

Proceedings of the Third Session of the Second Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of
India Act, 1935

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m., on
Saturday, the 15th March 1947.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. Debeswar Sarmah, Speaker, in the Chair, eight Hon'ble
Ministers and fifty-six Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Post-War Scheme on the Veterinary including Animal Husbandry

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN asked :

66. Do Government propose to obtain the Post-War Scheme on the
Veterinary including Animal Husbandry from other provinces like Madras,
Bombay, the Punjab, Bihar and Bengal, and prepare a revised and fresh Post-War
Scheme for Assam after comparing those schemes ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

66.—The schemes of other provinces as published in their draft Plans were
consulted before the Post-War Veterinary schemes were prepared.

Spread of Maktab Education

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

67. (a) Are Government aware that the general Muslim public are yet not
willing to send their sons and wards to Lower Primary School ?
(b) Do Government propose to allot a separate grant for the spread of
Maktab Education of the Province and establish more Maktab for the
purpose ?
(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

67. (a)—Government are not aware.
(b) & (c)—No. Maktab are treated as Primary Schools for which funds
are provided every year to enable Local Bodies to take over Venture Primary
Schools and Maktab. Government also provide funds for giving direct grants-in-
aid for the maintenance of new Maktab and Primary Schools as far as finances
permit. Thus every year more Maktab are being established and included in the
aided list.

Karimganj-Kaliganj South Road

Maulavi MD. ABDUL LATIF asked :

68. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If any representation from the public was received by them for inclusion of the Karimganj-Kaliganj South Road in the Post-War Scheme for the purpose of making necessary improvement thereof?
- (b) Are Government aware that this is the only road from Karimganj to Kaliganj (South) and that it has deteriorated badly and needs improvement?
- (c) If so, do Government propose to include this road in their Post-War Scheme for the purpose mentioned in Question (a) above?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

68. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government have included the Karimganj-Kaliganj Road via Chargola, Nairgram (beginning from S. T. Road near Chargola Station) in the Post-War Reconstruction Programme and assigned it the first priority.

Improvement of road communications in Karimganj Subdivision

Maulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

69. (a) Are Government aware that the Local Board, Karimganj, have abandoned a few important roads for want of funds, in Patharkandi, Ratabari and Badarpur area, namely, Alivia-Pathakhaury-Bethubari, Karimganj-Kaliganj and Bhanga-Marjatkandi Roads?

(b) Do Government propose to take up all those roads in their Post-War plan and give them a high priority?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

69. (a)—Government have no information

(b)—Karimganj-Kaliganj road via Chargola, Nairgram (beginning from S. T. Road near Chargola Station) and Bhanga-Marzatkandi Adoirkuna Road have been included in the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme. The former one has been assigned the first priority and the latter fourth priority.

2. As regards change of priority for the other road and inclusion of new road, the matter will be placed before the Assam Road Communication Board for consideration.

Public Works Department Tenders

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

70. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether under the rules prescribed for works to be done by the Public Works Department, tenders are to be invited from the public?
- (b) Whether tenders giving reasonable rates are generally to be accepted?
- (c) Whether tenders are to be invited for carrying works or for carrying of materials for construction works?
- (d) Why are these tenders invited?

- (e) Whether it is a fact that Government have now stopped calling for tenders for such carrying works ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that all carrying works have been given to the Assam Motor Transport ?
- (g) If not, what are the instructions given to the Public Works Department for engaging the Assam Motor Transport Trucks ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

70. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Not exactly so. Tenders have to be accepted according to the policy laid down by Government. A copy of the orders is placed on the Library table. Further elucidation of these orders are being issued.

(c)—Tenders are usually invited for carrying out works. For carriage of materials tenders are invited only when the Assam Transport is unable to undertake any particular transport work. A contractor possessing a Lend/Lease vehicle may, however, on recommendation from Public Works Department, be allowed to employ his own vehicle for the transport portion of a contract in which transport forms an inseparable part of the contract itself.

(d)—To get work done under the most favourable rates offered by eligible contractors.

(e)—No.

(f)—Perhaps the hon. Member means Assam Transport—a Government Organisation. If so, yes—subject to the conditions mentioned in reply to Question 70 (c) above.

(g)—Copies of the Government orders are laid on the Library table.

Payment of compensation to the evacuees of Boroia Airfield and Nimati by the Military

Srijut HARINARAYON BARUAH asked :

71. (a) Are Government aware that the compensation given to the evacuees of Boroia Airfield and Nimati by the Military authority is very inadequate ?
- (b) Have Government received any representation to this effect from the persons concerned ?
- (c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they are taking on that representation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

71. (a) to (c)—Government have recently received some representations and the matter is under the consideration of Government.

Opening of Science Classes in the J. B. College, Jorhat

Srijut HARINARAYON BARUAH asked :

72. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether they have received any representation from the Principal of the J. B. College, Jorhat, for the handing over of the building of the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar for the purpose of opening Science Classes in that College ?

(b) If so, what actions have been taken by Government on that representation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

72. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government are unable to hand over the building

Teachers of Private Colleges in Assam

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

73. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister lately received a deputation on behalf of the teachers of private Colleges in Assam ?

(b) Are Government aware that Bengal Government have sanctioned a dearness allowance for the College teachers of that Province ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the case of teachers of private Colleges in Assam for a dearness allowance ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

73. (a)—Nearly six months ago.

(b)—Government have no information.

(c)—Government are unable to consider.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Are not Government aware that similar dearness allowance has been granted to the College teachers in Bengal ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have already replied, Sir, that Government have no information.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Do Government see the propriety of giving some dearness allowance to these teachers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The main point is, Sir, that although these colleges do some functions of the education of the Province, they are started by the venture of non-official bodies and we with the poor finances of the Province cannot possibly make a special allotment for the improvement of the pay of the teachers excepting giving some money as grants which, I think, is utilised by the Managing Committees for such purposes.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Are not Government aware that the grants made to these Colleges do not permit the administrative authorities to pay anything more to their Professors ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: All that I can say is that it depends more or less on the head of the institution. Unless the Managing Committee do something in that behalf Government cannot take up the entire finance of the private Colleges. So there must be some enterprise on the part of the authorities of the private Colleges if they want to run them efficiently.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Will Government call for a statement of expenditure as regards their scales of pay ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: We have more or less some rough information about it but I shall make further enquiry according to the wishes of the hon. Member.

Anti-Corruption Branch of the Police

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA asked :

74. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) The number of cases investigated by the Anti-Corruption Branch of the Police since the creation of this Branch ?
 - (b) The total number in which charge sheets have been submitted up till now ?
 - (c) The total number of cases disposed of till now ?
 - (d) The total number of such cases ending in conviction ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

74. (a)—24 upto 22nd February, 1947.
 (b)—Two. Departmental action or prosecution recommended in 6 cases.
 (c)—Nil.
 (d)—Nil.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know, Sir, why these officers are stationed at Shillong ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Their headquarters are at Shillong but they make tours in the different parts of the Province whenever cases are sent to them for investigation.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Will it not be very convenient, Sir, if these officers are stationed in the plains so that they might come in contact with the public in the best interest of public service ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I think, Sir, that the hon. Member is in a confusion about the functions of this Anti-Corruption Branch of the Police and those of a regular Enforcement Branch. The functions of this Branch are to make enquiries into the charges which are brought against Government servants. It is not their functions to go about in the districts to keep a visit over public servants in order to see if any of them is engaging himself in making wrongful gains while engaged in the discharge of his duties.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: I submit, Sir, that these officers will be in a better position if they remain in the plains to do sufficient tours in order to investigate complaints ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: They would certainly go to a district from which a complaint is made. The number of officers in the Branch is not large.

***Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** They would certainly go of officers against whom complaints have been received ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: May I know the names disclose the names just now.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I am afraid I cannot

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Are Government aware that it appeared in the *Assam Tribune* that the Anti-Corruption Branch has been established by Government to encourage corruption?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: It may be so. Government have no notice of that. It is only the inference of the Editor.

Lower Subordinate School Service

Maulavi MD. ABDUL LATIF asked:

75. Will Government be pleased to state—
- The total number of posts in Lower Subordinate School Service?
 - The number of posts in the Selection Grade of the said service according to the present arrangement?
 - If it is a fact that the number of posts in the Selection Grade is at present below the fixed quota?
 - If so, the reason therefor?
 - Whether Government propose to fill up the quota?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

75. (a)—High School Cadre	...	...	...	...	177
Middle School Cadre II-A	...	...	...	...	95
Middle School Cadre II-B	...	...	...	...	140
(b)—High School Cadre	...	...	...	...	22
Middle School Cadre II-A	...	...	...	...	4
(c)—Yes.					

(d)—The increase in the Cadres concerned is of very recent dates and the number is changeable from year to year.

(e)—Yes, steps are being taken in the matter.

Appointments in the Assam Education Service

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOUDRY asked:

76. Will Government be pleased to state—
- Whether they strictly follow the communal ratio in matters of appointment so far as the Education Services are concerned?
 - The total number of posts in the Assam Education Service with the number of posts held by the (i) Surma Valley Muslims, (ii) Surma Valley Hindus, (iii) Assam Valley Muslims, (iv) Assam Valley Hindus and (v) others?
 - The respective ratio of the different communities with the number of such posts to which each of the community is entitled?
 - Whether the posts under the head "others" go to the Hindus when there is no candidate available under that head?
 - If so, why?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

76. (a)—Yes, but always depending on the availability of candidate properly qualified.

(b) — 110. Statement is given below:—

Representation of various communities in the Assam Educational Service as it stood on 15th September 1946.

(Total No. of Posts 110).

Communities	Percentage of each community	Number of appointment of each community is entitled to	Number of appointments actually held by each community	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
MUSLIM				
Surma Valley	23.3	26	21	
Assam Valley	14.29	16	12	
HINDUS				
Surma Valley	9.32	10	24	
Assam Valley	22.61	25	38	
Ahoms	3.25	4	2	
SCHEDULES				
Surma Valley	4.42	5	...	
Assam Valley	2.64	3	...	
TRIBAL				
Hills	7.66	8	1	
Plains	11.96	13	1	
Indian Christian	1	
Domiciled	5	
Not domiciled	4	

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109(a) vacant.

(a) Post of Lecturer in English, Murarichand College, Sylhet.

- (c)—The ratio is given in the statement.
 (d)—Not necessarily.
 (e)—Does not arise.

Tol Education and establishment of model Tols

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY asked :

77. Will the Hon'ble Prime Minister be pleased to state—
 (a) Whether Government have arrived at a final decision regarding the remodelling of Tol education and also for establishment of model Tols ?
 (b) If so, what is that scheme ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

77. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Establishment of 3 model Tols in the Province and holding of a conference of eminent Sanskrit scholars for reorganisation of the Awam Sanskrit Education.

***Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHAUDHURY**: When do the Government propose to hold this Conference, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: The matter is in the hands of the Assistant Director of Sanskrit Education. Money has been sanctioned and certain amount of money has been proposed to be raised from the public.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Are we to understand that some of the expert scholars will be taken from outside the Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I want notice of this Question, Sir, because it has been dealt with more or less by the Assistant Director of Sanskrit Education.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Is not the Hon'ble Minister for Education guiding the Assistant Director and giving him instructions ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: Yes, Sir, according to the instructions of the Government he is proceeding with the matter.

Enforcement Branch and Anti-Corruption Branch

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

78. Will Government be pleased to state—
 (a) The date of starting the Enforcement Department with Anti-Corruption Branch in this Province ?
 (b) The number of cases of corruption and black marketing detected up till now by the said Department giving in a tabular form (i) the number of cases detected, (ii) the number of cases ending in conviction, (iii) the number of cases ending in discharge or acquittal and (iv) the number of cases pending in court in each district up to the end of December 1946 ?
 (c) The number of cases in which Government servants, if any, were involved ?

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS replied :

78. (a) 1st August 1946. Started functioning in the beginning of September.

(b) Statement is given below :—

The No. of cases detected	The No. of cases ending in conviction	The No. of cases ending in discharge or acquittal	The No. of cases pending in Court in each district up to the end of December 1946
8	Nil	Nil	Goalpara ... 1 Lakhimpur ... 1 Sylhet ... 1 Kamrup ... 1 1 case sent to a Commission of Enquiry. 3 cases pending.

(c)—8.

Srijut GRURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, as regards Question (b) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give some idea as to the nature of the offence involved in the case which is said to have been sent to a Commission of Enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: There are charges of corruption against the officer and the officer himself wanted a Commission of Enquiry.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Sir, may we know what are the functions and the personnel of the Commission of Enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: I would like to refer the hon. Member to the Act under which this Commission of Enquiry is going to be held and he will then be able to understand what will be the duty of this Commission of Enquiry. The personnel of the Commission have not been as yet settled.

J. N. Memorial Girls' High English School at Abhayapuri, Goalpara

Srijut HARESWAR DAS asked :

79. (a) Has the notice of Government been drawn to the recent trouble in the J. N. Memorial Girls' High English School at Abhayapuri, Goalpara?

(b) Are Government aware that due to the activities of the present Superintendent of the School, sharp Communal Divisions have been created among the pupils and as a result of differential treatment sixteen girls of one community left the hostel in protest?

(c) Are Government aware that the Superintendent is a Government pensioner, over sixty years of age and that the Superintendent demanded his resignation?

(d) Do Government propose to intervene immediately and settle the dispute for the good of the School?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

79. (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, the Superintendent has since returned and his resignation has been duly accepted.

(d) Yes, the dispute has since been settled by the Department. The re-constitution of a new Managing Committee representing all the districts.

Muslim Manipuris in the Surma Valley

Maulavi MD. ABDULLAH asked:

80. Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Muslim Manipuris in the Surma Valley.

(b) How many of them are graduates and how many of them are in the Government services.

(c) Whether Government contemplate to grant some special facilities to this section of the Muslim population of the Surma Valley, so as to encourage primary, secondary and higher education among them.

(d) If so, how many and when?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied:

80. (a) Separate figures of Manipuri Muslims are not available.

(b) Government have no information about the number of graduates and information about how many Manipuri Muslims are in service will take a long time to collect from all the Departments.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Kazies and Marriage Registrars

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked:

81. (a) Is it a fact that Kazies and Marriage Registrars do not get any monthly remuneration but get the fee income as commission?

(b) Is it a fact that registration of such documents is not compulsory?

(c) Are Government aware that in some locality registration of such documents is very rare?

(d) Do Government propose to fix a monthly salary for the Kazies and Marriage Registrars?

(e) If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED replied:

81. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d) & (e)—No. The solemnisation and registration of marriages on communal lines is, in the opinion of the Government, a communal service which should be entirely paid for by the community concerned. There can be no exception to this in the case of any particular community.

Present Principal of the Sylhet Madrassah and Superintendents of the Senior and High Madrassahs

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

82. (a) Is it not against the customary rules of all Government offices and institution to take in a new hand out-sider of the same qualification in a higher post though persons of same qualification with more experience are available in the same office in a lower post ?

(b) Is it a fact that at the time of appointment of the present Principal of the Sylhet Madrassah and both the Superintendents of the Senior and High Madrassahs at Sylhet, persons of same qualifications with longer experiences were available in the same institution in lower grades ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for superseding their claims ?

(d) Do Government propose to do away with such practice in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

82. (a)—There cannot be promotions between the different groups in a service though the candidate of a lower grade may possess the requisite qualifications and experience for a higher post.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The post of the Principal and the two Superintendents of the Sylhet Government Madrassah are borne in Classes I & II of the Assam Educational Service respectively while the post of the other qualified candidates are in Class III of the Assam School Service. As the rules do not allow promotions from Assam School Service to the Assam Educational Service the claims of the officers were not considered, but they were made eligible to apply for them when the Public Service Commission advertised the posts.

(d)—Does not arise.

Appointment of a Quari in every Maktab

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

83. (a) Is it a fact that there was a proposal to appoint a Quari in every Maktab ?

(b) Did Government give effect to that proposal ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Do Government propose to appoint Quarries in all the Maktab ?

(e) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI replied :

83. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

(d)—No. But there is a provision that the M.Cs are allowed to make arrangement for religious teaching during the School period.

(e)—Does not arise.

Shortage of dwelling houses in Sylhet town

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA asked :

84. (a) Are Government aware of the extreme shortage of dwelling houses in Sylhet town ?

(b) What action do Government propose to take to tackle the above mentioned problem ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAMMEDHI replied :

84. (a)—Government fancy that the problem occurs in Sylhet as elsewhere. They hope that derequisitioning by the Military may have eased the situation somewhat.

(b)—Government trust that supply will be forthcoming to meet the demand in due course.

Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA : Sir, as regards Question 84 (a), have Government to do nothing to tackle the problem ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : No, Sir. The Government is trying to find out or to open some lands on co-operative basis in order that Government may be able to start constructing houses or to encourage deserving persons to do so with a view to solving the problem. This matter is being taken up at present in the case of Gauhati and Sylhet, I think, to begin with.

Shri SATINDRA MOHAN DEV : Are Government aware, Sir, that there is shortage of houses at Silchar also ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Government is aware of the fact that there is shortage of houses in many towns, but owing to financial difficulties Government cannot take up the matter in all the Districts. However, Government has now taken up the matter in a right earnest so that they can take measures in order to provide accommodation for the Ministerial officers who have no houses to live in.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Are Government aware, Sir, that Government servants after transfer find it very difficult to find houses ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Government is always aware of the fact : so unless there is an exigency of public service, officers are not generally transferred.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Do Government feel that it is high time to provide accommodation for their officers if and when they are transferred ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, it is very difficult to provide quarters for all the Government servants all at once.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : Are Government taking steps for providing Government quarters for the officers ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Yes, Sir, Government is considering that matter, and there are schemes also for consideration.

Liaison Committee in Shillong

Maulavi MD. ABDUL LATIF asked :

85. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any Liaison Committee in Shillong ?
 (b) If so, what are the names of members of that Committee?
 (c) How many Muslim members are there in this Committee ?

86. (a) Are Government aware that the Shillong Muslim Union is a recognised Union of the Muslim of Shillong and it is in existence since 1905 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if any member of representative of this Union has been chosen as a member of the Shillong Liaison Committee ?
 (c) If not, do Government propose to appoint a representative of this Union on the said Committee ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

85. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—The names are given below.

NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE IN SHILLONG

1. The Deputy Commissioner, *ex-officio* Chairman.
 2. Mr. G. A. Small—Representative, Shillong Citizen " Association ".
 3. Mrs. B. Khongmen, M.L.A.
 4. Vice-Chairman, Municipal Board.
 5. Secretary, Congress Committee.
 6. " Muslim League.
 7. " Jamiat-ul-Ulema.
 8. " District Bar.
 9. Srijiu Akhil Ch. Bhattacharya.
 10. Mr. K. L. Bajoria.
 11. Secretary, Assam Chamber of Commerce.
 12. Subedar Budhiman Lama.
 13. Mr. D. William, Mawkhar (Mission Compound).
 14. " Oleander Laitflang, South-East Mawkhar.
 15. " S. Jabu Roy, Ward Commissioner.
 16. " Cromelyn Lyngdoh, B.L.
 17. " Joab Solomon, Mawkhar.
 18. Extra Assistant Commissioner in-charge of Supply, Joint Secretary.
 19. Assistant Controller of Rationing.
 20. Superintendent of Textile.
 21. Mr. A. Whittaker, M.L.A.
 22. Editor, " Shillong Times ".
 23. Babu Hemanta Kumar Gupta.
 24. Mr. Wellington, Mawngap (Mawphlang).
 25. Dr. Keniwel Shallam (of Mawngap).
 26. Secretary, Federation of All Ministerial Officers Association, Assam.
- (c) Two.
86. (a)—Government are not aware.
 (b)—No.
 (c)—Government cannot give any assurance but will consider this point.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now we take up the next item in the Order Paper, that is, General Discussion of the Budget.

Point of order as to how Cut Motions received under the same head are dealt with

Mr. W. R. FAULL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order to discuss the notice issued by the Secretary of the Assam Legislative Assembly on the 8th March regarding token and censure cuts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Rules which are contained in the Assam Legislative Manual deal in the following manner with the arrangement of Cut Motions. Rule 99(5) provides that when moving Motions for substantial reductions relating to the same Demand they shall be discussed in the order in which the heads to which they relate, appear in the budget. Ordinarily the largest reduction under a Grant or an item of a Grant will be taken up first and the smallest reduction last but this arrangement may be altered by the Speaker at his discretion to expedite the business of the House. This Rule has been the subject matter of decisions from the Chair from time to time and I am referring to the compilation of decisions of the Chair from the years 1937 to 1945 at pages 115 and 116. It was explained that Cut Motions are arranged according to the value of the Cut and that the amount of Cut should not exceed Rs.100. This has been the standing practice hitherto, until the issue of the recent circular, and we request from the Chair a Statement indicating in what order Cut Motions are to be arranged when different Members have filed Cut Motions under the same head.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I quite appreciate the point raised by the hon. Member. Probably Monday next will be the proper time to deal with the matter when the Demands for Grants will be taken up. Till that time I think we may allow this matter to stand over.

Mr. W. R. FAULL : Very well, Sir, I leave the matter to be taken up again on that day for a decision and for this I thank you.

Enquiry as to the decisions of the conference of the Leaders of various parties re curtailment of the duration of the session

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of information, may we request the Hon'ble the Speaker to be pleased to enlighten the House what decision has been arrived at after meeting the Leaders of different Parties and groups?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble the Leader of the House, the hon. Leader of the European Group and the hon. Leader of the Muslim League Party were pleased to meet me in my chamber this morning at 10 A.M. when Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla, the Leader of the Muslim League Party, stated that two Members of his Party had proceeded to Tezpur to meet the arrested persons and they were expected back in Shillong this afternoon. On their arrival back a party meeting would be held this afternoon. On Monday morning the hon. the Leader of the Muslim League Party will be able to inform us positively whether the League Party is going to attend the remaining days of this session or not. Accordingly we have decided to meet again at 10 A.M. on Monday when the position will be finally known.

Point of Privilege raised for refusing recommendation under section 82(3) of the Government of India Act, 1935 by the Governor for consideration of the Assam Elephant Damage Compensation Bill, 1947

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a question of privilege in connection with the rights of Members to introduce a Bill, notwithstanding the fact that no recommendation has been made by His Excellency the Governor under Section 82(3) of the Government of India Act for the consideration of the Bill.

We appreciate that you, Sir, had accorded your leave to introducing the Elephant Damage Compensation Bill, 1947, and we would very strongly request reconsideration of the subsequent decision contained in a letter of the 11th March, 1947 to the effect that Members cannot be permitted to introduce Bills which are debarred by the statutory provisions of the Government of India Act from maturing into law.

This raises a right which is the very essence of democracy—the right to persuade a majority of the wisdom and necessity of measures which at present are regarded as necessary and desirable by a minority. It is not a question, Sir, of ventilating a grievance but of remedying urgent and immediate distress which it is in Government's power to alleviate. It is, Sir, I urge an accepted convention that Members have a right to introduce a Bill which satisfies the conditions laid down in the Government of India Act and in the Assembly Manual. It is, therefore, an infringement of the privileges of this House to curtail the right of a Member to introduce a Bill which is acceptable except for the fact that the Governor is not prepared to give his previous recommendation to the passing of the Bill. I would add that in this matter His Excellency the Governor is acting not in his discretion but in his individual judgment, which means that he is acting on the advice of his Ministry. I do not in any way wish to impute any criticism of the action of His Excellency the Governor but we consider that the advice which the Ministry gave on this occasion was clearly defective and we would be able to adduce arguments so overwhelming in character that the advice in the Government Benches would be prepared to join with this Group in support of the Bill which is entirely non-controversial in character.

We would, however, be grateful to you, Sir, for a Statement on this very important matter as it seriously curtails the rights of Members of minority parties since they can never hope to introduce a Bill of which the Ministry disapprove and which involves expenditure, since the veto under section 82(3) and the refusal of the Chair to allow introduction would prevent any such Bill being initiated in the House, and this, in the opinion of our Group, is a very serious curtailment of democratic privilege. This clearly illustrates that it is necessary in the interests of the rights of Members that they should be afforded an adequate opportunity of speaking on Bills which the Ministry at present imagine have no chance of passing into law. We apprehend also.....

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May I enquire, Sir, which Bill the hon. Member is referring to?
(A Voice—The Assam Elephant Damage Compensation Bill.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister will kindly try to follow the hon. Member.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: We apprehend also that the advice given by the Ministry to His Excellency the Governor was based on a clear misconception of the purpose of this Bill, the Elephant Damage Compensation Bill, 1947. This Bill does not propose any new liability for Government since Government are liable under civil law at present for damage committed by animals.....

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: On a point of order, Sir. Is this discussion relevant to the General Discussion of the Budget?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member is raising a point of privilege.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: That also does not arise now. When the Bill will be introduced the hon. Member will have the right to raise his point of privilege.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: But the leave to introduce the Bill was refused.

The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS: Was not the Bill admitted?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Bill was originally admitted, but His Excellency the Governor refused to recommend it under section 32(3). Thereafter leave was refused to introduce this Bill.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: This Bill does not propose any new liability for Government since Government are liable under civil law at present for damage committed by animals which they preserve. The Bill merely provides for increase in the speed with which payment could be made, which is so necessary in the interests of the cultivators who are suffering this heavy damage. I hope that the Ministry will give due attention to this important aspect of the Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member please amplify how there has been an encroachment upon the privilege of the Members of this House? That is the crucial point, probably.

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: It has been an encroachment on the privilege of my Group to introduce this Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Introduce for what purpose?

Mr. E. W. B. KENNY: So that we may elicit the opinion of the House on bringing this Bill into law.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The point is not yet clear to me.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an established fact that you originally allowed introduction of this Bill, but that permission was subsequently withdrawn because His Excellency the Governor refused to give his assent to the passing of the Bill. I do not think, Sir, that the Governor's refusal in any way referred to the introduction of the Bill. On this point, Sir, we feel that you might stick to your original intention of allowing at least introduction of the Bill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Why a Bill is introduced?

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Because we feel that there exists a wrong which requires to be righted, and this is the place where we might move towards having it righted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is not strictly relevant. A Bill is introduced so that it may be enacted into law. Is not that so?

Mr. W. R. FAULL : In that case how do we proceed, if we cannot bring our grievances before the House in the form of a Bill ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Has any other hon. Member got to say anything on this point ?

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will give you information to the hon. Member who has raised this question. The Bill necessarily involves certain financial commitments and it is only on account of that that the Bill had to go to His Excellency the Governor. It is not possible for any Government to be imposing upon itself a financial burden without having an opportunity of examining what that burden is. And therefore, Sir, when a private Member's Bill seeking to impose some kind of financial burden on the Province is proposed to be moved it has got to be scrutinised before any consideration of the Bill can be allowed in this House. That is one of the main reasons why, I think, Sir, His Excellency has not given assent to the consideration of the Bill. There are other methods by which the aim of the hon. Member can be secured ; and that being so, private legislation may not be a very good method by which this should be done. That is, I suppose, the main reason why this Bill has not been considered fit for according His Excellency's consent for consideration.

Mr. W. R. FAULL : But I submit, Sir, that this Bill even if passed into law would bring no new financial burden on the Government. The Bill only seeks to make possible speedy payments of compensation money on account of damage caused by elephants. It will enable the cultivators to get speedy payment for damage without going to the Court, which many of them cannot afford to do now.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Section 82(3), which is attracted in the present case, reads thus : "A Bill which, if enacted and brought into operation, would involve expenditure from the revenues of a Province shall not be passed by a Chamber of the Legislature unless the Governor has recommended to that Chamber the consideration of the Bill".

The wording is "shall not be passed". The hon. Member has laid stress on the word "passed".
Shillong, the 27th April, 1948

Correction slip to the Assam Legislative Assembly Proceedings of the 15th March, 1947 published in Part VI-A of the Assam Gazette, dated the 7th May, 1947

No.2

At page 235—

(1) For the word "revenue" after the word "additional" occurring in the speech of the Hon'ble Speaker in line 3 of the last paragraph, read "expenditure".

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

... first I passed the order allowing introduction of the Bill. That was dated 13th February, 1947. Then the file again came to me with the note of the Assam Elephant Damages Compensation Bill, 1947, whereupon I passed the order "Bill disallowed as His Excellency refuses to recommend consideration.

Inform the hon. Members accordingly". Then again perhaps the Secretary of the European Group carried on certain correspondence whereupon I received further notes from my office for further consideration and then I passed this order, "I do not think that I shall be justified in allowing the hard-pressed and valuable time of the House to be spent in introduction and other stages of the Bill, which is barred by statutory provision of the Constitution Act from maturing into law." There are various other ways, that is to say, Cut Motion etc. by which pointed attention of Government may be focused, when a Bill is disallowed.

Now my point in disallowing introduction of this Bill is this. I want to create a convention that the executives must make up their mind as to whether such a Bill or any Bill which involves any expenditure from the revenues of the Province would be allowed or not, once for all, because if we allow introduction of the Bill which cannot mature for want of sanction from His Excellency then only the valuable time of the House is spent without any fruitful result. The same procedure also, as I find, is observed in the Bengal Legislative Assembly. I read from the Rulings of the Bengal Speaker, of 1937. It is at page 7.

"One more point about Section 82(3). A Bill involving expenditure from the revenues of the Province cannot be passed by a Chamber of legislature unless the Governor has recommended to that Chamber the consideration of the Bill. Such Bills can therefore be introduced in a Chamber without the recommendation of the Governor and technically it can also be taken into consideration though not passed without such recommendation. But it would mean only fruitless waste of time for a Chamber if the recommendation of the Governor is ultimately refused after a Chamber has passed through the consideration stage. A convention should therefore be followed that the Executive Government should come to a decision, immediately after such a Bill is introduced as to their attitude, so that in case the recommendation of the Governor is refused, the House may have an early notice and may not unnecessarily waste its time in considering a Bill which cannot in the last stage be passed in the absence of the Governor's recommendation."

It may be urged in this case, well, the introduction is not barred by section 82(3) and then why introduction be disallowed. The point is that when we have the orders of His Excellency the Governor under the Constitution Act refusing to recommend consideration of this Bill, the matter is clear that any time that will be devoted by this House in the introductory stage is bound to be infructuous. So in view of that I held that I should not be justified in allowing the House to devote its valuable and hard-pressed time in a matter which is bound to fail for want of recommendation from His Excellency the Governor. It has been said that there has been an encroachment of the privilege. It takes us deeper as to what is a privilege. A House cannot enjoy a privilege which is barred by statutory provision of the Constitution Act. Now when consideration itself is barred without recommendation from His Excellency the Governor, introduction *ipso facto*, will become fruitless. I am sure an hon. Member will not press for a "privilege" to waste time. My view is that it is not a privilege which can ultimately mature into fruitful result. I quite see that the Members of the European Group wanted to draw pointed attention of Government in the matter of damages done by elephants and securing compensation or redress for them, but as the Hon'ble Premier pointed out there are various other methods, particularly, Cut Motions, which would achieve the same end without taking up the time of the House fruitlessly. Therefore, I intended to create a convention, if orders from His Excellency the Governor under section 82(3) are not given by the Speaker, the Speaker may allow introduction but when orders under section 82(3) from the Governor refusing recommendation, is before the Speaker, it will be hardly justified in allowing the House to take up its time without any fruitful result and that is what I propose to follow in future.

Mr. W. R. Faull: We bow down to your ruling, Sir.

General discussion of the Budget.

Babu GOPESH CHANDRA PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps my name does not occur in the list of speakers. I have been struggling, Sir, for the last few days what I should say in the Budget but after a long mental struggle I have come to this conclusion that I shall be failing in my duty if I do not congratulate my Hon'ble Finance Minister who has placed this Budget before us and hence I rise to congratulate him for his Budget. Denser than the impenetrable forests of Assam, I dare not hazard a long journey through these forests of figures. My humble connection with business institutions has not also stood me in good stead, for I was told that unbusinesslike ways are guide to a sound Budget in the administrative world in modern days. My study of the Budget therefore is the study by a novice, and I feel delighted to share my new found knowledge with Friends in this House through you.

Firstly, Sir, I have learnt, if I may use the term, the budgetic value of the word "improvement". Look at page 132 of the budget of the Post-War schemes. It is stated that Rs.28,500 have been provided for the "expansion" of the Surma-Valley Technical School at Sylhet, and Rs.5,27,700 for "expansion and improvement" of the Technical School at Jorhat. By simple deduction of the first figure from the second I find that the budgetic price of "improvement" stands at Rs.4,99,200. Whether the word *improvement* ill-suits to be associated with the word *Surma Valley*, or the institution commemorating His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales requires more aristocratic treatment even in these days of 'Quit India', is more than what I can say. The improvement operation, I am told, had already started under the good offices of the Central Government on the advice of whom nobody knows in Assam—not at least the Hon'ble Minister of Industries. But that is immaterial for issue in question. Any way, my congratulations to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and goodwishes to Jorhat.

The second thing I have noticed in the Budget in some place-less institutions already conceived but yet to be born. Some years ago another Government of this Province placed a Bill before this House for establishing a University. The Bill did not mention the place where it was to be established, and Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee, our present Post-War Reconstruction Minister, very aptly named it as *Baital* University. The ghost of that administration seems to have played havoc with vengeance in the Post-War schemes of Mr. Mookerjee as a result of which a number of institutions have found place in them whose whereabouts and location are uncertain except to chosen few of the Lords. Here are some of those schemes: (1) Co-operative Training Institute—Rs.2,30,000 will be spent in the next year; (2) Co-operative Collective Farm—Rs.2,25,000; (3) College for training Instructors for High Schools—Rs.3,50,000; and (4) Agricultural Institute—Rs.3,26,000. I do not know what is the delicacy about mentioning the location. Whatever it might be I must point out that adequate precaution has not been taken to guard this dear secret atleast in the case of Agricultural Institute. I find in page 16 of the Budget it is stated in dealing with Agricultural research that there will be a Central Laboratory at Jorhat attached to Mycological College. Again in page 18 I find this sentence—"The Central Entomological Laboratory shall have to be attached to the Agricultural College at Jorhat". I would urge immediate appointment of a Committee of Enquiry to make a thorough search into the leakage of this Agricultural-atomic secret. Meanwhile my congratulation goes to Mr. Mookerjee, to Mr. Mazumdar, to Mr. Medhi and to the twice blessed Jorhat with prayer and hope that other *Baital* institutions may soon find a peaceful abode within her spacious household.

The third knowledge I have derived from the Budget is the meaning of "a" Medical College. I have now understood that "A" means "Two", and that when the better half at Dibrugarh needs embellishment worth Rs.19 lakhs, the other

half at Sylhet requires only a sum not exceeding Rs.3,03,000. In other words the difference in worth and importance between the two halves must be maintained at the ratio of 6 to 1. I have therefore quite easily understood that while the total cost of the Hospital at Dibrugarh should be Rs.29,80,000 the Hospital at Sylhet must on no account cost more than Rs.9,75,000 and consequently the Dibrugarh Hospital should start from next year with 250 beds and Sylhet Hospital with only 75 beds. This is very delightful arrangement and I congratulate all concerned for their sagacious, gracious and judicious allocation of funds.

My fourth realisation is that location of big industries should remain unnamed till some heavenly Angels in the persons of Experts descend on Assam's earth. In the meanwhile stupid may cry and quarrel and wise may go to sleep in peace.

I again thank the Finance Minister and his Colleagues for this Budget which is interesting to all and instructive to some.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main subject of my rising to speak a few words in connection with the Budget Discussion is to make a few constructive suggestions to which I hope the Government will be pleased to give due consideration.

In the first place I desire to draw Government's attention to the problem arising out of the present acute scarcity of food-stuff in the province particularly pulses, mustard oil, Gur and sugar. Sir, it has now been demonstrated beyond doubt that ours is a deficit Province in these articles of daily necessity for which we have to depend upon the mercy of other provinces and States. We have heard from the Hon'ble Supply Minister again and again how unfairly and shabbily some of the provinces and States are behaving in the matter of supplying to us our quota of these food-stuffs and how the Central Government have failed to assist us in procuring these articles for us.

So, Sir, if we want to see our Province self-sufficient in these essential food-stuffs we shall surely have to have recourse to self-help. We must make all possible endeavours to produce these articles in good quantity in our own Province. But individual attempt will not give us the desired result. Collective efforts backed and guided by the Government only will solve the problem. Lands and man-power necessary for this purpose will not be found lacking. What is most needed in this connection is intelligent guidance and strong and earnest backing from the Government.

Sir, the best way to tackle this problem of food scarcity in the Province, in my humble opinion, is to start atleast one co-operative collective farm in each district, if not in each subdivision. Atleast one hundred literate youngmen should be asked to form into a co-operative collective farm each contributing atleast Rs.100 as his share-money. The Government should provide these societies with sufficient lands suitable for growing pulses, sugarcane and mustard making it a condition that they should confine their activities to growing these three crops mainly. Government should arrange to lend them tractors and other improved implements suitable for advanced cultivation. Government should also lend them necessary seeds and manure etc. and guide the activities of these Farms by lending the service of some officers experienced in advanced cultivation and capable of examining and selecting soil's suitable for different crops. Sir, our Government should not mind the heavy expenditure involved in such enterprises and projects which mainly aim at the production of pulses, Gur, sugar and mustard oil because these are the articles without which our people cannot do and cannot expect to prosper. Our Government should, therefore, lose no time in launching a regular campaign for starting such co-operative collective farms in the Province. And as a beginning our Government

should immediately divert the major portion of money and paraphernalia now engaged in the so-called Grow-More-Food-Campaign. Because the objects of these farms will not be different from those of the Grow-More-Food-Campaign.

Sir, if such farms are widely and immediately started under the auspices, backing and guidance of the Government, I am quite sure our Province will be self-supporting within a period of five years, if not earlier.

Sir, the present acute scarcity of cotton from which our villagers are suffering and which has practically put a stop to spinning in the Province can similarly be solved by starting co-operative collective farms for growing cotton in extensive scale in suitable localities. If cotton could be made cheap and adequately available to our villagers the existing chronic scarcity of cloth and yarn can be, I believe, eased to a great extent.

Our Province is no doubt self-supporting as regards rice and paddy. But, Sir, are we sufficiently aware that our paddy cultivation has not expanded as it ought to have been? Our cultivators are struggling hard with their old and primitive implements of cultivation without being able to make much headway. It is high time that our Government should assist them with present-day improved implements of cultivation. Besides these our cultivators are water hyacinth pest throughout the Province. (Voices: *hear, hear*). Sir, I have been repeatedly drawing the attention of the Government to this menace to cultivation and requesting them to take some early and effective measures for checking the mischiefs of this pest. This mischievous plant, Sir, is not only rendering thousands of acres of cultivable lands unfit for cultivation but is damaging flourishing paddy crops in thousands of Bighas of lands annually in different parts of the Province.

Sir, it is a danger not only to paddy cultivation but it is a regular menace to fisheries and fodder that grow in water. This dangerous plant is rapidly encroaching upon our fisheries, *bils* and marshes and is making the growth and increase of fish almost impossible in several parts of the Province. If it is allowed to spread itself unhampered a time will soon come when fish will be as scarce as sugar and mustard oil are to-day. And fodder that grows in *bils* and marshes, such as *dal* and *wi* will be equally rare, in most places of the Province. Sir, our Government will be the worst sufferers in the long run as their revenues from fisheries will dwindle into nothing. I, therefore, request our Government to seriously ponder over the matter and before it is too late to take some bold measures for fighting this pest instead of leaving the problem to be solved by poor Local Bodies or by the helpless public.

Sir, I would like to draw once more the attention of the Government to the *Kerketua* ("Squirrel") or "କିରୀଟି" menace in the Province. (Voices: *hear, hear, and laughter*). I know some of my hon. Friends in this House will ridicule me as they did in the past for introducing the subject which they will consider to be trifling and ridiculous. But, Sir I differ from them and consider it to be my duty to press the problem once again before the Government, as I consider it to be a serious matter. (*Laughter in the House*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR: I know, Sir, some of my hon. Friends in this House will ridicule me for introducing this subject which they consider to be trifling for they are concerned with big and mighty problems. But a humble person as I am I cannot ignore humble things that concerned humble persons who live in the villages. My request is that these hon. gentlemen should not obstruct me and not try to lessen the importance of the problems which I raise for the service of our people in the village in my own humble way.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA : What about rats ?

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Sir, these tiny creatures are doing immense damages to betelnuts, coconuts and other valuable garden produce in various parts of the Province. Those amongst us who have not been to the villages, may not be able to appreciate the magnitude of loss caused by these creatures. Sir the Government of the poor Province of Orissa, we are told, have spent Rs. 80,000 for killing 29,000 monkeys *laughter* in furtherance of their Grow-More-Food-Campaign. Cannot or rather, should not our Government spend a few thousands in the shape of rewards for killing *Kuchelbas* for the benefit of our poor peasants ?

In this connection I would like to make mention of another menace with which our cultivators are being confronted. I mean the damages done by a kind of insect that is eating the leaves of and destroying coconut trees in several parts of the Province. I once more request our Government not to ignore these insects as nothing very serious. If they are not satisfied with what I am saying they may send some responsible officer at least to Gauhati and get themselves acquainted with and convinced of what I am saying.

Sir, our Government are eager to remove illiteracy from the Province. That is laudable, no doubt. But should we not be equally anxious to see that those who are sufficiently literate and have to live in the villages do not forget what they learn ? We must not forget the wisdom of the ancient saying "অনভ্যাসে হতা বিদ্যা", i.e., "one's learning is lost for want of practice". And the best way to help people to preserve what they learn and to improve their mental faculties is to establish libraries and reading centres in their midst. I would therefore, request our Government to take early steps to encourage establishment of libraries and reading centres in villages and to render suitable pecuniary help to those villagers who will start such institutions. A separate item of expenditure may be created for this purpose, if necessary.

Sir, since 1937 I have been moving the Government to start an Ayurvedic College at Gauhati with a view to give an impetus to our indigenous system of medical treatment. The Tybba College for which no demand seems to have been made in this House or by the public has now taken a full fledged shape and status. I do not blame Government for that, rather I am glad to see another ancient system of medical treatment being revived. But I do not understand why the proposed Ayurvedic College should be allowed to exist still in embryo in a corner of the Munikul Ashram at Gauhati. I hope Government will either give it an early goodbye or see that it lives a useful and respectable life.

Sir, the Mauzas of Dharmapur and Khetri-Dharmapur in my constituency are now included in the Tihu Sub-Deputy Collector's Circle. They should be separated and included in the Nalbari Sub-Deputy Collector's Circle. This arrangement will obviate lots of trouble and inconvenience which the people of these two Mouzas are undergoing at present. The communication of these two Mauzas to Nalbari is far better and the distance much lesser. I hope Government will be pleased to look to this matter.

In conclusion, I would request the Government to be pleased to expedite the work of giving effect to the project of opening a Subdivision at Nalbari which is in the Government's contemplation from a pretty long time.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Srijut MOTIRAM BORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I must congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister for the able presentation of the Budget. There is no doubt that he has taken great pains for this and he has also displayed a masterly grasp of the intricate and knotty financial problems of our Province, for which all praises are due to him. Sir, the lot of a Finance Minister

is always far from enviable and it is more so in the case of the Finance Minister of a poor and undeveloped Province like Assam. Since the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, the financial position of this Province has been far from satisfactory. While all other Provinces are forging ahead and providing vast sums of money in various schemes of development, this poor Province of ours is always confronted with the task of how to provide money for the mere running of the administrative machinery. While, Sir, all other Provinces of India have got their necessary paraphernalia of administration, this poor Province of Assam is still subservient and dependent on other Provinces in many such matters. We have no High Court, no University, no Medical College, no Engineering College, no Veterinary College and no Agricultural College of our own. Even our position is such that in the trifling matter of training some signallers this Province is subservient and dependent on other Provinces. Sir, we have not been able to provide these things in our Province, because we have no money and ours is a poor Province. This poverty of this Province, especially in its financial aspect, is mainly due to—as far as I believe and my belief is shared by many others—the great injustice done to this Province by the Government of India at the time of the last financial adjustment between the Provinces and the Centre. Sir, this poor Province of Assam and the people of Assam made repeated complaints, put forward repeated demands for redressing the wrong done to this Province. We demanded that we should be given a share of the duties on tea and petrol but all our representations, all our protests and complaints and all our demands have gone unheeded. The Central Government have paid no heed to them and this callous attitude of the Central Government is mainly responsible for this deplorable financial position of our Province.

Now, Sir, it is said that things are going to change for the better. It is expected that Assam will now get justice at the hands of the enlightened Government at the Centre. It is expected that as at the present moment there is an enlightened popular Government functioning at the Centre, Assam can expect to get justice in the matter of financial adjustment that is coming in the wake of constitutional changes in the country. I also do admit, Sir, that a popular and enlightened Government is now functioning at the Centre and we may expect to get justice at their hands. But, Sir, mere expectation will not do; and a complacent attitude will not help us. The experience that we have acquired from the enlightened Government of the United Provinces in the matter of supply of mustard oil is a pointer in this direction. Therefore, what I want to urge upon the Government is that they should take adequate steps from now and make all necessary preparations in the coming financial arrangement—and Assam may not be unjustly treated as in the past in the matter of supply of mustard oil—duties on petrol and tea. It is for this reason, Sir, that I urge upon the Government to take up the matter in right earnest from now and to appoint a small Committee of Experts to study the financial questions in all their bearings and prepare a strong case for Assam. In short, I would urge upon the Government to be ready with all necessary equipments for a fight with the Centre, if such a fight be at all necessary, in order to get justice done to this poor Province of ours.

Then, Sir, this Province of Assam has also got a special problem which merits attention of the Government of India. It is not unknown to you, Sir, that this Province has got four Hill Districts inhabited by a huge number of backward people, who are very simple and unsophisticated in nature and primitive in habits. Added to that we have got a large number of tea garden labourers imported into this Province. Sir, the responsibility for development and progress of these people rests specially with the Government of India and it must be urged on the Government of India so that in the coming financial adjustment something may be done for the development of these people, by way of more liberal financial grants.

Sir, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has put forward two new taxation measures in order to enable him to augment the financial resources of the Province for balancing the Budget. I do appreciate the difficulty of the Finance Minister in which he has fallen. We, as responsible Member of this House, can have certainly no reasonable objection to give him our support in reasonable measures of taxation. But what I want to impress upon the Government is that something ought to be done by the Government to show to the people that what is possible for the Government is being done in such matters. Sir, there is an impression among a vast section of the people of the Province that there is a lot of wastage of public revenue in the various departments of the Government and that much money can be saved in the different branches of the administration, if due economy is observed. But, Sir, we find that instead of taking up the retrenchment question, instead of taking up the question of re-organisation of services with a view to effect economy in the administration, there is an unfortunate tendency among some of the Hon'ble Ministers to multiply and create posts without due heed to necessity. I do hope, Sir, that our Government will surely take up this question of retrenchment and re-organisation in the right earnest so that money can be saved and the public may not be feeling that there is wastage in the departments of Government and Government is not doing anything in the matter. This is a very urgent demand from the public but it seems that nothing is being done and no heed is paid to the public demand on this score.

Sir, after these general observations which I have made, I want to make some submissions about my unfortunate district of Nowgong.

It is not unknown to you, Sir, that the District of Nowgong is a frequent victim of natural calamity. Devastating floods are a frequent phenomenon there and disastrous fires are of annual occurrence. Only the other day I received a report that three villages consisting of about forty families were entirely burnt down by fire. Such calamities are of annual occurrence there in my unfortunate district of Nowgong.

It is also not unknown to you, Sir, that this unfortunate district of Nowgong is also a breeding ground of *kala-azar*. Only a month back this Government had to declare the entire district of Nowgong as *kala-azar* infected area. Sir, this is the lot of my unfortunate district of Nowgong and it deserves special consideration from Government. Of course I am not unmindful about what this Government is doing in matter of relief regarding floods, rather I appreciate very much the Government's action. But my humble submission to the Government is that more relief should be given to the people of Nowgong otherwise their problems of sufferings and miseries will remain unsolved. Sir, what I want to urge on this Government is this, that this problem of flood requires to be tackled at the root. Instead of palliatives in the shape of relief, we want a radical cure. What is wanted is control and harnessing of the river system in the Kopili valley. Sir, if the river system of the Kopili valley is not controlled and harnessed, thousands of people spreading over not less than twelve Mauzas of my district will always be a permanent burden on the resources of this Province. This is why I urge upon the Government to take adequate measures to cope with this problem and to devise ways and means to control the river system of my district. Sir, this is one aspect of the thing.

Sir, it is a well known fact that my district has got no subdivision. This is the district in the plains portion of the Province where there is no subdivision. But unfortunately our rulers often forget that aspect of the things when they allot grants to different local bodies and institutions of the subdivisions of this Province. If you look to the various grants made from time to time by the Government you will be pleased to find, Sir, that Nowgong has always escaped

their attention with the result that the people of many districts suffer in comparison with others. I hope that Government will kindly take this fact into their consideration in future.

Sir, I shall not be doing justice to myself if I do not avail myself of the opportunity of ventilating the grievances of the poor officers under the Government specially the lower primary school teachers and the teachers of the secondary aided schools. Sir, the teachers of the lower primary schools and the secondary aided schools do perform a very important part in the nation-building activities of the Government but the reward given to them for the performance of this most important work is very meagre. Sir, these teachers are starving from day to day. They are not getting a bare subsistence of life. Sir, when this is the condition of the teachers of the lower primary and secondary schools how can we expect better result from them, and how can we expect conscientious works from them. I urge upon the Government to see the immediate necessity of doing something so that the wretched condition of our teachers can be ameliorated at least to some extent? Sir, some provision has been made in the Budget on this ground. But, Sir, this appears to me as a mere drop in the ocean. It will not serve any useful purpose. Then again, Sir, in the matter of distribution of this grant there are many complaints from all sides. There are schools which get better treatment in the matter of distribution of grants than others. If you take the whole thing into consideration you will find that there are some places which are more fortunate than others. There are some places where undue favour has been shown at the cost of others. Sir, I submit that a uniform principle should be followed in the matter of distribution of grants without any favour or frown. It is our earnest hope and we believe that Government will give due consideration so that it can be shown to all that whatever is being distributed is done without favour or frown, and every one is having his due, Sir, with a conscientious man in the person of the Hon'ble the Education Minister we expect that such things will not be allowed to continue any longer. In no distant time, it is our earnest hope and belief that Government will give these matters their due consideration and thereby remove this long-felt grievance.

Sir, a few words more about appointment and I finish. We have been furnished with a printed statement by Government in answer to a Question put by an hon. colleague of mine in reference to recruitment to the Provincial Civil Service, District by District. Unfortunately for me, Sir, it has been shown there that the Hindus of the District of Nowgong has got representation in the said Service. The Hindus of this District, Sir, have a right to that Service also. I am surprised to find in that statement that there is one at least who claims to represent the Hindu community of the District of Nowgong. There was a belief among us that not a single person from my community in that district is in this lucrative Assam Civil Service and our belief is now dispelled. I wanted to know who is that fortunate officer and it was found after a careful examination, that the officer who claims to represent the Hindu community of Nowgong does not, as a matter of fact, belong to this District. His grand-father of course hails from this district. He got the work by showing that he came from the District of Nowgong and this took place, I believe, not at the time of the present Government. I believe this is a mistake. I hope this Government will take up the matter and set right the mistake done.

With these few observations, Sir, I resume my seat.

Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, বাজেট আলোচনা প্রসঙ্গত এজন বনুৰা প্ৰতিনিধি আৰু গুৱালি সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ এজন হিচাবে মই কেইটামান কথা উঠি কব খোজো।

চাহ-শিল্পৰ এশনমেন্টৰ ইতিহাসত এইবছৰ বেচন পুথুৰে অসম আৰু তামিল পৰগণাৰ শাসনৰ ক্ষমতা কাংগ্ৰেছে হাতত লোৱাত বাগিচাৰ বনুৱা সকলৰ শৌচনীৰ অৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতি ননোয়োগ দিয়া হৈছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে মই চেৰ্ছেট সকলৰ শাসনৰ অধীনত বাগিচাৰ বনুৱা সকলৰ বনুৱা নষ্টী শ্ৰীজগজীৱণ নামৰ নেতৃত্বত অসমতে স্থিৰীত বনুৱা শৌচনীৰ প্ৰতি চাহ বাগিচাৰ বনুৱা সকলৰ অৱস্থাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বি কেৱটা পুথুৰ পুথুৰ কাৰণে লেট আটাই কেইটা সোনকালে কামাত পৰিপূৰ্ত কৰা হয় বুলি মই আশা কৰো। বনুৱা এটা অৱস্থাৰ পুচনা হিচাবে এই পুথুৰ কেইটাৰ উপযোগীতা মই স্বীকাৰ কৰো। কিন্তু বৃত্তিবৃত্ত ভাবে বনুৱাৰ কাৰণে সন্তোষজনক অৱস্থা এটা বৃদ্ধি কৰিব বাগিচাৰ ইয়াতকৈ আমি বহুত বেচিদুৰ আপত্তিৰ লাগিব। ইয়াৰ লগতে মই কৰ খোজো যে বনুৱাৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বি ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হয় তাৰ সুযোগ সুবিধা সকলো বনুৱাই সমানে লাভোৱেন মই এক চান্দৰ উদ্দেশ্যে আৰু বনুৱাৰ অত্যন্ত অতিশোধ বিলাকৰ প্ৰতি দৰতত মনোযোগ দিবলৈ গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট এজন Labour Welfare Officer নিযুক্ত কৰা উচিত। বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতি আৰ্থিক সহানুভূতি থকা আৰু বনুৱাৰ সমস্যা সম্পৰ্কে অতি উচ্চ জাতীয় তাৰাৰ্ণণ লোকক এই কামত লোৱা প্ৰয়োজন। বনুৱাৰ মাজত প্ৰাইমেৰী শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক কৰিব লাগে। বাগিচাৰ কৰ্তৃপক্ষই শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাৰ দায়িত্ব লোৱা সম্বন্ধে মতত আৰু উচিতো মতত। শিক্ষাৰ পৰিচালনা কৰাৰ দায়িত্ব শিল্প-মালিক সকলৰ আৰু শিক্ষাৰ আন মাননীয় বাবুৱা কৰাৰ দায়িত্ব চৰকাৰৰ। মই আশা কৰো যে চৰকাৰে সো কালে অসমৰ চাহবাগিচাৰ বনুৱা সকলৰ লবা ছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ দায়িত্ব গ্ৰহণ কৰিব। বৰ্তমান মেনেজাৰ সকলে কোনো বাগিচাত ইচ্ছা কৰি কুল পুলিছে, কোনো বাগিচাত খোলা নাহি। বি কুল চাৰিখনত পুলিছে, তাৰো বেচি ভাগেই নামতহে আছে। শিক্ষকক কুলৰ কামতকৈও বাগিচাৰ অফিচৰ কামতহে বেচিকৈ লগোৱা হয়। তদুপৰি শিক্ষা পদ্ধতিৰ সম্পৰ্কে কলমে ধৰা বন্ধা নীতি নিয়ম তেওঁলোকে মানি নচলে। বনে বিলাক ধামৰেখালি অচিনে পুৰ কৰা বিধেয়।

বনুৱা সকলৰ বৃদ্ধিকাল, বেনাৰ আজাৰ আৰু নিবনুৱা অৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে মনোপূৰ্ণক ব্যৱস্থা কৰা গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট আৰু শিল্প-মালিক সকলৰ অৱশ্য কৰিব। আন দেশৰ কুলনীত এনে বিলাক বিধয়ে (Provision for old age, unemployment insurance, Sick-ness insurance) আমাৰ দেশৰ বনুৱা বিলাক আদিম যুগৰ অতি শৌচনীৰ অৱস্থাতে পৰি আছে। ফেক্টৰীৰ কামত হোৱা accident আদিৰ কাৰণে বনুৱাই পাবলগা ক্ষতি পূৰণ বিধয়ে বৰ্তমানো সুবিচাৰ হোৱা বৰ টান। বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত দুৰীয়া বনুৱাই তেওঁলোকৰ আভ্যন্তৰীণ আদালতত দাঙ্গি ধৰাই সম্ভৱ নহয়। গতিকে শিল্পৰ ক্ষেত্ৰ বিলাকত Labour Dispute Court গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে স্থাপন কৰা উচিত। Basic wage নিৰূপণ কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যে বিদলীয় সন্মিলনৰ সিদ্ধান্ত নতে যি তদন্ত হব সেই সম্পৰ্কে বনুৱাৰ পক্ষৰ কথা বিলাক মধ্যস্থ ভাবে দাঙ্গি ধৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগিব। গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰো মোৰ বোম্বোৰে এই বিধয়ে দায়িত্ব আছে।

এতিয়া মই গুখা বিলাকৰ সম্পৰ্কে দুখাৰ মান কৰ খোজো। অসমত গুখালি সকলেই থ্ৰেজিয়াৰ, অসমতে বৰ বাৰী কৰি লৈ তেওঁলোকে ইয়াত বসবাস কৰিছে। মুছলীম লীগৰ প্ৰবোচনাত আৰু অসমৰ ভূতপূৰ্ব লীগ মন্ত্ৰী সভাৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ পাই নতুন নতুনকৈ অহা বঙ্গদেশৰ মুছলমান পনুৱা সকলে আমাৰ থ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড বিলাক বেদখল কৰাত অসমৰ থ্ৰেজিয়াৰ সকলৰ তথা গুখালি সকলৰ সৰ্বনাশ উপাধিত হৈছিল। বহুতো ঠাইত পনুৱাৰ হেঁচাত থ্ৰেজিয়াৰ সকলে নিজৰ খুটি এৰি দি দিহিঙে দিপাঙে গুছি যাব লগা হৈছিল। গুখালি সকলে থ্ৰেজিয়াৰ হিচাবে অসমৰ বাইজক পাৰ্শ্বীৰ আৰু সিউৰ দৰে প্ৰধান খাদ্য বস্তু যোগাই আহিছিল। প্ৰতিবেশী পনুৱাৰ উৎপাতত বহুত বছৰ বৰি বসবাস কৰা খুটি এৰিদিখ বা উঠাই লৈ গুছি

যাব লগা হোৱাত অসমৰ খেতিয়ক-বিটৰ উৎপাদন আৰু যোগান যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে কমি যায়।
 আৰু ওখালি সকলৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক জীৱনৰ বিপদায় হয়। গ্ৰেঞ্জিং বিলাক গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ সকলৰ
 আৰু খেতিয়কৰ এক ম'চ চৰোৱাৰ উদ্দেশ্যে আচুতিমাত্ৰিক ৰখা হৈছে। আৱশ্যকতকৈ
 অসমত গ্ৰেঞ্জিং বিজাৰ্তৰ পৰিমাণ বহুত কমহে। এনে অৱস্থাত গ্ৰেঞ্জিং বেদখল কৰাতো এটা
 জাতিৰ স্বাৰ্থৰ কাৰণে মাৰাত্মক কথা। গ্ৰেজিঙৰ পৰা বেদখলকাৰী অসমীয়া, ওখালি
 খেতিয়ক সকলক গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট আইনমতে উচ্ছেদ কৰি আহিছে। আচৰিত কথা যে যি
 গ্ৰেঞ্জিং দখল কৰাৰ সুবিধা এই প্ৰদেশৰ সাতাম পুৰুষীয়া অসমীয়াকো গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট কোনো
 কালে দিয়া নাই, সেই সুবিধা বঙ্গৰ মুছলমান পমুৱা সকলে জোৰেৰে আদায় কৰিছিল। আগৰ
 লীগ গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট গ্ৰেজিঙৰ পৰা অসমীয়া ট্ৰাইবেল, ওখালি আদি বেদখলকাৰীক দখল উচ্ছেদ
 কৰি তুলি দিছিল। কিন্তু বঙ্গৰ মুছলমান পমুৱা সকলৰ গ্ৰেঞ্জিং বিজাৰ্ত বেদখলৰ প্ৰতি আও-
 কনীয়া ভাও ধৰি আছিল। জিলাকৰ্তৃপক্ষই বেদখলকাৰীৰ উচ্ছেদৰ মাটিচ দিলেই পমুৱা
 সকলে শিলঙলৈ আহি লীগ মন্ত্ৰীৰ পৰা stay order লৈ গৈছিল। এয়ে হৈছে পমুৱাই
 গ্ৰেঞ্জিং বেদখল কৰাৰ ইতিহাস। এই প্ৰদেশৰ আদিমবাসী ট্ৰাইবেল মানুহক
 বিজাৰ্ত বেদখল কৰা বুলি লীগ মন্ত্ৰী সত্যই অকল উচ্ছেদ কৰিয়েই
 এৰা নাছিল, ঘৰ দুৱাৰো জলাই দিছিল আৰু তাৰ উপৰি জৰিমানাও আদায় কৰিছিল।
 ইয়াৰ প্ৰমাণ বহুতো আছে। ই এটা অসহনীয় অৱস্থা। অসমৰ ভূতপূৰ্ব লীগ
 মন্ত্ৰীগতাই মুছলমান পমুৱাক বেদখল কৰিবলৈ প্ৰশ্নয় দিয়াৰ কাৰণটো পৰিষ্কাৰ কৈ ওলাই আছে।
 অসমত তেওঁলোকৰ পাকিস্থানৰ সপোন ফলবতী কৰিবলৈকে তেওঁলোকে এই অভিসন্ধি কৰে।
 লীগ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ প্ৰশ্নয় পাই আন ঠাইত মাটি থকা সত্ত্বেও পমুৱাই গ্ৰেজিঙতো মাটি লৈছিল। এই
 দৰে কিছুমান পমুৱাৰ বহুত বেচি মাটি হয় আৰু এই দৰেই পমুৱাৰ ভিতৰত এটা জমিদাৰ শ্ৰেণী
 গঢ়ি উঠে। মুছলিম লীগে অসমত বহুত মাটি পৰি আছে বুলি মিছা প্ৰচাৰ কৰি বঙ্গৰ পৰা নতুন
 নতুনকৈ মুছলমান মানুহ আমদানি কৰে। মাতব্বৰ পমুৱা সকলে এনেকৈ অহা নতুন পমুৱা সকলক
 কেই বছৰ মান নিজৰ মাটিত বিনা দৰমহাত খটুৱাই লয় আৰু সুবিধা পালেই গ্ৰেঞ্জিং আদি
 বিজাৰ্তত স্মুৱাই দিয়ে। মাতব্বৰ পমুৱা সকলৰ পামত বিনা দৰমহাত খটুৱাবলৈ মাটিৰ লোভ
 দেখুৱাই নতুনকৈ বঙ্গৰ পৰা মানুহ আমদানি কৰা হয়। এই পদ্ধতিৰে মাতব্বৰ সকলে দুখীয়া
 পমুৱা আমদানী কৰি এফালেদি নিজৰ স্বাৰ্থ পূৰণ কৰি জমিদাৰী কৰিছে আৰু আন ফালেদি
 মুছলিম লীগে পাকিস্থানৰ ফলি আঁটিছে। এনে পদ্ধতি অনুসৰণ কৰাৰ ফলত সৰ্বসাধাৰণ
 মুছলমানৰ কোনো উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই। বঙ্গৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ পমুৱা সকল ফুচুলনিত পৰি ইয়ালৈ
 আহি মুছলিম লীগ আৰু পমুৱা মাতব্বৰ সকলৰ হাতৰ পুতলা হোৱাদি হৈছে। অসমত অসমৰ
 এনেস্থলত বঙ্গৰ পৰা ৰাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্যৰে মুছলমান খেতিয়ক সকলক মাটি নিতান্ত কম।
 তেওঁলোকৰ উপকাৰ কৰা নাই, অপকাৰহে কৰিছে। অসমৰ খেতিয়কৰ মাটি আনি লীগ দৰাচলতে
 নাভাবি বহিবৰ পৰা পমুৱা আমদানি কৰাৰ নীতি লৈ মুছলিম লীগে নতুনকৈ অহা দুখীয়া পমুৱা
 স্কলক আছকালত পেলাইছে। অসমীয়া মুছলমান সকলৰ ৰাজনৈতিক আৰু অৰ্থনৈতিক জীৱন
 ধ্বংস কৰিছে, ওখালি আদি গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ আৰু ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু আন খলুৱা খেতিয়কৰ সৰ্বনাশ কৰিব
 খুজিছে। কংগ্ৰেছ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে গ্ৰেঞ্জিং বিজাৰ্তৰ পৰা বেদখলকাৰী উচ্ছেদনীতি লৈ নতুন বা

বিশেষ একো কাম কৰা নাই। আইনমতে বিজাৰ্ত বেদৰলকাৰীক উন্নীত কৰাৰ মতো কথা বেদৰলকাৰী হিন্দু, মুছলমান, অসমীয়া, অনাঅসমীয়া যিহেট মতামত, তাকেহে মাথোন কৰা হৈছে। মুছলিম লীগ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে অসমৰ বিজাৰ্তত খলুৱা টাইবেল আদিক থাকিবলৈ নিদিছিল, কিন্তু মুছলমান পন্থা সকলক থাকিবলৈ দিছিল। কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিজাৰ্ত-বেদৰলকাৰী-ধৰ্ম-উচ্ছেদ নীতি লৈ অকল মুছলমান পন্থাকেই মচয়, বিজাৰ্তৰ পৰা অসমীয়া হিন্দু, টাইবেল সকলোকে উচ্ছেদ কৰিছে। মুছলিম লীগে শাসন কাৰ্যৰ এই সাধাৰণ কথাটোকে ৰাজনৈতিক কাৰণত এটা সাম্প্ৰদায়িক বং দিছে। তেওঁলোকে এই পুণ্ডীকোকে তেলু কৰি অসমত অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি ৰাজনৈতিক উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধি কৰাৰ অৰ্থাৎ পাকিস্থান কৰাৰ অভিযন্ত্ৰি কৰিছে। কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিজাৰ্ত বেদৰল উচ্ছেদ কৰি খলুৱা মানুহে নোপোতা এটা বে-আইনী সুবিধা বাটৰৰ পন্থা সকলক দিবলৈ অস্বীকাৰ কৰিছে মাথোন। অসমৰ তৃতীয়ৰ মুছলিম লীগ গবৰ্ণ মেণ্টে মুছলমান পন্থা সকলক নিজৰ প্ৰদেশৰ মানুহতকৈও বেচি সুবিধা দিছিল, যিহেতু খলুৱা মানুহক গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ত লবলৈ দিয়া নহৈছিল, কিন্তু পন্থাক পুত্ৰাক বা পন্থাক তানে দিয়া হৈছিল। আজি কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে কাৰো পুতি কোনো পক্ষপাতিতা কৰা নাই আৰু ধৰ্ম, সাম্প্ৰদায়িক নিৰ্বিশেষে সকলোকে গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্তৰ পৰা তুলি দিছে। আগৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে বেদৰলকাৰীৰ ধৰ্মল উচ্ছেদ কৰোতে বেদৰলকাৰীৰ ঘৰ দুৱাৰ জলাট দিছিল আৰু তাৰ উপৰিও জৰিয়না কৰিছিল। বৰ্তমান কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ধৰ্মল উচ্ছেদ কৰোতে আগৰ এই ধৰ্মৰ বিলাক একেবাৰে ৰাখ দিছে। পুৰাত পক্ষে বলপ্ৰয়োগ নকৰাকৈয়ে ধৰ্মল উচ্ছেদ কাৰ্য্য সমাধা কৰা হৈছে। এনে এটা কথাত যুক্তিয়ুক্ত ভাবে কোনেও আপত্তি কৰিব নোৱাৰে। অসমৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ শান্তিৰ অসমৰ মানুহৰ পুতিহে ৰেচি। নিজৰ প্ৰদেশৰ স্বাধ জলাটলি দি আন প্ৰদেশৰ মানুহৰ কথা কোনো গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ভাবিব নোৱাৰে। মুছলিম লীগে কোনো যুক্তি বিচাৰ ভূমিৰ নোখোজে। তেওঁলোকে কেৱল জোৰ জবৰদস্তিৰ নীতিহে বুজে। অসমৰ সৌভাণ্য বে ইয়াত সদায় সাম্প্ৰদায়িক সম্প্ৰীতি আৰু শান্তি ৰক্ষা কৰা হৈ আহিছে। মুছলিম লীগ নেতাসকলৰ বচতে মিলনৰ বাণী পুচাৰ কৰা ধৰ্মৰ কথা, সদায় সাম্প্ৰদায়িক বিৰোধ আৰু নোনোমালিনা সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যেৰেহে বক্তৃতা দিছে। এনে পুচাৰৰ ফলতেই সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ মাজত উত্তেজনাৰ সৃষ্টি হয় আৰু চিতাচিত্ত জ্ঞান শূন্য জনতাই লক্ষ্যাকাণ্ড কৰে। গতিকে এনে বিলাক পুচাৰৰ কাম গুৰিতেই বন্ধ হোৱা উচিত। মই আশা কৰোঁ যে লীগ নেতা সকল এতিয়াও এনে বিলাক কথা আৰু কামৰ পৰা বিৰত হব, যিহৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰদেশৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা নষ্ট হব পাৰে। মই জানো যে অসমৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা ৰক্ষাত গুৰালি সকলে অসমৰ আন সকলো ৰাইজৰ লগত সদায় সহযোগীতা কৰিব। মুছলিম লীগৰ পাকিস্থানৰ মডয়ত্ৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অসমৰ গুৰালিয়ে সৰ্বস্ব পণ কৰিছে। পাকিস্থানৰ পৰিকল্পনা হিন্দু, মুছলমান, খৃষ্টিয়ান সকলো ধৰ্ম আৰু সাম্প্ৰদায়ৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ পুৰাত স্বাৰ্থৰ বিৰোধী। অসমত পাকিস্থানৰ কথা তুলি মুছলিম লীগে অসমীয়া মুছলমান সকলৰ সৰ্বনাশহে চিন্তিছে। আশা কৰোঁ সাম্প্ৰদায়িক উত্তেজনাৰ বাহিৰৰ মুছলিম লীগৰ নেতাসকলৰ পুৰোচনাত অসমৰ মুছলমান সকলে নিজৰ স্বাৰ্থ নাশ নকৰিব। মুছলিম লীগৰ নিজৰ যুক্তি অনুযায়ীও অসমৰ ওপৰত পাকিস্থানৰ দাবী নাখাটে। সমষ্টি গঠন আঁচনিও পাকিস্থানৰ লগৰীয়া, আনি ইয়াৰ বিৰোধী। অসমৰ হিন্দু, মুছলমান, টাইবেল, খৃষ্টিয়ান সকলোৱে লীগৰ পাকিস্থানৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছে। গুৰালি সকলৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা মই কব পাৰোঁ যে অসমক পাকিস্থানৰ যিকোনো আঁচনিৰ গৰাহৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ এজনো গুৰালিৰ দেহত এটোপাও তেজ থকা লৈকে যুঁজ কৰিব। কাৰণ, ই দীৰৰ ধৰ্ম, জাতীয় জীৱনৰ অপৰিহাৰ্য্য কৰ্তব্য।

ৰাজ্জেটৰ ইতিহাসত এই বাবেই পোন পুথমে দুই কোটিৰো ওপৰ টকা জাতি গঠনমূলক কামত ধৰা হৈছে। ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই জাতি গঠনৰ যি আঁচনি তেখেতৰ ৰাজ্জেটত দাঙি ধৰিছে, ৰাইজৰ সহযোগ আৰু গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ চাকৰিয়া সকলৰ ঐকান্তিক চেত্নাত যি যেন কৃতকাৰ্য্য হয়। দেশৰ বৰ্তমান অৱস্থাত জাতি গঠনৰ এই আঁচনিৰ গুৰুত্ব বৰ বেচি। ইয়াৰ পুতি দেশ-ৰাসীৰ মনোযোগ আকৰ্ষণ হোৱা উচিত। মই মানৱণিত আশা কৰোঁ যে গবৰ্ণ মেণ্টে অসমৰ গুৰালি সকলৰ ৰাজনৈতিক, অৰ্থনৈতিক শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য আদিৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিব। পিচপৰা সাম্প্ৰদায় হিচাবে এওঁলোকে সুযোগ সুবিধা বেচিকৈ পোৱা উচিত।

বন্দে মাতৰম্ ।

(The hon. Member spoke in Assamese and urged upon Government to look to the interest of the tea-labourers in Assam by giving them educational facilities, medical aid, etc., and he also urged upon Government to look to the interest of the Gurkhas living specially in the Grazing Reserves for their education, political and economic condition.)

Maulana IBRAHIM ALI : মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, বর্তমান আসাম সরকার এক জনপ্রিয় সরকার। কাজেই জনসাধারণের যথাবিহিত সেবা সাধনই ইহার অপরিহার্য কৰ্তব্য। আসাম সরকারের ১৯৪৭-৪৮ সালের বাজেট হইতে জনসেবার আকাঙ্ক্ষার পূরণ পাওয়া যায় বটে কিন্তু এই জনসেবার ভাগবাটোয়ারায় যে নিরপেক্ষতার বহুল-পরিমাণে অভাব বহিষ্কারে তাহা অস্বীকার করার যো নাট। ভাগবাটোয়ারার বেলায় সিলেট জেলাকে বহুবিধে মাত্র এক ইউনিট এবং কাছাড় জেলাকে এক ইউনিট ধরিয়া ভাগবাটোয়ারা করা হইয়াছে। পক্ষাত্তরে, দরং, তেজপুৰ, যোৰহাট, শিবসাগৰ, লক্ষীমপুৰ, ডিব্ৰুগড় প্রভৃতি অনেক মহকুমার প্রত্যেকটিকে এক এক ইউনিট ধরা হইয়াছে। ইহাতে সিলেট কাছাড়ের প্রতি যে পরিকার অবিচার করা হইয়াছে, তাহাতে সন্দেহ নাই। সিলেটের প্রত্যেকটি মহকুমা যে আসাম প্রদেশের কোন কোন জেলার চেয়েও বড়, তাহা সরকারের ভালরূপে জানা থাকা স্বত্বেও সিলেটের প্রতি একরূপ অবিচার করা হইল কেন? আমি জোর দাবী জানাইতেছি যে শিক্ষা বিভাগ, চিকিৎসা বিভাগ, পুষ্টি বিভাগ, কৃষি বিভাগ, শিল্প বিভাগ প্রভৃতি প্রত্যেক জাতি গঠন বিভাগের Scheme গুলি কার্যো পরিণত করার পূর্বে অর্থাৎ সাধারণ বাজেট বা Post-War বাজেট পাশ করার বা কার্যো পরিণত করার পূর্বেই যেন সিলেট কাছাড়ের প্রতি সুবিচার করা হয়।

১৯৪৭-৪৮ ইংরাজীতে যে সমস্ত সড়কের জন্য বাজেট বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে তাহা হইতে দেখা যায় যে সিলেটে মাত্র ৫ মাইল রাস্তার জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে। উত্তর সিলেটের গোলাপগঞ্জ-মীরগঞ্জ রাস্তার ও করিমগঞ্জ এলাকায় চুরগাই-কানাইঘাট রাস্তা অতি আবশ্যিক হওয়া স্বত্বেও তাহা একেবারে ছাড়িয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে। ইহা হইতে আক্ষেপের বিষয় আর কি হইতে পারে? রোডবোর্ড প্রথম গঠনের সময় উক্ত বোর্ডে উত্তর সিলেটের প্রায় ৫০ জনের কোন প্রতিনিধি না থাকার ফলেই যে একরূপ হইয়াছে তাহা বলা বাহুল্য। বর্তমানে মাননীয় শিল্পমন্ত্রী মৌলবী আব্দুর রশিদ সাহেব উত্তর সিলেটের প্রায় ৫০ জনের প্রতিনিধিরূপে রোড বোর্ডের সদস্য হইয়াছেন। রোড বোর্ডের আগামী সভায় উত্তর সিলেটের সড়ক বাড়াই করার বেলায় তিনি যেন ন্যায় বিচার করেন, ইহাই আমার অনুরোধ।

সিলেট গভর্ণমেন্ট মাদ্রাসা সমস্ত প্রদেশের জন্য একটা আদর্শ মাদ্রাসা বটে। ইহার উন্নতির জন্য অবশ্য সরকার একজন কারী এবং আরও দুইজন শিক্ষকের ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন তাহা সুখের বিষয়। বর্তমানে একজন ভারত বিখ্যাত আলিমকে ৪০০ টাকা বেতনে নিযুক্ত করিতেছেন বুলিয়া শোনা গিয়াছে, ইহাও সুখের বিষয়। কিন্তু টাইটল মাদ্রাসার অন্যান্য লেকচারারগণকে এখনও স্কুল সার্ভিস ক্লাশ থ্রির বেতন দেওয়া হইতেছে যাহা সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসার হেড্ মৌলানার বেতনের চেয়েও কম। ইহা হইতে দুঃখের বিষয় আর কি হইতে পারে? টাইটল মাদ্রাসায় যাহা শিক্ষা দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে তাহা ইউনিভার্সিটির এস, এ ক্লাশ হইতেও অনেক উচ্চ। ইহার লেকচারারগণ স্কুল সার্ভিস ক্লাশ থ্রির বেতন পাইবেন ইহা সরকারের পক্ষে লজ্জার বিষয় নহে কি?

মাদ্রাসা একটি সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠান, এই ভাবিয়া বোধহয় আলিম সরকার কোন কালের ইহার প্রতি ননোযোগ প্রদান করেন নাই। যদি ইহাই কারণ হইয়া থাকে তাহা হইলে সরকার তুল করিতেছেন বলিতে চাইবে। কারণ সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠান হইয়া থাকিলেও ইহা ইন্দো-মুসলিমী কৃষ্টি ও সভ্যতার বিকাশক এবং সরকার পুস্তোক সম্প্রদায়ের কৃষ্টি ও সভ্যতা সরকার জন্য দায়ী। কাজেই এই মাদ্রাসার যথাবিহিত উন্নতি সাধন সরকারের নৈতিক কর্তব্য।

ইহা ছাড়া মাদ্রাসায় পবিত্র কোরাণ ও হাদিস প্রদত্ত যে সমস্ত নীতি শিক্ষা দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে এবং মাদ্রাসায় যে সমস্ত আলিম শিক্ষালাভ করিয়া থাকেন, ইহাদের প্রচার ও কাজের ফলে দেশে যতদূর শান্তি ও নীতি পরায়ণতা বিদ্যমান আছে, শত শত আইন বচনা করিয়াও সরকার তাহার চতুর্দিক শান্তি ও নীতিপরায়ণতা বহাল রাখিতে পারিবেন না। কাজেই মাদ্রাসা হইতে শিক্ষা প্রাপ্ত আলিম সমাজ দেশের শান্তি রক্ষায় ও জন সমাজকে নীতি পরায়ণ করিয়া হোলাত সরকারকে যতদূর সাহায্য করিতেছেন তাহা বিশেষ ভাবে চিন্তা করিয়া মাদ্রাসার সর্বাঙ্গীণ উন্নতি সাধনের জন্য অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

বর্তমানে মাদ্রাসা কারিকুলান মেট্রিকুলেশন স্টেণ্ডার্ড পর্যায় না হওয়া, এলিমেন্টারী সার্টিফিকেট, ইতিহাস, প্রভৃতি দাখিল হওয়ার সরকার আরও অনেক লাভবান হইয়াছেন। কারণ বৈদিক স্কুল ও প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয় সমূহে শিক্ষক নিয়োগের বেলায় একপ মাত্র পাশ আলিমগণকে নিযুক্ত করিয়া লইলে মুসলমানের ধর্ম শিক্ষার জন্য আর পূৰ্বক শিক্ষক রাখার আবশ্যক থাকিলে না।

সিলেট মাদ্রাসা ১৯১৩ ইংরেজীতে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। ইহার পর ১৯১৭-১৮ ইংরেজীতে সরকার এই মর্মে সার্কুলার জারী করেন যে ইংরাজী সহ মাদ্রাসা উদ্ভীর্ণ আলিমগণকে যাব-রেজিষ্ট্রার ও কেরানী পদ ইত্যাদিতে অগ্রগণ্য ভাবে নিযুক্ত করা হইবে। কিন্তু ইহা মোটেই পালন করা হয় নাই বলিলেও অত্যাঙ্গি হইবে না। আমার জানামতে ২ জন মাদ্রাসা পাশ ব্যক্তি সিলেট মাদ্রাসায় এখনও অস্থায়ী ভাবে কেরানীর কাজ করিতেছেন এবং বর্তমান রেজিষ্ট্রেশন মন্ত্রীর হাতে একজন মাদ্রাসা পাশ মৌলভী মাত্র সেদিন কমিশন বেসিয়ে যাব-রেজিষ্ট্রার নিযুক্ত হইয়াছেন। অদূর ভবিষ্যতে আরও কয়েকজন যাব-রেজিষ্ট্রার নিযুক্ত করা হইবে শোনা যাইতেছে। তখন মুসলিম কোর্টা পুরণের বেলায় যেন মাদ্রাসা পাশ আলিমগণের কথা অগ্রগণ্য করিয়া সরকার প্রতিশ্রুতি পালন করেন এবং অন্যান্য বিভাগের জন্য কর্মচারী নিয়োগের জন্য বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করার সময় মাদ্রাসা পাশ আলিমগণের কথা না ভুলেন।

সকল সরকারী হাইস্কুলের ছেড় মাস্টারের জন্য কোয়ার্টার দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে, কিন্তু সিলেট মাদ্রাসা এম, এ ক্লাস হইতে উচ্চতর হওয়া স্বত্বেও প্রিন্সিপাল ও সুপারিন্টেন্ডেন্টের জন্য কোয়ার্টারের ব্যবস্থা নাই। ইহা হইতে মাদ্রাসার প্রতি সরকারের প্রত্যক্ষ উদাসীনতার প্রমাণ পাওয়া যাইতেছে। অবিলম্বে প্রিন্সিপালের জন্য কোয়ার্টার ও তদন্যায় হাউস এলাউন্স দেওয়ার বিধানের জন্য অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

মাদ্রাসা প্রতিষ্ঠিত হওয়ার সময় হইতে আজ পর্য্যন্ত কতকগুলো বাজে গৃহে মাদ্রাসার ছাত্রগণের বসিবার ব্যবস্থা চলিয়া আসিতেছে। যরগুলো এত বাজে যে মাঝে মাঝে বেড়া উড়িয়া মাদ্রাসা গৃহে চোর প্রবেশ করে। বারবার ইহা সরকারের দৃষ্টিগোচর করা স্বত্বেও সকল চেষ্টা

নিষ্ফল হইয়াছে। মাদ্রাসা গৃহগুলি, হোষ্টেল গৃহগুলি ও প্রিন্সিপাল প্রভৃতির কোয়ার্টার নির্মাণে কম বেশী সাড়ে তিন লক্ষ টাকার আবশ্যিক। Post-War পরিকল্পনায় শিক্ষা বিভাগের জন্য ৫ কোটি টাকা বরাদ্দ হইয়াছে। এতদ্ স্বত্বেও বাজেটে মাদ্রাসা পুনর্নির্মাণের ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হয় নাই। আশা করি বাজেট পাশ হইবার পূর্বেই মাদ্রাসা গৃহ প্রভৃতির পুনর্নির্মাণের জন্য কম পক্ষে সাড়ে তিন লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হইবে।

তিব্বিয়া কলেজ

সরকার আগাম প্রদেবে একটা তিব্বিয়া কলেজ স্থাপন করিয়াছেন। ইহা সুখের বিষয়। আগামী জুলাই মাসে ইহার তৃতীয় বর্ষ শ্রেণী খোলা হইবে। তৃতীয় বর্ষ শ্রেণী খোলার সঙ্গে সঙ্গেই আউটডোর ডিস্‌পেন্সারীর একান্ত আবশ্যিক। কিন্তু বাজেটে ইহার জন্য কোন ব্যয় বরাদ্দ না দেখিয়া আশ্চর্যান্বিত হইলাম। যদি আউটডোর ডিস্‌পেন্সারীর ব্যবস্থা না হয় তাহা হইলে তিব্বিয়া কলেজ বাধা বা নানান গমন কণা। কাজেই যে কোন অবস্থায় অবিলম্বে আউটডোর ডিস্‌পেন্সারীর জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিতে হইবে।

গৃহের অভাবে এখনও মাদ্রাসা হোষ্টেলে তিব্বিয়া কলেজের দুই শ্রেণীর শিক্ষা দেওয়া হইতেছে। ইহাতে তিব্বিয়ার কাজ ও যথার্থি চলিতেছে না এবং মাদ্রাসার ও বিশেষ ক্ষতি হইতেছে। তিব্বিয়া চিকিৎসা এখনও আমাদের প্রদেশে পরিচিত হয় নাই। ইউ, পি, সি, পি, প্রভৃতি প্রদেশে এলোপ্যাথিক, আয়ুর্বেদ প্রভৃতি চিকিৎসা হইতে তিব্বিয়াকে অনেক উচ্চস্থান দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে। মরহুম হেকিম আজমলখান তিব্বিয়া চিকিৎসার জন্য বিশ্ববিখ্যাত ছিলেন। তাহার অশেষ ত্যাগ ও চেষ্টার ফলে দিল্লীর বুকো যে তিব্বিয়া কলেজ প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইয়াছে সেখানে ইউনানী আয়ুর্বেদ ও এলোপ্যাথিক অনুসারে সার্জারীও শিক্ষা দেওয়া হইয়া থাকে। আসামের একমাত্র তিব্বিয়া কলেজ ও তাহারই অনুকরণে গঠন করিতে হইবে। তাহা হইলে এই কলেজই ইউনানী আয়ুর্বেদ ও সার্জারী ইত্যাদি শিক্ষা পাইতে পারিবে। এইরূপ তিব্বিয়া কলেজে হিন্দুস্থানী ভাষার সহযোগে মুসলমান ও হিন্দু সকলেই শিক্ষালাভ করিতে পারিবে।

তিব্বিয়া কলেজ মেডিকেল কলেজ বা হাস্পাতালের নিকট হওয়াই বাঞ্ছনীয়। তাহাতে উভয় কলেজের শিক্ষার্থীগণই লাভবান হইবেন। তিব্বিয়া ইউনানী ও আয়ুর্বেদের স্থানকে উচ্চ দিব্যর জন্য অল-ইণ্ডিয়া মেডিকেল মিনিষ্টারদের কনফারেন্সে প্রস্তাব পাশ হইয়াছে। এতদ্ স্বত্বেও তিব্বিয়া কলেজের গৃহাদি নির্মাণের জন্য কোন বাজেটেই ব্যয় বরাদ্দ হয় নাই, ইহা পরম আক্ষেপের বিষয়। আমি জোর দাবী জানাইতেছি যে দিল্লী তিব্বিয়া কলেজে অবিলম্বে কোন অফিসার পাঠাইয়া বা স্বয়ং মন্ত্রীমহোদয় যাইয়া এক পরিকল্পনা আনয়ন করুন এবং তদনুসারে আমাদের তিব্বিয়া কলেজ নির্মাণের জন্য Post-War বাজেটে ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করুন। অনুমানে বলা যাইতে পারে যে ইহার জন্য কম বেশী দশ লক্ষ টাকার দরকার হইবে।

তিব্বিয়ার ছাত্রদের জন্য মাসিক ১০০ টাকা মূল্যের মাত্র দুইটা বৃত্তির ব্যবস্থা করা হইয়াছে। কম পক্ষে ৫ টা বৃত্তি ও প্রত্যেকটা কমপক্ষে ১৫০ টাকা মূল্যের করা উচিত।

এইডেড মাদ্রাসা

প্ৰদেশের এইডেড জাতীয় মাদ্রাসা সমূহের প্ৰচািন ও কাজ সজ্জার জন্য Post-War বাজেটে কমপক্ষে ২০ লক্ষ টাকার বরাদ্দ চাহা উচিত। এইডেড মিডিল মাদ্রাসার গড়ে শতকরা ৮০টা মাদ্রাসায় হিন্দু মুসলমান ছাত্র শিক্ষালাত করে এবং এতাবৎ হিন্দু মুসলমান শিক্ষক কাজ করিয়া থাকেন। শুধু মাদ্রাসা শব্দ শুনিয়াই সকল মাদ্রাসাকে সাম্প্রদায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠান বলিয়া নেন কবা অন্যায্য হইবে। কাজের এইরূপ মাদ্রাসা সমূহের উন্নতির জন্য ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিলে তাহা হইতে সকল সম্প্রদায়ই সমান ভাবে লাভবান হইবেন।

আসামের উচ্ছেদ নীতি

আসামে বাহির হইতে অনেক দরিদ্র লোক আসিয়া অনেকদিন পূর্বে হইয়া এই বঙ্গবাস স্থাপন করিয়াছে। ইহাদের মধ্যে ৬।৭ লক্ষ লোককে পূর্বেই গুল্মনিবেশিত হইয়া অনেক প্ৰদেশে ছেড়া হইয়া গিয়াছে। ইহাতে উভয় পক্ষই লাভবান হইয়াছেন। পর পূর্বেই সময় খালিভাবে আরও অনেক লোক আসামে আসিয়া মধ্যম বর্গের স্থাপন করে। অল্পের দরুন ইহারা বিজার্ড সমূহেও বসতি স্থাপন করে। ফলে এসময়ে বিহারে বঙ্গবাসীর জন্য ১৯৪৭ ইংরাজীতে সাদুল্লা নব্বীসভা ও কাপ্ৰেশনেতা শ্ৰীযুক্ত বড়দলৈ ও শ্ৰীযুক্ত রোহিনী কুমার হোসেনীর মাধ্যমে আপোন নীমাংসা হয় তদনুসারে ১৯৫৮ ইংরাজীতে শেখতারা পঞ্চায়ত আয়তকদিগকে অধিক দিবার প্রতিশ্রুতি দেওয়া হয় এবং অন্যান্যদিগকে বিজার্ড হইতে তাড়াইয়া দিবার স্থির করা হয়। এই অঙ্গীকার অনুযায়ী সাদুল্লা নব্বীসভা ১৯৪৫ ইংরাজীতে অনেক লোককে জেদ করিয়া এমন কি গুল্মের সাহায্যেও বিজার্ড হইতে তাড়াইয়া দেন। আজ ও সেই সাদুল্লা-রোহিনী-বড়দলৈ চুক্তি বহাল রহিয়াছে এবং তদনুসারে এই গভর্নমেন্টের বিজার্ডে অনধিকার প্রবেশকারীগণকে উচ্ছেদ করা হইতেছে। বিজার্ডে অনধিকার প্রবেশকারীদের মধ্যে এইকরণ অনেক লোক আছে বলিয়া শোনা যায় যাহাদের বিজার্ডের বাহিরেও বাড়ী আছে। এবং একজন অনেক লোক আছে যাহারা বাড়ীখর ছাড়িয়া আসামের বাহির হইতে আসিয়া আসামে বসবাস স্থাপন করিয়াছে। সাদুল্লা-রোহিনী-বড়দলৈ চুক্তির বলে এসময় লোককে জমিদান সম্বন্ধে গভর্নমেন্ট অবশ্য বাধ্য নন। কিন্তু মানবতার প্রতি মহানুভূতি প্ৰদর্শনের কথা চিন্তা করিলে গভর্নমেন্ট এসময় অঙ্গ ও নিরীহ গৃহস্থীন বেচাৰাদের বসবাসের কথা চিন্তা করিতে আইনভঃ বাধ্য না হইলেও দর্শনঃ বাধ্য। কারণ অঙ্গতার দরুন দেশত্যাগী ও গৃহস্থীন হইয়া তাহারা আসামে আসিয়া আশ্রয় লইয়াছে। এখন এখান হইতে আবার নিতাড়িত হইলে ইহারা কোথায় যাইয়া আশ্রয় লইবে? অতএব সরকার ইহাদের সম্বন্ধে কি করিবেন তাহা প্রকাশ্যে বলিয়া দিয়া দেশবাসীকে অবহিত করা একান্ত কর্তব্য। বিগত ১৯৪৬-৪৭ ইংরাজীর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় মাননীয় রেভিনিউ মন্ত্রী আশ্বাস দিয়াছিলেন যে যদি ইহারা বিজার্ড পরিত্যাগ করিয়া যায় তাহা হইলে ভূমিবন্দোবস্ত দিবার সময় ইহাদের কথাও চিন্তা করা যাইবে। এখন এসময় লোক বিজার্ড হইতে চলিয়া গিয়াছে। কাজেই ইহাদের একটা লিষ্টে করিয়া ইহাদের বসবাসের জন্য অবিলম্বে ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত।

বিজার্ডে অনধিকার প্রবেশের জন্য যাহারা শাস্তি ভোগ করিতেছে তাহারা যে শুধু মুসলমান তাহা সত্য নহে। শিবসাগর, জোরহাট প্রভৃতি স্থানে বিজার্ডে অনধিকার প্রবেশ করিয়া যাহারা শাস্তি ভোগ করিয়াছে তাহাদের একজন ও মুসলমান নহে। তাহারা সকলেই স্থানীয় আহোম, কাছারী ও নেপালী। এমতাবস্থায় বিজার্ড হইতে শুধু মুসলমান তাড়ান হইতেছে বলিয়া প্রচার করিলে গভর্নমেন্টের প্রতি অবিচার করা হইবে।

আসামে ভূমি বন্দোবস্ত দিবার পলিসি ঠিক করিবার জন্য ১৯৪৬-৪৭ ইংরাজীর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় মাননীয় ব্রিটিশ মন্ত্রী সকল পার্টির নিকট appeal করিয়াছিলেন যেনো সকলে মিলিয়া সে সম্বন্ধে এক সিদ্ধান্তে উপনীত হন। অবশ্য ইহাতে opposition গাড়া দেন নাই। আমি এসম্বন্ধে সরকারকে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি যেনো তাহারা এবার ও opposition এর সঙ্গে মিলিয়া ভূমি বন্দোবস্ত দেওয়ার policy নির্ধারণের জন্য চেষ্টা করিবার প্রয়াস পান। ইহাতে ও যদি opposition গাড়া নাদেন তাহা হইলে দুঃখের বিষয় হইবে।

প্রজাস্বত্ব বিল

টাউন প্রজাস্বত্ব বিল পাশ করিয়া গভর্ণমেন্ট অবশ্য মুষ্টিমেয় লোকের উপকার সাধন করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু এগ্রিকালচারেল প্রজাস্বত্ব বিল সম্বন্ধে সরকারের এত নীরবতার কারণ কি? এগ্রিকালচারেল প্রজাস্বত্ব বিলের সঙ্গে লক্ষ লক্ষ প্রজার সম্বন্ধ রহিয়াছে। কাজেই মানবতার খাতিরে এগ্রিকালচারেল প্রজাস্বত্ব বিলের প্রতি সরকারের সর্বাত্মক মনোযোগ দেওয়া উচিত ছিল। মানকার প্রথা, চাকরাণ প্রথা প্রভৃতি কুপ্রথা সমূহ অবিলম্বে দূর করিয়া প্রজাস্বত্ব বিল পাশ করিয়া লক্ষ লক্ষ নরনারীকে জমিদারী জুলুম হইতে রক্ষা করিবার জন্য সরকারকে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

ঘাটুয়া গান

একটি ছেলেকে মেয়ের রূপ দিয়া নাচ ও গান গাওয়ানোর প্রথাকে ঘাটুয়া গান বলা হয়। ঘাটুয়া ব্যবসায়ী দলের অত্যাচারে দেশ অর্জ্জ্বরিত। ইহাদের অত্যাচার হইতে দেশকে উদ্ধার করিবার উদ্দেশ্যে অবিলম্বে আইন প্রণয়নের জন্য সরকারকে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

গত ১৬ই ও ১৭ই আগস্টে গিলেট মুসলিম হোটেল ও নয়গড়ক মসজিদ ও অন্যান্য দোকানপাতি বৈরুপ দিয়া ছিপ্ৰহনে লুটপাট হইয়াছিল তাহার ক্ষতিপূরণের জন্য সরকার এখনও সম্পূর্ণ নীরব কেন? অন্যান্য প্রদেশে এরূপ লুটপাটের জন্য সরকার ক্ষতিপূরণ ইতিপূর্বেই করিয়া দিয়াছেন। কিন্তু আসাম সরকার এবিষয়ে সম্পূর্ণ নীরব। আশাকরি এক তদন্ত কমিটি করিয়া সরকার অবিলম্বে ক্ষতির পরিমাণ নির্ধারণ করিয়া তাহা পূরণের ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। তদন্যায় সরকারের বিরুদ্ধে মোকদ্দমা হইবার সম্ভাবনা রহিয়াছে।

শান্তিরক্ষা

দেশের জনসাধারণের শান্তিরক্ষা করা গভর্ণমেন্টের কর্তব্য। কিন্তু এতদসম্বন্ধেও শোনা যায় যে অনেক স্থানে রাজনৈতিক মতভেদের জন্য জমিয়তীদের উপর আশাকরি সরকার এসম্বন্ধে সম্বর অবহিত হইবেন।

জৈন্তা

মাননীয় Speaker মহোদয়, আমি যেস্থান হইতে নির্বাচিত হইয়াছি উহা আসামের মধ্য একটা উল্লেখযোগ্য অনুন্নত স্থান। প্রায় একশত বৎসর পূর্বে জৈন্তা একটা স্বাধীন, স্বতন্ত্র রাজ্য ছিল। উহার নিজস্ব সভ্যতা, কৃষ্টি, আচার ব্যবহার, রীতিনীতি ইত্যাদির দিক দিয়া উহা আসামের অন্যান্য স্থান হইতে সম্পূর্ণ পৃথক। একদিন এই জৈন্তা রাজ্য সবদিক দিয়া উন্নত ছিল। লোকে উহাকে সোনার জৈন্তা বলিত। কিন্তু জৈন্তা রাজ্য ঐতিহাসিক সোনার জৈন্তা পোড়ামাটির মত স্থানে পরিণত হইয়াছে। বৃটিশ আজ সেই গভর্ণমেন্টের

অধীনে ভারতের প্রায় সকল দেশ শিক্ষাসীকা, ব্যবসাবাণিজ্য ইত্যাদিতে উন্নত হইয়াছে। প্রসঙ্গক্রমে এই বাণিজ্য পাঠ্য মাধ্যম নামের সঙ্গে 'জৈন্তা' শব্দ যুক্ত আছে, সেই বাণিজ্য জৈন্তা পাঠ্য আজ অনেক উন্নত হইতেছে। একই দেশের পাঠ্য অক্ষয় অক্ষয় হইতেছে, কিন্তু সমতলভাগ তথা জৈন্তা পরগণা সমূহ শ্রীমন্তের সঙ্গে যুক্ত থাকার উহার উন্নতির লক্ষ্য অপ্রশস্ত হইয়া চলিয়াছে। অতএব আজিকার এই পৰিষদে আমি জৈন্তার বর্তমান অবস্থার অভিযোগ সংক্ষেপে বর্ণনা করিব। আমার আশা এবং বিশ্বাস বর্তমান এই জনশিক্ষা জাতির গভর্ণমেন্ট আমাদের অতনু অভিযোগ পূরণ করিতে তাৎপর্য হইবেন।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : চতুর্থী নাহেন, আপনার আর কত সময় লাগবে ?

Moulana IBRAHIM ALI CHATULI : আরও কিছু সময় লাগবে।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : তাহলে lunch এর পূর্বে বলবেন।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I have before me the names of three hon. Members who will speak -

1. Srijut Lakshmidhar Borah.
2. Srijut Omco Kumar Das.
3. Srijut Bijoya Chandra Bhagavati.

(Some more Members rose)

I am sorry the complete list is not before me. Therefore I committed that error probably.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 p. m.

(After lunch)

(The Deputy Speaker was in the Chair)

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : It seems that there are some Members who want to take part in the discussion. Is it the sense of the House that we should sit till 5 p. m., to-day? (Voices: Yes).

May I ask how long will the Hon'ble Finance Minister take in replying?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : I may take about an hour; but the trouble is that we have got an engagement at about 4 p. m., to-day.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Moulana Ibrahim Ali may continue his speech.

Moulana IBRAHIM ALI CHATULI : প্রথমে শিক্ষার বিষয় ধরা যাউক। জৈন্তায় প্রায় ২ লক্ষ লোকের বাস এবং উহার আয় প্রায় ৭ লক্ষের উপরে। আজ এই একশত বৎসরে জৈন্তার আয় ৩৬ হাজার টাকা হইতে ৭ লক্ষ টাকায় বৃদ্ধিত হইয়াছে সত্য, কিন্তু পরীক্ষিত করদাতাদের শিক্ষা দীক্ষার নিমিত্ত কোন সুবন্দোবস্ত করা হয় নাই। আমার দাবী এই একশত বৎসরে জৈন্তায় মাত্র শতকরা ১ জন লোক লেখাপড়া শিখিতে পারিয়াছে। এই দুইলক্ষ লোকের শিক্ষার জন্য আছে মাত্র (১) এইডেড্ হাইস্কুল একটা, (২) এইডেড্ হাইমাদ্রাসা একটা, (৩) এইডেড্ এম, ই, মাদ্রাসা ৮ টা, (৪) গভর্ণমেন্ট এম, ই, স্কুল একটা, (৫) গভর্ণমেন্ট এম, ডি স্কুল একটা এবং (৬) লোকাল বোর্ড এম, ডি স্কুল একটা। এ ছাড়া সামান্য কয়েকটা নিম্ন প্রাইমারী স্কুল ও মন্ডব এবং কয়েকটা বেসরকারী মাদ্রাসা আছে। আমি আশা করি, জৈন্তাবাসীর শিক্ষার উন্নতি কল্পে পঞ্চ বার্ষিকী শিক্ষা পরিকল্পনা অনুযায়ী এবৎসরে ৫০টা নিম্নপ্রাইমারী স্কুল ও মন্ডব এবং উচ্চ শিক্ষার নিমিত্ত গোয়াইনবাট এম, ই, মাদ্রাসাকে সরকারী হাই মাদ্রাসায়, জৈন্তাপুর সরকারী এম, ডি, স্কুলকে

ও দুর্গাপুর এম, ডি স্কুলকে সরকারী এম, ই, স্কুলে পরিণত করা হউক ; এবং কৃষি বিদ্যা শিক্ষার নিমিত্ত জৈন্তার মহাস্থান দরবস্তে একটা কৃষি বিদ্যালয় প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হউক ; এবং প্রস্তাবিত বুনিয়াদি শিক্ষা বিস্তারের জন্য জৈন্তায় একটা কেন্দ্র প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হউক । ইহা ছাড়া জৈন্তার ছাত্র ও ছাত্রীদিগকে শিক্ষার সুযোগ দান করে এম, ই, স্কুল, এম, ই, মাদ্রাসা, মেট্রিক, আই, এ, আই, এস, সি, বি, এ, ও বি, এস, সি, প্রভৃতি পরীক্ষার ও ডাক্তারী ও ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং শিক্ষার নিমিত্ত উপযুক্ত সংখ্যক বৃত্তির বন্দোবস্ত করা হউক ।

রাস্তা-ঘাট

জৈন্তায় আজ পন্থ Public Works Department এর অন্তর্গত সরকারী কোন রাস্তা নাই । লোকেল বোর্ডের যে ৪।৫ টি রাস্তা আছে তাহাও লোক চলাচলের সম্পূর্ণ অযোগ্য । অবশ্য গভর্ণমেন্ট এবংসর লোকেল বোর্ডের এই চারিটা রাস্তা Post-War ফীমের অন্তর্ভুক্ত করিয়াছেন । শালুটিকর হইতে গোয়াইনঘাট, গোয়াইনঘাট হইতে সারিঘাট, দরবস্ত হইতে কানাইঘাট ও জৈন্তাপুর হইতে কালজুর এই চারিটা রাস্তা ব্যতীত আরও কয়েকটা রাস্তা নিশ্চারণের জন্য গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি । নিম্নে সেই সব রাস্তার নাম উল্লেখ করিতেছি । (১) গোয়াইনঘাট হইতে লাখাট বাজার, (২) গোয়াইনঘাট হইতে ডাউকী, (৩) গোয়াইনঘাট হইতে হরিপুর, (৪) হরিপুর হইতে গাছবাড়ী, (৫) গাছবাড়ী হইতে রাজাগঞ্জ, (৬) গাছবাড়ী হইতে কানাইঘাট ।

আমি আশা করি, বর্তমান পঞ্চবাধিকী পরিকল্পনায় জৈন্তার এই মোট ১০টা রাস্তা (যাহার দৈর্ঘ্য ১০০ মাইলের উপর হইবে না) গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং বর্তমান বৎসরে যাহাতে শালুটিকর হইতে গোয়াইনঘাট ও গোয়াইনঘাট হইতে সারিঘাট (মোট ২৪ মাইল) রাস্তা নিশ্চারণ করা হয় তাহার প্রতি গভর্ণমেন্ট সচেষ্ট হইবেন ।

চিকিৎসা ও স্বাস্থ্য

গভর্ণমেন্ট অবগত আছেন যে জৈন্তা একটা ম্যালেরিয়া প্রধান স্থান । সত্যতা আসাম গেজেটের সাপ্তাহিক মৃত্যুর হার দেখিলেই ধরা পড়িবে । আমার এই উক্তির আসামের মধ্যে উত্তর শ্রীহট্ট মহকুমায় মৃত্যুর সংখ্যা এবং রোগের সংখ্যা গেজেটে দেখা যায় যে, প্রমাণিত হয় যে জৈন্তার মৃত্যুর সংখ্যা উত্তর শ্রীহট্ট মহকুমার মৃত্যু সংখ্যার অধিক । ইহা হইতে উল্লিখিত সেই দুই লক্ষ লোকের স্বাস্থ্য ও চিকিৎসার কোন সুবন্দোবস্ত নাই । জৈন্তার থানাগুলিতে যে তিনটা লোকেল বোর্ডের ডাক্তারখানা আছে তাহাতে খানার কর্মচারীরাই উপকার পাইতে পারেন, কিন্তু গরীব গ্রামবাসীরা তাহাতে কোন উপকার পাইতেছে না । জৈন্তার থানাগুলিতে সুপারিশ করিতেছি যে এই বৎসর চতুলবাজার, বিনাকান্দি, আঙ্গারজুর ও লংলাখাল এই চারিটা জায়গায় চারিটা হাসপাতাল প্রতিষ্ঠা করা হউক এবং প্রস্তাবিত ম্যালেরিয়া বিতাড়িত কেন্দ্র একটা জৈন্তায় খোলা হউক ।

ব্যবসা বাণিজ্য

আর্থিক দিক দিয়া জৈন্তাবাসী অত্যন্ত দরিদ্র । কৃষিই জৈন্তার একমাত্র প্রধান সম্বল । অন্যান্য ব্যবসা বাণিজ্য যথা :—সরকারী ঠীকা, এজেন্সী, মোটরের লাইসেন্স, জলকর মহাল সমূহের বন্দোবস্তে জৈন্তাবাসীরা সম্পূর্ণ বঞ্চিত । উল্লেখ করা আবশ্যিক যে সুন্দা ভেলীতে যে

কয়টি নোটের লাইন আছে তাহাতে জৈস্তার উপযুক্ত লোক খাকা স্বয়ং জৈস্তারানীদিগকে দেওয়া হয় নাই। বিশেষ করিয়া বলিতে চাই যে জৈস্তার বৃদ্ধির উপর দিয়া যে সিলেট-ডাউকী লাইন আছে এবং এই লাইনে যে কয়টি পার্শ্ব নিট আছে তাহা প্রায় সব কয়টি জৈস্তার বাহিরের লোকের। আমি আশা করি ভবিষ্যতে বাহাতে প্রত্যেক লাইনে এবং বিশেষ করিয়া সিলেট-ডাউকী, সিলেট-দরবস্ত লাইন ও সিলেট বালুটিকার লাইনে জৈস্তারানীদিগকে উপযুক্ত সংখ্যক পার্শ্ব নিট দেওয়া হয় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করা হউক।

জৈস্তায় বহুসংখ্যক জলকর মহাল আছে। জৈস্তারানীরা ইহা আশা করে যে তাহারা তাহাদের বাড়ীর পিছনের খাল, বিল, নদী, মালা ইত্যাদি উচিত মূল্য বন্দোবস্ত পায় এবং তাহাতে দুপয়সা রোজগার করে। কিন্তু তাহাও তাহাদের ভাগ্যে মতিয়া উঠে নাই, যেহেতু জৈস্তার বাহিরের লোক নিছক জিনাজিনী করিয়া হাজার হাজার মহাল খাঁচ হাজার হাজার ডাকিয়া লইয়া যায় এবং শেষ পর্যন্ত পাটার স্বর্ভ অনুমারী স্থানীয় লোকদিগকে আহানের মত্যা পদাঙ্গু ধরিতে দেওয়া হয়না। বরং নির্যা নোকদনা কজ্ করিয়া স্থানীয় লোকদিগকে অমধ্য হরণান করে। এসম্পর্কে আমি একটি বিষয়ের প্রতি গভণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। আজ ১০/১০ বৎসর পূর্বে জৈস্তার জলকর মহালের আয় ছিল ১০/২০ হাজার টাকা কিন্তু বরন জৈস্তার লোক জলকর মহাল যমুহ নীলার ডাকিতে আরম্ভ করিল তখন হইতে, সেইসব জলকর মহাল যমুহের আয় আজ প্রায় দেড় লক্ষের উপরে বর্ধিত হইয়াছে। আমি আশা করি এসব অন্যায়ের হাত হইতে রক্ষা করার নিমিত্ত জৈস্তার জলকর মহাল যমুহ বিগত ১২ বৎসরের average জন্মায় জৈস্তার মত্যা ব্যবসায়ীদিগকে, বিশেষ করিয়া কো-অপারেটিভ সোসাইটি যমুহকে দীর্ঘ মাদে বন্দোবস্ত দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা হউক।

চাকুরী

জৈস্তায় সরকারী চাকুরিয়ানদের সংখ্যা একেবারে মরণা। জৈস্তায় চাকুরিয়ানদের মোটামুটি একটি তালিকা দিতেছি।

- (১) আসাম জুনিয়র সিভিল সার্ভিস—১ জন।
- (২) আসাম এডুকেশন সার্ভিস ক্লাশ ওয়ান—১ জন।
- (৩) স্কুল সার্ভিস ক্লাশ থ্রি—৪ জন।
- (৪) এক্ সাইজ ইনস্পেক্টর—১ জন।
- (৫) পুলিশ ইনস্পেক্টর—১ জন।

এতদ্ব্যতীত মুষ্টিমেয় কয়জন কেরানী, পাটোয়ারী ও নিম্ন প্রাইমারী শিক্ষক আছেন। সে যাহা হউক এই বৎসরে আসাম সিভিল সার্ভিসে ২২ জন Sub-Deputy Collector নিয়োগ করা হইবে। আমি আশা করি ইহার মধ্যে বাহাতে জৈস্তার হিন্দু মুসলমানের নিমিত্ত ৩টি post রিজার্ভ করিয়া রাখা হয় তাহার জন্য নিশ্চয় গভণমেন্ট সুবানস্থা করিবেন এবং ভবিষ্যতে বাহাতে অন্যান্য চাকুরীর বেলায় জৈস্তার উপযুক্ত লোকদিগকে নিয়োগ করাহয় তাহার প্রতি গভণমেন্ট তৎপর হইবেন।

উপসংহারে আমি ইহাই বলিতে চাই যে জৈন্তাৰ লোক সংখ্যা, বাৎসৰিক আয় ও ভৌগলিক দিক দিয়া জৈন্তা একটা পূৰ্ণাঙ্গ মহকুমাৰ গোণা। জৈন্তাৰ বিভিন্ন জনহিতকৰ প্ৰতিষ্ঠান আজ বহুদিন ধৰি জৈন্তাকে একটা স্বতন্ত্ৰ মহকুমায় পৰিণত কৰিবাৰ দাবী জনাইয়া আসিতেছে। আমি গভৰ্ণমেন্টকে এই বলিয়া অনুৰোধ কৰিতেছি যে জৈন্তাৰ সমূহ অভাব অভিযোগ দূৰ কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যে জৈন্তাকে একটা স্বতন্ত্ৰ মহকুমায় পৰিণত কৰা হউক। এবং বৰ্তমান বৎসৰই উত্তৰ শ্ৰীহট্ট, লোকেন বোৰ্ড হইতে জৈন্তাকে পৃথক কৰিয়া জৈন্তাৰ স্বতন্ত্ৰ জৈন্তা লোকেন বোৰ্ড প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰা হউক।

(He spoke about the improvement of the Sylhet Madrassa and the Tibbiya College. He dealt at length on the eviction policy of the Government and stressed that sympathetic treatment should be accorded to immigrants. He also suggested further consultation with opposition as regards chalking out a policy of eviction. He suggested certain improvements for Jainta and people of Jainta.)

Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM: Deputy Speaker, Madam, I frankly confess that I have a poor acquaintance with the intricacies of Budget system nor do I understand the many complexities therein. But having heard the speech of the Hon'ble Minister of Finance and the discussion following therefrom I consider it my duty to speak about the constituency I am privileged to represent in this House. I mean the Jowai Subdivision—that Subdivision which was forgotten and neglected in the past. I am not here to criticise the Budget but to point out certain facts which, I feel sure, the Government in the midst of its many duties have overlooked. It is my confident expectation that the Government will certainly redress the grievances of my Subdivision.

Education.—Although the people of my Subdivision are a free and democratic community, education was sadly neglected with the result that they have become backward in this most important branch of life.

For the last 150 years the Government had repressed facilities to us in the matter of education. Hundred years ago a non-Governmental body of Christian Missionaries from Wales came to these Hills and taught us to read and write and have made it possible for us to be what we are today. To them we owe a debt of gratitude which we shall remember at all times to come. I take this occasion to thank them from the bottom of my heart. At present there are only about 50 or 60 primary schools in the Subdivision. It is hardly necessary for me to say that these few schools cannot serve even a small fraction of the need of the people of the Subdivision. I may be allowed to point out by way of comparison that in the Garo Hills there are about 200 primary schools. The only High School in Jowai has not even a building of its own. The present buildings are scattered here and there causing inconvenience to the staff and students to move from one class to another, especially during the monsoon. That being so, Madam, I urge upon the Government to give us more primary schools and to construct the High School buildings at an early date.

Medical and Public Health.—Madam, there are only 3 dispensaries in my Subdivision, one of which is a travelling dispensary. These dispensaries can only serve the needs of the people living 5 or 6 miles around the dispensaries. The major part of the Subdivision, especially those in the interior, are deprived of their services. The headquarters of the present travelling dispensary is at Jowai. As it is now, it is not helpful to the people. The doctor in-charge generally visits only those villages within 8 or 10 miles radius from Jowai. As the doctor generally visits only those villages could be easily served by the Welsh Mission Hospital and the private Medical Practitioners of Jowai. In fact, those villages be shifted to the interior where there are no medical facilities. In my opinion, the headquarters of this dispensary should

Every Subdivision in the Province is entitled to get an Assistant Surgeon. But, Madam, my Subdivision has been neglected so long in this respect. I wish to remind the Hon'ble Minister concerned to give us immediately one Assistant Surgeon and to open more dispensaries in the interior, namely at Sutnga, Umpainai and Jrikyndeng, in order to meet the just and crying needs of those people who have no medical facilities.

Supply.—I appreciate the difficulties that are confronting the Government in the matter of Supply. But I insist that whatever amount of supply the Government gets there should be fair and equitable distribution to everybody. In this respect my subdivision was not fairly treated. I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister concerned that supply should be distributed according to population. My subdivision with a population of 90,000 gets 125 maunds of sugar, 185 tins of kerosene oil and 129 bales of textiles.

With regard to sugar the allotment when worked out on per capita basis comes to only 16/17 chhataks per month that is to say Jowai Subdivision was denied the proportionate share allotted to the rest of Assam which is about 2 chhataks per head per month as published in Press Note dated 24th December 1946.

In June and July last we were given 263 tins of kerosene oil, this quota was then reduced to 234 tins. In November last the reduced quota was further reduced to 185 tins by the Supply Officer of Shillong. I cannot understand why the Jowai quota which is already too small has been cut to such an extent that practically the whole interior of the subdivision has to undergo without kerosene oil.

Now, I come to textiles—up to June last the supply was irregular. We got textiles only once or twice in a year. But since last July we have been able to get a regular supply. This quota that was allotted to us does not at all meet the needs of the people. There are thousands and thousands of people who have not got an opportunity of buying cloth even once. In Shillong, I am told the Hindu population was given special quota worth 1½ lakhs rupees for the Pujahs, the Muslims were given special quotas twice in the same year. The Khasis who are double the combined population of Hindus and Muslims in the rationed area of Shillong were given Rs.70,000 worth of clothes.

The people of my subdivision were completely forgotten and we got nothing.

Public Works Department and Post-War Reconstruction.—We were so long kept isolated from the rest of the Province with no outlet to contact the plains people in the matter of trade, business, etc. With the present popular Government in power a road from Shillong to Jowai is being constructed and I hope the road from Jowai to Dawki will next be taken up. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not mention the difficulties of the people in the interior in the matter of bridging the Myntang river in between Mynso and Shiliang-Myntang. This is an important highway in the subdivision connecting the people of the subdivision. Without this bridge the people of the subdivision will be cut into two.

Industries.—I urge upon the Government to open a sericultural station at Jowai and to send weaving demonstrators to teach and to encourage those people in the subdivision who are now weaving in order to develop handloom industries.

General Administration.—Recently the Government of Assam have invited applications from the tribal hills for five posts, two in the Assam Civil Service and three in Junior Civil Service. It is understood that in the plains direct recruitment in the Assam Civil Service has been stopped and the policy of promoting the junior officers has been adopted. The junior officers from the hills have been representing their cases to the effect that the same policy adopted in the

plains be followed here. I am quite in agreement with the just and rightful claim of these junior officers. I therefore appeal to the Government to redress their grievances by promoting the junior officers as done in the plains.

Summing up my speech I am entitled to demand a special treatment in order that we may have equal opportunities and may be able to develop ourselves in the coming changes.

With these few words, Madam, I resume my seat.

Babu KHAGENDRA NATH SAMADDAR: Deputy Speaker, Madam, I convey my heartiest congratulations to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to present his Budget in the Assembly on behalf of the Congress Party. Congress has accepted the Government with some definite and clear programme of its own and to carry out the terms and conditions laid down in its election manifesto. Congress Government is to run according to the directions of Congress. Congress was fighting for the independence of our motherland and after a long and tremendous fight Congress is going to achieve the same within a year. If India will be independent, it must be independent with its trade, commerce, agriculture, industry, health, education and culture. During the war period and after that, the Province is facing with a great difficulty for its daily necessary requirements for products of the Province are also not getting the proper price from other Provinces and countries. Though industries are the main resources of all the civilised countries of present days, yet our Government of Assam is not trying to make the Province independent of its own industries; the raw materials for most of the important industries are available here. The previous Cabinets did not give any importance to that. But that cannot be the reasons for the present Congress or people's Government not to take the matters seriously and actively. I mention the words seriously and actively because we are hearing of many plans and ideas for those for a long time; but yet we do not know anything of working of those plans and schemes and ideas. In our knowledge not a single industrial matter yet now is made working or has been started by the Government itself or by the Government's efforts or by the result of the Government encouragement. If we have to read the schemes and plans in papers just for propaganda purposes then how can we get the results for our own benefit and for the benefit of the Province. If any big industry cannot be taken immediately, at least some small industries may be started by Government or by the children of the soil with the Government share capital as proposed by the industrial committee of our party. There is a Government operative Department of the Government and there are hundreds and hundreds of co-operative societies and co-operative stores in the Province. But I doubt what extent the people are benefited by them and whether the original intention of the co-operative movement is served by them. I think that Government must ascertain the peculiar mentality and habits of the people first and then Government should proceed on facts, and not only on plans and schemes. Government should encourage the Joint Stock Companies of the children of the Province and give them sufficient scope to start big and small industries which are necessary and suitable for the Province.

Agriculture.—We have an Agriculture Department but the mass people do not know anything what the department and its officers are doing. There is a big demand under the head of Agriculture as about 13 lakhs and there are hundreds of its heads and sub-heads under that demand, but the question is whether the money is spent for any actual works or not. The Province is a purely agricultural Province. So if the Congress Government or the Government of the masses will not give its full efforts for the benefit and improvement of agriculture, then the people must make them responsible. If the Department is not for showing purposes, then it should take definite schemes for the improvement of agriculture. If

more money will be required for the Department that should be sanctioned, if the money will be spent for actual beneficial works; otherwise the money is spent for nothing. I think there must be an ideal farm in every police station of the Province, which will be run by sincere and competent officers. Those officers will examine every kind of soil of their area, advise the local people to cultivate the land properly for growing suitable crops there. They should visit every village at least once in every three months, ask the village leaders and cultivators to visit the ideal farm, show them ideal process of cultivation and its good results, and encourage the cultivators to take the scientific and improved methods of cultivation, and also manage to supply good seeds to them in time. Government should take the responsibility to start the scheme for the improvement of the method of agriculture immediately.

Excise.—The movement is already started for opium prohibition, and a huge sum has been allotted for that purpose. In this connection I should like to mention one thing. If the old excise lessees are kept in tact to go with their own business, it will be difficult for the success of the movement. All the old lessees of excise were also the lessees of opium before the prohibition of opium was started by the Government. They know who are the habitual opium-eaters, and who are not. I think even they know who are smugglers. So I have a great belief that most of them may have some chance to be connected in the smuggling of opium business. I do not know whether the Government has already received the full list of opium-eaters or not. But according to my opinion Government should either remove all the old excise lessees or place them in distant places where the people are not known to them, and thus they will have no connection with their old customers, the old opium consumers. If the Government would not take any steps like this, I doubt that the success of the anti-opium movement will be a success.

Flood relief.—I thank the Government for having taken proper steps during the last flood period. But I am sorry to see the slow activities of the Government officers. Even when the imminent dangers come, the Government officers pass day after day in signing the papers to observe the formalities. During the last flood of Nowgong, when there was a great demand for agricultural seeds, the popular Government sanctioned the same immediately. But the papers containing the orders were probably sent to officers after officers and thus they came from one officer to another. And in consequence the whole season passed and when the seeds actually reached Nowgong, the crops, for which those seeds were intended, were ripe—the season having already passed in a great distress of the flood-stricken people. And then all the said seeds were sold for a nominal price. The flood-stricken people want cattle-loans. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has assured them to give such loans. But I do not know whether such loans will be given immediately or the conditions will be same like that of the said conditions of seeds. I therefore draw the attention of the Government to this point. If anything is to be done for the people, it must be done in time. I suggest that if rules need be changed to that effect, it should be done.

I should like to draw the attention of the Government to another point. According to my opinion, there must be Government quarters for gazetted officers in their headquarters. At least higher officers should be provided with Government quarters. In Nowgong there are only some Government quarters for the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police and a few of the like officers. All other officers have to suffer for want of quarters. Recently two higher Government officers had a great quarrel over a private quarter. By provision of quarters for their officers, Government will not be loser as they will realise rent from their officers. So I request the Government to consider the matter seriously.

The scheduled castes and tea-garden tribes and castes. I draw the attention of the Government that these castes form one-fourth of the total population of Assam. All of these communities are backward and so probably the word "Harijan" is used by Mahatma Gandhi to mean them all. Their economic and social condition is deplorable. It is the duty of every Government to look after the weaker sections of the populace because in the long run they become a menace from the economic and other points of view to the advanced sections even, if they are neglected. These people very badly need primary education. The past Governments neglected this point. Will the present popular Government follow the same footsteps of the previous Governments or make a very serious attempt to include liberal grants in this present year's Budget in the matter of education? The present Budget does not indicate any such intention on the part of the Government. The Government cannot excuse themselves by saying that there is no money forthcoming for the purpose. These people are the real toilers of the country and surely they are producing the wealth of the Province. In fact, in the financial statement, the extraordinary receipts are shown to be more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees, but I may say that the major portion of this amount comes from these toilers. Out of this amount an insignificant fraction is going to be spent for these backward people, and the major portion is sanctioned for the advanced sections. The Government should have a plan to rapidly spread primary, secondary and higher education amongst the scheduled castes, tea garden labourers and tribals. We know that very shortly a terrific change is going to take place in India. The Government should now indicate by their present actions what their real intention is. Deeds are much more effective in gaining the popularity of the people for the Government than by mere pious wishes and resolutions. There is a clear mandate in Congress rules and regulations to take up the cause of these people for their upliftment and this is binding on every congress man. What I have stated just now is in agreement with the interpretations of no less a person than Mahatma Gandhi, who calls these people 'Harijans', as they deserve very special attention of all advanced sections of people. We have noted with great envy what other Provincial Congress Governments have started to do for the above mentioned people. Even the League Governments have given very special facilities for raising the educational and economic standards of such backward people. But we are dismayed to find that the Assam Congress Government has done almost nothing for the scheduled castes, tea-garden labourers, tribals and caste, the latter peoples (it should not be overlooked) are really scheduled castes peoples who have come to Assam from other provinces, and were originally belonging to the different scheduled castes of those provinces.

In every year Nowgong is suffering from flood and a major part of its crops is destroyed by such flood. There is a big Demand under the head "Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works". We find nothing under that "head" to mean anything for the Nowgong District. Though the District wants the main attention, actually nothing has been given to it. I respectfully draw the attention of Government that the present Congress Government should see to the urgent need of embankment system in different parts of Nowgong and then include projects for the present year to save its crops and people and to increase the resources of the Province.

The District of Nowgong is situated in the central place of Assam Valley. It produces good paddy, sugar-cane and jute every year. Its soil is suitable for any crop and as such this District is demanding from a long time an agricultural school. A full-fledged industrial and technical school also is necessary there. There is an urgent need also for some veterinary hospitals. Public health dispensaries are very few in the District. We demand that all the

said dispensaries should be started immediately, as recommended by the Public Health Officer of Nowgong in a proposal, recently submitted, to provide more public health hospitals there. Nowgong has no subdivision. During the war period the population of Nowgong increased enormously and now it is 10 lakhs, according to figures taken in connection with food rationing census. But in the matter of distribution of food and cloth and other necessities of life, this District is counted as a subdivision. So, Nowgong is being deprived from its due quota in every matter. I draw the kind attention of Government in this matter to redress the grievances of the people of the District.

In education and economic matters the conditions of the scheduled castes of Nowgong are worst. In some other matters also they are deprived from getting their due privileges. If some grant is made for the backward and deserving people, then that should go to them, district by district. So I beg to state that the Government, at the time of distribution of stipends, services, etc., should see that the due quota of the Nowgong scheduled castes, is fulfilled and particularly in these matters due considerations are given to the scheduled castes people of the Northern circles of Nowgong, who deserve special consideration from Government as they have got no representation in any respect yet now in the Government of Assam.

With these words, Madam, I resume my seat.

Babu SATINDRA MOHAN DEV: Madam, figures are not indeed in my line, but in view of the critical time ahead, I too feel that I should say something.

One thing that strikes me at the very outset is, that in the absence of sub-vention and the grants-in-aid from the Central Government, our revenue dwindles down to Rs. 550 lakhs, and even though provision of Rs 508 lakhs were made for Post-War Development Schemes, ordinary expenditures would amount to Rs. 672.35 lakhs, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 122 lakhs. This means that we have deficit budgets for three years in succession. It seems also that while estimates for revenue and expenditure in 1947-48 are higher than corresponding revised estimates for 1946-47 and actuals for 1945-46, the deficit for that year is also the highest. This is depressing, and calls for very serious consideration. I am not one of those who like to gloat over surplus budgets, but deficits are also distasteful to me. We have been told *ad nauseam* that important projects cannot be taken in hand as we cannot afford them, and I am not prepared to accept a position under which no other replies could be expected even with the advent of the popular Government, and with talks of complete independence in the air. So, I want more money on the revenue side, and that without subventions and loans from the Central Government.

My friends will say that people are poor and already overtaxed, so how to raise money. I and most of my Friends on the Treasury side are common men, and feel the pinch of taxation. But then the Central Government has shown us the way to raise money. Those with an assessable income of over rupees one lakh are the targets. There could have been no better things. Companies have thousands of shareholders in their register, and when the State demands a share of the profit, incidence per capita is light with practically no effect on the budget of individual members. The Hon'ble Mr. Medhi may consider measures to tap this source. Forty per cent. of agricultural income in Assam is assessable under the Indian Income-tax Act, and 60 per cent. under the Provincial Act. If the assesseees are prepared to pay

tax at a higher rate on 40 per cent. there is no reason why they should not pay tax at the same higher rate on 60 per cent. as well. In the United Kingdom, no allowance is made in taxing income on the ground that a percentage thereof is agricultural. Besides when you leave out those whose assessable income under the Indian Income-tax Act amounts to rupees one lakh, you will leave out in Assam those whose assessable income under the Provincial Act is rupees one lakh fifty thousand. So, the common man will not be taxed at all. Besides this, the rates payable on assessable agricultural income should also be raised and brought at par with the rates prescribed under the Central Finance Act. If this suggestion is accepted by the Hon'ble Mr. Medhi, the revenue will increase by at least another one crore of rupees. This is only one way of raising the revenue of the Province.

Coming to the expenditure side, by far the largest provision made under 'Industries' is that of Rs. 2 crores for State-owned major industries. Two other schemes are those for Co-operative Housing and Building Societies (Rs. 3 lakhs) and for development of Goalpara Tramway (Rs. 2.17 lakhs). These three items total Rs. 250 lakhs, which amount is to be borrowed from the Central Government.

Now, about State-owned major industries, while I am prepared to concede that there are at the disposal of the Government experienced administrators to look after law and order (and who know more about their efficiency than the jail birds of the Congress school) and also public works or even collection of land revenue, my bitter experience warns me that these experts will simply make a clean muddle of their job, if they are called upon to manage commercial enterprises. With deficit budgets for three years at a stretch, and with borrowed money to finance State enterprises on a large scale, administrators of law and order at the helm, the prospect of the Province will not be rosy. A stage may soon reach when even if we are given power to print currency notes as our experts did during the war years, we shall have to cry halt or face economic disaster.

Major industries are not essential for industrial development of a country either. I would point to Japan and Germany. In 1933 I am told that 91.9 per cent. of total output in Germany came from factories employing less than 20 persons. So we need not be taken in by examples of America and United Kingdom, unless we are sure of necessary raw materials and man power being available in Assam.

About the Co-operative Housing and Building Societies, the Hon'ble Mr. Medhi may enquire of the fate of 90 per cent. of the Co-operative Societies in Assam, and their working during the last 25 years. I happened to be in the Boards of some of such Societies in years gone by; myself and many of my friends in those Boards felt relieved when we were told that no one could offer for re-election after three years; officers of the Department made such a mess of the organization. In the present instance, we may quite appropriately enquire if the Co-operative Societies which are to be financed, have at their disposal adequately qualified Engineers and Builders or they will simply pass on the business to some contractors who are creations of the war and will vanish from the scene with no chance of being traced in case of failure. We are also entitled to know something about the regions where houses are to be constructed and the procedure to be followed to make such houses available to common man in towns and flood-devastated areas, if and when any of them reach the stage of completion.

Goalpara Tramway.—I should like to be told a little about its present working and its future prospects and how above all, it fits into the economic development of the Province as a whole during the post-war era and how the proposed outlay is going to benefit the Province and its Exchequer.

My apprehensions that commercial enterprises undertaken by Government without the help of expert technicians are not likely to be profitable, are strengthened by the case of the Provincial Motor Transport Department. With all the artificial, discriminatory and protective help of the Government rupees. We are very anxious for the publication of the report of the Desai Committee which was appointed last year to enquire into the working of this Department. The findings of this Committee should serve as a valuable guide to the Government in the matter of running State-owned industries.

There is no party politics or party feeling when I say that in evolving industries, our object is to improve the standard of living of the villagers in the shortest time possible, and to tackle, as Sir William Beveridge has said, the five giants, *viz.*, want, disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness. To achieve this objective, doctrinaire ideas must give way to practical considerations, and we might think more in the way of State control, rather than State management.

Next to industries, come education, medical and public health. Without taking into account provisions under these heads in the Post-War Development Schemes, made with the subventions from the Central Government, costs provided for in the Budget estimate from general revenues, do not indicate any noticeable difference from past years. I do not like this and would point to what is being done in England by the Labour Government. The overall additional costs to the Government at the hands of the Labour Government in 1946-47 to be borne by general revenues for new schemes under heads Education and Health, are £200 millions and £120 millions as against £120 millions and only £50 millions for old schemes. I present these figures to the Hon'ble Mr. Medhi for his consideration. I shall not be satisfied to be told that everything will be done in the long run, for the simple reason that in the long run we are all dead.

I cannot also resist the temptation of referring to the recommendations of the Bhoré Committee, speaking about Medical and Public Health. One of the recommendations of the Committee is that Governments in general should be under statutory obligation to spend a minimum of 15 per cent. of their revenues on health activities. Our general revenue, even excluding subventions from the Central Government amounts to Rs.550 lakhs as stated before. Fifteen per cent. of this works out to be Rs.82.5 lakhs. Provisions made in the Budget under Medical and Public Health, are Rs.24.03 lakhs and Rs.20.43 lakhs, aggregating Rs.44.46 lakhs only. And it has been criticised that the pace of progress of improving health of the people as envisaged in the plan, is rather deplorably slow! Our picture does not improve much, when Central Government's subvention and expenditure under heads Medical and Public Health in the Post War Development Schemes are taken into account. Another recommendation of the Bhoré Committee is that for each district with a population of thirty lakhs, there should be 150 primary units, for the purpose of providing both curative and preventive medical attention within their respective areas. For every group of fifty primary units, there is to be a secondary unit, which should provide institutional facilities of a high order. Finally, the three secondary units would look to the district headquarters centre where a hospital will be established to provide medical aid of the highest standard. In the Budget, there are provisions for provincialisation of five hospitals, one medical college and maternity and child-welfare, to mention

a few. I should like to know whether there is any plan behind these provisions, to give effect to the recommendation of the Bhore Committee. Money spent without any scientific and all embracing plan, will have the chance of not bestowing benefits commensurate with labour and expenses.

Now I come to an unpleasant feature about which I am forced to draw the Hon'ble Mr. Medhi's attention. This about unequal, and inequitable treatment between Assam Valley and Surma Valley Districts. I hate to refer to this, and shall confine to one or two instances only. For larger educational facilities, provision has been made to enable affiliation of the Cotton College up to the M.A. standard in Botany and Economics, up to Intermediate Standard in Anthropology and Degree in Zoology, while the share of Murarichand College is only Philosophy. In providing for Civil works schemes the share of Murarichand College, Sylhet, is Rs.110 only (and there is no provision for any other institution in the Surma Valley) as against Rs.18,818 for Mangaldai High English School, Rs.34,877 for Goalpara High School and Rs.16,187 for Gauhati Middle English School. Figures are eloquent and need no comment. The Hon'ble Mr. Medhi may not have noticed this.

Whether we like it or not, Assam Valley and Surma Valley Districts are linked together by God and are bound to share the same fate in the coming years. It will be ridiculous to fight like Kilkenny cats. My suggestion is that instead of mutual bickering, let us agree that the revenue derived from Surma Valley and Assam Valley will be available only for provisions made for the respective Valleys, and revenue from indirect taxation, subventions and the like sources will be apportioned on the basis of population. And then there may be also a pool built out of reserves from the shares of the two Valleys, which will be at the disposal of a committee in which both valleys will be represented and will be meant for expenses of common interest. This is only a skeleton which may be given shape, if it finds favour with my friends of the two valleys. All that I say is that we, both inside and outside the Legislature, are sick of this and the position is well nigh intolerable. This must stop, if we are to attain our proper place in the new scheme of things.

Srijut BIJOYA CHANDRA BHAGAVATI: Deputy Speaker, Madam, British Government has promised to quit India by June 1948. The imperialist forces of the world have conspired to set it at naught. In spite of the efforts of the reactionary forces to the contrary, India will attain her rightful place in the comity of nations. Indeed, India must be free to-day, here and now, before the dawn of to-morrow. But the fundamental reality is the presence of British military forces in India and the problem we face now as a legacy of the past imperialism. In his last testament, outpouring of the agonising soul of one of the best sons of India—Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore, says “The wheel of Fate shall compel the Englishmen to give up Indian Empire some day.” But what kind of India will they leave behind? What stark misery? When the stream of their centuries' administration runs dry at last, what a waste of mud and filth they will leave behind? They will leave behind, as a matter of fact, an India knee-deep in the lake of mud, dirt and filth. Our problems are the problems of the past. We have to face them. And coming nearer home in Assam we find that a great problem has been created by the British. By their last Statement of May 16, they place Assam at the mercy of a brute majority of the Muslim League in Section C. By their Statement of February 20, they have to some extent nullified the previous Statement. But judging it in the background of their previous Statement Assam does not seem to be free from danger inasmuch as they have put in vague phrases in their Statement of 20th February also. Madam, in keeping with the triangular fight in the international field, we here in India have communal tangle, of course, in a much more cruder form.

We have got to judge the Budget in this perspective and in this context. Looking things in this perspective, I think, the supreme task before the Government at this juncture is to build Assam as a strong, self-supporting and self governing unit in the independent federation of India. Again it is one thing to have ambitious schemes and allot money accordingly and another to execute them into action. We have got as a legacy the bureaucratic machine of the past imperialistic regime which was meant for running the administration of a foreign ruler. It was good so far as it was concerned to keep law and order and vested interests in tact. But it was not framed and trained to do good work for the people, I mean, nation-building work. So our task at the very outset is to put new life in this machinery. This is not easy to accomplish. If we are to run the administration efficiently for the good of the people the official machinery will have to be reoriented. Then and then only we can materialise our aspirations and schemes to the satisfaction of the mass people of our Province.

Madam, I think we are passing through critical times. And we have got to face all the big problems natural in the transitional period. So we have to look for the whole-hearted support of the people. We can have their support—we can have their enthusiastic support only by creating a feeling that we mean to translate a national plan into action. I think the Congress Government will look at things from the point of view of labourers and peasants. In this regard, I refer to the arguments of the Leader of the European Group. He opposed taxation of the high brows on very queer arguments. While I listened to him, I remembered a dialogue in Plato's Republic wherein Cephalus started a discussion by a chance remark about justice. A young man defined "justice is restoration to every body what is due to him". Some other young man put in "justice is the interest of the stronger". Thrasymachus added "people abuses injustice not because they are afraid of committing it but because they are afraid of suffering it". To the Leader of the European Group justice is the interest of the stronger. We cannot run the administration by exploiting the peasants for all time to come. They have contributed much to the Provincial Exchequer. Even now land revenue is the major head in the Budget. But the Tea Planters pay a very small amount for the land they enjoy. I think tea garden land should be classified in the category of all other lands and taxed accordingly. In that case we can derive good revenue.

I urge upon the Government to undertake the nationalisation scheme and take steps to make it a success. I also submit that "Zemindary" should be abolished forthwith. "Adhi" or half the yield system should go. Legislation is to be introduced in this regard.

Now Madam, I want to put forward some other points. Last time we represented to the Government of India to abolish betelnut tax in Assam. That has not been done. I hope they will consider our case sympathetically. It is a very unpopular and unjust tax in Assam. If they did not pay any heed to our request, we should start a campaign of non-payment of betelnut tax. Again I think India Government should prohibit poppy cultivation all over India including the States and make opium trade illegal and unlawful. In that case only, Assam can make the prohibition campaign successful. We hope Government of India will help us in our campaign by making poppy cultivation and opium trade illegal all throughout India including the States.

There is no railway connection between Rangapara and North Lakhimpur. I think this part of India should be connected by rail. The Bengal-Assam Railway may be extended to North Lakhimpur from Rangapara North and a projection of the Bengal-Assam Railway be taken to Tezpur town for replacing the Tezpur-Balipara Railway. I hope the Railway Board will see the urgency of this project. I trust the Government of Assam will move the Government of India on this point. With these words, I resume my seat.

The Deputy SPEAKER: May I know how many hon. Members would like to take part in the debate?

(Srijut Mahendramohan Choudhury, Srijut Dharanidhar Basumatari and Shri Abala Kanta Gupta then stood up to speak).

I give 5 minutes' time to each of the hon. Members. I call upon Mr. Dharanidhar Basumatari to speak.

Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে এইবার যি বাজেট আমাৰ আগত দাঙ্গি ধৰিছে সেই সম্বন্ধে মই কেই আঘাৰ মান কৰ খোজো।

আমাৰ গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট। আমি ভৱিছিলো যে এই কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে আমাক সকলো সুবিধা দিব। অকল আগামতেই নহয় এই Tribal problem গোটেই ভাৰত জুৰি আছে। যেতিয়াই কোনো সভা সমিতি হয় সেই সভা সমিতি বিলাকত তেওঁলোকে সদায় কৈ আহিছে যে কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট Tribal ৰ নিমিত্তে যথেষ্ট কাম কৰিব। সেই কাৰণে আমি আশা কৰি আহিছিলোঁ যে তেখেত সকলে Tribal আৰু অন্যান্য অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট টকা বাৰিব। কিন্তু আমাৰ সেই আশা পূৰ্ণ নহল। কিয়নো গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে আজি যি বাজেট আমাৰ আগত দাঙ্গি ধৰিছে, তাত আমাৰ Tribal বা অন্যান্য অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ কাৰণে সুকীয়াকৈ টকা ধৰা হোৱা নায়। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে হতাশ নহৈ নোৱাৰিলো।

আপোনালোকে জানে যে আজি আমি যি সন্ধিক্ষণত আছো, তাত অকল বৃটিছগবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিৰুদ্ধেই নহয় আমি মুছলিমলীগৰ বিৰুদ্ধেও যুজিব লগীয়া হৈছো। মুছলিমলীগ আৰু বৃটিছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ লগত যুজিব লাগিলে আমাৰ প্ৰথমতে সকলোৱে ঐক্যবদ্ধ হব লাগিব আৰু তাত নিমিত্তে আমাক শিক্ষা লাগে, বাস্তা-ঘাট লাগে। তেওঁ বিলাকে কৈ আহিছে যে আমাৰ Tribal সকলক শিক্ষা আৰু বাস্তা-ঘাট আদিৰ সুবিধা দিব আৰু আমি আশা কৰিছিলো যে আগৰ যি বিলাক গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট হৈ গৈছে তাতকৈ কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তলত বহুত বেচি সুবিধা পাম। কিন্তু আমি দেখি হতাশ হৈছো যে Post-War Reconstruction Plan ত যি বিলাক বাস্তা লোৱা হৈছে Tribal area ৰ ভিতৰত এটাও নাই। শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে ভাবিছিলোঁ যে Tribal ৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট টকা বাৰিব, কিন্তু যি পৰিমাণে দৰকাৰ সেই পৰিমাণে টকা ধৰা হোৱা নাই। যদিহে আমাৰ অনুন্নত জাতি বিলাকৰ উন্নতি কৰিব খোজে আৰু শিক্ষা নোপোৱা মানুহ বিলাকক শিক্ষা দিব খোজে তেনেহলে সকলো বৰমে শিক্ষাৰ সুবিধা দিয়া গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কৰ্তব্য। আপোনালোকে জানে যে যিমান Tribal area আছে সেই বিলাকত কোনো বাস্তাঘাট নাই আৰু Tribal বিলাক এনেকুৱা ঠাইত আছে য'লৈ মানুহ যাব নোৱাৰে। এই কাৰণেই মিনিষ্টাৰ সকল বা অন্যান্য অফিচাৰ সকল সেই বিলাক

ঠাইলৈ যাবলৈ সুবিধা নাপায় আৰু আনৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগ বিলাক জানিবলৈকে সুবিধা নাপায়। বোধকৰো সেই কাৰণেই Tribal ৰ কাৰণে Budget ত পুৰোজন অনুযায়ী টকা ধৰা হোৱা নাই। যদি সেয়ে হয় তেন্তে আপোনালোকে পুৰোচক Tribal area ৰ নিমিত্তে বাজেটত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে টকা ৰবি পুৰিযাৰী, ডেকিচাৰী আদি সকলো বন্ধনৰ শিক্ষা দিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা উচিত হ'ব। কাৰণ আপোনালোকে জানে যে শিক্ষাৰ অভাৱেই হৈছে আনৰ dependency ৰ কাৰণ। আপোনালোকে জানে যে জুনিয়ৰ চিভিল চাৰ্ভিছ আৰু চিনিয়ৰ চিভিল চাৰ্ভিছত আনৰ Tribal মানুহ একেবাৰে নাই বুলিবলৈও হয়। কাজেই জুনিয়ৰ বা চিনিয়ৰ চিভিল চাৰ্ভিছতেই হ'ওক বা অন্যান্য চাৰ্ভিছতেই হ'ওক সকলোতে তেওঁবিলাকক অপক্ষাকৃত সুবিধা দিয়াৰ কাৰণে পৰামৰ্শেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

The Deputy SPEAKER: The hon. Member's time is up. Shri Abala Kanta Gupta may now speak.

Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: One minute please, Madam.

Shri ABALA KANTA GUPTA: I allow the hon. Member to speak, Madam. I am not going to speak anything.

Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: আজি পতন নেশ্বট Eviction policy হাতত লৈছে। Grow-More Food ৰ চেলু ৰে মুচলিম লীগ পৰামৰ্শেণ্ট যি বিলাক মুছলমান পনুৱা আনিছিল সেই পনুৱা বিলাকক বিজাতিৰ পৰা evict কৰিবৰ কাৰণে পৰামৰ্শেণ্ট চেষ্টা কৰিছে। তাৰ লগে লগে যি বিলাক অসমীয়া মানুহ evicted হৈছে তাৰ ভিতৰত অনুন্নত আৰু Tribal সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহো আছে। এই evicted Tribal বা অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহবিলাকক মাটি আনি যি বিলাক মাটি দিছে সেই বিলাক মাটি বেতিৰ উপযুক্ত নহয়। পৰামৰ্শেণ্টৰ পৰা অফিচাৰ বিলাকে এই যত্নকে কিয়া আদেশ পাইছে নে নাই ক'ব নোৱাৰো, কিন্তু অফিচাৰ বিলাকে দেখুৱাই দিয়া কিছুমান ঠাই নাই দেখি আহিছো যিবিলাক বেতিৰ একেবাৰে অনুপযুক্ত। যদিও নই দেখাত যথেষ্ট বেতিৰ উপযুক্ত মাটি অইন ঠাইত আছে, সেই বিলাক দিয়া হোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে অফিচাৰ বিলাকৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ নকৰি মিনিষ্টাৰে নিজেই গৈ evicted Tribal ৰ কাৰণে মাটি চাই বেতিৰ উপযুক্ত মাটি দিয়ে যেন। সকলো প্ৰকাৰে যাতে Tribal ৰ উন্নতি হ'ব পাৰে আৰু সকলো প্ৰকাৰে যাতে Tribal বিলাক নিৰাপদে থাকিব পাৰে তাৰ নিমিত্তে যেন Government তে চোফা দুই বাবে ইয়াকে অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

(The hon. Member spoke in Assamese about the betterment of the Tribal people of Assam.)

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY: Madam, Deputy Speaker, before I enter into any discussion on the Budget, I like to congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for making an attempt to present before the House almost a balanced Budget without of course ignoring the just demands of the people. The Budget has been discussed by different Members from different angles of vision. Communal, racial, local and Valley questions have been

introduced in the discussions of the Budget. Members of different valleys have brought in the question that their respective valleys have not been given a fair deal in this Budget. But I must say, rather I must congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he has done the right thing and has recognised all the just claims of different peoples and different races.

The introduction of Basic Education is a land-mark in the history of education in Assam. I wish the scheme a success. The Primary Education Bill, which is in the Legislative anvil, if passed into law and put into operation, will surely remove illiteracy from this unfortunate land of ours, and we hope that illiteracy will very soon be a thing of the past. The increased grants to rural dispensaries, rural development schemes, public health and other schemes go to show how the Congress Ministry in office have tried their level best to remove the long-felt grievances of the people specially those living in the villages. I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for these nation-building activities and for their provision in the Budget. But I must at the same time admit that the Government have not looked into the top-heaviness of the administration. It is a thing which is as old as the British administration in Assam. I wish the Congress Ministry during their time of Office will see that the top-heaviness of the administration is removed and I hope they will appoint a Committee or a Commission to reorganise the whole administration to do away with the superfluous hands without losing any more time.

Next comes the case of lower paid servants. The pay of the primary school teachers is not at all sufficient to meet their demands. It has been budgeted that the trained teachers in the primary schools will get Rs. 5 as increment on their salaries. But may I request the Government to treat the teachers, who are teaching in the schools for more than 10 or 12 years or more than 20 years and who have been excluded from the category, as trained teachers for this purpose? I hope this just demand of the teachers would be met by the Government.

Next comes the case of other lower grade servants, like the Public Works Department Mohorrihs. These Mohorrihs have been serving Government with all sincerity and honesty but they are not receiving any recognition in the hands of the Government. They have been treated as temporary servants. I hope this wrong which has been perpetrated so long will receive due consideration in the hands of the popular Congress Ministry.

The Aided school teachers are now in a hopeless condition and their conditions are going from bad to worse. The war has inflated the money market but the teachers in the Aided schools are to remain satisfied with what they were getting before the war. During the Question hour to day the Hon'ble the Premier has negated the idea of giving any dearness allowance to the Aided College teachers. I hope this legitimate demand of the Aided College teachers will receive reconsideration in the hands of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. In the field of Agriculture, I want to stress that the Grow More Food Campaign for which a large sum of money has been budgeted under the Post-War Programme will not remain on papers alone. So long we have seen the Department working in papers only. I hope this most important thing in the Department working Departments will get due consideration in the hands of the Government. Cottage industries should also receive accelerated encouragement in the hands of the Government instead of moving through vicious official circles burdened with redtapism.

Next I come to the supply position. As regards the Supply Department every body has been complaining that this Department is full of corruption. I like to say that the corruption is a necessary evil of the British Raj in India. I do not see any reason why the Congress Government should allow this Department to continue like this. I am very glad to announce in this House that the Government has been trying their utmost to see that corruption is removed.

altogether from this Department, but the attempts made so far have not gone to show that there is any marked improvement. I hope a vigorous drive will be taken in this behalf and the Government will see that corruption is removed to the last point.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member's time is up.

Srijut MAHENDRAMOHON CHOUDHURY: One minute, Madam, and I have finished.

Next I would point out to one very obnoxious feature of the Budget and it is that of the Commissioner's establishment. The Commissioner's post was recommended by this House long long ago to be abolished but we see that provision for its establishment has been made in the Budget by the Congress Ministry also. The Commissioner, who is not helping the administration rather obstructing it, should at once go and so also the Upper House. The Upper House is a British device to perpetuate Planters' Raj in Assam. But as the British Government has made their intention quite clear to withdraw from India very soon, I think there is no necessity whatsoever to keep the Upper House any longer.

Last of all a word, Madam, and I have finished. We are on the brink of a very big change. The last page of British Rule in Assam is being written. I congratulate once again the Hon'ble Finance Minister for keeping this picture in view while preparing his Budget for the year 1947-48. We are very near to our goal for which we all fought, suffered and sacrificed. Our long cherished Swaraj would be meaningless unless we have been able to bring into reality a true Panchayat Raj in our country. Let us all sink our internal differences in order to reach our cherished goal of independence.

With these words, Madam, I conclude my speech.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there any hon. Member who wants to speak. *(After a pause)* I would then call upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister to reply now.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHO: Madam, I have been hearing for the last three days the accumulated grievances from all sides from all Members of this House representing different communities and groups. I wish I have a magic wand to remove all those grievances which have accumulated on account of dependency of this country for a century. I wish I have enough money to make my country as beautiful and as educationally advanced as any other civilised country of the world. But, Madam, our resources are very limited. Even though we are on the threshold of independence, this period is the most critical period through which we are passing. One of the learned Members of this House has just now stated that not only we are to remove all our accumulated grievances of a century not only we are to fight against all the odds that have accumulated but we are to remove all obstructions on our progress towards complete independence so that we may take our rightful place side by side along with the other civilised countries of the world.

Madam, it will not be possible for me during the course of one hour to reply to all the grievances that have been ventilated on the floor of this House by different Members representing different constituencies. I can assure all the hon. Members that this present Government shall try their utmost, with the limited resources at their disposal, to give due consideration to all the grievances. The Government will try to give relief as far as possible. I am at one with my Friends who represent the backward tribal community and the ex-tea garden labourers who left their country and came to Assam some 50 or 60 years ago to develop this country and also the Tea Industry and I fully appreciate that they deserve special

consideration in the matter of education and land settlement. They require protection and we shall try our utmost to help them who have made Assam their home. Of course there are some difficulties. We do not claim that all our officers are angels but we cannot also at the same time think that all the persons working under the Government are not good. Unless it is proved that certain officer is bad, we cannot assume that he is bad and he is not looking into the grievances of the people. Some grievances have been mentioned about certain Sub-Deputy Collectors. Unless they are proved that they are guilty of the charges made against them, they cannot be held responsible. We will make an endeavour to raise the moral standard of not only the officers but also of the people at large. The people are the guardians who can make the country free from corruption. If the people combine themselves together the officers will be bound to be honest. With these few general remarks I will now try to go into a few points referred to during the course of this general discussion. I fully appreciate what my hon. Friends Srijut Beliram Das, Professor Nibaran Chandra Laskar and Srijut Dharanidhar Basumatari have said in their demand for educational facilities and for improvement of the economic conditions of the areas and the communities they represent. I am fully in sympathy with their aspirations but I do not agree with them when they try to make out that the present Government is not doing any thing to give relief in accordance with the intention that is propounded by them. I want to disabuse the idea that this Government is not trying their utmost to give relief to the backward and tribal minorities and the scheduled castes. In this connection I will just draw the attention of the hon. Members how this Government is trying their utmost to give all possible facilities in the current year. I may inform my brothers who stated that no provision has been made in the current year for the education of *ex-terra* garden labourers. I may inform them that Rs. 6,000 have been given for taking up schools exclusively in the tea garden areas. Mr. Bhandari is in charge and he is to take up all the important schools in the tea gardens and tribal areas of Assam. As regards the distribution of grants to scheduled castes areas I will just draw the attention of my hon. Friends who raised the question that scheduled castes are always neglected in this respect. We are Congressmen and our Government follow the Congress principle and is entrusted with the duty of looking into the interests of the Scheduled castes and minority communities and so long as we are in Office Government will not deviate from that policy. The tribal, scheduled and other minority communities who are educationally and otherwise backward must be brought in line with the advanced brothers so that we can march together for achievement of complete independence on the threshold of which we are now. I propose to point out a few figures that I have collected just for the information of my hon. Friends. I have just collected them from the Director's office. A little over 250 venture primary schools have been taken over by the Government in the current year through the various Local Boards. The policy that we follow in allotting money for taking over venture schools through the Local Boards is that the various Local Boards are directed to select all deserving primary schools including those in the tribal areas and in the tea garden areas and also in the immigrant areas and Muslim areas and in the areas inhabited by the scheduled castes. Government then take great pains in selecting schools from all those areas and the claims of such schools or the backward people are never neglected but the number of scheduled castes in over is always higher than the percentage they are entitled to. Out of a total number of venture primary schools numbering little over 250—34 venture schools from areas exclusively inhabited by scheduled castes and 64 venture schools the plains tribal people have been taken over in the current year. In addition to these there are certain other schools directly taken up by the Government

or aided by the Government in areas inhabited by tribals, ex-tea garden labourers and scheduled castes. In distributing this direct grant preference is always given to schools in such areas.

***Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** May I inform the Hon'ble Finance Minister that some schools where, amongst others, there are only one or two scheduled castes students and they are styled as scheduled castes schools? Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of it? I challenge if he is not prepared to accept my statement and I am ready to prove it with figures.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: From the figures furnished by the Department, we find out the number of scheduled castes boys reading in the schools along with the boys of other communities. It is not possible to supervise personally every school to see whether correct figures of the number of scheduled castes boys have been given. But if the hon. Member can cite an instance of what he has just now complained of and after verification if it is found that wrong figures of scheduled castes students were supplied to Government, the officer responsible for giving such incorrect figures will be punished.

***Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** It happens in almost all the schools where scheduled castes boys are reading.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The procedure is that at the time of sending the list of schools, the Chairmen of the Boards call all the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Members of the Legislative Council to a meeting and the names of schools are selected in such a meeting and the list thus prepared is sent to Government. Government finally selects the names of the schools where these communities have their students and particular care is taken to see that their claims are not ignored. In all the High Schools the scheduled castes and other tribal boys get full free and half-free studentship, according to the number of their population.

Mr. P. M. SARWAN: Provided they get seats in those schools.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I do not think seats are refused in any school to the ex-tea garden boys and others belonging to other communities.

The scholarships and full free and half-free studentships are granted not according to the number of applications filed but according to the number of students in enrolment. If it is brought to the notice of Government that such facilities are not granted according to the enrolment, Government will take action and will see that such things do not happen in future in such institutions. Owing to very few number of Government High Schools in the mofussil, the Government found that the students of those communities were in difficulty in securing free studentship and half studentship in the Aided schools and so provision has been made in the next year's Budget to see that such facilities are also available in the Aided High Schools. In this connection I should like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the figures in question. In view of what I have said it will be quite unfair and incorrect to say that Government is not doing anything for these communities. At page 12 of the Schedule of new schemes in the Budget Memorandum it will be seen that it is written as thus in column 2 under the heading 'Nature of Scheme'—“To make increased provision

for grants to compensate the loss of fee income in granting full-free and half-free studentships to deserving scheduled castes and plains tribal pupils reading in Aided High and Middle English Schools". So there is a provision of more than 6,000 rupees in the next year's Budget. Besides that, special scholarships are reserved for the pupils of scheduled castes and tribals in all the Districts. The number of primary scholarships at Rs.3 a month is 36 for the scheduled castes pupils and 57 for the plains tribals; the number of Middle Vernacular Scholarships is 6 for the scheduled castes pupils and 7 for the plains tribals and the number of Middle English Scholarships is 11 for the scheduled castes pupils and 15 for the plains tribals at Rs.5 per month. These are the figures before you, Madam. Our idea is not only to afford educational facilities to all boys and girls of the school-going-age but also to introduce free compulsory education for all communities so that all boys and girls of school-going-age get necessary facilities for their education.

***Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** We can not remain satisfied until we get detailed figures in this connection.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: If the hon. Member wants so that their grievances, if there be any, can be removed and I invite my hon. Friend for a discussion regarding any unfair treatment so far as his community is concerned, and, if as a result of such discussion it is found that it needs improvement Government will surely make every effort to do it, as it is always our aim to provide all facilities to the pupils belonging to the scheduled castes and tribal communities. Besides there are scholarships reserved for such students belonging to schedule castes and plains tribals reading in the Colleges. However, Madam, it will appear from the figures that there is always an attempt to provide scholarships for the pupils of the plains tribal and the scheduled caste communities.

Then I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to another item in the Schedule: "Establishment of Government Primary Schools in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills." The expenditure provided is about Rs.1,300 in the Budget. There is another provision of Rs.50,000 as "Maintenance grants to Venture Primary Schools and Muktabs and Primary Schools for ex-tea garden labourers, Tribals, Schedules and Immigrants to be brought on to the aided etc., and building and equipment grants." In addition they will get their legitimate share on the basis of their population out of a total provision of Rs. 1,30,000 for taking up Venture Schools through Local Boards. In spite of this if my hon. Friend wants to make out that no special provision has been made for his community, I am helpless.

In spite of these provisions how can the hon. Members say that no efforts have been made? Of course I do not say that our efforts are sufficient. I myself am not satisfied with what has been done and we want to do more for them. With that object in view we want to augment the resources of the Province so that we can allot more money for the amelioration of the backward and the minority communities. I will ask my Friends to be patient and help Government in these matters. My hon. Friend Srijut Beliram Das stated that in the matter of settlement of fisheries no preference is given to the members of the scheduled castes. But I beg to submit that as soon as we took Office a circular was issued (of course, we took Office after the last year's auction sales were over) with instructions to the District and Sub-Divisional Officers to give preference to the actual

*Speech not corrected.

fishermen even if their bid was lower than the highest bidders by 5 to 10 per cent. That instruction is being strictly followed by all officers. I am glad to say that if there is any competition, it is between the scheduled castes themselves. Then, Madam, there is provision in the rules that the District or the Sub-Divisional officers presiding over a sale can put a stop to any bid which he considers reckless and settle the fishery with one whose bid is considered as reasonable. In all cases the local officers always give preference to the scheduled castes. I have not got all the figures of fishery settlement as yet, but so far as I have been able to gather more than 80 per cent. of the fisheries have been settled with the actual fishermen.

Then, Madam, I know that many of the persons belonging to the scheduled community are landless and many of them want to settle on land and earn their livelihood by cultivation; that is also the case with some of the ex-tea garden labourers and the tribal people. With a view to protect the interests of these communities I have issued a circular that whenever any member of the scheduled castes wants to make agriculture his means of livelihood he should be provided with suitable land for agricultural purposes. The same circular also applies to the ex-tea garden labourers, who are in the same stage of civilization in all matters like some of the tribal people. Now, Madam, for the purpose of protecting the interests of the tribal people, both plains and hills, we have formulated tentative proposals for forming belts and blocks in all districts so that there may be enough land for the plains tribals as well as other communities who are in the same state of backwardness and require protection. Those tentative proposals have been sent to local officers for their views, and after we receive their criticisms the Government will try to demarcate blocks and belts in the respective districts for the protection of the tribal and other backward communities. The facts stated above will remove the false impression that is in the minds of some of my hon. Friends that nothing has been done by the present Government for giving educational facilities to the backward, tribal and the scheduled caste communities. As I have already stated, it will not be possible for me to go into the details of the grievances that were voiced by the hon. Members representing different communities and interests, but I assure them that all their grievances will receive the best consideration of the Government and they will try to remove those grievances as far as possible.

Now, Madam, we have been accused by Mr. Faull that we have betrayed the trust that was placed on us by the Members of the House as we have already spent more than one crore of rupees without sanction of this House and have now come up with a supplementary demand after the money has been actually spent. That is the main charge levelled against me and my Government. Now, Madam, the entire supplementary demand could not be foreseen at the time we prepared the Budget, and they could not be foreseen when we actually passed our new schemes in September last involving a sum of Rs.24 lakhs. At that time also we could not foresee all this expenditure. This expenditure includes the amount of money that was given to all Government servants on account of retrospective effect being given to dearness and war allowances. This was sanctioned by the Central Government to their servants and so also by the different Provincial Governments. In consequence there was a demand from the side of the Government servants, and Government also fully appreciated the difficulty of these Government servants and sanctioned the relief as granted by the Central Government and all other Provincial Governments.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: On a point of information, Madam. May I ask what is the rough proportion of money, attributable to dearness and war allowances, to two crores of rupees?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I am coming to all these figures. The amount due on that account comes to 11 lakhs of rupees, or a little more. Then, even after granting this there was hardship felt by the lower grade officers receiving less than Rs. 150. So, Government had no other alternative than to give an interim bonus of Rs. 4 per head per month, and that amounted to seven or eight lakhs.

Then, I come to another item of expenditure, and that is expenditure incurred due to floods. When the country is flooded and people are in distress, Mr. Faull would surely not expect me to wait till the Assembly sanctions the amount needed for gratuitous relief, subsistence loan, etc., that are necessary for giving relief.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Might I know, here, Madam, what period it covers? Was it after September?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I may ask hon. Mr. Faull to remember that the Nowgong flood came in October and it continued for a long time. If we called the Session then, I think, many of the hon. Members could not have come to attend the Session. Moreover, we considered it heartless to call the Assembly Session and to take away the Members here instead of allowing them to remain in their places to afford relief to the people. the amount of Rs. 10,90,000, the amount for Loans and Advances, about 10 lakhs was spent as loans to flood affected people. May I ask Mr. Faull, if he wanted us to wait till the Assembly voted the amount?

I draw his attention to another fact. We provided Rs. 50,000 in gratuitous relief in our Budget. We never knew that there would be a devastating flood throughout the length and breadth of the country. We could not be heartless, and wait till the Assembly passed the amount. On this head the expenditure came up to Rs. 8,37,000.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Notwithstanding the figures I still ask what proportion of these figures; what proportion of this expenditure was incurred after the September Session? Am I to understand that all these figures were spent on relief and allowances after September?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I may remind Mr. Faull that one of the Sessions that was called in July last had to be adjourned on account of Silchar flood. These schedules must have been prepared long before July. So these schedules could not be passed and we discussed only these matters which were brought in that Session in September.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Surely in the interval between these two Sessions you were aware of the amount of probable expenditure necessary and a further supplementary grant could have been taken in September.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: It was very difficult to have an accurate estimate. We were victims of the past sins. It may be remembered

that sometimes we want immediate reports of these catastrophies but these reports sometimes take several months to travel a distance of 64 miles.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: That is a reflection on your administration

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: That is why we want to do away with this administration which we are not under the present law in a position to do away with. We want to do away with all the obstacles in progress. Any way, Madam, we did not get all the information that was necessary and moreover, in connection with the Nongong flood and other floods, we had no materials to make a proper estimate and to place before the Assembly during the September Session.

Then there is another item of 60 lakhs Post-War Development Schemes. I am informing him that the Post-War Development Schemes are submitted to the Government of India and they sanction certain schemes after scrutiny and it is only then we can spend the money. We got the information long after September that 96 lakhs had been sanctioned.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Surely there was some anticipation and, if a reference was made to the Government of India, some rough idea could be given of the sums likely to be expended.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Madam, may I make one thing clear. Though it is not the Question hour still some pertinent question has been asked. Madam, it has already been explained by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that when we prepared the schemes we had to take the approval of the Central Government so far as the schemes that are financed from the Central Government grant. So in anticipation if we had done something, the same Mr. Faull would have come forward and say that we had not the patience to wait. That can be done in a private company's affair. So the real position is this that we prepared the schemes and sent them to the Government of India and they examined the schemes. We could not take up the schemes before we got the sanction of the Government of India. One who pays the piper must call for the tune. If we were to wait for the Assembly no progress could be made in the current year because 31st March would come and the money would lapse. Is it sensible to wait in that case, Madam? I think some common sense should be applied.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: Madam, I do not claim as much common sense as Mr. Mookerjee. Nevertheless I complain about the lack of anticipation of the grant made by the Central Government. The Hon'ble Finance Minister might have anticipated the amount that would be spent in the Budget Year.

***The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** This has been placed before the House before the end of the Budget Year. This is also common sense, Madam.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: We cannot wait heartlessly and see the sufferings of the people. In such circumstances, we cannot wait for the vote of the House. That will be cruelty. If we would do so, the different sections of the House would come forward and find fault with us.

*Speech not corrected.

I draw attention to another point. Out of the 26 lakhs for Civil Works I read the portion from the Explanatory Notes under Supplementary Grant No.20—50—Civil Works—"The heavy programme undertaken during the preceding year for reconditioning the roads and buildings unattended during war years and damaged by army movements and army occupation could not be completed on account of difficulty in procuring labour and materials and want of necessary staff and equipments." So the money could not be spent in the preceding year. "The balance of the work is being done during the current year in addition to the heavy normal annual repairs programme. Moreover, the anticipated reduction of rates and fall of prices has not materialised during the present post-war period, and again, the unprecedented floods during the year have entailed a heavy F. D. R. programme. As such, the requirement for a supplementary grant of Rs. 25,13,000 has become an imperative necessity for the purpose of keeping the roads and buildings in proper condition." I remember, from your Group there was the cry that roads, and bridges damaged by flood are not repaired.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: We are not complaining about the work having been done, but there should have been some anticipation of the position, and opportunity to discuss before the expenditure was incurred.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: He must be an astrologer.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: We were anxious to pass the Schedule and begin the work.

Then another difficulty, Madam. In Police Administration, out of that 23 lakhs, we expected to recover 15 lakhs from the Central Government. But when we are passing through the months of February and March, we find that there is no chance of recovery of that amount. We must make a supplementary demand to make up that amount. We could not foresee all these. We could not anticipate, and that is the reason why we have come up with a supplementary demand. It is now for the House either to pass it or not, and hon. Members will have sufficient time to criticise. We have not in any way betrayed the trust. Otherwise had we not taken any action, we would have been accused of inactivity and heartlessness—that we are fiddling away our time in Shillong while the people in the flood affected areas are in great distress. I do not propose to be very long—I will be very short. Mr. Faull while opposing the Assam Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Bill that has been introduced said that it was a double tax. I request him to remember that the Industries which his Group is interested—what amount of profit they made during the war. I request them to remember the amount of profit they made during the war. The price level of those commodities rose very high and huge profit was made. In addition to this, many tea gardens occupy land rent free.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: I am sorry to interrupt again. This profession tax is not going to affect the Tea Companies, the Oil Company nor the Steamer Company; it is going to affect individuals.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: I am coming to that. Almost all the Tea Companies enjoy fee simple lands rent free. Very few of the gardens pay Re. 1-2-0 per acre or six annas per bigha. Whereas cultivators pay Re. 1-8-0 per bigha. Remember the accumulation of money you have made during the last century.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: To whom is the Hon'ble Minister referring? Are the Tea Companies or the Oil Company going to pay a profession tax?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: You were just telling me that the richer section of the people are going to be burdened with this tax. I say, the poorer section is already over-burdened. That is why I want to impose this taxation measure in such a way as to fall on those persons who can bear the burden. What is the exact income of these cultivators? It will not be more than Rs. 60 per annum. I am sure many of you earn more than Rs. 12,000 per annum. What is the amount of tax that will be imposed by this legislation? It is only Rs. 50. Out of a sum of Rs. 12,000 you will pay only Rs. 50.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: In addition to everything else that he has to pay.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: It has been brought to the notice of the House that Tea Companies' rate of central income-tax has been raised to annas five. They have to pay to the Central Exchequer to the extent of 40 per cent of their income. In regard to the other 60 per cent income due to the Province, the rate has not been raised to 5 annas. Instead of receiving thanks on behalf of the Group represented by Mr. Faull we are being accused that we are burdening the richer section by this taxation. It appears they do not feel the difficulties of levying further taxation on these poor tax payers who are unable to bear the burden. This Rs. 50 will not form even 4 per cent. of the amount they get every month from their employer. In view of this there should not be any opposition to this taxation measure. We are very backward in matters of education, sanitation, public health, distribution of medicine to rural areas and in the matter of communication also. We are trying to develop backward areas. Backward area like Jowai was so long isolated from the civilised world—a distance of about 30 miles from Shillong takes one three days to go to Jowai. We are trying to make an improvement in the position of these backward places. In view of the requirement of the Province we are to augment the resources and in doing so we are submitting taxation proposals in such a way that it will not be felt as a burden even by richer section of the people who are capable of bearing the burden. They should not grudge to contribute this petty sum of Rs. 50 per annum to meet the urgent need of the Province. They should come forward to support the measures ungrudgingly and thank the Government that they have not increased the other taxes.

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Will they get any guarantee that we are not going to do that in the near future?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: So, in view of all these I think, the European Group will withdraw their opposition to these measures.

Mr. W. R. FAULL: We still oppose the principle on which this tax is going to be imposed.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI: I have already stated that the principle is laid down in the Act of their Parliament under section 142A, and they should, I think, accept their own Parliament and give us the option of levying a taxation to the maximum extent of only Rs. 50. In this connection I draw his attention to section 142A which empowers the Provincial Legislatures to levy taxation measures to the extent of only Rs. 50 in addition to the income-tax that is imposed under the Central Legislature.

Now, Madam, that is the reason why I say that this Bill proposes to impose taxation on the Tea Garden Managers or employees of Oil Companies or Railway Companies who earn more than Rs. 3,000 per annum. They made a good deal of money during the war and they should part with some of this money for the relief of the poorer section of the people. So, in view of all these difficulties and considerations, and as has been suggested from various quarters of the House, with a good grace I expect that the European Group also will support that Bill. I do not like to take up any more time of the House and it will not be possible for me to go into the details of criticisms. With these few remarks I resume my seat.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 11 A.M. on Monday, the 17th March, 1947.

SHILLONG:
The 2nd May 1947.

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

A. G. P. (L.A.) No. 327-118-5-5-1947.