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

73 and 74—The hon. Member is referred to the replies given to Unstarred Question Nos. 71 and 72 asked by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, M. L. A.

Principal, Civil Engineering Institute, Assam

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked :

75. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) When Shri Rajmohan Nath, Principal, Civil Engineering Institute, was to retire ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that he has been given extension for a further period ; if so, upto what time ?

(c) Whether Government propose to relieve him of his office soon ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

75. (a)—1st March, 1955 from the Public Works Department.

(b)—He has been re-employed as Principal, Assam Civil Engineering Institute, Gauhati for one year.

(c)—Yes.

**Construction of Hostel Building attached to the
Dibrugarh Government Girls' High
English School**

Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI asked :

76. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state whether the amount sanctioned from the grants under Article 275 of the Constitution, for the construction of Hostel Building attached to the Dibrugarh Government Girls' High English School, will be spent during the current financial year ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

76.—The construction of a Hostel attached to the Dibrugarh Government Girls' High English School was taken up this year at an estimated cost of Rs.20,200. The Public Works Department's requirement for the year 1955-56 was Rs.10,000. This amount has been placed at the disposal of the Public Works Department and is expected to be spent by the end of March, 1956.

**Tribal grants to Secondary Schools and Colleges
situated in the Plains Districts of
Assam.**

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

77. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state Sub-division-wise—

(a) The number of Secondary Schools situated in the Plains Districts of Assam which have received Tribal grants both non-recurring and Fee Compensation Grants under Article 275 of the Constitution in the years 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55 and the amount of such grants being received by each school (a list of the schools to be laid on the table) ?

- (b) The number of Plains Tribal students reading in each of the Schools receiving the above grants and the number of Tribal students (Plains) enjoying free and half-free studentships (number to be shown against each school)?

78. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state the number of colleges situated in the Plains Districts receiving non-recurring and Fee Compensation Grants in the years 1952-53, 1953-54, and 1954-55 and the number of Tribal students reading in these colleges (a list to be laid on the table) and the number of Plains Tribal students enjoying free and half-free studentships?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

77&78—A statement is placed on the Library Table.

Reference of Industrial Dispute Cases to the Industrial Tribunal, Assam

Shri RAMPRASAD CHAUBEY asked :

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

- (a) The total number of applications received by the Government of Assam for reference of Industrial Disputes to the Tribunal for adjudication in 1955?
- (b) Of these how many cases were referred to the Tribunal?
- (c) The total number of cases now pending before the Tribunal?
- (d) The average time taken for disposing of an Industrial Dispute from enquiry to adjudication in Assam?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the case of retrenchment of more than 10 thousand tea estate labourers of Cachar in 1952-53 is still pending before the Government for reference to the Tribunal?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Government do not generally refer a case to the Tribunal if it does not go through the conciliation proceeding?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied:

79. (a)—Eight.

(b)—Five.

(c)—Thirty-four.

(d)—Government do not keep any record. But roughly, it takes about three months from enquiry to adjudication.

(e)—No. The case has already been referred to the Tribunal *vide* Government Notification No. GLR.361/55, dated the 24th February 1956.

(f)—Yes. Government, as a rule, encourage settlement of dispute through conciliatory machinery as settlements through conciliation proceedings are always preferable to adjudication. Reference to Industrial Tribunal is made on merits of the case when conciliation proceedings fail.

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: क्या यह सही नहीं है कि श्रमविरोध की मीमांसा करने के लिये एक साल से भी ज्यादा समय लगता है ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister): It may be on account of submission of petitions for adjournment of hearing by parties.

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: श्रमविरोध की मीमांसा जल्द से जल्द करने के लिये सरकार कौन सी खास कार्रवाई कर रही है ?

Mr. SPEAKER: आप जरा ज़ोर से बताइये ।

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: श्रमविरोध की मीमांसा जल्द से जल्द करने के लिये सरकार क्या बन्दोबस्त कर रही है ?

Mr. SPEAKER: क्या तीन महीने कम है ?

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: तीन महीने में कभी नहीं होता है । इसके लिये न्यायाधीशों की संख्या बढ़ाने के बारे में सरकार क्या सोच रही है ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister): We may consider the matter. At present, we do not feel the necessity for appointing another judge.

Mr. SPEAKER: और कुछ ?

Shri GAURI SHANKAR ROY: जी हाँ, और भी न्यायाधीश की नियुक्ति होनी चाहिए ।

Maternity Benefit Allowance

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

80. Will the Labour Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the existing maternity allowance was fixed years ago in the light of the then prevailing daily wages of labourers ?
- (b) In view of the fact that the daily wages have increased considerably since the last amendment, whether Government propose to increase the allowance as a measure of relief to women labourers ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

80. (a)—No.

(b)—As far as tea plantations are concerned the maternity benefit has been raised from time to time and the rate is now higher than that of any other State in India. Moreover, the relevant provisions in the Assam Maternity Benefit Act should conform to the provision laid down in the Assam Plantation Labour Rules framed under the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. Our provisions must be in line with the provisions set forth by Government of India in this respect.

In view of this and in view of the fact that the rate is highest in India, Government do not propose to increase it now.

Subdivisional Basic Education Board

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY asked :

81. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of members of each of the Subdivisional Basic Education Board (figures to be given separately for each Board) ?
- (b) The number of Muslim and Scheduled Caste members in each of the Board (figures to be given separately for each Board and aforesaid community) ?
- (c) The number of Tribal members in each of the Board (to be given separately for each Board) ?
- (d) The total number of members including Chairman nominated in each of the Boards by the Government (to be given Boardwise) ?

(e) The total number of Chairmen already nominated by the Government for the Subdivisional Basic Education Boards ?

(f) How many of them are Muslims, Scheduled Castes and Tribals (figures to be given separately) ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

81. (a)—Dhubri—15, Goalpara—13, Gauhati—18, Barpeta—14, Nowgong—14, Karimganj—13, Sibsagar—15, Tezpur—13, Jorhat—14, North Lakhimpur—13, Golaghat—13, Dibrugarh—16, Mangaldai—13, Silchar—13, Hailakandi—13.

(b)—

				Muslim	Schedule
Dhubri	..	..	...	3	Nil
Goalpara	...	...	...	1	1
Gauhati	..	...	..	Nil	1
Barpeta	...	...	..	1	1
Nowgong	..	..	..	1	1
Karimganj	..	..	...	1	Nil
Sibsagar	..	..	...	1	1
Tezpur	...	...	..	1	Nil
Jorhat	..	..	...	Nil	1
North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	1	Nil
Golaghat	...	...	...	Nil	1
Dibrugarh	...	..	..	Nil	Nil
Mangaldai	...	...	..	1	1
Silchar	...	...	...	2	Nil
Hailakandi	...	..	...	3	Nil

(c)—Dhubri—1, Goalpara—3, Gauhati—1, Barpeta—1, Nowgong—1, Sibsagar—1, Jorhat—1, North Lakhimpur—1, Dibrugarh—3.

(d)—Six nominated members in each School Board. (The Chairman is appointed by the Government for the first term from among the elected or nominated non-official members.)

(e)—Fifteen.

(f)—Muslim	...	...	...	...	1
Schedule	...	...	...	...	Nil
Tribal	...	...	...	...	Nil

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: With regard to (b) and (f), does not Government consider the representation of these minorities to be inadequate in these Boards?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): There is no statutory provision in the Basic Education Act that all the minority communities should be represented in the Basic Education Board.

However, at the time of nomination we have given consideration to this aspect of the matter and tried to give representation to the minority communities as far as possible.

Assam Medical Service

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked:

82. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical Department be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total number of appointments made from the year 1948 till now in the Assam Medical Service (Senior) and (Junior), *i. e.*, Assistant Surgeon Grade I and II (figures are to be given year by year and post by post)?
- (b) How many of them are Muslims (figures to be given year by year and post by post)?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

82. (a) & (b)—The total number of appointments made so far from the year 1948 is 168, out of which 19 are Muslims.

A statement showing the figures year by year and post by post is placed on the Library Table.

Proposal for construction of the State Transport Office at Sibsagar

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

83. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government propose to construct the State Transport Office at Sibsagar in the most congested area of the town ?
- (b) If so, whether Government will be pleased to reconsider the decision and construct the said office on the outskirts of the town for the convenience of all concerned ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: (Minister) replied :

83. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

The Project could not be taken up during the First Five-Year Plan because of consideration and reconsideration of objections to the sites selected and proposed to be acquired.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Is it not a fact that the proposed transport office is going to be constructed in a highly congested area?

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply is "No". What is your idea of congestion? 100 per mile or 1,000 per mile? "Congestion" has different meanings to different people. Is it near the hospital ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: About one furlong from the hospital, but this is a point where the Assam Trunk Road and the main road of the town meet and is a highly congested locality and the main exit and entrance of the town.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, for the information of the House, I can say that during the First Five-Year Plan period it had not been possible to locate a site due to similar objections and I had ultimately to place the matter before the Cabinet for taking a decision. The Cabinet arrived at a decision against which also there have been objections. Some of my friends from Sibsagar offered a bazar site; although it was not convenient, I agreed, but they could not give possession of that area. If Government had taken that, there would have been an endless series of litigation. The area now selected is not at all congested. There are a few poor families and provision has been made to give them alternative land and also compensation. The Department has also agreed to pay the cost of raising the sites, allotted to them. All these arrangements have been made, but even then there are objections! I am afraid, Sir, it will not be possible for Government to undertake construction of the Transport Office even during the Second Plan period. I brought this matter to the notice of the Chief Minister, Revenue Minister, Deputy Minister, Revenue and then to the Cabinet. The Cabinet considered all these objections and arrived at a decision. What more can I do? So I request them all to withdraw all objections and allow the Department to take up the matter as early as possible.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Is it not a fact that representative people of the Sibsagar town represented to the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department that it was a highly congested area and to construct the Transport Office in the outskirts of the town by the side of the railway station?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, what is your question?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Moreover, Sir, the Deputy Minister-in-charge of Revenue inspected the site along with my Friend, Mr. Gogoi.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: But the Deputy Minister said that my proposal was rather late.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, this is an information we receive from you.

(The Deputy Minister rose to reply.)

Mr. SPEAKER: No need to answer.

License for shooting games under Forest Reserve Area

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY asked:

84. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Forest Officers can shoot games in the Forest Reserve areas without the shooting licenses ?
- (b) Whether one Shri P. C. Das, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Gauhati has obtained such shooting license ?
- (c) If not, whether Government propose to enquire as to whether he had violated Forest Laws by shooting games at Dalodonga on 21st December 1955, and at Dewan Beel on 22nd January 1956 under the Forest Reserves in Kulsii Range ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

84. (a)—No.
 (b)—No.
 (c)—An enquiry is being made.

Appointment of Project Officers and Assistant Project Officers made since the year 1951

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

85. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many appointments as Project Officers, Assistant Project Officers (both N. E. S. and Community Project) were made since 1951 upto now (figures to be given year by year and post by post) ?
- (b) How many of them are Muslims (figures of appointment to be given year by year and post by post) ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

85. (a)—

	Recruitment from the open market		Recruitment by selection/ promotion from Departments of Government	
	P.E.O.	A.P.O.	P.E.O.	A.P.O.
1951 ...	nil	nil	nil	nil
1952 ...	nil	nil	4	nil
1953 ...	1	nil	14	4
1954 ...	2	nil	3	2
1955 ...	3	1	nil	nil
1956 ..	nil	6	2	nil
Total ...	6	7	23	6

(b)—One. Recruited as Assistant Project Officer in 1954.

Finding of the Magistrate in the enquiry held on the Lumding firing.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

86. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What is the finding of the Magistrate in the enquiry held on the Lumding firing ?

(b) Whether Government will place on the table the finding of the Magistrate ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

86. (a)—The Magistrate held the firing to have been justified.

(b)—No. As there is no provision for Government to call for a judicial record.

Appointments made in the Rural Development Department

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

87. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development Department be pleased to state —

(a) What is the total number of Development Officers, Assistant Development Officers and Rural Inspectors appointed from 1949 upto date ?

(figures to be given year by year)

(b) How many of them are Muslim ?

(figures to be given year by year and post by post)

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

87.—The strength of the cadre of Development Officer is 28 (including one under training at Bombay). There is no officer designated as Assistant Development Officer. The strength of the cadre of Rural Inspectors is 29.

The number of Development Officers and Rural Inspectors appointed year by year are shown below :—

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	
D. O.—Nil		*7	4	2	5	4	8	...	*Out of it one since resigned and one retired.
R. I.— Nil	Nil	Nil	4	1	2	8	2	12	

There are two Development Officers appointed from the Muslim Community. One was appointed in 1950 and another in 1955.

Regarding the appointment of Rural Inspector, there is only one Rural Inspector appointed during the current year from Muslim Community.

Realisation of development fees under Development Rate Scheme

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

88 Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state --

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Rupees 2 (two) per bigha was lately realised from the villagers of Dihira, Arnibil, Dhanbil, Dhanshreepur, Narayanpur, etc., of Uttar Baska Mauza of Kamrup District under Tihu circle as development fees ?
- (b) If so, with whom these fees were deposited ?
- (c) Whether the money so realised were fully utilised for the purpose ?
- (d) If not, what Government propose to do with those amount ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

88.(a)---Lands in the following villages of mauza Uttar-baska and Madhyabaska were settled under Development Rate Scheme at Rupees 2 per bigha.

- (1) Chaulkara.
- (2) Arnibil.
- (3) Durgapur.
- (4) Dhansiripur.
- (5) Subansiri.
- (6) Sonapur.
- (7) N. C. Dhira.

(b)—Development Rates so far realised were deposited into the Treasury, Gauhati.

(c)—No.

(d)—Amount will be spent for improvement of the area included in the scheme.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS: With regard to (d), may I know the nature of the scheme that will be undertaken from the amount?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister): There is no specific nature; it may differ in different areas. The money will be spent just to develop the area.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: May I enquire whether the money has been spent for the development of the area?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister): The answer is there; it has not been spent.

Improvement of the Road between Bhomraguri and Tezpur

Shri BISWADEV SARMA asked:

89. (a) Is the Hon'ble Minister of Public Works Department aware that the Steamerghat of Tezpur has been shifted to Bhomraguri and that the road between Bhomraguri and Tezpur is very important for traffic?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister of Public Works Department aware that this road is in most horrible condition and the passengers suffer very much due to bumps of the vehicles on the unlevelled road and also from dust?

(c) Why this road has not yet been improved and properly repaired?

(d) When Government propose to start improving and asphaltting this road?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

89. (a)—Yes. Because of this importance, improvement works were sanctioned by the Government in July, 1954.

(b)—The road is under improvement and there has been some difficulty for traffic as the works are not yet complete, being interrupted by last flood. The improvement work will be completed this winter.

(c)—The road is already under improvement. The road will be properly maintained when the improvement is complete.

(d)—A provision of Rs.50,000 has been made in the Second Five-Year Plan for further improvement of the road.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: With regard to (a), will the Minister-in-charge please enquire why this road could not be improved since July 1954 although it is a very important road?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer is there: "Because of this importance, improvement works were sanctioned".

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Although they were sanctioned in July 1954, since then why no improvement could be made up till now. The road is still impassable; trucks cannot ply.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you looked into answer (b)?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, Sir, but the floods occurred only last year. I would like to request the Minister why since July 1954, the road could not be improved.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The earthwork was done, but as you know, it takes some time for earth to settle down and then only gravelling and bridging can be taken up.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is clearly stated in reply to (c) that the road will be properly maintained when the improvement is complete.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: My point is that improvement of this road should be expedited as it is an important road over which considerable volume of traffic carrying goods plies.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): It is being expedited but it takes time for earthwork to settle.

*Re: North Trunk Road from North Gauhati to
North Lakhimpur via Tezpur*

Shri BISWADEV SARMA asked:

90. Will the Minister of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) The present position of the North Trunk Road from North Gauhati to North Lakhimpur *via* Tezpur, *vis-a-vis* the future development plans?

- (b) When the work on projects of the putting a bridge over Jiabhorali, Burohi and asphaltting the whole Trunk Road are likely to be started?
- (c) Whether Government propose to post a very senior Engineer at Tezpur exclusively for this North Trunk Road with an adequate staff for earlier execution of the projects which are very much important and immediately necessary for economic upliftment of North Bank area?
- (d) If so, when Government is likely to do so?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

90. (a)—(i) North Trunk Road from Baihata Charali to North Lakhimpur is a gravelled road with some stretches metalled, *i. e.*, at Mangaldai, Kharupatia, Tezpur, North Lakhimpur.

The following works have recently been completed—

- (1) Diversion of North Trunk Road from Depota Ghogra to Thelamara *via* Kalakuchi.
- (2) Diversion of North Trunk Road *via* Silonipam.
- (3) Construction of Gabru bridge at Kalakuchi.
- (4) Reconstruction of Ranganadi bridge (going to be opened by Chief Minister on 7th April 1956).
- (5) Metalling and surfacing at Kharupatia Bazar.

The following works are in progress—

- (1) Surfacing important stretches such as at Sipajhar, Orang, Dhekiajuli, Jamuguri, Sootea, Charali, Gahpur, Hawajan, Bihpuria and Dalgaon (altogether 4 miles).
- (2) Diversion of North Trunk Road for better approaches of Dikrong bridge.
- (3) Construction of a bridge over Dhansiri river.
- (4) Construction of a bridge over Dikrong river.
- (5) Construction of a bridge over Buroi river is going to start soon.

Construction of a bridge over Jia-Bhorali river will be taken up as soon as the site is finally selected and design finalised.

(ii) The following works have been included in the Second Five-Year Plan—

- (1) Surfacing North Trunk Road 109 miles.
- (2) Reconstruction of weak bridges and culverts.

(b)—(1) Jiabhorali bridge will be started as soon as the site and design are finalised. Inspection of site for final selection will be held on 4th and 5th April next by the Engineers of the Ministry of Transport and State Engineers.

(2) For Buroi bridge, the contractors have been selected and certain points are under clarification. The work will be started as soon as the final reply is received from the contracting firms.

(3) Surfacing 132 miles of North Trunk Road has been provided in the Second Five-Year Plan and is expected to be started in the coming financial year.

(c) & (d)—There is no proposal at the moment to post any senior Engineer with staff at Tezpur. It may be considered in the next financial year.

Granting of free studentship to Scheduled Caste Students

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

91. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that in the sister States like Bombay, Madras, Andhra, Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad every Scheduled Caste student is granted free studentship ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to introduce the same system in this State also ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

91. (a)—This Government is not aware. Information is being collected from different States.

(b)—The number of free studentships to students of the Scheduled Caste is being gradually increased though it has not been possible to grant free studentships to all the students from the Scheduled Caste community.

Allotment of relinquished land in Panibhara to the retrenched labourers of Derby Tea Estate in Cachar District

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

92. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What steps have been taken for the allotment of relinquished land of Panibhara to the retrenched labourers of Derby Tea Estate in Cachar ?

- (b) Whether Government has decided to distribute the said land to the retrenched tea garden labourers and refugees ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

92. (a)—The land is being surveyed now.

(b)—No such decision has been taken. The land will be settled with deserving persons in consultation with the Land Settlement Advisory Committee after completion of the survey.

Number of Assistant Inspectors of Schools in Assam

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI asked :

93. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Assistant Inspectors of Schools are there now in the State ?
- (b) How many of them have been promoted to the post of Inspectors of Schools ?
- (c) If the answer to (b) above is in the negative, what is the reason for not promoting the Assistant Inspectors of Schools to the post of Inspector of Schools ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to promote the senior and efficient Assistant Inspectors of Schools who are in Class II of the Assam Educational Service to the post of Inspectors of Schools when such vacancy arises ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the rate of increments of the Assistant Inspectors of Schools are not better than that of the Deputy Inspectors of Schools ?
- (f) If the answer to (e) above is in affirmative, what action Government propose to take to give better rate of increment to the Assistant Inspectors of Schools in view of the fact that the rank and position of the Assistant Inspector of Schools are higher than that of the Deputy Inspector of Schools ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

93. (a)—Eight (seven permanent and one temporary).

(b)—If the Hon'ble Member means by his question the number of Inspectors of Schools who were promoted from the rank of Assistant Inspectors, then the answer is that none of the existing Inspectors were promoted from the post of Assistant Inspectors of Schools.

(c)—None of the Assistant Inspectors were senior enough to be promoted to the posts of Inspectors of Schools.

(d)—Yes, if they are senior enough.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—This will be considered after the report of the Pay Committee is known.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: Sir, it is stated in reply to (c) that "None of the Assistant Inspectors were senior enough to be promoted to the posts of Inspectors of Schools". May I know whether in making these promotions efficiency is taken into account at the time of promotion?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Yes, Sir, it is taken into account.

GRANT No. 28

(Further discussion on Grant No. 28.)

"50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment).

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.6,79,82,700 under Grant No. 28, Major head 50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), at page 427 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,79,82,700 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, before the Minister gives his reply, I may move the Cut Motion standing in my name. I will speak mainly regarding the distribution of funds so far as roads in different areas are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, Sir I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.6,79,82,700 under Grant No. 28 Major head, 50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), at page 427 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,79,82,700 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, in moving the Cut Motion, I should like to raise a discussion about allotment of funds to different areas of the State. We have seen from the list which have been circulated to us that a fund of Rs.1 crore has been allotted for State Level Roads and out of this amount only Rs.5 lakhs has been allotted for improvement of the Surma Trunk Road.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the length of this road?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : I am coming to that. According to the books of the Public Works Department, if we leave out the national highways, we find that State Level Roads include only North Trunk Road in the Assam Valley which satisfies the condition of a State Level Road. In our side in Cachar there is no other road than the Surma Trunk Road which also satisfies the condition of a State Level Road. These are the only two State Level Roads in the State. But in North Trunk Road you have sanctioned Rs.70,00,000 and for Surma Trunk Road only 5 lakhs. Is it fair? Moreover you have added some District Level Road also in this Scheme of State Level Roads only in Assam Valley. My point is that for Surma Trunk Road for which a sum of Rs.5 lakhs has been allotted is not sufficient for black-topping the road throughout as this road is very important from Silchar to Karimganj and Karimganj onwards to the border. This road connects Silchar with Badarpur, Shillong-Jowai Road, towards south the road to Agartala and road to Aijal. Although a portion of this Trunk Road after Partition has gone to Pakistan, this is the most important road for traffic of Lushai Hills, Agartala State, Cachar District and also of Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The length from Silchar to Karimganj is 34 miles and from Karimganj to the border, *i. e.*, Sutarkand is 7 miles.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the total length of the State Level Roads?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : I do not know.

I can give more facts about this Surma Trunk Road. From Silchar to Salchapra the road has already been black-topped. The Government of India have allotted some funds for

improvement of this road from Churaibari to Badarpurghat and the remaining portion of about 10 miles from Badarpurghat to Salchapra and thence Karimganj to Sutarkandi have not been taken up for improvement from the fund given by the Government of India. A sum of Rs.5 lakhs which is sanctioned is not sufficient to black-top this portion from Badarpurghat to Salchapra and Karimganj to Sutarkandi and if another sum of only Rs.2 to Rs.3 lakhs is sanctioned, this remaining portion of the Trunk Road also can be black-topped. I am not asking for a big sum. If this sum is allotted, it will go to improve the whole road. We have every right to demand such legitimate funds for this State Level Road.

Secondly, it is the direction of the Planning Commission that in selecting ordinary roads, there should be District and Subdivisional Development Boards who will select such roads in their areas. In Karimganj Subdivision, unfortunately, we have seen that although some roads were selected by the Development Board of Karimganj and given priority according to the necessity and urgency, but two or three of these roads have been dropped and two or three other roads have instead been selected by the State Development Board. Take for instance, in the Karimganj subdivision fifth priority was given to the Chargola-Ghoramara Road.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Das, the information is that 15 thousand is not sufficient—how much do you think will be spent for this road ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : I don't know exactly, Sir, it will depend on the standard of the road ; if soiling is required then the cost will be high, but if only black-topping, then it will be less. If this five lakhs cover black topping of whole road then we will have no objection. But it will not, as I see from experience.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : It will cover.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Sir, in Cachar there is no other State Level Road. So importance should be given to it. Regarding selection of roads by the Karimganj Development Board, this Board has given 5th priority to the road from Chragola to Ghoramara. This is a very important road, Sir, because in Ghoramara area there are four or five villages with a population of four to five thousand. Construction of this road would have benefited the inhabitants of these villages when there is no road worthy for traffic, but unfortunately in the list

that has been submitted to us we find that this important road has been dropped and in its place one Kalinagar-Kalibaribazar *via* Dalu and Saruchiganj Road has been taken up. I remember that after due discussion this Kalinagar-Kalibaribazar *via* Dalu and Saruchiganj road was given 8th or 9th priority by the Development Board of Karimganj, but this particular road was given 5th priority by the State Board by omitting the Chargola-Ghoramara Road. I cannot understand this change because the Subdivisional Development Board of Karimganj, as I have already said, has given 5th priority to the Chargola-Ghoramara Road. Sir, the Karimganj Subdivisional Development Board consists of members from all parties—Congress, Non-Congress and other prominent members of the Subdivision, and they have given 5th priority to this road by a unanimous decision. So I cannot understand how the State Board can change this. From all points of view, construction of this Chargola-Ghoramara road is very urgent. But unfortunately that was changed without giving any reason for it. Moreover I cannot understand this change by the State Board when even the Planning Commission has given clear directions that all Schemes for 2nd Five Year Plan for development should be prepared from the bottom. Is it because that road is in the Constituency of Mr. Mookerjee, Minister? Has he any right to alter the decision of the Development Board for his own benefit?

Now, Sir, as regards another road, that is, the road from Bhangra Railway Station to Bhangra-Marjatkandi Road, that was also not considered even by the Karimganj Development Board—I cannot understand how it has not come into the picture. Regarding this I must mention for the information of the hon. Members of the House that there was some discussions in this House during the last Session. This Bhangra Railway Station to Bhangra-Marjatkandi Road was taken up by the 1st Five-Year Plan but in fixing the alignment there was a tug of war between some Members of this House and the public. A representation was made to the Government by all parties as regards the alignment of this road and Government authorised the Deputy Commissioner who visited the area for the purpose of making an alignment and the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by some prominent persons of the locality of both sides. On the report of the Deputy Commissioner the alignment was fixed, but the present proposed road which has been sanctioned by the State Board runs parallel to this Bhangra-Marjatkandi Road which is only a furlong away. So, from this you will see, Sir, that it is sheer waste of public money by constructing a parallel road to the Bhangra-Marjatkandi Road.

which, as I have said, is only one furlong away. This is done only to satisfy the personal interest of some gentlemen who are influential with the Government. I do not see any justification for such a course. It was discussed in the Development Board that this is a very unimportant road that can be done even by the Rural Development Board within a sum of Rs.23 thousand only; but now Government propose to spend Rs.70,000 for the Road? Is it not wastage?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das you have said that more than three times.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: However, Sir, I do not know about other subdivisions or other districts, but so far as Karimganj is concerned, we have seen that there are some major changes from the recommendations of the Development Board without showing any reason and it is not at all justifiable. I place it before the House that we should consider the views of the Development Boards especially when they are unanimous and as I have said these Subdivisional Development Boards consist of every sections of the people.

Another point, Sir, is that it has been said by some Members that the minority community is not represented in the Development Board and that is why the Development Boards cannot consider the case of the minority community. For the information of the House I would like to say that the minority community is well represented and in places like Karimganj and Badarpur—in these two Thanas the Muslim population is much greater than the Hindus; so it is a fact that 80 or 90 per cent of the Muslim minority population will be benefited by construction of any road in these Thanas. That is a fact so far as Karimganj and Badarpur are concerned. So the plea that minority communities are not being favoured in the Development Board does not hold water. So I would request Government to see their way that the recommendations of the Subdivisional Development Boards are respected and changes made therein be rectified forthwith.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.6,79,82,700 under Grant No.28, Major head 50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), at page 427 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,79,82,700 do stand reduced by Re. 1,

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় গড় কাপ্তানীবিভাগে যি আলি পদলী কৰিছে তাৰ কথা কৈয়ে আমি ৰাইজৰ ওচৰত চৰকাৰৰ গুণ গাই কুৰো। দেশত আলি পদলী যথেষ্ট হৈছে। তাক পুতিবাদ কৰাৰ কোনো কথাই ভাবিব নোৱাৰো। কিন্তু ৰাইজৰ ভিতৰত কথা চলিছে যে আলিবোৰত শিলগুটি দিয়াৰ পৰা বদত ৰাইজে খালি ভৰিবে খোজ কৰিবলৈ কষ্ট পায়। তদুপৰি এই পকা বাস্তাব ওপৰেদি লবি মটৰ চলাব কাৰণে ৰাইজে গৰু গাড়ী বা ঘোৰাবে যি দৰে মাল বস্তু অনা নিয়া কৰি দুপইছা আজিছিল তাৰো মুদা মৰিল। মুঠতে আলি পদলীবোৰ উন্নত হোৱাত ধনী মানুহ বোৰৰ যথেষ্ট উপকাৰ হৈছে কিন্তু দুখীয়া মানুহৰ বিশেষ উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই।

আৰু এটা কথা মই মন কৰিছো, এই বিভাগত কাঠৰ বিশেষজ্ঞ লোক নাই আনকি গছৰ সাৰ পলস চিনিৰ পৰা লোকেই নাই, নহলে, এবছৰৰ ভিতৰত কাঠৰ দলংবোৰ পচি যায় কেনেকৈ? মই চৰকাৰক কাঠৰ বিশেষজ্ঞ লোক এই বিভাগত ৰাখিবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ।

Mr. SPEAKER: কেনেকুৱা তজ্জা দিয়ে; ইফি নে ইফি নে কি?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): কোনবোৰ দলং এবছৰতে পচি গল? আপুনি জনালেহে মই খবৰ কৰি উত্তৰ দিব পাৰো। তেখেত সকলে কয় যে তেখেত সকলে কাঠৰ বিষয়ে ভালদৰে জানে আৰু চিনিৰও পাৰো।

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: প্ৰায়বোৰ দলঙৰে কাঠ পচি যায়। বাক তেস্তে সময়ে সময়ে মই এই পচা কাঠবোৰৰ কথা বিভাগত জনাই থাকিম। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আন এটা কথা, দিচাং নৈৰ ওপৰত দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চ বাৰ্ষিকী পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তৰ্গত যিখন দলং সাজিবলৈ ৩ লাখ টকা ধৰা হৈছে—সেইখন দলং চাক্ৰাইত কৰাৰ কথা হৈছে। মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ যেন এই দলং খন চাক্ৰাইত নিদি ভজোত দিয়ে। কাৰণ.....

Mr. SPEAKER: ইয়াত আকৌ এই কথা কেনেকৈ উঠে?

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA: কিয়, দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চ বাৰ্ষিকী পৰিকল্পনাত চাক্ৰাইত দলং এখন সজাৰ কথা স্থিৰ কৰিছে নহয়। মই সেই দলং খনকে চাক্ৰাইত নকৰি ভজোত কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো। কাৰণ.....

Mr. SPEAKER: চেকেণ্ড কাইৰ ইয়েৰ প্লেনত আছে নেকি?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): হয়—এইখন দলং ধৰা হৈছে। স্থান মালমলনি কৰিব পৰা যায়নে নাযায় সেইটো পৰীক্ষা কৰি চোৱাযাব।

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA: হয়, সেই খনকে ভজোত কৰাৰ কথা কৈছো। কাৰণ, ভজোৰ ওচৰতে স্থানীয় চাহ শিল্পৰ কেন্দ্ৰ স্থল সোনাৰী অবস্থিত। মৰানৰ পৰা সোনাৰীলৈ যাবলৈ হলে চাক্ৰায়েদি নগৈ ভজোয়েদি যাবলৈকো কঠা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: চাক্ৰাইৰ পৰা সোনাৰীলৈ বেচি দূৰহয়নে কি?

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA: ভজো হলে বেচি ওচৰ হয়। কাৰণ মই আগতে কৈ আহিছো যে মৰানৰ পৰা সোনাৰীলৈ যাবলৈ হলে চাক্ৰায়েদি নগৈ ভজোয়েদি যাবলৈকো কোনো বাধা নাই, কাৰণ মাহমৰা আলিটো গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগে লৈছে। কিন্তু চাহ খেতিৰ কেন্দ্ৰস্থল সোনাৰী নগৰৰ ওচৰতে থকা ভজো ঘাটত দলং হলে অশেষ সুবিধা হব। গতিকে দলংখন ভজোলৈ নিবলৈ পুনৰ অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ।

Mr. SPEAKER: চাক্ৰাইৰ পৰা সোনাৰীলৈ কেই মাইল?

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA: সাত মাইল।

Mr. SPEAKER: ভজোৰ পৰা?

Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA: চাবেতিনি মাইল। গতিকে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ যে সেই দলং খন চাক্ৰাইত নিদি ভজোত দিলে সকলোৰে সুবিধা হয়।

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider that Shri Hareswar Goswami (who is not present to-day in the House and Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya are responsible Members of this House. But they have developed a knack to criticise the Government on rumours. I feel all information on which they based their criticisms have been given to them by persons or officers who are interested in themselves or without knowledge of actual facts. So, Sir, I would request them that before they criticise the Government light-heartedly, they should ascertain facts and based their criticism on actual facts.

I am glad that Shri Hareswar Goswami realises that one of the most important problems is the problem of communication with India as well as communication inside the State. It is admitted that no country can be economically self-sufficient unless she has a network of good roads which are vital for providing medical facilities in the villages, or for attracting the village boys for going to school, for expansion of cultivation of food crops and development of industries, etc. It is also admitted that a very large number of villages are not connected by good roads with any urban centre or railway stations. Most of the village roads are fair weather roads and when monsoon comes it turns them into mud and become impassable. The backwardness of our State is particularly attributable to poor communication in our State. We now see that our people have become road-minded. The more the construction of roads is taken up, the greater is the demand for more and better roads. In the matter of selection of roads for construction, the procedure is that the recommendations of the Assam Road Communication Board constituted by the House are generally taken into consideration by the Government. The recommendations of the Board are generally accepted. In the matter of selection of road schemes for the Second Five-Year Plan, the selection was made by the Subdivisional Development Boards for each Subdivision of the Plains Districts. The Government have generally accepted the recommendations except in a very few cases. On the advice of the State Development Board, the Government made certain minor changes. But Mr. Goswami has criticised the Government for following a lop-sided development policy in the matter of communication. I deny that charge. It is not so. The development of Road Communication has been taken up by the State Government according to the Nagpur Plan. According to the Nagpur formula the State should have 13,200 miles of roads. Before Independence the State had 2,586 miles of roads, of which 2,016 miles are in the plains districts and

570 miles in the Hills Districts. After Independence upto 1953, the State Government have taken up 2,870 miles of roads, of which 2,070 miles have been taken up in the Plains Districts and 800 miles in the Hills. During the year 1954-55, 1,444 miles of roads have been taken up by the State Government, of which 1,014 miles of roads have been taken up in the Plains Districts of Assam and 430 miles of roads in the Hills Districts. Altogether the State Government have 6,900 miles of roads of which 5,100 miles of roads are in the Plains Districts and 1,800 miles of the roads are in the Hill Districts. This is the present position. We expect to complete construction of the roads taken up after Independence upto 1953 soon and the rest by 1957. The total mileage of roads completed after Independence is only 2,870 miles, 1,584 miles are nearing completion, and 1,444 miles are in progress.

Sir, the hon. Members have criticised the distribution of road mileage as inequitable. I shall come to the specific charges made by Sri Hareswar Goswami. I have already stated on several occasion and I shall state again to-day that the road mileages are distributed on the basis of 'Grid and Star' Formula districtwise in the Hills and Subdivisionwise in the Plains Districts. Formerly it was done districtwise for the Plains Districts also. Now the distribution is made on the basis of that Formula Subdivisionwise. Sir, I do not like to take the time of the House by reading the entire list showing such distribution of road mileages Subdivisionwise. It is, I think, known to all hon. Members.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: What is that 'Grid and Star' Formula, Sir?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, I do not exactly remember the year; it may be 1943. In that year all the Chief Engineers of India met in Nagpur and discussed at length Post-War Road Development of India. In coming to a decision they have evolved one formula for national and provincial highways and major district road and another for other District and Village Roads, which a State should possess. These formulæ are known as Star Grid Formula. In calculating a road mileage for State or for a district agricultural area of the province or State concerned, non-agricultural area, number of towns and villages with population, railway mileage in the area, etc., were taken into consideration. If he wants to know in details, he should go through the proceedings of the Conference of the Chief Engineers held in Nagpur in 1943. I referred to this every time in the general discussion of the Budget or in a Cut Motion, or the meetings of the Assam Road Communication Board every year.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Whether it is obligatory for the Government to accept that formula?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, that was the disinterested advice given by all the Chief Engineers of India and generally it has been accepted by the States. Planning Commission has also taken it into consideration in allotment of funds to the State for road development in the States. So, Sir, this has been taken as the basis for distribution of the road mileage for the Districts and Subdivisions. Here I want to read the road mileage for each Subdivision to show how it stands at present in all the Subdivisions of our State; according to that formula:—

Subdivision	Mileage admissible under Grid and Star formula	Existing mileage including lengths in pro- gress	Deficiency	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. North Lakhimpur	393	237	156	miles
2. Dibrugarh	918	515	403	„
3. Sibsagar	393	255	138	„
4. Jorhat	405	291	114	„
5. Golaghat	469	296	173	„
6. Nowgong	1,002	588	414	„
7. Tezpur	592	378	214	„
8. Mangaldoi	485	230	255	„
9. Barpeta	586	248	338	„
10. Gauhati	1,137	682	455	„
11. Dhubri	1,104	502	602	„
12. Goalpara	429	243	186	„
13. Silchar	702	265	437	„
14. Karimganj	371	150	221	„
15. Hailakandi	252	98	154	„
Total	9,238	5,078	4,260	„

For Hills, I do not propose to give the figure and take the time of the House. I refer to this printed list which is readily available to the hon. Members.

In the Hills Districts also road mileage has been distributed similarly. Funds have been allocated on basis of mileage deficiency calculated on per enlarge basis. If anybody comes and challenges that the distribution is not fair then I am afraid I cannot help him, because this principle has been accepted by the Assam Road Communication Board and the decision of the Road Communication Board has only been translated into action by the Government. Sir, my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami, criticised that in the matter of communication there has been lop-sided development. He cited some instances in Gauhati Subdivision and in his own Constituency of Rampur. Sir, I have already stated before the House that the initial selection of Road Scheme for the Second Five-Year Plan has been made by Subdivisional Development Board who submitted proposals to the Government which have been accepted only with minor changes. All the M. L. As. are the members of that Boards, I mean the Gauhati Subdivisional Board, except myself and Shri Medhi who are not members of that Board. Government received a list of Road Schemes giving priorities. The State Development Committee accepted all the roads giving first priorities in that subdivision and as there was some surplus money left over, with that money some roads of second priority category were taken up. All those roads were selected from the list of roads submitted by the Deputy Commissiner, Gauhati. Now, he accuses the Government without caring to know the actual facts. Probably he did not care to attend the meeting of the Subdivisional Board or perhaps he could not carry the Board with him in the matter of selection of his roads in his Constituency and now he comes and blames me and the Government for the inequitable distribution. How can I be blamed for that Sir? The Subdivisional Development Committee sent their recommendations and the Government accepted them.

The hon. Member, Shri Goswami brought some insinuations against the Chief Minister, the Finance Minister and myself. He stated before the House that there are certain Constituencies where roads lead to Hazo or Rangiya or Morigaon. I deny this charge and it is also baseless. I shall prove it by illustration.

I refer to Roads Schemes under the Second Five-Year Plan to which he refers in his speech.

1. Kshetri-Golap-Barpok Road—3 miles are in Gauhati Thana.
2. Chaygaon-Guni Road—3 miles are in Chaygaon Thana.
3. Batarhat-Simna Road—3 miles are in Palasbari Thana.
4. Kokrajhar-Bangara-Rani—Road $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles are in Palasbari Thana.
5. Balikuchi-Laoch-Jatibhangra Road—6 miles—major parts fall in Kamalpur Thana, rest in Rangiya Thana.
6. Hajo-Bhoma-Dihina-Japia-Ukhra Road—6 miles—major parts fall in Kamalpur Thana, rest in Rangiya Thana.

This is the only road selected in the Hajo Thana and in the Constituency of the Chief Minister.

7. Ghograpar-Tamulpur Road passes through three Mauzas, namely, Pub-Barbhag, Paschin-Barbhag and Pub-Barka.

Sir, my Constituency is a double Member Constituency with a Tribal Member. Out of 8 miles, about 4 miles will fall in the double Member Constituency and the rest in another Constituency.

8. Sonamati Road in Nalbari Thana.
9. Saniram Mandal Road is also in Nalbari Thana.
10. Extension of Kardeguri-Bamankhata Road is in Barama and Pathsala Thanas.
11. Remaining portion of the Kamalpur-Murroi Road—3 miles. This will fall in my double Member Constituency.
12. Hardatta-Birdatta Road. Out of the three miles of this road taken up by the Public Works Department, about a mile will fall in my double Member Constituency.

13. Tihu-Akra Road is in Barama Thana.

14. North Gauhati-Dumnichowki Road falls partly in Gauhati and partly in Kamalpur Thanas.

15. Gauhati-Fatashil Road will fall in Gauhati Thana.

16. Khata-Botasgila Road will fall in Nalbari Thana.

Sir, this being the position of the roads in the Subdivision, is it fair for the hon. Member to remark that all roads lead to Rangiya and Hazo? It will also be seen, if examined, that all roads do not lead to Marigaon. So, Sir, the accusation is baseless. It appears, Sir, either he does not know the actual position of these roads or else his criticism may be attributed as malicious. It is not fair for any hon. Member of the House to criticise Government on such baseless facts regardless of truth.

Now that the election is drawing nigh, he is trying to lay the blame on Government because of his inability to carry the District Development Board with him or else probably because of the fact that he was not present in the meetings of the said Board to press his points there. He has stated that money has not been allotted equitably. I deny this charge categorically. As you might be aware, Sir, money has been allotted to different subdivisions on the basis of the Star and Grid Formula referred to above in my speech which is the accepted formula for distribution of funds for construction of new roads. It is not also a fact that there are no roads in his constituency. There are roads in his constituency also and road has also been included in the Second Five-Year Plan which falls in his constituency.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, the position of the agenda before the House being what it is, we expect quite a large number of Demands being guillotined at the last. Therefore, Sir, it is necessary to consider the time factor also while delivering a speech.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): After having criticised the Government if they now do not relish what I have got to say in reply to the points raised by them, this only shows

the weakness of their criticism. I may, therefore, Sir, be allowed to reply to the important points raised by them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, you proceed on.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The hon. Member has also referred to the Palasbari-Loherghat Road. His grievance is that inspite of reminder and request, the road has not been improved. It is not a fact. This is a gravelled road and the Public Works Department maintains it at that standard. It will not be as comfortable as a blacktopped road. He might have suggested in the Development Board meeting to make it a surfaced road. This was not done. How can I help him now, Sir? He has also brought a further allegation against the Public Works Department that it has not been able to spend a large amount of money every year and as a result surrender them. As against this charge, I would like to place certain facts before the House which will reveal the actual position and also the achievements of the Public Works Department during the last few years.

Year	Over all Budget provision	Expenditure
	Rs.	Rs.
1951-52	... 426 lakhs	330 lakhs
1952-53	... 487 ,,	450 ,,
1953-54	... 625 ,,	574 ,,
1954-55	... 1,000 ,,	650 ,,
1955-56	... 1,160 ,,	800 ,,
		(forecast)

It is not denied, Sir, that there was no surrender at all. But this is, as has been explained on many previous occasions, due to dearth of labour, materials and also technical personnel, etc. In this connection, I would like to give the figures of the total requirement of our staff and also the shortage with which the Department has to be run.

Total requirement of staff in 1955—

	Total requirement	Existing	Shortage
Engineers (excluding senior engineers and Subdivisional Officers)	100	48	52
Overseers (Executive) ..	700	301	399
Overseers (Drawing Branch)	120	88	32
Total	920	437	483

This shows that the shortage is over 50 per cent.

So, Sir, if all these facts are taken into consideration, the results achieved by the Public Works Department cannot be said to be bad. As I have said, the Public Works Department has been working under great handicap. The Opposition cannot accuse the Government for inaction in this respect. I may inform the House that Government have been trying to recruit technical staff from outside Assam, but as more development works are going on everywhere in India, it has not yet been able to recruit necessary staff even from outside also. Arrangements for training in Survey, Drawing and Estimating were made in 1954 in our State and about 270 boys have been trained so far. The number of seats in our Engineering School has been increased from 40 to 120. We have started an Engineering College and about 70 boys have been and steps admitted have also been taken for training at different engineering institutions outside Assam and the number of scholarships has been increased. It is to be realised that it is not possible to get the required number of trained personnel immediately; it requires some time to get the necessary training. With all these handicaps Public Works Department has spent so much money and constructed so many miles of roads and so many buildings which the hon. Members have seen.

A complaint has been made with regard to the Jogighopa-Goalpara ferry service. This ferry service is on a national highway. The Government of India is to provide the steamer. The Assam Public Works Department acts as an agent of the Government of India. Both the Government of India and the State Government have taken steps to purchase the steamers for this ferry.

For this Jogighopa Ferry tenders for two twinhull ferries were obtained by the Director General of Supplies and sent to us for comments. Those have been returned to them on 27th January, 1956. The Director General of Supplies will now place orders in consultation with the Ministry of Transport. This shows that steps have been taken to get the ferries as early as possible.

A sum of Rs.30,00,000 lakhs has been provided in the Second Five-Year Plan for purchase of ferry steamers for crossing over the Brahmaputra at Gauhati and Kamalabari.

My Friend also complained for not improving the North Trunk Road. It is not so. Steps have been taken to improve the road.

The following works have recently been completed—

1. Diversion of North Trunk Road from Depota Ghogra to Thelamora via Kalakuchi.	3.24 lakhs
2. Diversion of North Trunk Road via Silonipam for better ferry crossing.	3.08 „
3. Construction of Gabru Bridge at Kalakuchi.	2.11 „
4. Metalling and surfacing at Kharupetia Bazar.	.69 „
5. Re-construction of Ranganadi Bridge	15.00 „
	Total 24.12 „

The following works are in progress—

1. Surfacing important places in North Trunk Road.	2.50 lakhs.
2. Diversion of North Trunk Road for better approaches.	10.50 „
3. Construction of a bridge over Dhansiri river.	6.34 „
4. Construction of a Bridge over Dikrong River.	10.35 „
5. Improving North Trunk Road from Benki to Sankosh.	53.00 „
	Total 82.72 „

The following works are going to start soon—

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Construction of a bridge over Buroi river | 19.00 lakhs |
| Contractor has been selected subject to clarification of certain points. | |

Works which have been sanctioned and will be started as soon as the estimate is finalised :—

Construction of Jia-Bharali Bridge	60.00 „
------------------------------------	---------

The following works have been included in the Second Five-Year Plan :—

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Metalling and surfacing of North Trunk Road—132 miles. | 75 „ |
| 2. Re-construction of weak bridges | 14 „ |

Total	89 lakhs.
-------	-----------

My Friend referred to the Numaligarh-Dimapur Road. The portion between 12th-20th mile of this road deteriorated and complaints were received last year. Estimates for improvement for metalling and surfacing were submitted to the Government of India, which was sanctioned by them in August last. Tenders for collection of metals have been accepted in Chief Engineer's Office. The work on improvement is in progress.

For the improvement of the national highways, the State is to move the Government of India for sanctioning the required fund. The estimates for this purpose are to be prepared and to be submitted to the Government of India for sanction of funds. When the estimate is sanctioned by the Government of India and fund is made available for the purpose then and then only the work for improvement, etc., can be taken up by the Public Works Department, Assam. So there will be some delay.

Now, Sir, I shall reply to the charges levelled against the Government by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. I think Mr. Bhattacharyya has been briefed by some officials who have no case before the Government or by some interested persons. If any officer has any grievance, that official has got the right of appeal either before me or before the Chief Minister. But probably he has not a good case before the Government; he has probably briefed Mr. Bhattacharyya to bring his case before the House.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, it is not proper to say that we have been briefed by anybody. Our facts are based on Government documents.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I shall place all facts before the House without concealing anything.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, if the hon'ble Minister says that we have been briefed by somebody, this will be a reflection on us.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I do not mean to say that they have been briefed by paying fees. What I mean to say is that they have been briefed with facts.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: There is no question of brief here. Facts are available from the Assam Gazette.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): If my Friends on the other side object to the use of this word then I withdraw it. I do not like to cause any displeasure to them in any way or to hurt their feelings.

I state, Sir, Shri Bhattacharyya has been informed by someone who has no knowledge of actual facts or by some interested person or persons who concealed the truth or misled him.

Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya referred to certain cases of supersession of officers which the Members sitting on the opposite side perhaps may not like to call favouritism and he characterised the alleged supersessions by saying, "Blood is thicker than water".

Mr. SPEAKER: How does it come in ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): It does not come in but he accused the Government that these were managed by manipulation, etc.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is more a Departmental affair ; anyway, reply to it.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I refer, Sir, to the Government of Assam, Public Works Department, Classified List and Distribution Return of Establishment corrected upto 1st April 1953. I refer also to the list published in

1954. In the 1953 list at page 4, Shri Dharendra Nath Dutta's name was at the top against No. 5. Then comes Datta, Sailendra Mohan ; Datta Chaudhury, Amarendra Nath ; Borgohain, Dharanidhar ; Bhuyan, Ramakanta ; Das, Raman Chandra ; Sarma, Pundarikaksha ; Ghosh, Rajani Kr. ; Ali, Muhammad ; Bora, Kon Chandra ; Bhattacharya, Paresh Chandra ; Deb, Birendra Kumar ; Duara, Jogeswar ; Goswami, Girish Chandra ; Sarma, Golok Chandra ; Pal, Sailendra Krishna ; Roy, Bhabani Prasad ; Guha Thakurtha, Kshirod Baran ; Barua, Hironmoy ; Kharkongor, Friester ; Gohain, Hiteswar. I need not go below.

Now, if you refer to Page 4 of the 1954 list, you will find, Sir, 1st—Datta, Sailendra Mohan ; 2nd—Borgohain, Dharanidhar ; 3rd—Bhuyan, Ramakanta ; 4th—Sarma, Pundarikaksha ; 5th—Ghosh, Rajani Kumar ; 6th—Ali, Muhammad ; 7th—Bora, Kon Ch. ; 8th—Bhattacharya, Paresh Chandra ; 9th—Deb, Birendra Kumar ; 10th—Duara, Jogeswar ; 11th—Goswami, Girish Chandra ; 12th—Sarma, Golok Chandra ; 13th—Dutta, Dharendra Nath ; 14th—Datta Chaudhuri, Amarendra Nath and 15th—Das, Raman Chandra. So the last three officers, *viz.*, Dharendra Nath Dutta, Amarendra Nath Datta Chaudhuri and Raman Chandra Das were superseded. Mr. Bhattacharyya criticised the Government for these supersessions and attributed to favouritism or “Blood is thicker than water”, thereby he means they are blood relations. It is not a fact. It will be seen, Shri Dharendra Nath Dutta was superseded by as many as 12 officers, Shri Dutta Chaudhuri by 11 officers and Shri Raman Das by 9 officers. All these officers are not blood relations. They are Bengali, Assamese and Muslim officers.

He did not care to enquire what were the reasons for supersession nor did his informants probably tell him the actual reasons for these supersessions.

Mr. Bhattacharyya referred to rules 12 and 13 of the Assam Engineering Service Rules, 1941. Rule 12 reads:—

“A direct recruit to Class I or II shall be on probation for two years. He will be confirmed in the appointment when he has completed the period of probation satisfactorily and has passed such language examinations as may be prescribed by the Governor and when the Governor is satisfied that he is fit for confirmation”. Rule 13 reads:—“In order to qualify for his second increment, a direct recruit to Class I or II must pass within three years of the date of his appointment, the

professional examination under the rules which are from time to time laid down by the Governor of Assam. After passing this examination he will be entitled to draw pay at the rate corresponding to his position in the time scale.

N. B.—An Assistant Engineer in the temporary cadre when appointed to the permanent cadre will be treated as a direct recruit for the purposes of Rules 12 and 13.”

I shall also read Rule 7, which will be relevant in this connection: “Appointment to Class II Service will be made by the Governor in the following manner:—

(i) by direct recruitment of persons who hold Civil Engineering degrees of Indian Universities as specified in Appendix B or Foreign Universities as specified in Appendix A; or those who hold the following Diplomas in Civil Engineering from the Thomson Civil Engineering College, Roorkee.

(a) Honours Diploma 1st or 2nd.

(b) Pass Diploma.

(c) Higher certificate as Assistant Engineer.

(d) Ordinary certificate as Assistant Engineer.

(ii) by promotion of selected officers from the Subordinate Engineering Service.”

Out of these twelve officers who superseded Shri Dhirendra Nath Dutta and others, Shri Golak Chandra Sarma is related to me. He earned his promotion on merits, not by manipulation or not for favouritism or he happens to be a relation of mine.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Is it not a fact that he was appointed in 1950 and passed his examination only in 1955?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): No it is not a fact; this promotion depends on other facts.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I refer to *Assam Gazette*, dated 16th March, 1955.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Have a little patience. I shall reply and place all necessary facts before the House. I am even prepared to show him the necessary papers outside the House. I can bring the files and read it to the House. This officer was appointed in 1938 in the Assam Public Works Department and as a temporary Engineer in 1950 with the concurrence of the Public Service Commission. I was not a Minister then.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I am not bringing any personal accusation. All I want to say is that he passed his examination five years after his appointment. This is an irregularity.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): You charge the Government and me that in the matter of appointment there is family mindedness. Is it not a personal accusation, Sir? But what are the facts, Sir? This officer was promoted as a temporary engineer in 1950 with the concurrence of Public Service Commission from the Subordinate Engineering Service of the Assam Public Works Department. He was selected by the Public Service Commission as Executive Engineer in N.-E.F.A. on deputation. Along with 30 or 35 other candidates he appeared for an interview before the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission selected him as Executive Engineer. He became eligible for promotion as Temporary Engineer on passing M.Sc. degree in Engineering from Iowa State, U. S. A., which was one of the accredited Colleges recognised by the Government of India and Assam. It is not a fact that he did not pass the departmental examination. In fact, he passed the departmental examination necessary for him to make him eligible for promotion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But he passed in 1955.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I would refer to Rule 7 of Assam Engineering Service Rules, which *inter alia* says:—

“Appointment to Class II Service will be made by the Governor in the following manner:—

“by promotion of selected officers from the Subordinate Engineering Service.”

Shri G.C. Sarma was appointed in Class II Service in 1950 as temporary Engineer on promotion from Subordinate Engineering Service *vide* Rule 7 (ii). He was placed on probation for one year as required under the Rule 15 and was confirmed in Class II on successful completion of the probationary period of one year, *viz.*, he passed the Departmental Examination in 1950. I was not a Minister in 1950.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But he was the Congress President at that time.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Let me read out Rule 15. It says:—“An officer promoted to Class I or II shall be on probation for one year. He will be confirmed in the appointment when he has completed the period of probation satisfactorily and when the Governor is satisfied that he is fit for confirmation.” Shri Golok Chandra Sarma is a permanent member of Subordinate Engineering Service, as such

his promotion, etc., is governed by rule 7(i) not by 7(i). He was selected and appointed on deputation as a direct recruit to North-East Frontier Agency, thereby he does not cease to be a permanent member of Subordinate Engineering Service in the Assam Public Works Department and other benefits to the service. My Friend has been confusing a case of direct recruit with that of a promoted officers. Because of his earlier confirmation he became senior to the three officers referred above, as the other three officers failed to pass the language examination within the probationary period. Seniority is taken with effect from the date of confirmation, which is notified in the Gazette. Confirmation again depends on passing the examinations prescribed by rules referred to above. Shri Dharendra Nath Dutta, Shri Amarendranath Datta Chaudhury and Shri Ram Chandra Das were superseded by 12 officers including Shri Golak Sarma by virtue of the fact that they were confirmed earlier than them. I do not know their exact date of passing the departmental examinations but their seniority was counted from the date of confirmation. Shri Dharendra Dutta comes from Goalpara and is a domiciled, he got 7 chances to appear and to pass but he did not avail of these opportunities. These rules were given effect to from 1941 and there was not a single breach of these rules. It may be that somebody has briefed Mr. Bhattacharyya giving misleading informations, but for that the rules cannot be violated (*Hear, hear*).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of information, whether Shri Golak Sarma was given a regular interview by the Public Service Commission or not ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Yes, he was given a regular interview for selection as Executive Engineer in North-East Frontier Agency. He was on deputation. I already mentioned that. As an officer on deputation he does not cease to be a member of the permanent service.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But did he passed the engineering and accounts examinations ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Yes, he did pass all the examinations required under the rule. I am sorry, that some interested persons have given him facts which are without any foundation.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Favouritism কবি এতিয়া লাজ লাগিছে।

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): লাজ নাগিব লগা কয় কন। Public Service Commission তেনেকাৰ মোব বিশ্বাস সমর্থন নকৰে। I am not a man of that calibre.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya you should not interrupt like this.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: But the Minister cannot falsify the Gazette. I have already referred to the Gazette.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): There may be some mistakes and something in the Gazette and I have sent for the Chief Engineer to give me the Gazette and facts relating to it and shall explain it to the House.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Fifteen officers were superseded by Shri Golak Sarma.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): What can I do? It may be that Shri Golak Sarma is related to me but the eleven others are not my relations. I am giving the names, of other eleven officers who have superseded these three officers. Shri Sailendra Mohan Dutta, he is from Sylhet, Shri Dharanidhar Borgohain, he is from Sibsagar, Shri Ramakanta Bhuyan, he is from Nowgong, Shri Pundarikasha Sarma, he is from Nowgong, Shri Rajani Kumar Ghosh, he is a domiciled in Sibsagar, Shri Mohammad Ali, he is from Kamrup, Shri Konchandra Bora, from Sibsagar, Shri Paresh Chandra Bhattacharyya, is from Sylhet, Shri Birendra Kumar Deb, from Sylhet, Shri Jogeswar Duara from Sibsagar, Shri Girish Chandra Goswami from Kamrup.

None of them are my relations. So, Sir, his allegations are baseless. He is misled and misinformed by interested persons and confirming a case of a direct recruit with one in permanent cadre.

For the information of the House I say, Sir, that Shri Dharendra Nath Dutta submitted an appeal before the Chief Minister and it is under his consideration. So, Sir, the confirmation of these officers are delayed for non-fulfilment of conditions required by these rules.

Again, my Friend refers to the promotion of members of S. E. S. direct to the rank of Executive Engineers. He probably refers to the cases of Shri Surendranath Bhattacharyya, Ranendra Nath Bhattacharjee, Shri Surendra Chandra Das, Shri Lohit Kumar Rudra and Sailendu Narain Rudra—the cases of these officers are this: They belong to the

S. E. S. scale of Rs.150—400 *plus* Rs.50 for selection grade—II. They were confirmed in the above service in the old scale. Their confirmation as S. D. Os. in the scale of Rs.200—400 (introduced from 1948) does not arise as they did not opt for posts of S. D. Os. in the scale of Rs.200—400. There is no violation of any rule in allowing these officers to hold charge of a division or to officiate as Additional Executive Engineers due to shortage of staff and as they have long experience, this does not amount to promotion to Class I of A. E. S. (rank of E. Es.). We cannot promote any officer from S. E. S. to Class II or from Class II to Class I without the concurrence of the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission concur only after scrutiny of records of the officers. Besides, officers placed in-charge of divisions are not necessarily those who have been promoted to Class I of the A. E. S. as such officers are merely placed in charge.

My Friend said that there should be one rule applicable to all—I fully agree with him. The same rule is applicable to the same class of officers. He alleges that the Public Works Department Manual has been violated—it has not been violated, Sir. P. S. C. will not agree to any such violation.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, with your permission, may I forward this copy of the *Assam Gazette* to the Minister for his information, to show that his son-in-law passed in 1955 and not in 1953 ?

Mr. SPEAKER: (Taking the *Assam Gazette* from Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya) when was the examination held ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: In November, 1954. Publication of the result was made on the 16th March, 1955

Mr. SPEAKER: When was the examination held ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Two months back. Naturally it cannot be two years back.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): May I continue, Sir ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, carry on.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): I shall look into the Gazette and explain afterwards. Now Sir, my Friend found that some Contractors sprung up. Am I to be blamed for it ? Tenders for contracts are accepted

by the Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, the Executive Engineers or the Subdivisional Officers. Under the rules I have no concern. If, however, there is any complaint, I look into the matter. There is no provision for interfering in these matters by the Minister. I can look into the malpractices, if any brought to my notice. That is why I requested my Friend to cite specific instances so that I can look into them.

Again, my Friend alleges that the Executive Engineer of North Kamrup raised the earthwork rate from Rs.22 to Rs.27. In this connection I would like to say for the information of the House that the Chief Engineer contacted the Executive Engineer of Nalbari on 'phone yesterday to verify this, but I was told that the Executive Engineer said that there was no case in his Division for raising this rate of earthwork from Rs.22 to Rs.27. The Chief Engineer also contacted the Executive Engineer, Gauhati, in this connection, but the reply is that there is no such case in his Division also. So Sir, these allegations are without any basis and false.

Sir, my Friends are responsible Members of this House. If they will speak anything and everything that comes to their mouths without any basis, I am not giving way.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, you will please excuse me, if I be harsh on you. You are unnecessarily interrupting.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, he criticised Government that all Congress Leaders in the Paschim Borigog Mouza are contractors, and all contractors are Congress Leaders. Sir, I do not know what is the total number of Congressmen in that Paschim Borigog Mouza and also the total number of contractors in that Mouza. But for the information of the House I can say that all Congressmen are not contractors and all contractors are not members of the Congress. My hon. Friend in his emotion may speak anything he likes. Does he suggest that the profession of the contractors are not honourable? I asked him to give the names of the contractors and Congressmen in support of his allegations.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, the other day I gave him certain names.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): It does not prove that all Congressmen are contractors and all contractors are Congressmen. Sir, there are Communist contractors and also Socialist contractors.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, there is not a single Communist contractor. If there were any, he has been purchased by the Minister.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Are they so cheap? (*laughter*) There are contractors from Socialist and Communist parties. So, Sir, I deny all these charges. These charges are baseless.

Mr. Bhattacharyya referred to certain irregularities in the Audit Report relating to the Public Works Department. I admit, there may be some irregularities in the Audit Report, but those irregularities will be met and replied to by the Department. In the name of some irregularities in the Audit Report, my hon. Friend has no right to criticise the Government in the manner he does. Sir, I have already stated that that Department is short of officers by about 50 per cent and at the same time there is rush of work. So some officers may not be able to carry on check-measurements which are required according to Public Works Department Manual. This is entirely due to dearth of officers and rush of works. The irregularities which have been recorded by the Public Accounts Committee in the proceedings will be met by the Department, and for those minor irregularities Government should not be blamed.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, criticised the Government making certain charges in the recommendation of roads to be taken up in the 2nd Five-Year Plan by the Subdivisional Development Committee. A Subdivisional Development Board recommended some roads to be taken up under the 2nd Five-Year Plan. The State Development Committee did not favour the idea of allotting almost all the roads in one constituency in the Karimganj Subdivision. Perhaps the hon. Members will remember that last year my hon. Friend, Maulana Abdul Jalil, brought forward certain allegations that the majority community do not care for the minority community, and he has been pleading for the last two or three years in this House, that a road of small length probably Bhangra Marjatkhanda in his constituency should be taken up by the State Government. So the State Development Committee made certain changes to include one road in Maulana Abdul Jalil's constituency, and the length of the road will probably be about 2 miles only.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, how far is the road—Bhangra—Marjatkhanda—Adorkona Road—from the constituency of Jali Saheb?

There was a dispute regarding the alignment.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, your allegation is that Rs.5 lakhs is not sufficient for 34 miles of roads. Rupees 15,000 per mile is not sufficient.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, the Chief Engineer is our expert adviser. He kept 5 lakhs of rupees for the work.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, it was for surfacing only.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, the Chief Engineer considered that Rs. 5 lakhs would be sufficient for the present, and if more money would be required, then he would come up with a proposal.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, with your permission, I want to speak a few words in this matter. The sum of rupees 5 lakhs is meant for black-topping the entire road. Then possibly already there were some portions on the road which had already been black-topped. The amount should be spent on the portions of the road *minus* those portions which had already been black-topped.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Some portions of the road had already been black-topped. I think this will be spent for improvement of the other portion. I cannot say definitely without consulting the file.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then what is the normal expenditure ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Rupees 33,000 per mile for black-topping. Possibly some portions of the road have already been black-topped and that is why this amount has been given. But, Sir, this is my own impression only.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, some portion of that road has already been black-topped. There is provision of surfacing some other portions also. I cannot say anything definitely without consulting the file.

Mr. SPEAKER: He says it is 34 miles.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): May be, Sir. Some portion has already been surfaced. Some portion is included under other programmes.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We want the whole of it, Sir.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Sir, I think I have replied to all the points raised by my Friends in the cut motions and I request them to withdraw their cut motions.

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: What about my point with regard to the location of the bridge from Morang to Domordolong? That road is to be diverted to Bhojo?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Probably I am speaking from memory I remember to have received a representation to that effect. Sir, that will be examined. There may be reaction from the people of the locality for changing the site of the bridge from their village to another site without proper examination of the question. I cannot agree to change the site of the bridge without proper examination. I cannot give any reply without examining that matter and obtaining the opinion of the Department.

Mr SPEAKER: How many miles from Kakatiali to Saprighat?

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA: 7 miles, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, I would like to know from Minister one point.....

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no. You cannot do any further. We cannot allow any more time now. Moreover you were also absent during the time the Minister replied.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the total provision of Rs. 6,79,82,700 under Grant No. 28, Major head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), at page 427 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,79,82,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The Motion was negatived.)
(After a pause)

The question is that the total provision of Rs.6,79,82,700 under Grant No.28, Major head 50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment), at page 427 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.6,79,82,700 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(The Motion was negatived.)

(After a pause)

Now the original motion is that a sum of Rs. 6,79,82,700 (Rupees six crores, seventy-nine lakhs, eighty-two thousand and seven hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head "50—Civil Works (Excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Grant No. 25.

"43.—Industries and Supplies—I—Sericulture and Weaving."

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 52,33,200 (Rupees fifty-two lakhs, thirty-three thousand and two hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—I—Sericulture and Weaving".

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 52,33,200 (Rupees fifty-two lakhs, thirty-three thousand and two hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—I—Sericulture and Weaving".

(The Motion was then put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Grant No. 26.

"43.—Industries and Supplies—Cottage Industries".

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs 27,46,100 (Rupees twenty-seven lakhs, forty-six thousand and one hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 27,46,100 (Rupees twenty-seven lakhs, forty-six thousand and one hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries".

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 27,46,100 under Grant No. 26, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—II—Cottage Industries, at page 397 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 27,46,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

By this Cut Motion I want to raise a general discussion.

Sir, we have seen that the Cottage Industries are going to play a very important role in the future set up of the country, particularly it is all the more important for the State of Assam. We have seen in the First Five Year Plan our State has practically done nothing towards this Cottage Industry. We expect something should be done in the Second Five Year Plan, because we know unemployment is going up and particularly under-employment, if not unemployment, is the most acute problem of our State. We have seen from the statement of the Finance Minister and other Ministers that in Assam they cannot give everybody sufficient land so that if one is to be self-sufficient he cannot stand on land alone and we have also seen that up till now no major industry could be started in this State of Assam and as such employment in that sector is also nil.

Therefore the main burden of removing this problem of unemployment and under-employment comes upon the cottage industries. But unfortunately we have seen that the plan programme taken up by Government for developing cottage industries is not very helpful. Firstly, Sir, if cottage industries are to thrive, Government should take such steps for management, supply of new implements and finance and also giving marketing facilities available to the people.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you suggest management of cottage industries to be taken over by Government?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: By management I mean, management of the co-operatives and private sectors. If we really want that the cottage industry should thrive and prosper, Government should see that these industries should be provided with finances and also with cheap

powers and also new implements. Government should also see that finished products of cottage industries get good markets. For improvement of cottage industries, supply of cheap electrical power is also of great importance. It is very important that our finished products are to compete with the products of Madras and West Bengal and other States where facilities for cheap electric powers for weaving and manufacture of cottage industry products exist in a greater degree than in Assam. But unfortunately we have seen that during the last year Government have selected certain sites for setting up electrical installations for electrification in rural areas. But without making proper survey Government have invested big sums for supply of power in these areas. Sir, we cannot quite understand or appreciate the attitude of the Government in starting electrical installations here and there without proper survey by this Department. We have also noticed that in some towns, particularly in Nowgong, Karimganj, Shillong, Gauhati and Dhubri the supply of electric power is not quite adequate and the various companies undertaking supply of electric powers in these towns are not functioning properly.

Mr. SPEAKER : Electricity does not come under cottage industries.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS : But how can we expect our small scale industries, I mean the cottage industries, to grow and prosper unless we can ensure supply of cheap electrical power for them? I therefore urge upon the Government to take steps for the improvement of the existing concerns and for installation of new electrical powers.

The next thing that I urge upon Government is to grant loans to the various cottage industries very liberally so that cottage industries may play a very important roll in building up our rural economy.

With these few words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved: That the total provision of Rs.27,46,100 under Grant No. 26, Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies-11-Cottage Industries, at page 397 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.27,46,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Discussions do not appear to be quite relevant. Because at page 397, I find there are other things. Therefore I do not think the Minister needs labour very hard on the points raised by Mr. Das.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite appreciate and realise that cottage industries play a very important part in the development and building up of the country's economy on a sound basis and more particularly in providing our agriculturists with subsidiary occupations during their leisure hours. I am not in a position to accept the statement made by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohon Das, when he stated that the Cottage Industries Department did nothing during the First Five Year Plan. This betrays a regrettable ignorance on the part of the hon. Member about the activities of this Department. For his information^r I may say that Cottage Industries Department got an allotment of about Rs.5 lakhs 63 thousand in the First Five Year Plan and we had formulated certain well thought out schemes with a view to spend this amount. Cottage Industries Training Institute at Gauhati was established with that end in view, and I wonder whether my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohon Das had ever cared to know anything about this institution. The institution is now being run in the existing Weaving School building, but construction work for a new building for the purpose is now going apace, and it is hoped the building will be completed without much delay. Besides this, another building is now constructed for a shop factory and for accommodation of staff and trainees.

These are some of the main items that come under this scheme and we are expecting to spend the whole amount during the current financial year.

Now, coming to the Second Five Year Plan, we want to develop and expand our existing centres, and tentatively an amount of two crores has been allotted for expansion and development of cottage industries. With this amount we have taken up different schemes. For the information of the House, however, I may say here that we are going to have one training *cum* production centre in course of the 2nd Five Year Plan in each of the districts of the State. In addition to this we are also going to select 30 villages where we shall start 30 small training *cum* production centres. I think hon. Members are aware that recently some Japanese experts in two batches came from Japan and they have recently submitted their scheme which is now being examined.

In this way we have been trying our level best to expand and develop Cottage Industries.

Mr SPEAKER: He suggested that you are to produce more for sale in the emporia.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : We have got as many as 37 emporia inside and outside this State. They were started recently. We are going to allot more money as working capital to improve and expand the existing emporia. In these emporia we have made arrangement for keeping the local cottage industries products also, such as the products of blacksmithy, bell-metal, etc. At Karanga in the Jorhat Sub-division there is a Blacksmithy Cottage Industry and we have made arrangement for purchase of some of the products of this industry for sale in our emporia. In this way, Sir, we have been trying to encourage the existing cottage industries of our State. This will show, Sir, that the statement made by my Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, that the Government has done nothing to develop the cottage industries during the First Five Year Plan has no foundation at all.

I therefore request him to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER : Has he got leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion?

(The Cut Motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn.)

I now put the original Motion.

The question is that a sum of Rs.27,46,100 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "43.---Industries and Supplies-II-Cottage Industries".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P. M.

After lunch

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to make one point clear. Passing of the examination for which reference is made to the Gazette is not obligatory for promoted officers under the rules. In spite of that, the officer referred to by Mr. Bhattacharyya passed the examination. Shri Golok Chandra Sarma is a promoted officer to II. He is governed by rule 15. He is not a direct recruit to Class II in Assam P. W. D. Rule 12 refers to direct recruit. So passing of examination is not obligatory on him.

GRANT No. 27
“47.-Miscellaneous Departments

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.11,49,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head-“47.---Miscellaneous Departments.”

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.11,49,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1957, for the administration of the head “47.---Miscellaneous Departments.”

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.4,80,050 under Grant No.27, Major head—47.---Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B.—(a) Labour (total) at page 421 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.11,49,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

In moving this Cut Motion, I want to discuss the labour policy of the Government.

The first point that I want to refer to is that it is very unfortunate that in spite of the increasingly important role that Labour has to play in the country, this subject should be placed in the midst of Miscellaneous Departments, instead of making it an independent department having an independent grant of its own. I want to suggest that in view of the fact that Labour is a very important subject, it should have an independent grant and an independent head altogether.

The second point that I want to raise in this connection is that even in the existing Labour Department itself, several things have been jumbled up together and recently that has been increased all the more. For example, the Labour Commissioner is the Chief Inspector of Factories. In addition to his own duties as head of his department, which has a large volume of important but non-technical work, he finds very little time to attend to the equally important and voluminous work of the Chief Inspector of Factories, which is mainly technical in nature. In making the Labour Commissioner the Chief Inspector of Factories, this Government has not followed the direction of the Government of India and

the recommendations of the Indian Labour Organisation because we find that prior to 1st March 1955, the Factory Inspectorate, Assam, was functioning as an independent Department with Chief Inspector of Factories as its head, who was responsible to the Government directly. The Chief Inspector of Factories also held additional functions under the Electricity Act and Rules as Chief Electrical Inspector and Electrical Adviser ; which was an addition to the parent Department of Factory Inspectorate. This is evident from the fact that Factory Inspectorate had an independent budget head while Electricity had no independent budget head at all; its expenditure being met from Factory Budget.

On 1st March, 1955, Electricity Branch was separated from the parent Department of Factory Inspectorate and was given independent existence as a separate Department, subsequently upgraded to a full-fledged head of Department. The parent Department of Factory Inspectorate should have been retained as an independent Department as before, if not also upgraded similarly. On the contrary, Labour Commissioner has been appointed Chief Inspector of Factories in addition to his own duties from the date of separation. In doing this, even the Factories Act has been violated. The Factories Act is a very important technical legislation under which the Chief Inspector of Factories has to exercise statutory powers involving highly specialised technical matters, e.g., approval of factory plans, machinery lay-out, designs of machine guards and other safety appliances, methods of ventilation, control of temperature and humidity, lighting, exhaust systems for poisonous and dangerous dusts and fumes, fighting against machinery accidents, explosions and fire hazards, industrial poisoning and diseases, etc. These require not only adequate technical knowledge but also specialised training and experience in Factory Inspection.

Also we find that according to the recommendation made at the 30th Session of the Indian Labour Organisation, which was held in June, 1947.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Has it been accepted by the Government of India?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Yes, Sir, it has been adopted by all the States except Orissa. In the case of Andhra, it was not adopted when the State came into being, but is being adopted now.

As I was saying, Sir, the 30th Session of the Indian Labour Organisation made a recommendation that statutory inspection and labour conciliation works should not be entrusted to the same person. But here in Assam, the contrary has been the case. Formerly, the Factory Inspectorate was separated from the Labour Commissioner. Now while the recommendation of the Indian Labour Organisation is respected even where these two functions were previously performed by the same person, we find that in our State where they were previously separate have been amalgamated now. Thus, the recommendation of the 30th Session of the Indian Labour Organisation has been violated. As a corollary to that recommendation, the Conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories held in 1948 also recommended that no labour conciliator should act as a Factory Inspector and the Factory Inspectorate should function independently of Labour Commissioner. These recommendations were respected by the industrially advanced States like Madras, Madhya Pradesh, etc. But in Assam, the independently existing Factory Inspectorate has been brought under the Labour Commissioner, which is completely against the spirit of the recommendation of the Indian Labour Organisation Conference, which was subsequently accepted at the Conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories.

Then, Sir, the action of our Government in combining these two functions goes against the spirit of the Factories Act. Sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 8 of the Factories Act, 1948, lay down the conditions of appointment of Inspectors and Chief Inspector of Factories. Under sub-section (1), the Government of India is prescribing Engineering degrees or equivalent as the basic qualification of Inspectors, and the Assam Government have so far recruited none but technically qualified men as Inspectors. So the inspectors are all technical men but he who is at the head of the Factory Inspectorate is not a technical man; his subordinates are all technical men.

Under Sub-section (2), the Chief Inspector is also an Inspector for the whole State. As such he should possess the basic technical qualifications needed for an Inspector under Sub-section (1). Prior to 1st March 1955, the Chief Inspectors of Factories were all technical men. Consequently it is anomalous to appoint a non-technical man now as Chief Inspector of Factories. We also find with regard to Inspectors that "the State Government may, by notification in the official Gazette appoint such persons as possess the prescribed qualifications

to be Inspectors for the purposes of this Act and may assign to them such local limits as it may think fit. And the State Government may by notification in the official Gazette, appoint any person to be a Chief Inspector who shall in addition to the powers conferred on an Inspector under this Act, exercise the powers of an Inspector throughout the State." So it is quite anomalous that a man who is an Inspector for the whole State should not or does possess the qualification required for the purpose.

In substance the result has been—

(1) That the Factory Inspectorate of Assam has not been entrusted to an independent Chief Inspector of Factories with technical qualifications with training and experiences in factory inspection work.

(2) The Inspectorate has not been provided with adequate staff, even though the expenditure on the Inspectorate is less than one fourth of its annual collection of fees. No Medical Inspector has been appointed and even one of the sanctioned post of Factory Inspectors has not been filled up for nearly one year.

(3) Though the Factory Inspectorate is a specialized technical service, yet a man who is not specialized in it has been put in charge.

So under these circumstances I should like to suggest that the Government should take certain measures to improve the situation and I want to make these suggestions:

(1) That the Factory Inspectorate should have standards already accepted by the Labour Ministers' Conference and also as recommended by I.L.O. and the conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories.

(2) That there should be Medical Inspectors of Factories because we find the medical condition in factories is too bad specially in the private printing presses, etc.

(3) That the Factory Inspectorate should be equipped with necessary apparatus for carrying out surveys of environmental conditions. If they are not properly equipped with the apparatus they cannot be expected to carry out the surveys properly.

(4) I also want to stress that the Inspectors should be provided with transport facilities in order to enable them to do their work quickly and efficiently.

(5) There should also be provision for the Inspectorate staff not only to tour throughout the State but also in other States to make a comparative study of the conditions in those States. If there is anything done better in any other State we should also follow that.

(6) So far as the senior members of the Inspectorate are concerned there should be, if possible, facilities for them to visit the more industrially advanced countries. So far as the general Inspectorate staff is concerned, they may be sent for touring inside India, but so far as the senior members are concerned, they may be sent to England or America or elsewhere where the factory inspection service is much more advanced and efficient than in India.

(7) Lastly my suggestion is that the Inspectorate staff may be provided with technical literature appertaining to their work.

Sir, these are the few suggestions I want to make with regard to the Factory Inspectorate staff.

The third main point that I want to stress is that though the minimum wages Act has been enforced in the tea gardens, apart from tea gardens there are other industries where the minimum wages have not been enforced. The Government should therefore take appropriate measures to see that the Minimum Wages Act is implemented in all the industrial enterprises of the State.

It is true that the plantation rules have been enforced in the State, but we find that Welfare Officers have not been appointed to see whether these rules are followed or not. So my suggestion is that in order to make these rules really effective, really operative, Welfare Officers should be appointed for the purpose.

We have also seen that the housing condition of the labourers in different spheres is too bad and Government should see that the housing condition of the workers is improved. Appropriate measures should be taken for that purpose.

Last year I urged on the Government to make effective the Industrial Statistics Act. I do not know whether it is as yet enforced. If it is enforced already, it is well and good; if not, it should be expedited.

Lastly I want to point out that even from the speech of the Union Finance Minister himself we have come to know that the real wages of the workers have not improved due to the inflationary tendency in the country. So Government should see that there can be no wage cut or increased work on the workers and Government should also see that there is some increase in the real wages of the different sections of the working class. These few observations I want to make in this connection and I hope the Government will accept my suggestions. I therefore commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : You can move your next one if you like.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Instead of moving my second Cut Motion I will simply speak on it. So far as the scheme of minimum wage for agricultural labourers is concerned, it has been implemented only in Cachar but in Cachar also there is no appropriate measure to have effective implementation of the scheme. My suggestion is that this should be implemented through out the State and there should be appropriate measure to make this implementation really effective.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami, you are not moving ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : I am just speaking on the Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.4,80,050 under Grant No.27, Major head—47.—Miscellaneous Departments, Minor head—B—(a)—Labour (total), at page 421 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1 i.e., the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.11,94,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Now, Shri Hareswar Goswami can speak.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted to move my Cut Motion to draw the attention of the House regarding the working of the factories in our State. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has dealt with that particular part of the subject. However, I will only refer to the Report on the working of the factories under Factories Act of 1948 in Assam for the year 1953, and from it, I would try to show that the Factory Inspectorate should be separated and made a separate Inspectorate altogether and the Labour Department should not be allowed further to hold charge of the Factory Inspectorate.

*Speech not corrected.

Sir in fact, in our State there were 951 factories in the previous year and now we have got 988 factories and out of these 959 are working at the moment and from the Report we find that 606 factories were inspected, that is 67 per cent as against 75 per cent of the previous year and in 1952 the percentage of factories inspected was 74. Now, this percentage has come down to 67. Then, regarding accidents, you will find that accidents total is 1,164 as against 1,053 in the previous year, *i. e.*, 1953, thrity of which were reported to be fatal and 137 of serious nature.

Then, regarding connivances of which prosecution was launched, we find that the connivances were of common occurrence in almost all the factories. Because these factories are not properly inspected and therefore the management do not care to comply with the regulations of the Factories Act. Overtime is almost a daily phenomenon in most of the rice and oil mills in Assam.

Then in the Report it is stated that privilege leave with wages is to be granted to the workers but we find that there is no improvement in allowing this leave wage in small factories. The factories which are big do not deprive their workers of this leave with wage, but there are factories with 10 or more people in urban areas, or in villages, where we find that these factories in most cases violate the rules in this respect. In small factories sweating of labour is rampant and these cases of violation of rules are not investigated by the Inspectorate.

Sir, we do not find in the Report as before about types of defects detected of the factories inspected but from the figures given it will be clear that we have, although we have not got big industries worth the name, tea garden factories, oil and rice mill factories, numbering 977, they are not properly looked after and therefore we find breach of rules and provisions of the Factories Act of 1948.

Sir, I should like to cite an instance of Gauhati itself. In the rice and oil mills there we find that registers are not properly maintained, registers of temporary workers are not maintained and registers of permanent workers are not kept as they should be kept. In almost all such factories there is overtime work very often but no account for these overtimes is kept. We find that factories closed down for some reason for some time, the workers have to work on Sundays, although Sundays are treated as holidays. The managements force the workets to work on Sundays to make up the period of bearkdown. This is in violation of the rules of the factories.

Sir, if we want to give labour what is due to them under the various Acts and rules, it is necessary that the Factory Inspectorate should be strengthened and that it should have sufficient number of Inspectors who should go not once a year to inspect a factory but should frequently visit the factories so that the managements do not violate the rules and the labour get their due. If the factories are inspected once in a year, in that case the managements get sufficient time to mend their things before the actual inspection is done. When we have a big labour force in Assam, we should have sufficient and efficient Inspectors. The Labour Commissioner who is at present the head of the Inspectorate should not be allowed to continue as such and the Factory Inspectorate should be an independent body, as has been suggested by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya.

As a matter of fact, excepting Orissa in all other States to-day the tendency is that the Factory Inspectorate should be a separate and independent department altogether. That is the Resolution of the International Labour Organisation in which it is clearly stated that the Factory Inspectorate or persons having to do with factory must be made a conciliation officer. My submission is that in our State also we should have a Chief Factory Inspector as the Labour Commissioner who is already overburdened with multifarious other works cannot properly look to the activities of this Department, thus the Factory Inspectorate will be independent.

On the other hand, we have not minimised the cost very much by having the Labour Commissioner as the head of this Department. If we work up, we find that the cost of upgrading the present Deputy Inspector of Factories will not be more than Rs.3 or Rs.4 thousand. When we have spent so much money for the welfare of the labour population, why cannot we have another man who will have the sole responsibility for the management of the Factory Inspectorate?

Now, I will speak a few words about the Labour Inspectorate. I tabled a question during the last Session for giving the Inspectors an orderly each and to give them travelling allowance at par with other gazetted officers. They are to move about but they have not even been supplied with cycles and they have found it very difficult to move about and they are not given the travelling allowance which is given to other officers. They should also be provided with orderlies as done in the case of officers of similar standing.

Coming to labour situation itself, a few years back a proposal was mooted out that at Gauhati the mills should be shifted from these places where they are to-day and that there should be labour colonies where labourers will be housed. Even the Minister in charge of Labour went with me to look for a site. Now we know that at Gauhati the labourers have to live in a very horrible plight. Nothing has been done so far as their accommodation is concerned because management do not take any responsibility regarding providing them with quarters.

Mr. SPEAKER : I think they are getting a loan?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : It may be so, Sir, but whether a loan was given to the management or not the labourers have not been benefited in any way from that because the management is not doing anything at all for providing houses to them. What I am trying to impress, Sir, is that the time has come when we have to force the management to provide quarters for their labourers. In a tripartite meeting it was decided that labour will be given a house rent of Rs.3 and subsequently under an award it was raised to Rs.6. Now the management want to fall back on that. They do not want to stick to agreements if it does not suit their convenience. They say, 'We do not want these agreements or awards when the Minimum Wages Act is there, let the Minimum Wages Act be the guiding principle'. Sir, it is known to this House that the minimum wage is a minimum—it is not a maximum. The minimum wage cannot take away the rights accrued to labour from the various agreements and awards. Even then, although this matter was reported to the Labour Department, the management of the Gauhati mills are trying their utmost not to abide by the various agreements and awards which impose upon them a responsibility of giving better amenities to the labourers. Not only that. They are even making a discrimination in certain cases which is uncalled for and most unwarranted. That is, even when they agree to give house rent to the old employees when they are forced—that also only Rs.3 and ; not Rs.6 they do not want to give this house rent to their new employees because they say that it is covered by the minimum wage. I don't know how far that interpretation will be applicable? My submission is that under the Minimum Wages Act the labourers should not lose the benefit accruing to them before this Act came into force. Sir, it has been said by some of my friends of the I. N. T. U. C. that minimum wage is not a fair wage and that we must take steps for imposing a fair wage so that the labourers may be able to live a decent life.

Another point is with regard to the Employees Insurance Act—whenever we ask for some provision for gratuities or compensation due to accidents or losses of life, the Management are saying that since the labourers have got the insurance, that will cover everything. We know, Sir, that up till now the labourers have not been given the benefit of this State Employees Insurance Act. If the State Employees Insurance Fund has been implemented, it is time that in our State when we have given this Provident Fund benefit to the tea labour, we should also implement this State Employees Insurance Fund so that the labourers will feel that there is at least an insurance for them against insecurity and against the lean days when they may be able to fall back upon this Fund and live a decent living.

Then, I would also request the Minister-in-charge to consider the question of employees in the rice and oil Mills. These rice and oil Mills are considered to be essential industries and because of that maximum advantage has been taken more by the management. Now the time has come that these fetters should not be allowed to bind the labourers—the labourers should be given the right of collective bargaining so that through bargaining they may have happy solution or settlement of all disputes.

With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, and I hope the Minister-in-charge will look into the matters we have raised to-day.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must thank my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, for having brought before the House some constructive suggestions. I can assure him that the suggestions that he has made on the floor of this House, will certainly be considered.

Sir, I would like to point out to the House some facts relating to the improvement of the Factories Inspectorate. The Factories Inspectorate was so long amalgamated with the Electricity Department and the Chief Electrical Adviser to Government was in charge. But when it was found that he could not function as Chief Inspector of Factories with the gradual development of the Electricity Department, it was felt that the Factories Inspectorate should be separated and it was done so this year. Though a separate Chief Inspector of Factories had not been placed in charge, we have tried to strengthen this Department—there are to-day four Factory Inspectors including the Deputy Chief Inspector. The Labour

Commissioner has been placed in charge of the Department though he is not a technical man. I must mention that there are States, to my knowledge, who have a non-technical person as the Chief Inspector of Factories. My Friend has also mentioned about Orissa in this connection. I do not propose to mention the names of some other States because they might have changed by this time; we found this to be a fact last year when this was enquired. It was found that in one or two States the Chief Inspector of Factories belonged to the Administrative Service.

Sir, there are two aspects in this question about factories—one is the technical side and the other is the welfare side. The Ministry of Labour discussed about this latter point and there was a report in this connection called the Garret Report. This Report laid much emphasis on the question of welfare measures to be adopted with regard to the Factories Inspectorate. My Friend has mentioned about the India Labour Organisation Convention and said that the India Labour Organisation Convention also laid emphasis on this. It was so, Sir. The State Government and also the Ministry of Labour are also trying to enforce the India Labour Organisation Convention.

They do not propose to violate the I. L. O. Convention. As a member State they are bound to follow the I. L. O. Convention, and the Ministry of Labour of the Government of India is also pressing upon the State Government to follow the I. L. O. Convention.

Sir, he has mentioned about the medical inspection of the labours. Civil Surgeons in the Districts have been looking into the matter. The question of having a separate officer for Medical Inspection is under the consideration of the Government.

He has mentioned that the Factory Inspectors should be deputed to other States to see how the other States have been conducting the Factory Inspection Department. This is being done sometimes. Because our Inspectors have to attend some meetings held in other States, and on such occasions they have the opportunity of visiting other States. Last year there was a meeting held at Nagpur, and one of the Factory Inspectors had to be deputed to attend this meeting.

He has mentioned another point that some of the Inspectors should be sent to foreign countries. In our Inspectorate Staff we have got two persons, who have got foreign experience. One is Shri Barua who went overseas and the other is Shri Goswami who went to U. S. A. and he had his degree in U.S.A. As such two of the Inspectorate staff have had already visited foreign countries and that they had their training there.

He has mentioned about the Agricultural Minimum Wages Act. I would like to point out our difficulties with regard to the implementation of the Agricultural Minimum Wages Act. The Ministry of Labour of the Government of India has been very anxious to implement the Agricultural Minimum Wages Act. For the information of the House, I should like to mention that in the field of Agriculture very few States have been able to implement the Agricultural Minimum Wages Act in full. Our agricultural employers are very small landowners, who employ labour not at all times but occasionally. On the other hand, they do not keep their account, they are ignorant about this. In the Labour Ministers' Conference which was held recently, this matter was discussed. According to the Convention of the India Labour Organisation no agricultural employer can employ labourers without ensuring a minimum wage under the law. The Government of India as a member-country is to follow this Convention of the India Labour Organisation. But due to this very fact that the agricultural employers in our country are only small land-holders and they are ignorant and they generally do not engage labourers, and when they employ, they also work with them. Accordingly the State Government have selected only the district of Cachar with a view to implement the Agricultural Minimum Wages Act.

Then, Sir, Mr. Goswami has mentioned that there is no proper machinery with a view to implement the Agricultural Minimum Wages Act. For the information of the House, I would like to say that in many other States everything is done by the Revenue staff. But in our State we have appointed officers for this purpose. We have employed one Special Officer, who had been the Assistant Labour Commissioner. He is the Special Officer in-charge of the Agricultural Minimum Wages Act. There is another Labour Investigator under him. This is the machinery for implementation of the Act.

Then, Sir, he has also mentioned about the appointment of a Welfare Officer for the implementation of the Plantation Labour Act. This matter is under the consideration of the Government. We propose to raise this matter in the Standing Labour Committee.

Then he has mentioned about the housing condition of the labourers. We have already taken up this question. With regard to the Plantation labour we have been anxious about proper housing facilities. The State Government so long wanted to have the housing of the Plantation labourers according to the

specifications. We could not proceed for in this matter because of lack of materials like cement and C.I. Sheet. But since the visit of the Union Labour Minister in our State, we propose to insist on the rest of the available materials and go ahead in this matter. According to the specification, the plinth area should be about 244 to 255 sq. ft. as far as I remember. We propose to have the houses constructed with the available materials according to the required specification regarding space. This matter had already been taken up with the Industries Department.

I think, Sir, I have covered all the points raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami.

Then Sir, Shri G. S. Bhattacharyya has also mentioned about another matter. The expenditure in the Budget has been shown under the Miscellaneous Department. He raised the point that it should not be under the Miscellaneous Department. My hon. Friend knows that the Budget is prepared in the Finance Department. The matter will be discussed with my colleague, the Finance Minister, as to whether this expenditure should be shown under Labour or Miscellaneous.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, has also made certain observation with regard to the Factory inspection. He has mentioned about the transport facilities for the officers. This question of the transport has already been taken up. The Government have considered the matter and have agreed to provide jeeps to be placed at the disposal of the Labour Department. But with regard to the Factory Inspectors, the matter is still under consideration of the Government.

Then he has made certain observation with regard to the number of inspection made by the Inspector of Factories. Regarding this point I would like to discuss with the Department, as how to cover all the Factories for Inspection. However, we have already increased the staff, and there is a proposal to add another Inspector to the Department concerned. There has been some difficulty about this also. It is very difficult to get trained personnel now-a-days. Advertisements are issued by the Public Service Commission, but sometimes they do not get any response from the candidates. Moreover, many of these Factory Inspectors have been taken to the Electricity Department.

He has then mentioned about the inspection of small factories and told us that the small factories were not being properly inspected. I will, Sir, look into this matter as to how the small factories could be inspected and see that the small factories should not be left out. To my knowledge more than

60 or 70 per cent of such small factories are being inspected once a year.

With regard to the rice and oil mills he said that the registers were not properly kept. I would look into the matter too. Regarding the overtime wages also I would enquire into the matter. Then he has mentioned about the Tripartite Agreement for giving the employees of the rice and oil mills at the rate of Rs. 6 as house rent. He mentioned that the house rent is being given at the rate of Rs. 3 to the old employees and that the new employees do not get anything like that. I am not sure if by 'new employees' he means the seasonal labourers who are engaged by the mill owners, because such seasonal employees are not entitled to get any house rent. Of course, I would look into that matter also. Regarding the Employees State Insurance Act, this is a Central Act and the State Government is considering the question of extending these facilities to the employees in our State. We had a talk with the Union Labour Minister during his last visit in our State with regard to this point.

With these remarks, I request my Friend, Sri Bhattacharyya, not to press his Motion but to withdraw his Motion. I can assure him that his suggestions would be certainly examined, and they would be carried out as far as practicable.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House withdrawn.)
Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.11,49,200 (Rupees eleven lakhs, forty-nine thousand and two hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head—
 "47.—Miscellaneous Departments."
 (The Motion was adopted)

GRANT No. 49

71.—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir to move that a sum of Rs.23,68,500 (Rupees twenty-three lakhs, sixty-eight thousand and five hundred only) be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.23,68,500 (Rupees twenty-three lakhs, sixty-eight thousand and five hundred only) be granted to the Minister in-charge to

defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "71—Capital outlay on schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

(The Motion was then put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

GRANT No. 18

"38.—Medical"

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.83,19,600 (Rupees eighty three lakhs, nineteen-thousand and six hundred), be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head—"38.-Medical".

Mr. SPEAKER-The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.83,19,600 (Rupees eighty-three lakhs, nineteen thousand and six hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head—"38.-Medical".

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.83,19,600 under Grant No.18, Major head-"38.-Medical", at page 167 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.83.19,600 do stand reduced by Re,1.

Sir, my intention in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about inefficiency of the Department. Sir, during these years we have spent big sums for the improvement of the Medical Department in our State, but up till now so far as my information goes, the Hospitals which had long been provincialised, *e.g.*, Silchar, Gauhati, Tezpur, Nowgong Hospitals etc., even in all these Hospitals there is no properly qualified Surgeons and specialists like Radiologist, Bacteriologist, Anaesthetist Surgeons, not to speak of the Subdivisional Hospitals which were so long under the Local Boards and which were recently taken over by the Government. The Government Hospitals could not be improved in such a way that there are arrangements for proper treatment and major operations therein. Side by side we find

that the Mission Hospitals, *viz.*, Mission Hospitals at Panitola, Dibrugarh, Chatrabari, Anipur, Shillong, etc., have monopolised for the major operations and for the treatment of complicated diseases. Take for instance the case of the Shillong Civil Hospital: Will any Minister or his relation or the Governor would like to undergo an operation in this Government Hospital? Or will they not prefer to get their operation done at the Welsh Mission Hospital at Shillong? Why can they not rely on their own Hospitals and Doctors? The Chief Minister on some other occasions mentioned that these Missionaries were doing harm in the cause of the State as they were taking away big sums of money out of the State through these Hospitals. Sir, in no other State we see such state of affairs. After spending such large sum of money—lakhs and lakhs of rupees—why not the Government improve the condition of our own Hospitals and Doctors? Why can we not get the same standard of treatment in our own Hospitals as we get in the Mission Hospitals? Why do our people particularly of higher grade such as Ministers, Governors, High Officials, Legislators prefer to go to the Mission Hospitals? Why do they not treat themselves in the Government run Hospitals? I should like to ask the Minister-in-charge of the Department to give us some figures of major operations done by all these Government run Hospitals. If the figures are given it will be seen in all probability, that barring the Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh, more than 50 times of the total operations are being done by these Missionary Hospitals. So even our Government are incurring huge expenditure on this account, they have not been able to create confidence in the minds of our people to feel themselves attracted to our Government Hospitals. On this score my suggestion is that there should be some zonal hospitals in different areas, say 3 or 4 in number, and in these zonal hospitals there should be specialists procured mainly for the purpose of surgery so that our people can get facilities for treatment in these zonal hospitals. Otherwise we shall see that although our Government have been spending huge amounts, this will fail to produce the desired result, if Government fail to attract our people or create confidence in their minds on the efficacy of the treatment done in these hospitals. If, however, Government think that Government Hospitals are maintained only for catering to the needs of the poorer section of people for whose treatment one need not bother much, then, of course, that is a different thing. But I do not want that there should be any distinction made between the poor and the rich in the matter of even medical treatment.

I would also like to speak only a few words regarding Leper Colonies. We have seen that mostly these Leper Colonies are opened and maintained by some private persons and institutions and our Government generally give some contributions only. Instead of this, I suggest that our Government should themselves open and maintain some leper colonies.

With these few words Sir, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 83,19,600 under Grant No.18, Major head "38-Medical", at page 167 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.83,19,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, without moving my Cut Motion, may I speak a few words in support of the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohon Das ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you going to move your Cut Motion Mr. Goswami ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: No, Sir, I do not propose to move my Cut Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I do not like to take much time of the House by attempting to cover a wide range of subjects but would like to confine myself only on two items, one regarding the Medical College at Dibrugarh and the other about the Mental Hospital at Tezpur.

Now, Sir, so far as the Medical College at Dibrugarh is concerned, it will be agreed to by all that this institution is a fine achievement of our Government of the post-independence period and we are all proud of it. But inspite of the fact of its coming into being, there still remains a lot of improvement to be made. We have seen that from this College up till now 179 students have graduated, but then, the Government have been able to absorb only 67 of these qualified medical graduates in Government services, *i. e.*, out of the total number of 179 about 112 are still not in Government service. Sir, we always hear from the Government that there exists great dearth of doctors. Then how is it that they have not been able to absorb this small number of doctors in Government service ? The reason will be found in the fact that these medical graduates are given only Rs.175 P. M. and they can very well manage to get much more if they take to private

practice or get into services other than the State Government, such as tea gardens or Military etc. So my suggestion is that Government should consider raising of the pay of the medical graduates because this is a technical profession and when they qualify in this technical profession, they naturally expect higher than they are given now.

Secondly, we find that the Medical College Hospital where fortunately or unfortunately I had the occasion to be a patient for some months recently, requires a lot of improvement. For example, the drainage system is awfully bad. The area is surrounded by tea gardens and there is no outlet for water to go out of the compound of the Medical College and as a result the greater portion of the Medical College compound remains under water during the rainy season. I only hope that the Medical Minister will make it convenient to see that this is improved.

Then we have also seen that the College being at some distance from the town, it becomes necessary for the patient as well as his relations sometimes to stay somewhere near the hospital at least so long as the patient does not get a seat in the Hospital. Therefore it is necessary that a guest house should also be provided near about the college. While in the Medical College I heard that there was a proposal for such a Guest House but it has not yet been constructed.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): This has been provided.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Then it is well and good. My only request is that the matter be expedited.

Then the next thing that I would like to speak is about the T. B. Ward construction which was started a long time ago. This Ward was donated by a private gentleman to whom our Chief Minister and also the Governor offered very many thanks and we also thank him for that. But, Sir, that house still remains incomplete although many other buildings construction of which had been started simultaneously or just about the time this building was also started, have since been occupied. The hospital of the T.B. Ward has not yet been shifted to the T.B. Ward. The Isolation Ward for this T.B. Ward is housed in a very uncongenial atmosphere. Now, Sir, T.B. patients should be kept in much better environment than this. It has been also kept very dirty. Latrines are also not properly cleaned. That is, however, a look out of the College authority. I also found that there were provision only for 18 House Surgeons. I understand, the number has

now been increased to 29. That is quite good. But as regard their pay or allowance, whatever it may be called, it is a fact that while it was Rs.150 per month previously, it has now been reduced to Rs.100 per month and in order to justify the measure of this reduction, Government cites the example of House Surgeons in hospitals outside this State. But my information is that in the Government College Hospitals in Calcutta, allowance is Rs.150 per month. It should be remembered in this connection that the cost of living in Calcutta is much cheaper than Dibrugarh. Government should sanction adequate amount or increase the number. If the number has been increased to 29, as I am given to understand, then it is well and good. At the same time I hear that their pay or allowance, whatever it is called, was Rs.150. But now it is proposed to be, or has already been reduced to Rs.100. It has been stated that this reduction is due to the fact that in the hospitals of other places such house physicians and surgeons are given only Rs.100 per month. But my information is that in the Government hospitals in Calcutta the allowance is Rs.150 inspite of the fact that Calcutta is definitely a much cheaper place than Dibrugarh. Sir, the patients are almost entirely to depend on the attention of the house physicians or surgeons who on their part are to do very hard work. In a place like Dibrugarh it cannot be imagined that the medical graduates can manage to live with Rs.100 a month. So, Sir, let us at least hope that if the Government has any such proposal of reducing the allowance to Rs.100, it will abandon that idea and will maintain to pay Rs.150 as used to be in the past.

Another most important factor is the nursing side. There is a great dearth of nurses in that hospital. As a matter of fact the patients are to depend largely on the services of the nurses under training. There is only one trained nurse there in every ward and the rest are all under training. They are given a very small allowance of Rs.50 per month. With this small allowance they cannot be expected to serve well for about 10 hours a day. They are to do very hard work and at the same time they are to maintain their health and efficiency which it is not possible to do with a petty sum of Rs.50 per month. So, Government should see that the allowance of the nurses under training is also increased. They should have more time to give more attention to the theoretical side of their training also. At present I hear the theoretical lesson is given only once a week, that is, on Wednesday, and that also for one hour only. Excepting this one hour a

week they are to attend the hospital duty. So, Sir, I hope they will be given more time for having their theoretical training along with the increase of their allowances.

I want to say a few words also about the Mental Hospital at Tezpur. It is very unfortunate, as we have seen, that the number of lunatics now-a-days has increased in our State. Sir, the term "Mental Hospital" of Tezpur is a misnomer, because after all it is a prison for the lunatics or those who have derangement of brain. We should be very careful about those unfortunate brothers and sisters of our country and we should make proper arrangement for their treatment instead of simply keeping them confined. I understand that Government of India in their Second Five-Year Plan have proposed to make some such provision in some States like Bihar. We should also see that our Government try to upgrade this Mental Hospital at Tezpur also and make it a full-fledged mental hospital.

These are the few words, Sir, I wanted to say in connection with this Cut Motion.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, has stated in moving his Cut Motion that the civil hospitals which have been previously taken over by the Government have not been improved to the extent they should have been done. My Friend should know that formerly all those hospitals were under the management of the Local Boards and it is only a few years back those district headquarters hospitals had been taken over by the Government and in the current financial year we have also taken over all the subdivisional civil hospitals which were also under the management of the Local Board. We have taken up certain schemes for the development of all these hospitals. But, Sir, in the matter of development of health condition in the State our greatest handicap is the dearth of qualified health personnel. We are very much short of qualified doctors and nurses. We have no sufficient number of health visitors and even midwives. Sir, to train our people we require certain number of training institutions. We have already made arrangements to have such institutions at Dibrugarh, Gauhati, Nowgong and Shillong. These are meant to produce certain number of health personnel for different centres. We have got only one Medical College in the State, but the number of the student who come out successfully from this college is not sufficient for us. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has stated that though there are

sufficient number of students now coming out from this College, all of them have not been absorbed. I must say that our students should inculcate the spirit of service. Wherever they are sent or appointed to work they should be prepared to go. But that is not done. On the last occasion we appointed about 30 doctors, but only a few of them joined and the others did not. So, Sir, there is a great dearth of qualified doctors in our State.

My Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, has mentioned that there are not much facilities for treatment of patients in the Shillong hospital. Every one of us knows how big the Shillong hospital is. In the present compound, as it exists now, there is no scope for expansion and for that reason we have decided to shift this hospital to a better site. We have got a definite scheme to have a full-fledged and up-to-date civil hospital in this capital town of Shillong and this will be done in due course under the Second Plan.

My Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, has stated that 50 per cent of the operations are not done in the main State hospital. Of course, I do not know exactly what is the position as I have not got the information in this respect. However, Sir, I will look into this.

He has further said that no proper step has been taken by the Government for the treatment of leprosy patients in our State. Sir, in addition to the grants we annually sanction for different leper treatment centres run by different organisations including the Missionaries, we are giving sufficient amount to the Assam Seva Samity to open more such centres particularly in backward areas where the incidence of leprosy is very high. With the Central assistance we have decided to open one leprosy treatment unit in one of the areas where there is the highest incidence of leprosy in the district of Goalpara and this unit is being located at Datama. We have not been able to complete the building construction. It will be done according to the programme.

My Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, also complains that we have got no surgeons and radiographer in our civil hospitals. This is a fact, Sir. I have already stated, that our greatest impediment and handicap is the dearth of trained and qualified persons. We have, however, advertised for one surgeon for each civil hospital and appointments will be made after having received the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Bhattacharyya has given certain suggestions for the improvement of our Medical College. As the hon. Members know, our health experts who visited this institution have spoken very highly about it and it can be taken now as one of the first grade medical colleges in India. He has raised the question of improvement of drainage. In my last visit about a month ago, I also took particular notice of it. The improvement of drainage will be taken up along with the general drainage improvement programme of Dibrugarh town. This is the position.

Regarding the T.B. hospital, the construction of the building, which is being made out of donation, is nearing completion. We have got a temporary ward there for T.B. patients. I personally went there and was satisfied that this was kept very well. The officer who has been put in charge of that ward has also no complaint; he spoke highly about it. Any way, Sir, this is a temporary arrangement and the ward is going to be shifted as soon as the main building is completed.

Regarding House Surgeons, Sir, the remuneration given to them should not be taken as pay; it is only a stipend given to the students. It was Rs.150 per month; now it has been reduced to Rs.100. Formerly, we did not get sufficient number of House Surgeons, because, we had very few students then and had to bring House Surgeons from other State. But now our students are coming out and there is no dearth of persons to serve as House Surgeons. We consider this stipend of Rs.100 is adequate for them.

Regarding the Mental Hospital, Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya has given certain suggestion, which will be borne in mind. We shall see in what way this hospital can be developed. We have already introduced occupational therapy and shock therapy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: Has shock therapy been introduced?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Yes, we have also appointed an officer. We shall try further to develop the hospital during the Second Five Year Plan period.

I think, Sir, I have replied to all the points raised by my Friends and in view of what I have stated, I hope my Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, will withdraw his Cut Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn).

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.83,19,600 be granted to Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the Head "38.—Medical".

(The Motion was adopted)

GRANT No.19

"39.—Public Health."

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.86,85,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1957, for the administration of the Head "39.—Public Health."

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.86,85,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1957 for the administration of the Head "39.—Public Health."

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.86,85,300 under Grant No.19, Major Head—39.—Public Health, at page 205 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.86,85,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my purpose in moving this Cut Motion is to discuss the failure of the Government to deal effectively with the mosquito menace. At page 212 of the Budget we find a provision of Rs.1,42,800 for Malaria Inspectors and other things. My intention in moving this Motion is to impress on the Government that the public health side is also very important and unless we can bring relief to the people

from the attacks of the various epidemic diseases, our State will not be able to boast of having achieved complete success in the implementation of the Five Year Plans. Sir, in the rural areas, practically nothing has been done to fight the menace of mosquitoes and we find malaria is a very common disease there. But in the rural areas, during the winter season at least some sort of small relief is obtained in that the mosquitoes do not appear so much, but in the town—of course, I do not make any discrimination between the towns and the rural areas—we find mosquitoes all over the year, from the 1st of January to the 31st of December. Although this money is being spent, we find practically nothing has been done to fight effectively the menace of mosquitoes. Of course, I can quite see that it is not only a question of spraying D.D.T., but is mainly a question of drainage. Unless we have good drainage system and unless we can prevent formation of water pools where mosquitoes breed, it will be very difficult to fight the mosquito menace. But we find, Sir, no steps have been taken to improve the drainage system in the towns. The only activity we see is that once or twice a month some amount of D.D.T. is sprayed in certain areas. This is not the way to fight the mosquitoes. I can say with some amount of confidence that this has not reduced the number of mosquitoes even by one. Only by spraying D.D.T. occasionally we cannot kill the mosquitoes. Therefore, the best way will be not to spray D.D.T. in this way, but to take effective steps to have a better system of drainage. The menace is horrible, particularly in towns like Gauhati, Dibrugarh and Jorhat. We are told that we have got very good municipalities in those towns, but the fact remains that this menace has not been fought effectively. Then, Sir, also in Shillong, which was at one time free of mosquitoes, in the Laban area it is difficult to sleep.

In August if you come and stay in the Assembly Hostel, there also it is difficult to sleep for mosquitoes.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It may be that he brings mosquitoes from Gauhati (*Laughter*).

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I do not know whether the Minister breeds mosquitoes and brings them here or some other people bring them.

I want, Sir, that this problem should be tackled properly and a better system of having proper drainage and other thing is introduced. This drainage system goes hand in hand along with the spray of D.D.T. as only with D.D.T. we cannot face this problem.

Another subject about which I will speak a few words is about rural sanitation, which is very important of which we find there is a scheme under General Administration, but no money has been allotted under this head for this purpose. But it should have been included in the Public Health Budget.

It seems, Sir, that no step is going to be taken for rural sanitation, but until and unless we can make the villages better and attractive and we can show to our villagers that we have not discriminated between village people as against urban people, the village people will not feel the glow of independence and therefore it is essential that under Public Health this rural sanitation should come and by this we should try to inculcate the minds of our village people the habit of having clean and decent villages where there will be proper arrangement for sanitation, where there will be a good lavatory system, which may be Wardha System or any other system so that we can make the people feel that they are living in a new age.

With these words, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.86,85,300 under Grant No.19, Major head—39.—Public Health, at page 205 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.86,85,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, I am not moving my Cut Motion but I may be allowed to speak on the Cut Motion moved by Shri Hareswar Goswami.

Mr. SPEAKER : You can, but you should not take much time if you want to speak on Education Grant.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Will you move your Cut Motion also ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: No, Sir, I am not moving.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I will not take more than a few minutes.

Sir, prevention is better than cure and this Public Health side should be an important side for prevention. Therefore, there should be greater attention to this than it is given up-till now. We find that if for rural areas we request Government to open any dispensary, Civil or Public Health, the plea the Government gives for their inability to open such dispensary is that doctors are not available. Why will doctors go there if they are not given proper remuneration? We have got Licentiates with experience of 10, 15 or 20 years, but they are not given the status of Assistant Surgeon Grade I, although they have got so much experience. I do not know why there should be this differentiation when our Medical School has been abolished and the Licentiates in the State have got much experience behind them. If we upgrade them, we will get enough of doctors for rural areas.

I should also like to suggest that in the deployment of relief or preventive measures, Government should see that some more money is spent for the rural areas than they are spending now.

Then, with regard to the mosquito menace, I should like to say that the suburbs, between the town and villages are the worst in this respect. Now, the town of Gauhati has become practically a suburb. I would invite the Minister to visit my house one evening and to stay there for 15 minutes. Then he will know what quantity of mosquitoes are there. He will not be able to sit in comfort for a minute.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): It is also the ease with the Gauhati Circuit House.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, I know about Circuit House also.

What are the causes of this mosquito menace? Because there are water-channels and now there is not proper flow of water from these channels, because these channels have been allotted with people by the Revenue Minister and thus there is water-logging, which is mainly responsible for mosquito breeding. Unless and until we can provide with drainage for taking out the water from these places, we are adversely affecting the health and energy of our people.

With these words, I support the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Shri Goswami, has taken up the question of mosquito menace at the beginning of his speech. He said that there has been neglect on the part of the Government to tackle this mosquito menace, but at the same time, he particularly referred to Gauhati Town and by way of suggestion he said that there the drainage system should be improved. Drainage system is managed by local Municipality, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Municipality will say that they have no money.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Regarding this menace, my Friends are under a wrong impression. There are mosquitoes and mosquitoes and Government deals with the malarial mosquitoes only for which we have taken measures. We have already opened 5 units with different sub-units, having jeeps and trucks and work is proceeding according to programme. Of course, we have not been able to cover all the districts under this programme. Except Lakhimpur district and some parts of Sibsagar district, all other districts in the plains have been taken up. We will have more units to tackle the malarial mosquitoes. In the Second Five Year Plan, we are expecting to cover the whole areas of the Plains and Hills districts.

Then, regarding rural sanitation, we have got some schemes under the Second Five Year Plan. We have got one crore for rural sanitation. We require trained personnel as the Public Health Engineers. We have already appointed one. We need sufficient number of overseers. We have sent some schemes to the Government of India for their sanction and we have already begun work in some of the areas and we want to cover the whole areas where water scarcity is very great, particularly the areas where there was an outbreak of cholera such as Borpathar, Sarupathar and some other areas. I hope, Sir, that under the Second Five Year Plan it will be possible for us to meet the demands of the people in the rural areas.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, said that prevention is better than cure. I quite agree. We are not less keen than my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, in this regard. For this purpose we have taken up various preventive measures, for example, B.C.G. campaign, hook-worm campaign, small pox vaccination and also other preventive measures. Then, my Friend raised another question about the case of Assistant

Surgeons (Junior) and Assistant Surgeons (Senior). Now, Sir, this cadre of Assistant Surgeon I (Junior) is only and intermediary arrangement. We are not recruiting Assistant Surgeons II any longer because with the closure of the Medical School we do not expect to get L.M.Ps. in future. Now, we are appointing only Assistant Surgeon—I (Junior).

Sir, as it will take a long time for me if I am to narrate all the activities and the ambitious schemes of the Government for the development of health conditions of Assam, I will not do so but I hope I have been able to meet all the points raised by my Friends and with these words I request my Friend, Mr. Goswami, to withdraw his Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, are you withdrawing your Motion ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes Sir.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The main motion is that, a sum of Rs. 86,85,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the "Head—39—Public Health".

(The Motion was then put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

GRANT No. 17

37.—Education

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,12,39,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head—"37—Education".

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 4,12,39,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the Head—"37—Education".

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 4,12,39,500 under Grant No. 17, Major Head—"37.—Education", at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,12,39,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my intention is to raise a discussion about the huge disparity of pay among the teachers in our State. Sir, in the Constitution it is clearly laid down, 'equal pay for equal work'-but in our State we have seen that the pay of the Aided School teachers in almost all cases is half or at least two-third of the pay of the teachers in Government High Schools. I do not understand how during the last five years of First Plan period this huge disparity can remain there. We have heard that the Government has set up a Pay Commission. I do not know when the findings of this Commission will be out. It is obvious that it will come out immediately before the elections! I am not going into this question of elections. But I want to say that so far as the conditions of the teachers are concerned, it is pitiable. Unless we can give better pay and better amenities to our teachers, how can you expect better service from them? That is one point. The other point is, on what criterion you are giving Rs. 80 to a graduate in an Aided School whereas a graduate in a Government High School is getting more than Rs. 150? Why this disparity? On what basis this disparity can stand I do not understand. Unless and until this disparity is removed and the teachers are given better emoluments, how can you expect better service from them? Even the Planning Commission has clearly stated in the First Five Year Plan that the teachers should be given better pay, better allowances, that the children of these teachers should be given free medical treatment and they should get free education and also the teachers should get a plot of land from the Government for construction of houses—all these facilities the Planning Commission has enunciated in the First Five Year Plan, but not a single could be achieved in our State during the five years of that Plan. I do not know what will happen in the Second Five Year Plan? On the other hand, the Minister said during his recent tour in Cachar that teaching is a profession which every one takes up as a last resort. How could you expect better people to come for a job with only Rs. 80 as pay? Next he said that the standard of teaching is deteriorating because the teachers are busy in increasing their subsidiary income in other ways. By subsidiary income I think he means private tuition. Now, let us come to the problem of these low paid teachers. Even a graduate gets only Rs. 80 or Rs. 100; from

that deduct Rs. 25 or Rs. 30 towards house rent if he happens to live in town. With this remaining Rs. 75 or so how can you expect the teacher with his family just like the Minister or the hon. Members of this House, to pull on? He must either beg or resort to burglary. By giving this insignificant pay to the school teachers, the Government is indirectly compelling these teachers to take to private tuitions and thereby not only the efficiency of the schools deteriorates, but it is telling upon their health to a great extent. So, the only solution to this, if you want better standard of teaching, is to better their pay and emoluments. It is a fact that in their hands lay the fate of our future generation; if we want to give proper training to our future generation we should see that our teachers can confer proper education to our children. Government should see that teachers should get all facilities so that they can give proper teaching to our children.

Secondly, you will be surprised, Sir, if you consider the pay that the Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers are getting. The Lower Primary and Middle Vernacular School teachers in the tea gardens under the I.T.A., are getting Rs. 70 or Rs. 80 and in some cases even much more. Now, these teachers same in our neighbouring State Agartala which is under the Central Government, there they are getting Rs. 100. Originally their pay was Rs. 5 and from Rs. 5 this has been raised up to Rs. 100, *e.g.* for normal trained, Rs. 100, for Matric Rs. 120 and so on. But so far as our State is concerned, the less said the better. As I have said, Tripura State has raised the scale of pay of the Lower Primary School teachers from Rs. 5 to Rs. 80 and Rs. 100. In our State originally the scale of pay of the Lower Primary School teacher was only Rs. 12 per month and this was increased to only Rs. 30 per month. How can we expect that these teachers can pull on very well with Rs. 30 per month? So, unless we increase the scale of pay, we cannot get better teacher for imparting education to our future generation.

For these reasons, Sir, I would request the Government to see their way to increase the scale of pay of these poor Lower Primary school teachers so that the huge disparity in the scale of pay of the Lower Primary School, Middle English School and Aided High School teachers with Government Employees is removed and the teachers can live properly.

With these few words, Sir, I commend by Motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 4,12,39,500 under Grant No. 17, Major Head-37—Education, at page 125 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,12,39,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the anxiety of my hon. Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das over this matter. But I want to say that the anxiety for improving the lot of the teachers is also shared by the Government, the Government at the Centre and the Government in the State. I must admit that we had not been able to improve the lot of the teachers of the Aided High Schools, Lower Primary Schools and Middle English Schools during these few years. Under the Second Five Year Plan this question is being considered. The House may be aware how our Prime Minister is intensely anxious about the matter. Because on education depends the future of India. In this vast country the different peoples speaking different languages and professing different religions will have to be trained to function as citizen under a democracy. Democracy is a new thing for India. This is a new challenge to the people of India. As such, the Government at the Centre and the States have rightly laid the emphasis on education. Government is anxious about the improvement of the lot of the teachers in Primary Schools and the Aided High Schools. I realise that there has been disparity in the scales of pay of the teachers, in Government Schools and Aided Schools. But that disparity is due to many factors. One of those is the lack of resources. Another factor is that, in the Government High School a teacher has to leave his hearth and home. But in almost all the Aided Schools, the teachers do not move from place to place, and in most cases the teachers belong to the same village where the schools are situated. The Government has already taken up this matter. The Pay Committee is considering this matter. The Department of Education has also made certain suggestions to the Pay Committee with a view to improve the lot of the school teachers. Sir, I need not go to any further details. I can assure my hon. Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, that the whole question is being considered by the Government in the context of the Constitution, and in the context of the planning for Democracy for the people of India.

With these few words, Sir, I request my hon. Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, not to press the Motion, and see his way to withdraw the Motion.

(The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.4,12,39,500 under Grant No.17, Major head—"37—Education", at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,12,39,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I want to discuss about one thing only, that is Sanskrit. Sanskrit is very much neglected now in our State. I would request the Government to give more attention to it and to see that a Government Sanskrit College is established in our State as quickly as possible. The institutions which make good results should be helped with more monetary grants. The famous book—"Britta Manjari" written by Maha Mahopadhyay Dhireswar Bhattacharjya should be published. So I would request the Government to see their way to publish this book as soon as possible.

Sir, with these few words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.4,12,39,500 under Grant No.17, Major head—37.—Education, at page 125 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,12,39,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must thank my hon. Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, for giving me an opportunity to explain what we propose to do about the improvement of Sanskrit Education. I am as much anxious as he is about the improvement of the Sanskrit in our State. The Government of India has also taken up this matter, and the Biswa Sanskrit Parishad has already been set up under the Chairmanship of our President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and the whole question is now under the examination of this Parishad. This Parishad is considering the question of introducing examination and has written to the State Government with regard to some suggestion. That is why I would request my hon. Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, not to press his Motion.

Regarding the establishment of a Government College in our State, the matter will be examined by the Government.

With these few words, I would request my hon. Friend not to press his Motion and request him to see his way to withdraw the Motion.

(The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)
Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.4,12,39,500 (Rupees four crores, twelve lakhs, thirty-nine thousand and five hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head—"37—Education".

(The Motion was adopted.)

As it is passed 4 p.m. I shall now adopt the procedure of guillotine with respect to the remaining Demands.

GRANT No. 51**“81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account.”**

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.3,02,49,000 (Rupees three crores, two lakhs and forty-nine thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account”.

(The Question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 55**“85-A.—Capital Outlay on State Schemes of Government Trading.”**

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.61,09,000 (Rupees sixty-one lakhs and nine thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head “85-A.—Capital Outlay on State Schemes of Government Trading”.

(The Question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 34**“57.—Miscellaneous—I.—Expenditure on Account of State Prisoners and Detenus, etc.”**

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.12,45,100 (Rupees twelve lakhs, forty-five thousand and one hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head—“57.—Miscellaneous—I.—Expenditure on Account of State Prisoners and Detenus, etc”.

(The Question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 35

“57.—Miscellaneous—II.—Donation for Charitable Purposes.”

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.19,36,800 (Rupees nineteen lakhs, thirty-six thousand and eight hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head “57.—Miscellaneous—II.—Donation for Charitable Purposes”.

(The Question was adopted.)

GRANT No.36

“57.—Miscellaneous—III.—Contributions”

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs 16,06,100 (Rupees sixteen lakhs, six thousand and one hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head “57.—Miscellaneous—III.—Contributions.”

(The Question was adopted.)

GRANT No.37

“57.—Miscellaneous—IV.—Expenditure issue of free Ration and Rice Concession, etc.”

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.5,05,000 (Rupees five lakhs and five thousand) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head “57.—Miscellaneous—IV.—Expenditure on issue of Free Ration and Rice Concession, etc.”

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.38

“57.—Miscellaneous—V.—Pooled Transport and Contribution, etc.”

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.1,51,000 (Rupees one lakh and fifty-one thousand) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head “57.—Miscellaneous—V.—Pooled Transport and Contribution, etc.”

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.39

“57.—Miscellaneous—VI.—Expenditure on displaced person.”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.34,48,300 (Rupees thirty-four lakhs, forty-eight thousand and three hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head ‘57.—Miscellaneous—VI.—Expenditure on displaced person’.

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 40

“57.—Miscellaneous—VII.—Advanced Technical Training and Scholarships, etc.”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.43,700 (Rupees forty-three thousand and seven hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head ‘57.—Miscellaneous—VII.—Advanced Technical Training and Scholarships, etc.’

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.41

“57.—Miscellaneous—VIII.—Scheme for Control of Cloth and Yarn.”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.1,12,000 (Rupees one lakh and twelve thousand) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head ‘57.—Miscellaneous—VIII.—Scheme for Control of Cloth and Yarn.’

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 6

“II.—Registration”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.2,80,000 (Rupees two lakhs and eighty thousands) be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957, for the administration of the head ‘II.—Registration’.

(The Question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 1

"4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax"

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.1,11,500 (Rupees one lakh, eleven thousand and five hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 31.

"54.—Famine Relief"

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.25,25,000 (Rupees twenty-five lakhs and twenty-five thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "54.—Famine Relief".

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 32.

"54-A.—Territorial and Political Pension—55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pension and 83.—Commuted Value of Pension."

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.41,35,700 (Rupees forty-one lakhs, thirty-five thousand and seven hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "54-A.—Territorial and Political Pension—55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pension and 83.—Commuted Value of Pension".

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No. 33

"56.—Stationery and Printing"

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.15,34,900 (Rupees fifteen lakhs, thirty-four thousand and nine hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "56.—Stationery and Printing".

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.16**“36.—Scientific Departments”**

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.30,600 (Rupees thirty thousand and six hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “36.—Scientific Departments”.

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.46**“64-C.—Pre-partition Payment”**

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs. 19,400 (Rupees nineteen thousand and four hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “64-C.—Pre-partition Payments”.

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.9**“18-B and-68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works.”**

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.6,22,94,200 (Rupees six crores, twenty two lakhs, ninety-four thousand and two hundred), be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works.”

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.10**“19.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation and Drainage Works.”**

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.25,50,000 (Rupees twenty-five lakhs and fifty thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “19.—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation and Drainage Works.”

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.13**“28—Jails and Convict Settlements”**

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.19,69,300 (Rupees nineteen lakhs, sixty-nine thousand and three hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “28.—Jails and Convict Settlements.”

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.56**“Loans Advances, etc”**

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.6,67,64,700 (Rupees six crores, sixty-seven lakhs, sixty four thousand, and seven hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “Loans and Advances, etc.”

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.4**“9.—Stamps”**

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.1,10,800 (Rupees one lakh, ten thousand and eight hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the

charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "9—Stamps."

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.53

"82.—Capital Account of other State Works outside the Revenue Account"

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.18,05,000 (Rupees eighteen lakhs and five thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "82.—Capital Account of other State Works outside the Revenue Account."

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.54

"82-B.—Capital Outlay on Road and Water Transport Schemes outside the Revenue Account—Road Transport."

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.79,87,600 (Rupees seventy-nine lakhs, eighty seven thousand and six hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head "82-B.—Capital outlay on Road and Water Transport Schemes outside the Revenue Account—Road Transport."

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.29

"Tools and Plant and Establishment of 50.—Civil Works and 39.—Public Health and 81.—Capital account of Civil Works outside the Revenue Account."

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.73,86,900 (Rupees seventy-three lakhs, eighty six thousand and nine hundred), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1957, for the administration of the head "Tools and Plant and Establishment of 50.—Civil Works and 39.—Public Health and 81.—Capital Account of Civil Works outside Revenue Account."

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.43

“63-Extraordinary Charges”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.3,000 (Rupees three thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head—“63.—Extraordinary Charges.”

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.50

“72.—Capital outlay on Industrial Development”

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.1,14,98,000 (Rupees one crore, fourteen lakhs, and ninety-eight thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1957 for the administration of the head “72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.”

(The question was adopted.)

The Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 1956

Mr. SPEAKER : Now, the next item—the Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956. I am reading out the Message that I have received from the Governor in this connection.

MESSAGE

“Under the provisions of Article 207 of the Constitution of India, I, Jairamdas Doulatram, Governor of Assam, recommend the introduction in the Legislative Assembly of Assam, the Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956 and also the consideration of the said Bill, by the said Assembly.

Jairamdas Doulatram
Governor of Assam.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956 be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956 be taken into consideration.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Mr. Speaker Sir, Now, this Bill Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956 seeks to get in all a sum amounting to Rs.50 crores 47 lakhs and 8 hundred and the different items have been voted under different grants by the Assembly. Now, Sir, in comparison with the past years, this amount is very big, and yet this House has passed it with this expectation that every pie of it will be spent and not surrendered and that it will be spent properly. Let us hope that when the different departments of the Government will be going to make the expenditure, they will be very careful about it, and let us hope that this money will be spent only for the purpose for which it has been granted and for no other purpose. I have to say this in view of the fact that the coming year will be the election year, and we have had occasions to criticise on the floor of this House itself about the tours of the Ministers apparently on public duty, but more so in furtherance of personal or party interests. Let us hope that this time at least that will not be done. In all cases Ministers should be careful in the matter of expenditure of the money. Let us also hope that there will be no unnecessary savings, and at the same time there may not be any diversion by resolution of reappropriation. Because at the time of the preparation of the Budget it has been very carefully gone through and all the different items that have been sought and voted must have been carefully allocated. Let us hope there will be no deviation from that and there will be no unnecessary saving.

With these few observations, I want to resume my seat.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya wants that an assurance be given by the Government that the House now having passed such a very big amount, not a single pie of it is spent for purposes other than that for which it is allocated. It goes without

saying, Sir, it is not at all difficult for this Government to give such an assurance to the House. Because it is the solemn duty of the Government to see that the money that has been passed by this Assembly is well utilised. Sir, Government will make the utmost endeavour to see to that. As regards the assurance sought by him that the Ministers should so arrange their tours as to cause no apprehension in anybody's mind that the public money is being utilised while advancing the interest of the party to which they belong. I must again boldly assert that the Minister had never utilised public money in furtherance of party interest and I can once again give an assurance on behalf of all the Ministers that they will never do so in future too. As regards his apprehension that when the election is coming, Government should be very careful about spending, all that I need say is this, that the hon. Member himself knows, that the money that has been passed by this House is only for the specific purposes and as such it can be only spent for the particular purposes or for allied purposes only. I, therefore, do not think my Friend, Shri Bhattachayya, should have any apprehension on this account.

I again assure the House that Government will take utmost care to see that the money passed by it is well spent and only for the purposes for which they have been allocated.

With these few words, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

(The Motion was then put that by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted.)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minster): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. 11) Bill, 1956 be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 11), Bill, 1956 be passed,

(The Motion was put and adopted.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10A. M. on Saturday the 31st March, 1956.

Shillong.
The 1st March 1957.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283 Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs., Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta-16.
19. Messrs Mokshada Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Book-sellers, Publishers, etc., Lamington Road, Bombay-7.