

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 Thursday, the 20th March 1947.

P R E S E N T

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

(Starred Question No. 26 standing in the name of Maulavi Abdul Khaleque Ahmed was not put and answered as the hon. Member was absent.)

Gauge Reader at Nalbari

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOWDHURY** asked :

\*27. (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 331 (g) asked by the questioner on the 25th September 1946 regarding the name of the Gauge Reader appointed by the Subdivisional Officer, Embankment and Drainage at Nalbari and state whether any investigation has since been made on the matter ?

(b) If so, what is that ?

(c) If not, when the investigation is likely to take place ?

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

27. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Khalasi's name is given as Khoka Deb Sarma and he is said not to be related to the Subdivisional Officer. He comes from the same place and belongs to the same caste. He does not get any separate remuneration for reading gauges and was appointed to the post before the Nalbari Subdivision was created

(c)—Does not arise.

(Starred Questions Nos. 28-34 were not put and answered as the hon. Members concerned were absent.)

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

Occupation of Dak Bungalows

**Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY** asked :

101. (a) Is it a fact that very often Dak Bungalows are occupied by Public Works Department Government Officials for long 5 or 6 months together ?

(b) Are Government aware that this causes immense difficulties and disadvantages to the travelling public?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied:

101. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Magistrates and Additional Magistrates serving in Sylhet District**

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE** asked:

102. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Magistrates including Additional District Magistrates at present in the Sub-division of the Sylhet District?

(b) Of this, how many are Muslims and who amongst them belong to the Sylhet District?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Atul Chandra Nandy has been at Sylhet for over a decade?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state the special grounds for his retention at Sylhet for such a long period?

103. Will Government be pleased to state

(a) Who is the present Additional District Magistrate of Sylhet and how long he has been there?

(b) Whether it is a fact that he was once in Sylhet as Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate?

(c) If so, when was he there and why was he transferred from there?

(d) The reasons for his previous transfer?

**The Hon'ble Srijiit GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied:

102. (a)—Seven.

(b)—Three, of whom one belongs to the District. Three non-Muslims belong to the District.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

103. (a)—Mr. Dambreck holds the reserved post of Additional District Magistrate, but is under orders of transfer. Rai Bahadur P. N. Das holds a temporary post; he was appointed at Sylhet on 12th August 1946.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—He was posted at Sylhet from 10th February 1935 to 24th November 1936 and officiated as Additional District Magistrate from 24th May 1935 to 23rd June 1935.

(d)—The exigencies of the service.

**Extra Assistant Commissioners appointed during the War**

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE** asked:

104. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of Extra Assistant Commissioners appointed during the War on a temporary basis?



- (b) How many of them have since been permanently absorbed and what are their names ?
- (c) Who of these Extra Assistant Commissioners are from pleaders with 10 years' practice and what are their names ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that permanent appointment has been given to these Magistrates with only 2 years practice and ignoring the claims of senior pleader Magistrates with greater experience ?
- (e) If so, why ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

104. (a)—Forty-six.

(b) & (c)—Twenty-five, a statement is below:—

*Statement showing the names of the temporary Extra Assistant Commissioners who have been absorbed*

Name	Recruited from	Year in which absorbed
1 Srijut Kusum Kumar Phukan	Bar (Junior Pleader)	1943
2 Maulavi A. S. M. Ali Ashraf	Ditto	1945
3 Rai Sahib Jamini Kanta Chakrabarty	Promoted from A.J.C.S. while holding the post of temporary E.A.C.	1945
4 Babu Kamini Kumar Nath	Ditto	1945
5 Mr. B. Westlington Roy	Direct	1945
6 Srijut Munikanta Barkataki	Bar (10 years' or more practice).	1946
7 Srijut Durganath Hazarika	Ditto	1946
8 Maulavi Azizur Rahman	Ditto	1946
9 Srijut Chandra Nath Bora	Bar (10 years' or more practice).	1946
10 Srijut Bhuban Chandra Datta	Ditto	1946
11 Babu Samarjit Sinha	Ditto	1946
12 Srijut Thaneswar Gohain	Ditto	1946
13 Babu Ananga Mohan Deshmukhya	Ditto	1946
14 Srijut Paramesh Das Gupta	Ditto	1946
15 Srijut Indra Kanta Das	Ditto	1946
16 Maulavi Abedur Rahman	Ditto	1946
17 Babu Kshitindra Mohan Deb	Ditto	1946
18 Mr. Ram Bhadra Medhi	Ditto	1946
19 Maulavi Jamaluddin Ahmed	Ditto	1946
20 Babu Probodh Lal Shome	Bar (Junior Pleader)	1946
21 Babu Ajit Kumar Ray	Ditto	1946
22 Maulavi Gowharuzzaman Chaudhuri	Ditto	1946
23 Srijut Sudhindra Kumar Bhattacharyya.	Ditto	1946
24 Srijut Jyotirmoy Barua	Direct	1946
25 Maulavi Jamiruddin Ahmed	Ditto	1946

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

**Assam Civil Service Officers appointed in Assam Secretariat and Heads of Departments**

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE** asked :

105. Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) How many officers belonging to the Assam Civil Service have at present been appointed to fill up posts in the Assam Secretariat and Special post in different Heads of Departments ?
- (b) What are the names of such officers ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that in filling up these posts claims of senior and experienced Muslim officers were totally ignored ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that all these posts have been filled up by Caste Hindu Officers except two of which one is held by a Muslim and other by a Tribal Christian ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

105. (a)—Thirteen.

(b)—A list is shown below :—

*List of officers of the Assam Civil Service who are at present holding posts in the Secretariat and Heads of Departments, etc*

1	Srijut Chandra Kamal Bhuyan	Deputy Secretary, Education and Local Self-Government Departments.
2	Mr. S. J. Duncan	Deputy Secretary, Finance and Revenue Departments.
3	Maulavi Anwar Hussain	Under-Secretary, Education and Local Self-Government Departments.
4	Mr. J. K. Datta	Under-Secretary, Supply (I).
5	Srijut Satyendra N. Barkataki	Ditto (II).
6	Srijut Nagendra Narayan Das	Under-Secretary, Textile Department.
7	Babu Abani Mohan Dam	Director of Supply.
8	Srijut Laksheswar Sarma	Deputy Director of Procurement.
9	Babu Birendra Lal Sen	Ditto ditto.
10	Srijut Dharmananda Das	Ditto ditto.
11	Babu Nagendra N. Chakrabarty	Assistant Commissioner, Agricultural Income-tax.
12	Maulavi Nurul Ghani	Assistant Provincial Textile Commissioner.
13	Srijut Kalpa Narayan Majumdar	Assistant Director of Land Records.

(c)—No.

(d)—No.

**Modification of Assam Local Self-Government Act**

**Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROAH** asked :

106. (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplate modifying the present Assam Local Self-Government Act ?

(b) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state when Government propose to undertake the work ?



The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

106. (a)—Not at present.  
(b)—Does not arise.

**Officers and Clerks of the Education Department serving in  
the Supply Department**

Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY asked :

107. Will Government be pleased to state—  
(a) The reasons as to why almost all the officers and clerks of the Education Department were recalled from the Supply and other temporary Departments of the Government to their substantive posts ?  
(b) Whether there is any officer or officers at present in the Supply Department who was or were in the Education Service of any grade before ?  
(c) If so, who are they and what are the reasons for their retention ?  
(d) Whether it is a fact that the new officers failed to cope with the recent food crisis in the South Sylhet Subdivision ?

The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

107. (a)—They were wanted back by the Education Department.  
(b)—Yes.  
(c)— 1. Srijut Pradip Chandra Hazarika.  
2. Srijut Hem Chandra Dutta.  
3. Maulavi Azim Uddin Ahmed.  
4. Maulavi Serajul Haque Choudhury.  
5. Srijut Sashi Chandra Barbarua.  
6. Maulavi Golam Yahia Choudhury.  
7. Maulavi Md. Amin Khan.  
8. Maulavi Nazibur Rahman.  
9. Maulavi Shams-uz-Zaman Choudhury.  
10. Srijut Dinesh Chandra Mookerjee.  
11. Maulavi Abdul Musawir.

The Education Department was persuaded to agree to gradual release to prevent a breakdown in the Supply Department and steps are being taken to release gradually all the above gentlemen except Maulavi Abdul Musawir who has been specially allowed by the Director of Public Instruction to continue under the Supply Department.

- (d)—The Government have no information.

**Public Works Department Road Muharirs**

Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN asked :

108. (a) Is it a fact that Road Muharirs under the Public Works Department have not any scale of pay and that the termination of their service depends upon the will of the Subdivisional Officers concerned ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take necessary steps so that they may be recognised as full fledged Government servants entitled to increment, pension and other facilities.

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

108. (a)—No.

The scale of pay of Muharirs is Rs. 30—1—40 P., B—1—50 per mensem.

(b)—The question of making the posts of some Muharirs permanent and pensionable is now under the consideration of Government.

#### **Raising of Mooring Tax by Local Boards**

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

109. Will Government be pleased to state

(a) What steps they have taken to empower the Local Boards to raise mooring tax in their respective areas ?

(b) If the Tezpur Local Board has been thus empowered ?

110. Will Government be pleased to state what action they have taken on the application by the Tezpur Local Board for a loan of Rs. 50,000 ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** replied :

109. a<sup>1</sup>—Government have not taken any particular step to empower the Local Boards to levy mooring tax. According to Section 52D of the Local Self-Government Act, it is for the Local Boards to come up to Government with proposals for taxation.

(b) This is under the consideration of Government.

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** : Will Government be pleased to expedite the consideration of this matter, because this has been under consideration for the whole year ?

\***The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** : Yes, Sir, all attention will be given to expedite the decision. I do not remember to have seen any file on the subject ; what I can say, Sir, is that we have been giving the local bodies all facilities to increase their income.

110.—No loan application has been received by Government.

#### **Determination of quotas for rationed articles**

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

111. Will Government be pleased to state :—

(a) On what principle the quotas of all the rationed articles for different areas of the district of Sylhet, both rural and urban, and for the family are determined ?



- (b) Whether the scales are different for different localities or for different families ?  
 (c) If so, the reason thereof ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

111. (a) The scale for rationed areas are fixed under the Assam Rationing Order and is uniform throughout the Province.

(b) The scales are different for rationed and non-rationed areas, but not for different families.

(c) The reason for the difference in scales between rationed and non-rationed areas is inadequacy of supply and different standards of living.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Are the rations given to non-rationed areas very different from the rations given to rationed areas ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Yes, they are different, but it is a question of opinion whether it is very different or not. Certainly they are different.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Is it a fact that the ration of sugar is 8 or 12 chhataks in towns and only one chhatak in mofussil areas per head ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Not exactly so, Sir, but about that.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Is it not a great injustice to the village people, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : That is also a matter of opinion, and I can enlighten my hon. Friend that formerly no quota on *per capita* basis was fixed but the present Government have done so. From the reports we are receiving we understand that most of the quotas allotted to the rural areas are coming to the town in the black market especially in respect of sugar.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Will Government please reconsider the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : If there is any definite suggestion, Government will reconsider the matter, but it is well known to the hon. Members that there is difference of opinion in this matter. If it is the desire of this hon. House that the quota, so far as the rural areas are concerned, should be increased and the quota for the urban areas should be reduced still, in that case, certainly Government will consider the question. I would like to have the opinion of the House in this respect, Sir.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : What is the quota of cloth in the town and the village ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : It is 20 yards and 10 yards respectively.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Twenty yards in the town ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : Formerly it was 30 yards but Government reduced it to 20 yards and gave 10 yards to the rural areas.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Is not the difference very great, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : It is also a matter of opinion, but it is well known to the hon. Members that the habits and standard of living in town is also different from the villages. In this case, it is the desire of this hon. House and if we get an unanimous decision on this question, certainly we shall abide by that decision.

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** : Are Government aware that the rural population is very much resenting this differential treatment ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : From one or two places we have received complaints, Sir.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA** : How many cases of sugar going to black market from the villages have been detected, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : I want notice of that question, Sir. This is a different question altogether. We are receiving complaints from various sources that sugar allotted for the rural areas are coming in the black market for the consumption of the urban areas.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA** : How many cases have been detected, Sir ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** : I have already replied to that, Sir.

### Overseers' Course (Civil) in the Technical School, Sylhet

**Babu JATINDRANATH BHADRA** asked :

112. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have any scheme to open classes for teaching Overseers' Course (Civil) in the Technical School, Sylhet ?

(b) If not, whether Government propose to consider opening of such course in the said institution ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

112. (a)—A scheme for the expansion of the Surma Valley Technical School, Sylhet, which provides for an Overseers' Course, is under the consideration of Government.

(b)—Does not arise.



**Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV:** Is this proposed scheme something different from what is provided for in the Post-War Schemes for expansion of the School ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Yes, Sir.

**Babu NIRENDRA NATH DEV:** May we know, Sir, when Government will be able to come to a decision in this matter and take up the actual task of expansion ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I cannot give the exact date but I hope the matter will be expedited and the expansion will begin as early as it is possible. Certainly, it will not take years.

### Police search of houses in Habiganj Subdivision

**Maulavi NURUL HOSSAIN KHAN** asked :

113. (a) Are Government aware that the shop of Maulavi Ashrafuddin Ahmed, a respectable and well-to-do merchant of Choudhury Bazar, Habiganj town was searched twice recently to see if there were Lathis, Sickles and such other weapons in his shop ?

(b) Are Government aware that no Hindu shop or house in Habiganj town was searched ?

(c) Are Government aware that the Hindus all over the Province are now procuring various kinds of arms ?

(d) Do Government propose to institute an enquiry into this matter ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** replied :

113. (a)—No : his shop was not searched for any purpose by the police.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Government have had no reason to consider an enquiry necessary.

### Re Balipara Frontier Tract

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** asked :

114. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to consider the question of transferring those portions of the Balipara Frontier Tract to the Darrang District which originally formed a part of that district before the creation of this Frontier Tract ?

(b) Are Government aware of the difficulties of the rayats living in those areas for being placed in the Excluded Area ?

(c) Do Government propose to move the Central Government in this matter ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

114. *a* No.  
*b* No.  
*c* No.

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any difficulty in procuring the necessary material?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : The area included in the Shone-Beel area is something different from that of a Frontier Area. The Government have nothing to do with Frontier Areas. It is the responsibility of the British Government in the Government of Assam to do anything which they are unable to do anything do not seem to be the responsibility of the Government. But for the information of the hon. Member, I am sure that this question will be taken up in the changes that are being made in the State and it will be the subject matter of an enquiry by the Joint Committee that may be set up by the Constituent Assembly.

### Appointment of Quaries in Maktaba

**Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked :

115. *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 Quaries in all the Maktab?  
*e* If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

115. *(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.

### Establishment of hospital at Gamaria in Shone-Beel area

**Moulana MD. MUFAZZAL HUSSAIN** asked :

116. *(a)* Are Government aware that the inhabitants of Shone-Beel area in Karimganj are suffering much for want of a hospital within ten to twenty miles of that locality?  
*(b)* Do Government propose to establish a hospital at Gamaria which is a central village of that area to give relief to the public?  
*(c)* If not, why not?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

116. *(a)*—No. There are some dispensaries within four to ten miles of Shone-Beel area.  
*(b) & (c)*—No. Starting of dispensaries in rural areas is a responsibility of the Local Boards.



## Surma Valley Technical School

**Maulavi Dewan TAIMUR RAZA CHOUDHURY** asked :

117. (a) Is it a fact that the Surma Valley Technical School is going to be shifted from Sylhet to a place somewhere in the Assam Valley ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Are Government aware that the people of the Surma Valley have been immensely benefited by this Technical institution and that the removal of the said School will greatly jeopardise their interest ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED** replied :

117. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

**Clerk of the office of Provincial Co-operative Bank of Assam**

**Maulavi MAYEENUD-DIN AHMED CHOWDRY** asked :

118. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any temporary clerk from the Office of the Provincial Co-operative Bank of Assam, has lately been appointed in the office of the Director of Industries and Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam ?

(b) If so, the name of the person so appointed and the special consideration for which he has been appointed ?

(c) The scale of pay of his previous post and that of the present one ?

(d) Whether he is going to be made permanent soon ?

(e) If so, the reason why the cases of those who are serving temporarily in this Department have been ignored ?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUR RASHEED** replied :

118. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika. Due to the rapid expansion of the Stores movement during the War, the necessity for securing the services of experienced hand for speedy and efficient disposal of work in the office of the Director of Industries and Registrar, Co-operative Societies was keenly felt. It was then difficult to procure the services of suitable candidates with the pay and prospects of a Lower Division Assistant. Srijut Hazarika put in over 16 years service as a clerk of the Provincial Bank. His day to day experience of the working of the office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies (the Bank being located in this office) and of the movement as a whole through the Assam Provincial Bank was considered to be useful at the moment. Besides this was intended to serve as an impetus to other competent employees of Co-operative Banks who are contributing towards improvement of the Co-operative Movement.

(c)—Rs. 50—3—80—4—100—4—120—Previous.  
Rs. 55—3—70—3—85—4—125—Present.

(d)—No. His position, *vis-a-vis* other unconfirmed Lower Division Assistants in this office has been fixed according to the dates of their respective appointments in this grade.

(e)—Does not arise.



## Five-years Road Programme

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA** asked:

119. Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) The total amount of money spent in connection with the execution of the interim projects formulated by the Assam Road Communication Board in their last meeting in the (1) Surma Valley, (2) Assam Valley, and (3) Hill districts?
- (b) What are the reasons for not completing the programme of interim projects by March 1947?
- (c) What steps Government propose to take to ensure completion of the Five-years Road Programme within the time limit?

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

119. (a)—Exact figures are not yet available. The estimated expenditure is approximately:

	I Rs.
Assam Valley	9,41
Surma Valley	2,75
Hills Districts	1,43

(b)—The factors which contributed towards inability in completing the programme are—

- (i) Delay in getting approval of the Government of India to the Schemes selected.
  - (ii) Difficulty and delay involved in land acquisition.
  - (iii) Non-availability of tools and materials.
  - (iv) Inability of recruiting the necessary technical personnel.
- (c)—Government are trying to overcome the difficulties.

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I crave your indulgence to allow me to put the Starred Question No. 30 standing in my name, which could not be put in time as I was about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a second late in attending the House. As this particular question involves some principle, I would beseech your permission to put the question now.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: I hope the hon. Member will not misunderstand me when I say that much as I should have liked to allow him to put this Question, I feel I shall be guilty of contravention of a rule and established practice if now I give him the permission to put his Question which has lapsed. Therefore, I very much regret my inability to allow this.

## Demands for Grants

## GRANT No.3:

(63--B —POST WAR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: I now take up Grant No.32.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.4,91,89,000 be granted to defray the charges which



will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1948 for the administration of the head "63.—B—Post War Development Schemes".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Is the Hon'ble Minister going to deliver a speech or should I put the Motion ?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Sir, if you would kindly permit me and if the hon. Members have got no objection, then similar to the Statement which I made during the last Session of this august House, I desire to make a Statement also in this connection. It would make the position clearer to the hon. Members and it might save some time of this House. So, it is up to you, Sir, if you so desire, with the consent of the hon. Members, I can make a short Statement which might clarify the position. Instead of making the statement afterwards I can make the Statement now.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** As I have stated that in all such matters I shall go by the sense of the House. If the House have no objection, certainly the Hon'ble Minister can make a short Statement.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members will perhaps recall that Statement which I made on the Post War Reconstruction and Development Schemes during the September 1946 Session. That Statement besides being printed in the Assembly proceedings and in the Official Gazette has recently been produced in a brochure entitled 'Progress of Assam's Planning'—copies of which have been supplied to each hon. Member. My Statement to-day will be a continuation of that earlier Statement. In the brochure, I have just referred to, there have been given, besides my Statement, a brief survey of the 4 drafts of Assam's plans, (the fourth of which is now under detailed preparation), a statement showing the progress of Interim Schemes, that is, schemes taken up in 1946-47, and an indication of the schemes under preparation for 1947-48. I need not, therefore, dwell on any of these subjects at much length. It will do if, as the starting-point of my Statement to-day, I simply give a very brief summary of what has been said on them in the brochure.

*The Fourth Draft of Assam's Plan.*—The Fourth Draft though not yet printed in full, has been the basis of all that we have been doing since May, 1946. It is an expansion of our predecessors' Third Draft and, as against an approximate expenditure of 26½ crores proposed by the Third Draft, it proposes an approximate expenditure of 42 crores. Of this, we hope to get an amount ranging between 11½ and 20 crores from the Central Government as a grant, while the rest will be met from loans and provincial revenues.

*Interim Schemes.*—A number of Schemes of a preparatory and transitional character were taken up in 1946-47 (in fact, a few of them were taken up in the latter part of 1945-46) in advance of the Plan, which is scheduled to commence formally on the 1st April 1947. For these schemes the Government of India partly sanctioned and partly promised a little over 3 crores of rupees as outright grants and loans—grants for financially unproductive schemes and loans for productive ones. All schemes have to be approved by the Government of India before they sanction any sums for them. So, in actual fact, they have up to date sanctioned a sum of just a little over 2 crores. Of this sum, it is expected that about 96 lakhs will have been spent by the end of the current financial year. If the building projects which are in hand are completed by that date, 60 lakhs. The unspent balance will merge in the grant for 1947-48,



*Schemes for 1947-48.*—The Budget for 1947-48, the first year of the Five-Year Plan, is a Budget of the order of 5.08 crores, of which 2.25 crores will be provided in the shape of a central grant, while the rest will be met from central loans and provincial revenues. Some of the 1947-48 schemes will be a continuation of Interim Schemes. Others will be new schemes selected from the Five-Year Plan. There will also be among them Grow-More-Food Schemes, which will from 1947-48 onwards be financed from central development grants, the Provincial Government paying a share, the proportion of which has yet to be finally fixed. The Central Government have sanctioned Grow-More-Food Schemes for the next five years as a sort of advance instalment of the Provincial Five-Year Plans. The other schemes included in the Plans will be sanctioned from year to year. Each year the Central Government will make block grants to the Provinces bearing some proportion to the overall grants for their Five-Year Plans. Our share for 1947-48 has been fixed at 2.25 crores on this basis. This seems to be in proportion to the grant of 11½ crores which they indicated quite a long time ago and does not seem to take into account the increased grant reasonably expected by us in the light of subsequent developments, to which I referred in my September 1946, statement. Perhaps this is due to the fact that they have not yet studied and decided to adopt the Australian system, which they proposed to adopt as the basis of distributing central development grants. We hope to hear on the subject from them in due course. Meanwhile, the grant of 2.25 crores for 1947-48, coupled with the expenditure from Provincial revenues and central loans, will enable us to do some substantial work. The loans, which we hope to get at rates cheaper than the prevailing market rates, will be utilized in financing certain productive schemes, chief among which will be certain major industries to be taken up in pursuance of the announcements made in Government's second communiqué on their Industrial Policy. The most important of these industries will be cotton textiles, for which we have already ordered spindles and looms.

*Progress.*—Hon'ble Members will have gathered from the Explanatory Note appended to the Supplementary Demand for Post-war Development Schemes taken up in 1946-47, which was presented earlier during the current session that some progress has been made in implementing our plan even in advance of its formal commencement. Reviewed in the light of the numerous difficulties which I explained in my earlier statement, this progress is not inconsiderable. It would have been even greater in terms of actual expenditure were it not for the fact that early in the current year the Central Government warned us to restrict our works programme. This was with a view to obviating an undue strain upon the scarce supply of building materials and competitive increases of the already high building costs. The scarcity of building materials, combined with the shortage of staff, has, indeed, acted as a natural check and a severe handicap. What the situation in this behalf will be in the coming year, it is difficult to forecast. Nevertheless we have pitched our programme for the coming year at a considerably higher level than the 1946-47 programme. We hope that, if not in the field of capital works then in other field it will be possible for us to increase the tempo of our progress. Some of the initial difficulties are being gradually overcome and we believe that, if we persevere in our efforts to overcome them, they will in due course disappear.

As regards future, Sir, I am sure that hon. Members share with me the oppressive feeling of uncertainty engendered by the pervading political atmosphere, which has its repercussions in the economic field. The picture of the future, which has been obscure for some years past, has been flurred further by the British Government's recent announcement of their resolve to transfer complete political power to Indian hands by June 1948, even if a constitution for the whole of the country has not been framed by that date. While there is much to be thankful for the immediate prospect of our achieving something for which we have



striven for years, there is a cloud of uncertainty hanging about the prospect, particularly on the economic horizon. Coming in the wake of this announcement, the statements made the other day in his Budget Speech by the Hon'ble Finance Member of the Government of India on the subject of economic planning, have thrown everything in that sphere back into the melting pot. He said, "Until the constitution of the authority or authorities to which the powers and functions of the present Central Government will be transferred is known, it would hardly be prudent to rely, for the quinquennium in question, on a system of Provincial and Central finance based upon the existing constitutional structure". Reading between the lines, hon. Members must, however, have seen, as I have seen, a ray of hope in certain other statements made by the Hon'ble Finance Member. In one place he said, "But as I have said before, this does not mean that we should not proceed with our economic programme, particularly in the Provincial sphere". In another place he remarked "Everything possible should be done to foster development on a provincial and regional basis". Whether development on a provincial and regional basis is as desirable and will yield as good results as development on a co-ordinated countrywide basis is a matter for controversy. I will not enter into the controversy here. But what I deduce from the Hon'ble Finance Member's statement and from my personal forecast of political and economic developments in the immediate future leads me to believe that, whether or not the policy enunciated by the Hon'ble Finance Member ultimately holds the field, there is bound to be an adjustment of the present financial structure of the country in a manner which will enable Provincial Governments to go ahead with development plans on a larger scale than hitherto conceived. I feel that we are called upon by this certainty, as a counterblast to the present uncertainty—and, in fact, even by the latter—to exert our best efforts to go ahead with our plan as speedily as possible. And with the good will, support and co-operation of the House, this Government proposes to do so.

Sir, it is unfortunate that some hon. Members do not care to read all that we have issued by way of explaining our plan, as it is quite evident from Cut Motions and Questions—Cut Motions that have been tabled and the Questions that have been put by some hon. Members for a discussion today. In the brochure "The Progress of Assam's Planning" as also in the statement made by me on the subject of post-war planning during the September 1946 Session it has been clearly stated that, our five year plan of 42 crores is still a provisional plan. It depends on so many factors which are still uncertain, a provisional them being the future constitutional set-up in the country. We are among present financing our plan from grants and loans made available to us by the Central Government. As long as these sources are available, we will tap them. When they cease to be available we will have to fall back upon our own resources. Our own resources, we hope, will have to be augmented by the time this happens, (i) some of the excise duties and taxes, amounting to over 2 crores per annum, will devolve on us as a result of the new financial arrangements. (ii) The taxable capacity of our people will have increased and we shall be in a position to impose new taxes, augmented by particularly our industrial schemes. (iii) Provincial revenues will have increased as a result of the productive schemes we are undertaking.

It is of the essence of economic planning that a self-financing and expanding economy is both its end and the means of obtaining that end. Any hon. Member who thinks that an economic plan is to be guided by and limited to a cut-and-dried financial formula is unaware of the nature of economic planning. The financial resources necessary for the execution of our plan exist within a Province. They pour down from the skies; they sprout forth from the soil; they are lying treasured in the bowels of the earth. Our copious rainfall, our fertile soil, our rich forests, our mighty rivers and streams and perennial falls,



our hardly explored and even less exploited minerals, our men and women with all their faculties latent in them, waiting to be developed—these are our resources. With these resources we are second to no region in the world in the possibilities of development. It is the duty of a popular Government to realise this fact and to materialise these possibilities. Finance is after all only a name for mobilizing all these resources for the creation of more wealth, and wealth I may point out to my hon. Friend, does not consist in rupees, annas and pice. It consists in the goods and services available to the community, in the material, moral and cultural contents of social well-being. It is a commonplace of modern economics that Finance is not the mistress but a handmaiden of economic development.

As regards competent examination of the schemes, I may point out to the hon. Members that, as our plan, in its present initial stage, necessarily consists in expanding the administrative and technical machinery of Government to enable departments to increase their capacity for doing nation-building work, it could not be prepared better than by the departmental officers of Government who, I affirm, are as good experts in their own lines as Government could get from any other province. Nevertheless, Government, wherever necessary, appointed additional experts—as for example, an Industrial Adviser, an Economic and Statistical Adviser, an Adviser in Basic Education, and a number of special officers dealing with various aspects of planning. They have also had the benefit of the advice of expert committees, such as a Basic Education Advisory Board and a Rural Development Advisory Board. Again, they set up inter-departmental committees, consisting of both officials and non-officials, to advise departments in framing their schemes on various subjects. Then, again, schemes prepared by departments are not accepted on their face value. They undergo a thorough administrative, technical and financial scrutiny at the hands of the various administrative departments concerned, including the Planning and Development Department. This last-mentioned Department is a special machinery set up by Government for examining and co-ordinating departmental schemes so as to fit them into the framework of an integrated plan. It is headed by a Secretary, who, my hon. Friends will be glad to learn, is very well read in the subject of economic planning and has also studied planning arrangements in three provincial Secretariats—viz., Bengal, the United Provinces and the Punjab. Added to his administrative experience in different capacities, this has enabled him to initiate, guide, co-ordinate and supervise the formulation of our Schemes as well as could be desired.

May I, in conclusion, try to impress upon my hon. Friends the fact that, in the ultimate analysis, we are still at the stage of what may be called "Planning our planning". Planning is a conscious, purposive, comprehensive direction and regulation of the country's economic activities and cannot be expected to be in full swing in a matter of two years or so. It took Soviet Russia, the only country which has a planning record worth talking about to its credit, decades to prepare itself before it could take the first, faltering steps in the direction of planning. The preparation for planning consists, first and foremost, in fitting up the machinery of Government for the tasks ahead. There are certain obvious lacunae in our administrative machinery from the point of view of economic planning. We are now filling those lacunae. After we have filled them, we shall address ourselves to the task of planning properly so called. Then our plan will have a full financial statement, worked out to the nearest pice—if that will please my hon. Friends—as the basis of our programme of work. For the present, we must do the best we can with the resources available to us and the resources reasonably expected to be available in the near future—and the kind of schemes we have undertaken, are the best that could be undertaken in the circumstances. These schemes will, so to speak, create the capital assets that



we shall need for—the vast undertaking we are launching upon. First things must come first.

I hope, Sir, after hearing my statement the hon. Members will remove from their minds the prejudices that a few of them have got that this Government is not mindful about the improvement of this Province as it was evident from some remarks which were made by some hon. Members on the floor of this House. With these remarks, Sir, I beg to Move my Motion, as I have already stated.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI:** Sir, in regard to the Cut Motions I want to speak a few words, as a matter of procedure. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Post-War Planning has explained to the House just now what the Post-War Planning Department has been doing in connection with the Planning Department Schemes and the expenditure involved in the same. It may however be known that the administrative departments plan and execute the Schemes, in reference to such as fall within the respective departments. Therefore it will not be surprising to the House I hope, if Cut Motions relating to other departments that undertake Post-War Schemes are replied to by the Hon'ble Ministers guiding those departments, for example, there is a Cut Motion relating to Education, and it is myself as the Minister-in-charge who will reply to that Cut Motion. In respect of other Motions also, such of them as have been actually prepared and worked out by the administrative department concerned, the Minister-in-charge of the department will reply to them.

But in reference to all Motions where these have been dealt with by the Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development he will be the appropriate person to give reply.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,91,89,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1948 for the administration of the head '63-B.— Post-War Development Schemes'.”

There are several Cut Motions under this Demand; the first one stands in the name of Mr. Palmer.

**Mr. R. A. PALMER:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, at page 195 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand refused.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I desire to explain that we have no intention to move this Cut Motion with the object of expressing no-confidence in the Government. The object is to persuade Government that the Post-War expenditure included in this Grant fails to satisfy the requirements of sound finance enjoined by the Budget Manual of the Government of Assam. In proposing the deletion of this Grant, and the inclusion of Assam. In the next financial year, we have been actuated solely by principles of sound finance. We realise that our action may be misinterpreted as hostility to Post-War Planning as such, and we hasten to disabuse the House of any such ideas. We recognise that the Ministry have been influenced by the paramount necessity for giving to the Province much needed public services designed to promote the welfare of the public. There is and can be no dispute about the objective; but we would urge for the consideration of the House that plans of this magnitude require far more examination before this House ought to be asked to vote funds and, secondly, that this House is entitled to be assured that the Post-war Plan rests upon a sound financial basis. Otherwise, the future financial position of the Province will be imperilled and unnecessary waste of public money will



occur. Allow me to repeat, Sir, that we also are planning enthusiasts, but we differ from the Government only in that we press for more careful examination of these large schemes before they are started, and further that we should be assured of the long-term financial stability of the Plan before it is undertaken.

In regard to the first point, I need not emphasize the fact that the Post-war Schemes involve an expenditure of over five crores of rupees, and that the pre-war expenditure of the Government of Assam was less than three crores, and this expenditure in 1938-39 was mainly concerned with inevitable expenditure and standing charges. The Post-war expenditure statement for 1947-48 was only available to the hon. Members of the House a day before the Session opened, and the pace at which the business of the Session has been conducted has not been conducive to detailed and careful analysis of lengthy financial statements, which is so necessary if this House is to discharge its functions effectively. The expenditure involved in the next year is so vast and the issues involved so momentous that this House should be afforded a reasonable opportunity for examining the schemes, and should not be required to vote in such hasty fashion the funds which will initiate such tremendous ventures in planning.

My second point is even more fundamental. It is admitted that the Post-war expenditure included in the Budget is merely the first instalment of a gigantic Post-war plan. Before taking up a part of the Scheme, should we not be satisfied that the Post-war plan is financially workable? On this point the facts which have been supplied and the statements which have been made are disquieting if not alarming. We are informed that Rs 42 crores is the cost of the Post-war plan, and towards this the Government of India are prepared to contribute 11½ crores. This contribution of 11½ crores is not apparently an outright grant, but it obviously depends on the ability of the Province to find the sums required to implement the plan. We have been given no real indications of how the balance of 30½ crores is to be found. The Hon'ble Finance Minister expresses the hope that Assam might be allocated a substantial share of the Excise and Export duties which the Centre collect from goods produced in Assam. Though we regard the heavy burdens which are being imposed on the Tea Industry as ill-advised, we strongly support the view that so long as these are collected, Assam should be allocated a substantial share of this income. There is also a suggestion that revision of the financial settlement between the Centre and the Provinces will release additional funds for the Province. The Central Government has its own large Departments to support, and in the past there has been no evidence of any desire to curtail the activities of these Departments to enable large grants to be given to the Provinces. Assam has been pressing for over ten years for an increase in the Central Grants, and with what result? Ought we, as prudent citizens, to embark on vast expenditure with nothing more than such a vague hope? There is a further suggestion that new State Industries will supply surplus funds, which will provide the necessary finance for the non-productive schemes. Though a sum of two crores is being provided in the Budget for State-owned major industries, no details have been supplied, and we cannot therefore be expected to decide whether the major industries can be expected to work profitably. We have experience of the Assam Government's capacity to run a commercial enterprise at a loss, and in the Budget Memorandum it has been admitted that Assam Transport is a failure. Experience of private commercial ventures suggests that any Company which is being established must be prepared to operate for many years before giving any return to shareholders, and we see no reason to believe that Government industries can at once assume the role of profit producers, even if they ultimately succeed in meeting running costs, depreciation and interest charges. As prudent citizens we should, therefore, discard the idea that State industry can earn profits sufficient to finance the Post-war plan.



There remains the possibility of loans. Already 205 lakhs is to be met from loans. What is the possibility of raising loans of Rs. 30½ crores? We do not think that borrowing on such a scale is within the bounds of practical finance, and further we are forced to the belief that the Central Grant of Rs. 11½ crores will not be sanctioned unless the Government of Assam can demonstrate that they can secure the balance of funds required for the Rs. 42 crores plan without relying *entirely* on loans. Even if Rs. 30 crores could be borrowed, it is necessary to reflect that interest and sinking fund charges, to be met from revenue, would amount to not less than Rs. 2 crores a year, and though this level of payment would not be reached immediately, the question of meeting these charges should be examined *now* if it is the intention to raise loans.

I need not remind hon. Members that a great deal of the expenditure involved in the Post-war Grant under major head—63B is either of a recurring nature, or depends on the ability of the Province to continue the schemes in subsequent years. There is no value in building hospitals and other amenities if these cannot be kept up, and much of the value of the Plan lies in the promise of permanent nation-building services. But surely this promise must be founded on a sound financial basis.

We are not anxious to embarrass the Government by our criticism of the Post-war plan, and we make this criticism in good faith. We honestly feel that this is not a matter of politics, but purely of financial administration. We appeal to Government to accept our request that the Post-war plan should first be examined in greater detail in all its manifold aspects, and when this is complete, provision can be made early in the coming financial year by means of a Supplementary Statement. A delay of a few months is little in the life of a Province, and these few months can be employed to such advantage that a Post-war plan within the financial capacity of the Province can be evolved, which will bring lasting benefit and not insolvency.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

“That the total grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 under grant No.32, Major head 63-B—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, at page 195 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand refused.”

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to take up a few minutes of the time allotted for this discussion in dealing with an aspect of the Post-War Plan which has not been touched on by the previous speaker on behalf of this Group, that is, the question of skilled staff and adequate administrative machinery.

This matter has just been referred to by the Hon'ble Minister and I can do no better than he has done by quoting from the publication : “The Progress of Assam's Planning”, which purports to explain the basic principles underlying the expenditure contemplated in Major Head 63-B—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes. On page 9 of this pamphlet the Secretary to Government has made a statement, which, with your permission, Sir, I should like to read out to the House :—

“Planning is a task new to us and our administrative machinery is inadequate to meet its requirements. We have no experts to envisage its problems in all their bearings and to devise means for solving them. Our problems themselves are not fully known, since we have conducted no social and economic surveys worth the name. Even for the problems that we have set to ourselves, we do not have the necessary administrative and technical personnel. It is not possible to bring the personnel into existence in a short time either by recruitment or by training.”



Now, Sir, let us analyse the position as stated on behalf of Government.

Firstly, inadequate administrative machinery, secondly, lack of experts; thirdly, inadequacy of essential data for planning, fourthly, absence of administrative and technical personnel for carrying out schemes and lastly, impossibility of filling this gap immediately by recruitment or training.

This is Government's own statement and yet, in spite of this they propose to push ahead at once with launching a 5 crore plan though they have given such excellent reasons for the exercise of caution. Is it not reasonable to set up first of all, the administrative machinery required for planning, as otherwise how can the plan expect to be successful? It is admitted that there are no experts; but Government themselves will recognise that in all technical branches, the opinion of experts is invaluable and is likely to save the Government of Assam, lakhs, if not crores, of rupees. It is agreed that there is a complete absence of data requisite for planning, and yet Government do not propose, in the first instance, to create the machinery for collecting these essential statistics, but instead, they propose to embark at once on the implementation of these schemes.

The execution of schemes so hastily prepared will obviously present enormous difficulties without administrative and technical personnel. Government are probably aware that there is an acute shortage throughout India of the highly skilled technician and the technical expert, and many of the schemes proposed are of such a nature that they cannot be operated unless this staff is obtained. We are constantly being informed by Government Departments when serious delays occur that they are short of experienced personnel and if Government cannot secure personnel to man their existing Departments efficiently, how are they going to secure the large number of trained men required for executing these complex schemes?

These considerations, which have been so concisely stated in the Government pamphlet, are arguments overwhelming in character for postponing action on the Post-War Plan as presented in this Budget. It is for this reason that we are strongly recommending that this Plan should be considered in greater detail with the aid of experts. Steps should first be taken to secure the administration necessary for planning, recruit adequate and efficient staff, and then come before this House for the vote of funds.

**Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity of joining in this discussion of the Budget grant. At the outset I must tell you, Sir, that I rise to oppose this Motion for refusal moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Palmer. I must tell you that I intend, while opposing this Motion of refusal, to place the following constructive suggestions. I trust that the Government will give its best consideration to my suggestions. I must congratulate the Government for having taken a move in the direction of national reconstruction—mis-called Post-war Reconstruction. But I have to lay emphasis on the fact that no Government should proceed to work on a definite plan unless they have statistical data to guide them. It is needless for me to point out the important role statistics play in planning. A modern administration cannot advance a single step without the guidance of statistical knowledge. As the State cannot afford to remain ignorant about the political happenings within the country and outside it, in the same way it cannot afford to remain ignorant about the social and economic trends within the country. It must be conversant with the size and rate of growth of population, the rate of mortality, incidence of diseases, the extent of trade, imports and exports, the value of agricultural and



industrial production. How can a Government run its administration without having a definite knowledge of the above-mentioned subjects. It must keep itself conversant with the taxable capacity of the people, the burden of taxation on the different classes of society, the national income and its distribution.

The statistical material that we have at present is much defective, e. g., agricultural statistics are based on rough guess work, vital statistics are collected by village Gaonburas who are generally illiterate and these figures cannot stand scientific scrutiny or test.

This House had already passed an Industrial Statistics Act. But this will touch only a fraction of our production. This Act will enable us to have definite knowledge of the outcome of industrial production. But what about the agricultural production? What about the goods produced in cottages? That is why we need economic surveys on random sample basis. At present we have no correct idea of the purchasing power of the people—their consumption habits. In the land revenue department, Government have no correct estimate of available waste lands for future expansion. Before we proceed on a plan of reconstruction, we must have these statistical data to guide us and that is why I welcome the move taken by the Government to establish a Bureau of Economic intelligence. I trust Government will not hesitate to spend money on this department to run efficiently so that Government can be helped by statistical materials.

Then coming to the subject of planning, we are confronted with the question—what are our needs that we should plan to satisfy them. Our basic needs are food, clothing and housing. How much food we need, how much clothing we require and what accommodation we need? Of course there will be divergence of opinions on these questions; but we must work out some kind of standard which we think average or normal. In all our plannings, food, clothing and housing must have priority, but food planning has a bearing on the land settlement policy. Without having a correct estimate of available waste lands and also lands required to make this Province a self-sufficient unit of the independent Indian Republic, it will be disastrous to throw out the waste lands to immigrants from other Provinces. During these days we have been listening to the grievances of people with regard to supply of some essential foodstuffs. There have been great difficulties in securing some of the essential foodstuffs. This has been the outcome of dependance on other Provinces. Now is the time for Government to take measures to grow the deficit foodstuffs within the Province. Before planning for food we have to keep in view the nutritional needs of human bodies, viz., estimates made by experts. a well balanced diet consists of the following:—cereal, 16 oz. pulses, 3 oz. sugar, 2 oz. fruits, 2 oz. milk, 8 oz. vegetable, 6 oz. fat and oil, 2 oz. meat, fish and egg, 2.3 oz. Assuming this as the basis of our calculation we must proceed to grow these foodstuffs sufficient for our 10 millions of people and their future growth. At present our need for pulses is about 60,000 tons, whereas indigenous production is only 8,000 tons. To meet this deficiency we must make a plan to grow pulses on about 3 lakhs of acres of lands over and above the present acreage. Our need for sugar stand at nearly 60 lakhs of maunds per annum, whereas our indigenous production of Gur is only 12 lakhs of maunds. We have to extend annual cultivation of sugarcane to nearly 2 lakhs of acres. Our need for mustard oil will be to the extent of 10 lakhs of maunds, whereas our indigenous production is only a little more than 2 lakhs of maunds. To attain self-sufficiency our target must be to extend cultivation of mustard seed to at least 10 lakhs of acres. At present we have



a fluctuating acreage of only 3 lakhs. In the same way we must increase our milk production. For this we must have a picture of a plan how to increase the present stock of cattle, improve their breed and increase their milk capacity. At present our milk production is only 35 lakhs of maunds. This must be increased to 21 crores of maunds. For eggs, meat and fish, we must have a definite plan how we can increase the present output. Our total annual production of eggs is only 43,000. To increase this we must organise a large number of poultry farms on co-operative basis throughout the country. Government should help these farms with subsidy and technical advice and better breeds. In the same way sheep and goat breeding societies must be organised to increase the total output. Our existing fisheries must be improved with an objective to increase this means of food supply. Fishing industry is being carried on archaic methods. We must formulate some plan.

Then let me come to clothing requirements. Ours is a country of mixed climate with hot sun in the summer and biting cold in the winter. Regarding this item we have been standing very badly even before the war, and the situation has grown worse now. It will be no exaggeration to say that the average common man carries his entire wardrobe on his person.

The National Planning Committee suggested 30 yards as the minimum requirement for each person in India. Calculating on this basis our annual need will be something like 270 million yards. Indian mills, in all, produce less than 5,000 million yards and this is being distributed on a basis of 10 yards per capita. We have to depend on this allotment of cloth on Bombay. And it is needless for me to state the outcome of this dependance. For attainment of self-sufficiency we must improve our short staple cotton and introduce cultivation of long staple cotton. Moreover, we must grow cotton on at least 10 lakhs of acres in place of nearly 3 lakhs of acres. We cannot afford to remain dependant on other provinces for our cotton needs. It is a welcome move that the Government have already taken steps for carrying on research on this matter. Government of India allotted 2½ lakhs of spindles for our Province. But we cannot immediately establish cotton mills in the Province. It will take some time. Moreover, we will have to depend on foreign machinery. But we cannot afford to sit idle in the meantime. We must make an effort to increase our indigenous production. It is needless to say that under the guidance of Gandhiji the All-India Spinners' Association has been able to produce 20 million yards per annum. I trust if Government puts heart to this work we can increase the present production of Khadi.

Then, let me come to housing. It has been estimated by experts that each person requires 3,000 cubic feet of fresh air and this we cannot get unless we each have 100 square feet of house room. Though we do not have much of industrial town and slum areas consequent on big industries, yet in some Municipal areas owing to over-crowding, conditions as shocking as the slum areas are gradually coming into existence. I have to ask the Government to tackle this problem. The ideal of modern housing is a self-contained regional town with assorted industries, agricultural belt and full facilities for social life. If we accept 100 square feet for each adult person and 60 square feet for each child, it may be easily imagined what areas of lands will be required for a good housing plan.

The housing plan in rural areas presents special difficulty. Though villages are less congested than the towns surrounded by open country, they lack sanitary service and water supply. This lack of sanitary services and water supply



has been a foster-mother to disease and high mortality rate. This has been one of the causes for loss of national efficiency. Population in some Municipal areas also has outgrown arrangement made some decades ago for sanitary service and water supply. With this is connected our low standard of public health. In planning, we must keep in view how to raise the standard of public health and we must organise, according to our needs, both preventive and curative medical services.

Then, let me come to education which is one of the basic needs of society. National welfare based on flourishing industry and agriculture will be impossible if the minds of the people are not trained and developed. It is impossible to achieve far-reaching improvement in the economic condition of the people unless the people are educated to perform thousand and one tasks involved in the process of such improvements. There is also another purpose of education which is to turn out good citizens—the raw materials of democracy. We will have to make an elaborate plan how to make nearly 9 millions of people literate and to give the young boys and girls up to certain age limit, proper education to have an intelligent understanding of the surrounding world. For this, we will have to revolutionise the whole system of education in vogue in our country. Describing this present system of education in our country, an Englishman remarked some years ago. "If education is transmission of life from the living through the living here. It is carrying death from the dead, through the dead to the dead." I have to congratulate the Government for making a beginning in the line of basic education. I have to urge upon the Government not to consider the limitations of expenditure on this matter. I have to state that it has vast potentialities for the future in reorganising and revitalising our nation. With this is connected our future rural development. And I congratulate the Government for taking our initiative in this field of activity too.

Then there is the problem—how we can double or treble our national income and how we can distribute the benefits equitably in the society. These are problems to which we must pay our attention. There is very little social utility in producing more if the bulk of the people are deprived from its benefits. In our planning for the future we should try to see that this pyramid of wealth and income is levelled down. It is extremely unfair that those who do the hardest and irksome jobs should live on a mere pittance and those who work under the most comfortable conditions should get incomes fifty or even five hundred times more. With a large number of people having been driven from various cottage industries, pressure on land has greatly increased and a system of crop-sharing with the actual cultivator has come into vogue. I urge upon the Government to pay immediate attention to this problem. Either the Government should bring in legislation enforcing equitable distribution or liquidate those middlemen by paying back the value of the land. Reduction of inequalities is a big problem of the present-day world. And Bernard Shaw has pointed out—"Poverty and not wealth is the evil to attack and abolish". We must concentrate on raising the lowest income and remove enforced idleness. If this giant idleness can be destroyed, all other aims of reconstruction come within easy reach. We must have to make a good plan how we can take away the surplus population from agriculture to other pursuits to secure full employment to our man-power.

At a rough guess nearly one million of people besides dependants should be taken away from the soil. But this population cannot be absorbed in the large-scale industries which may be established in near future. The question is how we can absorb this population. The reply is, we have to organise small-scale cottage industries as widely as possible. Ours is an undeveloped country—and if we plan or a great part of industrial production in the cottages and small workshops as is being done in China through Indusco movement, I think, we will be able to



bring about augmentation of material prosperity of the people and its equitable distribution. For this, the Government will have to play the role of a big brother by making right kind of tools, cheap electric power and credit facilities available to the people and also helping them in the marketing of their products. There is a great possibility if the internal trade is nationalised and Government becomes the agent of the people in marketing of their goods. I hope the Government will give its best consideration to the suggestions I have made and with this I oppose the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Palmer, retaining the entire grant.

**Mr. H. PATTERSON:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, insufficient time has been given to Members of this House to study either the Post-War Plan or that part of it which is to be included in the Budget for 1947-48 under the Major Head 63-B. It is, therefore, quite impossible for me to comment on the large number of schemes which have been included. Some we regard as most beneficial, while there are others which we consider, should be revised extensively. The point, however, which I wish to emphasize today is that there is no mention in the Post-War Plan of any Regional planning along the lines now so justifiably famous—of the Tennessee Valley Authority in the United States of America. This model was commended by the Hon'ble Pandit Nehru and the Government of India are proposing to apply this multi-purpose method of development to two areas and active steps are being taken to inaugurate a Damodar Valley Scheme to serve areas in Bengal and Bihar and a Mahanadi Scheme in the district of Sambalpur to develop parts of Orissa. The object of these schemes is primarily a prevention of soil erosion, the creation of navigable rivers, the elimination of disastrous floods and the development of cheap hydro-electric power in order to attract large and small industrial enterprises. The Province of Assam is industrially backward and is severely handicapped in establishing new industries, partly on account of the large distances from the main consuming centres. The present policy of the Government in regard to nationalisation is also a very discouraging factor so far as private enterprise is concerned, since when private enterprise succeeds in establishing a prosperous industry, there is the danger that the State may expropriate it and collect the profits of private initiative and energy. With, however, a more rational industrial policy and with schemes for provision of cheap hydro-electric power, we consider that there is scope for a large degree of industrialisation which could be furthered by multi-purpose schemes. In Assam there is an abundance of water power and rivers, at present, liable to cause enormous damage by flooding and it is by control of this water power that wealth can be created and damage avoided. Afforestation can be developed within regional schemes to prevent the rapid run-off of water into the plains. Large dams can be erected, designed both for storage of hydro-electric power, for irrigation and for flood-control. If schemes of this nature can be developed, it is probable that expenditure of large sums on embankments can be avoided. The question of embankments is a complex and controversial one, since the raising of an embankment in one place has a tendency to cause flooding elsewhere and one area's gain is another's loss. There is also the danger that vast expenditure on embankments is often a complete waste since an unusually heavy flood may carry it away or a change in the direction of a river may render the embankment useless. River control is a science which requires not merely experts of great technical capacity but also a large amount of data before satisfactory results can be expected. It is, therefore, far more satisfactory to attempt to control rivers by the provision of dams high up in the hills, which will remove to a large extent the dangers of devastating floods. The great advantage of these multi-purpose schemes is that they remove at the same time the cause of extensive damage and



produce in large quantities electricity which in turn can be utilised for the development of the wealth of the Province. This form of planning is comparatively new in India but it is one, in our view, which is eminently suitable for development in Assam and for this reason alone we would prefer that the Post-War Development Plan should be re-examined to see whether it is not possible to have a Surma Valley Scheme and an Assam Valley Scheme which can be developed rapidly. We are doubtful whether Government have the staff, administrators and technical experts, to control development which is to take place in so many directions as contemplated in the post-war plan and we would, therefore, strongly emphasise the need for concentrating on those schemes which will produce the maximum benefit to the Province.

**Babu PURNENDU KISHORE SEN GUPTA:** মাননীয় মুখপাত্র মহোদয়, আমি এই cut motion (ছাটাই প্রস্তাবের) এর বিরুদ্ধে বলবার জন্য দাড়িয়েছি। এই cut motion এর (ছাটাই প্রস্তাবের) বিরুদ্ধে বলবার কারণ হলো—এই cut motion টি (ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটি) সমস্ত grant টাই (বরাদ্দটাই) প্রত্যাহান করার জন্য আনা হইয়াছে। এই cut motion (প্রস্তাব) উত্থাপন করতে গিয়ে যে সমস্ত বক্তৃতা দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং তাতে যে সব কাজ করার জন্য সুপারিশ করা হয়েছে, তার জন্য আর কোন টাকাই থাকবে না—এই হচ্ছে ছাটাই প্রস্তাব গৃহীত হওয়ার ফল। আমি বিশেষ করে যে কয়টি constructive suggestion (গঠনাত্মক সুপারিশ) দেওয়া হয়েছে তাহা কার্যকরী করার জন্য বরং আরও বেশীভাবে তৎপর হওয়ার জন্য পুনর্বারেই গভর্নমেন্টকে অভিনন্দিত করি এবং সমর্থন করি। এর বাহিরেও আরও কতকগুলি constructive suggestion (গঠনমূলক পরামর্শ) দেওয়া যেতে পারে।

একজন বক্তার বক্তৃতাতে irrigation (জলসেচ) সম্বন্ধে ইঙ্গিত করা হয়েছে এবং বাস্তবিকই সেটা আমাদের প্রদেশের একটা মস্ত বড় সমস্যা। দেখা গিয়াছে আমাদের প্রদেশে ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদীতে এবং পাবনা district এ (জেলায়) গোয়ালন্দ হইতে দামুকদিয়া পর্যন্ত ব্রহ্মপুত্রেরই নামাঙ্কিত যমুনা নদীতে যে সমস্ত চড়া হয়ে গেছে, তাতে আসাম উপত্যকার ভবিষ্যৎ অত্যন্ত বিপদ সঙ্কুল হয়ে দাড়িয়েছে। কারণ ব্রহ্মপুত্র দিয়েই আসাম উপত্যকার সমস্ত জল সমুদ্রে নেমে যায় এবং সে জন্য নেমে যেতে অত্যন্ত বাধা পেতে আরম্ভ করেছে। এবং দিন দিন যদি সেটা বাড়তে থাকে তাহলে আসাম উপত্যকাতে সমস্ত বৎসরই বন্যা লেগে থাকবে। যদি সেটা হয়, তাহলে আসামের সমস্ত বাজেন্টের টাকা ব্যয় করলেও লোকের কষ্ট দূর হবে না। সে জন্য ব্রহ্মপুত্রের drainage (জলনিকাশের) ব্যবস্থা আমাদের একটা মস্ত বড় সমস্যা। Hydro-electricity এর কথা যে পেতে পারি এবং সেই electric energy (বৈদ্যুতিক শক্তি)র দ্বারা আমাদের industry developed (শিল্প গড়ে উঠতে) হতে পারে। কিন্তু বর্তমানে আমাদের মস্তবড় বিপদের সম্মুখীন হতে drainage (কেটে দেবার ব্যবস্থা) করতে না পারলে আসামে বন্যা (চড়ভরট) হয়ে যাচ্ছে তাহা সমস্ত revenue (রাজস্ব) দিয়েও বন্যার প্রতিকার করা যাবে না। সুরমা উপত্যকায়ও সেই অবস্থা দাড়িয়েছে। কুশিয়ারা এবং সুল্ফানদীর শাখাগুলি যেমন শাখা বরাক এবং পৈন্দা প্রভৃতি silted (চড়ভরট) হওয়ার ফলে আগে যে জল সমূহ মেঘনা নদীতে অতি অল্প সময়ে মিলিতে পারত সেটা আজকে সমস্ত সুল্ফা দিয়ে ধরে যেতে হয় বলে সুরমা উপত্যকাতেও বন্যা অত্যন্ত বেড়ে চলেছে।



এই ব্যয়পত্র এবং অর্থা যদি drainage (খনন) করা নাযায়, তাহলে ভবিষ্যতের আশামের আভ্যন্তরীণ বিপদ আছে। সেই এই কাজটা আমাদের Post-War Planning (যুদ্ধোত্তর পরিকল্পনার) এ সর্বপ্রথম item (সফা) চড়িয়েই দরকার। Drainage and Embankment এর জন্য অবশ্য কতকগুলি টাকা নতুন করা হয়েছে, কিন্তু দু'খের বিষয় কতকগুলি ছোটখাটো নানা খাল ভিনু বড় কোন project (পরিকল্পনা) তাতে নাই। Tools and Plants এর জন্য সামান্য খাট হাজার টাকা মাত্র দেওয়া হয়েছে; অর্থাৎ আমাদের যে সময়টা তাতে খাট হাজার কোন বর্তমান Post-War Planning এর মোট ৫ কোটি টাকার যদি Drainage and Embankment এর জন্য দেওয়া যায়, তাহলেও বিশেষ সুবিধা হবে না। যে জন্য Irrigationকে (জল সেচের কাজকে) Post-War Plan এর কোন একটা বড় স্থান দেওয়া হয় তাই জন্য চেষ্টা করার জন্য আইন গভর্নমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। সরকারি Instrument of Instruction এ Irrigation এর (জলসেচের) জন্য একটা পৃথক portfolio থাকার কথা ছিল। কিন্তু পৃথক portfolio থাকা দু'খের কথা একটা পৃথক Department পড়াই নাই। তাই Irrigation Department টি বেশ ভালভাবে খাট দেওয়া এবং তার জন্য গভর্নমেন্টের বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

Post-War Plan এর interim scheme এর এক উদ্দেশ্য ছিল যে যুদ্ধ শেষ হওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে হঠাৎ যে বেকার সময়টা হয়ে যাবে সেই বেকার সময়টা সমালোচনায় অন্য আশা কি করতে পারি এবং যখনই Post-War Plan এই কি করে বেশী পরিমাণ লোককে কাজে লাগাতে পারি। যে দৃষ্টি না নিয়ে যদি কতকগুলি production machinery (কলকল্লা স্থাপন) করি যাতে বেকার সময়টা বেড়ে যায় তাহলে মূল উদ্দেশ্যটিই নষ্ট হয়ে যাবে। যে জন্য সেই দৃষ্টিই Post-War Plan এ বিবেচ্য বলি, যাতে আমাদের এই পূর্বদেখে কোন পদা অবলম্বন করলে সব চেয়ে বেশী সাধ্যক লোককে কাজে লাগাতে পারি।

কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্নমেন্ট দুইরকম কাজের জন্য টাকা দেবার কথা বলেছেন। একটা productive (উৎপাদক) আর একটা unproductive (অনুৎপাদক)। Productive scheme এর (উৎপাদক পরিকল্পনার) জন্য Central Government (কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার) loan (ঋণ) দিবেন এবং unproductive scheme এর (অনুৎপাদক পরিকল্পনার) জন্য Grant (দান) দিবেন। তবেই কথা আমাদের সরকারের অনেক চেষ্টার ফলে ১৯৪৭-৪৮ সালের জন্য যে টাকা Central Government (কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার) থেকে পাব, যেটা আমরা Productive scheme এও আনতে পারি। যদি তাই হয়, তাহলে আমরা অর্থাৎ ১৯৪৭-৪৮ সালের Grant এর প্রায় সমস্ত টাকাটিই Productive scheme এ ব্যয় করিন কেন? কারণ পরে হয়ত তারা এরকম সুযোগ আর দিবেন না। এরপর যে টাকটা পাইতেছি সেটা যাতে সমস্তই Productive scheme এ আনতে পারি তাই অন্য চেষ্টা করা দরকার। আমরা দেখছি যে Productive scheme এর জন্য দুই কোটির উপর টাকা loan করা হয়েছে। এই Productive scheme এর ভিতর দেখতে হবে যে, যে সকল Industry private party র পক্ষে করা সম্ভবপর নহে কেবল যেগুলিই State এর হাতে যায়। আমাদের দেখতে হবে যে সকল natural wealth (প্রাকৃতিক ঐশ্বর্য) আমাদের আছে সেগুলি কিরূপে develop করতে পারি। কল কল্লা তৈয়ারীর জন্য যে সকল Basic Industry এর



প্রয়োজন Private party এর পক্ষে সেগুলির প্রবর্তন সম্ভব নয়, ঐগুলির প্রবর্তন করা গভর্ণমেন্টের কর্তব্য। Industrial policy সম্বন্ধে একথা বলব যে Small industry এবং mediocre industry develop করবার জন্য যাতে Private party বা সুযোগ পায় গভর্ণমেন্ট থেকে সেরূপ সুবিধা যেন করে দেওয়া হয়। গভর্ণমেন্ট big industry র জন্য দুই কোটি টাকা loan করেছেন। কিন্তু small industry র জন্য সেটা করেননা কেন? অমিয় বাবু তার বক্তৃতায় একরূপ কতকগুলি suggestion দিয়েছেন। যে গুলি কম লাভজনক অথচ বেশী লোককে কাজ জোগাবে তার জন্য যদি loan করার ও দরকার হয় তাহলে সেরকম loan নিয়েও আমাদের লোকের Productive Capacity বাড়াবার চেষ্টা করাই সরকারের কর্তব্য। যে টাকারটা Grow-more-food এর জন্য ব্যয় হবে তাহা unproductive scheme হলেও উহা এমন ভাবে ব্যয় করা যেতে পারে যাতে লোকের Productive Capacity বেড়ে যায়। আমরা scheme গুলি analyse (বি শুমণ) করলে কি দেখতে পাই? তাতে কতকগুলি Foreign education এর জন্য Scholarship দেওয়া হয়েছে এবং সেটা হযত পরে Productive scheme এ সাহায্য করবে। কিন্তু ইহা ভিন্ন দেখতে পাই যে অধিকাংশ টাকাই Officer এবং building এর জন্য ধরা হয়েছে। নূতন Building না করলে এবং Old primitive type এর building পরিবর্তন না করলে যেন সরকারি কর্মচারিরা থাকতেই পারবেন না। সেদিকেই যদি আমাদের সমস্ত টাকা খরচ হয়ে যায় তাহলে আমাদের লোকের Productive Capacity বাড়াতে পারবনা। লোকের Productive Capacity বাড়াবার জন্য কি কি scheme করতে পারি তার জন্যই সর্বাপ্রথমে দেখা আমাদের কর্তব্য। এবং building ও দরকার হবে কিন্তু জনসাধারণ কিভাবে প্রত্যক্ষভাবে উপকৃত হবে সেটাই scheme (পরিকল্পনায়) এ নাই। কত টাকা জনসাধারণের Productive Capacity বাড়াবার জন্য ব্যয় হবে সেটা কোন বাজেটে বা Plan এর ভিতর আমরা পাচ্ছিনা। Plan আছে কিন্তু development of productive capacity র অনেকগুলি নাই। কোন Plan

কোন Grant sanctioned হওয়ার পূর্বে Financial scrutiny এবং technical scrutiny এর দরকার। ইহা কেবল Departmental scrutiny হলেই চলবে না; সেজন্য বাইরের Financial and technical expert আনা দরকার। এখন যেমন কোন কোন বিষয়ে বাইরের technical expert এনে scrutinise করা হচ্ছে, সেভাবে যদি সমস্ত Plan এর জন্যই বাইরের লোক এবং technical expert নিয়ে একটা কমিটি করা হয় তাহলে কাজ আরও ভাল হবে। তাতে প্রত্যেক Department এর লোকও থাকবেন, এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে একটা Co-ordination হবে। এই উদ্দেশ্যে একটা Small Board করার জন্য আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

Post-War Planning এ কোটি কোটি টাকার বাজেট করেছেন, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয়, আসামে যে ১২ লক্ষ শ্রমিক আছে তাদের উন্নতির জন্য একটি টাকা ও বরাদ্দ দেখতে পাচ্ছিনা। পরোক্ষভাবে হয়ত তারা কিছু কিছু সুবিধা পেতে পারেন, কিন্তু প্রত্যক্ষভাবে তাদের জন্য একটি টাকা ও বরাদ্দ নাই। কে দেখে শ্রমিকের স্বার্থ! আমরা জানি যে Oil এবং Tea Industry র



জন্যই আসানের এত সম্পদ। Capitalist enterprise তৎকালে পাঠানো যদি শ্রমিক সম্বন্ধে নাথাকে। শ্রমিকের শক্তি একটা মত বড় শক্তি। খসড়া শক্তি যদি ঠিক মত দেশের এবং দেশের দিকে লক্ষ্য করে সংঘত করা না যায় তাহলে এটা আমাদের লক্ষে অত্যন্ত বিঘ্ন সঙ্কুল অবস্থা হয়ে উঠবে। আমরা জানি যে এই প্রদেশে ডাটা অন্যান্য প্রদেশে যেমন Labour Worker আছেন তাদের বিশেষ দুটি আসানের তেলের খনির উপর আছে। যদি আমাদের তেলের খনি এবং চা বাগানের শ্রমিককে সম্বন্ধে এবং লক্ষ্যবদ্ধ করে বন্ধুর মত কথা নাথাক এবং সরকার যদি তাদের উন্নতির জন্য বিশেষ চেষ্টা না করেন তাহলে এটা আমাদের লক্ষে একটা অত্যন্ত বিপন্ন সঙ্কুল অবস্থার সৃষ্টি করবে। সেজন্য যাহে Labour Welfare এর জন্য বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা করা হয় সে বিষয়ে সরকারের দুটি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

অনিয়মাবলি বলেছেন এবং আমিও small industry ইত্যাদি দ্বারা জনসাধারণের উন্নতি করার জন্য অনুরোধ করব। কিন্তু কি পরিমাণ টাকা big industryতে যাবে, কি পরিমাণ টাকা buildingএ যাবে এবং কি পরিমাণ জনসাধারণের কাজে এবং labour welfareএ যাবে তার আনুপাতিক হিসাব করে যদি বাজেট প্রস্তুত করা হয় তাহলেই দেশের লোকও কিছু পাবে। না হলে post create করতে করতেই এবং building করতে করতেই সব টাকা শেষ হয়ে যাবে এবং জনসাধারণের কল্যাণের জন্য কোন টাকাই থাকবে না। সেজন্য দেশের জনসাধারণের কল্যাণের জন্য প্রকৃতপক্ষে যাহে কতকগুলি টাকা যায় এবং তাদের সহায়তার জন্যই টাকা ব্যয় করা হয় তার জন্য percentage হিসাবেই টাকা বরাদ্দ রাখা কঠিন।

আর একটা কথা হচ্ছে যে scheme এ লেখা আছে যে discharged personnel এর বিশেষ উন্নতির জন্য টাকা খরচ করা সরকার এবং সেজন্য Central Government বিশেষ কিছু টাকা দিবেন। আমাদের প্রদেশে discharged personnel অনেক আছে, কিন্তু তাদের উন্নতির জন্য বিশেষ কোন scheme নাই দুই একটা নামে মাত্র আছে। সেজন্য separate scheme থাকলে আমরা separate টাকা পেতে পারি।

Post create করার সম্বন্ধে আমি বলতে চাই যে recurring expenditure ক্রমশঃ বাড়বে। সেজন্য প্রথম থেকেই কত recurring expenditure হবে এবং কত non-recurring expenditure হবে তার জন্য বিশেষ লক্ষ্য রাখা সরকার। নাহলে পাবে এমন কতকগুলি heavy expenditure হয়ে যাবে যে, জনসাধারণের সম্বলের জন্য কিছুই ঠিক থাকবে না। জনসাধারণের কাছে যাহে বেশী টাকা যায় তারজন্যই আমি গভর্ণমেন্টের দুটি আকর্ষণ করি।

(The hon. Member spoke in Bengalee and suggested—the draining of the Surma and the Brahmaputra rivers, provision of more money for the Embankment and Drainage Department, which should be treated as a separate portfolio of Government, to employ greater number of people on Productive machinery under the Post-War Schemes, to develop the natural wealth of the Province in Productive Schemes, to give facility to Private enterprises in small industries in order to increase the Productive capacity of the people, to make special arrangement for the labour welfare of the Province and to launch a scheme for the improvement of dis-charged personnel.)

**Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot certainly support the Motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Palmer for total refusal of the entire Demand. The schemes provided may not be satisfactory to all. I was personally under the impression that something definite would come out for the economic



and educational upliftment of the backward people. I think, Sir, the Ministry has got the greater responsibility for the development of the backward areas and backward people of this Province. There are some new schemes under different Departments of the Government but nowhere I find any new scheme for the development of the backward areas and backward people of the Province. Sir, if we look at the map we find that along the Himalayan Mountain, just parallel to the railway line, a vast area of land inhabited by the backward tribal people is lying without care by anybody. There are crying demands for communication, education and sanitation, but no arrangements are there for any of them for the people living there. The people living to the north of the railway line and along the Himalayan ranges have to depend mainly on the irrigation system for cultivating their lands. They have got their own system of irrigation from time immemorial for cultivation of their lands. The system is already there to be taken up by Government. So if we can help them by giving them irrigation facilities, a vast area of land in that region can be brought under cultivation.....

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA:** Sir, on a point of order, I may point out that some time may be allotted separately for a discussion on the Statement made by the Hon'ble Minister. We are now holding a discussion on certain specific points relating to the Cut Motions.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Cut Motion standing in the name of Mr. Palmer seems to be an omnibus one. So the Hon'ble Minister sought permission of the Chair to make a Statement under this Demand, which is relevant. Now what is the effect of this? When the Hon'ble Minister sought permission to make a Statement, as I have stated, by way of explanation, I had to go by the sense of the House, and no one objected to giving such a permission, and so the Hon'ble Minister made the Statement, which was in fact scheduled for the last day of the Session. We have precedents before us to the effect that all hon. Members who table Cut Motions can take part under an omnibus Cut Motion covering their subjects just to economise time and the Hon'ble Minister concerned gives his reply once. Now, when the hon. Member has raised a point of order, I want to instruct myself with the sense of the House as to whether hon. Members desire to have another date for a debate on that Statement just made by the Hon'ble Minister or a debate may be held under this Cut Motion. If we take the latter course I have my own choice whether permission is to be taken or not, but, as I have stated it already, I will go by the sense of the House. If the hon. Members want to have a debate on the Statement it can be held on a later date for which there is no difficulty. We try to arrange the programme according to the convenience of the hon. Members—as I have always made it clear.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** May I submit one thing, Sir? While moving the Demand the Hon'ble Minister was entitled to make a speech as he was really presenting the Post-War Planning Budget. Although my Colleague, the Planning and Development Minister, asked for your permission to make a Statement he could proceed to make his speech without your permission to Sir. So, I think, the Statement which is really his speech on the whole demand has opened up the whole field for discussion and the House has a right to a debate on this Motion here and now and a separate date for a debate on the Statement need not be fixed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I do not think there is any reason for refusing hon. Members the advantage of having a debate or discussion on the Statement.



**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS :** I submit, Sir, that the Statement was scheduled for the last date and this was the original idea. But when the Hon'ble Minister has chosen to make a Statement today then the whole question has come under discussion. Then, Sir, there is another aspect of the question also. The Mover of the Cut Motion has moved for the total refusal of the Grant and has placed before the House various considerations touching on the whole subject of Planning and Development. And so, both the main Motion and the Cut Motion have placed before the House the whole field of the Post-War Planning to be discussed now.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The difficulty is that only three hours were allotted for this Demand for Grants.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS :** It was not stated that the Statement would be discussed. The real discussion would come under the Budget head. There was, I think, no discussion on the last occasion when he made a similar statement.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I will have to see whether time can be given if the allotted three hours time is not found sufficient for a full debate. I cannot allow one party to take up the whole day in discussion. If the hon. Members want to have more time, I will certainly have to allot another day for the purpose.

Now, what is the intention of the hon. Member who has raised this point of order?

**Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA :** My idea is this, Sir, that this discussion on some specific Cut Motion might be separated from a general discussion on the Statement made by the Hon'ble Minister. If possible, the Cut Motions must be finished to-day. The Statement made by the Hon'ble Minister is nothing but an amplification of the brochure that has been sent to all the hon. Members. It was good of him that he has tried to explain the position by making that Statement. He does not thereby place the hon. Members at a disadvantage to understand the Budget and to give their contribution by a discussion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The discussion to-day will be confined to the Cut Motion, but I shall allot time for a debate on the Statement made by the Hon'ble Minister.

Now I call upon hon. Mr. Brahma to continue his speech.

**Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA :** Sir, I was speaking on irrigation. There in the northern portion of the Province especially in the districts of Kamrup, Goalpara and Darrang people have got irrigation system and there are innumerable channels on which people depend for cultivating their land. I think, Sir, Government should make a survey of all these innumerable irrigation channels and try to regulate and control them, and where necessary Government should come forward to aid the cultivators with money for their maintenance.

Regarding education, Sir, we find that no provision has been made in the post-war development scheme for the backward areas where there are no schools, especially no Middle Vernacular and secondary schools. At least some Middle Vernacular Schools should be started in those backward areas. Government should also increase the number of scholarships for the students of Backward Tribal people.



As regards communications, we do not find a single road in the backward areas about which I am speaking, and we also find that not a single project has been taken for development of communications in those backward areas. I especially draw the attention of the Government to provide communication facilities to the people of those areas.

Then, Sir, when we think of the post-war development scheme we cannot lose sight of the most important matter, *i.e.*, supply of drinking water to the rural people. I think that factor ought to have been considered by Government at the time of framing their post-war schemes. We all know how difficult it is to get drinking water in interior places. It would have been a great gesture on the part of Government if a definite scheme could be taken up to give good drinking water to the people of these interior backward areas. With these remarks, Sir, I do not see the reason why the total demand should be refused. We may give suggestions to the Ministry so that they might bear them in mind at the time of framing their different schemes. I think it will not be wise to refuse the entire demand altogether.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard with rapt attention the suggestions given by my hon. Friends who have taken part in the debate on this Cut Motion. Sir, I am sure, you have noticed the course of debate from different hon. Members. I really did not expect that the Cut Motion for the total refusal of this demand—I mean the Planning and Development demand—would be moved by our European Friends. Sir, I admit that I was very much wrong to think that such a Cut Motion would not be moved from that Group. It is quite natural, Sir, that this Group do not want that there should be any development in this country. Sir, the other day while the hon. Deputy Speaker was in the Chair and my Hon'ble Colleague the Finance Minister was replying to the Budget discussions, the hon. Leader of the European group intervened at least 10 times and the main object of that intervention was that why Government did not anticipate and provide money under the head "Planning and Development". Sir, it is quite natural that this Group would blow both hot and cold in the same breath. What the hon. Members of the European Group seem to demand is something like this. They say to Government "Deliver the goods" but do so without any means of production—we are asked to be very very cautious practically amounting to no action. "You, young boys, you minors, do not proceed ahead, just wait and see"—that is the attitude of this Group. We are considered to be born minors and even when we shall die we shall remain minors in the eyes of our hon. Friends of the European Group. Sir, you have heard from Mr. Das, his intention regarding planning. Government also share his views that we must go ahead. It may be that there might be a few mistakes, but, Sir, if we always think of the future in terms of mistakes and doubts and hesitate in the way suggested by our European well-wishers, in that case this Province will certainly remain behind and there will be no chance of any progress. We have got at present very good chance for making a headway as the Central Government are willing to give us some grant now. If we think over the matter for years and years as to how the money could be spent there is no chance of making any headway. At the same time, Sir, I admit that we should not leap in the dark. Certainly, Sir, when we want to spend some money it is the duty of every sensible and sane man to take necessary precautions. But in the name of precautions if we are asked not to proceed, I am sorry, Sir, I cannot help my Friends of the European Group. Sir, we are hearing all this advice now. May I ask one pertinent question? What were my Friends, who were? and are still ruling the country, doing all these years in this direction? Why did they not give these suggestions to the previous Government which was backed by this particular Group? This Group cannot think of our progress, because it is against their interest. We have



been exploited long and we are determined not to be exploited any more. They should take note of it.

Now, Sir, we are going to make a headway and they are pulling the reins from behind. Once we hear "why did you not do this or that?" And on another occasion we hear "why are you doing this or that?" Sir, we are really in the horns of a dilemma, so far as this Group is concerned. In the Cut Motion as well as in the arguments advanced in this connection it is quite evident that the intention of the European Group is to refuse the total demand for grants for Planning and Development and why?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** How long will the Hon'ble Minister take?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Not very long, Sir.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 p m

*(After lunch)*

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the attitude of the different speakers. Sir, my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Cut Motion is an old Member of this House. But, Sir, from his speech I was really very sorry to note that he managed to forget what happened during the past Sessions and he paid no heed to my introductory speech which I delivered this morning. Sir, I did not expect that this sort of Cut Motion would come from a Member of Mr. Palmer's standing. Sir, it might be that he had no free hand in the matter, but with regret, I venture to say that if he was advised by any body he was badly advised. His adviser did great injustice to him. Sir, from his speech it is quite evident that he totally forgot about the past and paid no heed to the points which I raised and explained in my speech. Sir, most probably I am not wrong that my hon. Friend is a tea planter. Now, if I want tea from him and at the same time if I say that he will not get land, he will not get machinery, he will not get labour, will it be possible for him to manufacture tea? The same case is with this Government, Sir; we have been asked and advised to deliver the goods at the same time we are not given the opportunity of taking the means to produce the goods. Sir, in so many words they do not venture to say that we should not take up any development schemes but they do so in the disguise of waring for proper precaution as our well-wishers.

**Mr. R. A. PALMER:** On a point of explanation, Sir. The question of not providing funds is not what I said this morning. I pointed out that it would be very much better to wait a few months only to put in supplementary grants which is a very different matter from what the Hon'ble Minister is stating before the House now.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, if it is necessary, certainly we shall come forward with supplementary demands. I am almost sure that we shall have to come before this House with supplementary demands. As I made it perfectly clear, Sir, we are not in a position, with regard to certain matters to have a complete picture of the same before us. Now, Sir, we have placed orders for certain machinery the price of which has not yet been quoted to us. We have placed orders but on the basis of the current price we have got some rough idea and we have provided some money.



It is well known to hon. Members, specially to the members of the European Group. Sir, how prices are fluctuating in the United Kingdom as well as in the United States of America, from where we are expecting our machinery to be indented.

Sir, we have admitted, not only once, but on several occasions, that at present due to various difficulties it is not possible for us to give a complete picture in detail to the hon. Members of this House. This point of view was admitted by my hon. Friend, Mr. Morley. He appreciated our difficulties. Sir, without taking advantage of our straightforwardness, of our truthfulness, I hope that hon. Members will give constructive suggestions by which we can get rid of our present difficulties and we can make a head-way. Sir, Mr. Patterson delivered his speech and I thank him that his speech was constructive like Mr. Morley's. Sir, when there are some constructive criticism, some good advice and instructions worthy of taking note, we can give this much assurance to the hon. Members of this House to whichever party they belong, that this Government will certainly pay due respect and attention to those suggestions. But, Sir, this matter could have been discussed and the pointed attention of the Government could have been drawn in a different and decent way. The way chosen by the European Group is not a desirable one. Sir, a Cut Motion, with a cut of a rupee or two or rupees 100 could have been tabled for this purpose and this matter could have been brought to our notice. Instead of doing that they want to refuse the grant altogether. Why? The reply is quite clear; it is this, that our Friends of the European Group do not want that we should be industrially developed for obvious reasons. But alas! we are not going to hear this kind of sermon any more. We have heard them for long 150 years.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** On a point of explanation, Sir. The Hon'ble Speaker, I think, gave a ruling the other day that a cut should be for Re.1 only and not for Rs.100.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Yes, Sir. But there is no harm in putting the amount of Rs.2 or Rs.3. It would be the option of the Hon'ble Speaker to reduce that amount, nobody can stop my hand and certainly this was not the ruling of the Hon'ble Speaker that if a cut is for more than Re. 1 it will not be accepted and will be rejected.

Now, Sir, it is also quite clear from the other Cut Motions tabled by other Members in the party who thought that a Motion with a cut of Re.1 only will serve their purpose. These hon. Members should have advised Mr. Palmer if not, I put the blame on the entire party. The time is fast changing, my European Friends should try to move with the time.

Now, Sir, as regards the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Omeo Kumar Das, about which I mentioned before, I can tell my hon. Friend and the hon. House also that we are thinking exactly in the same line and in the same way and our intention is exactly the same as his. I am grateful to him that he has given a very good and elaborate suggestion for the consideration of the Government which has a sincere and honest back ground.

Then, Sir, there are certain things about which we need not wait for collection of data or for any information; as for instance, pulses, mustard seed and cloth. There cannot be any iota of doubt in the minds of any hon. Member in this House that we are deficient so far as cloth, mustard seeds, pulses and Gur are concerned. Therefore, shall we wait for the collection of data or we shall make a headway? In these particular cases our intention is that there



is no harm in collecting data to know the exact position, but when we know that we are deficient, why should we not take steps so that we can increase the present production as there is no chance of over production in course of 3 or 4 years. That is a commonsense point of view. Therefore, those schemes about which we are perfectly satisfied, without waiting for data or any outside expert advice; we should go on and with that end in view we have prepared some of the schemes.

Sir, our present schemes are to remove the difficulties which we are experiencing at present and also the difficulties that may come before us for launching out full programme in the future. When this fact is admitted by some of the hon. Members of the European Group, I cannot understand why all the hon. Members should not help us. Some of them are criticising us for the sake of criticism. Sir, it was mentioned in the course of the speech that not only the hon. Members but this Province also has got a very bad experience about the State,—managed organisation. May I ask in confidence Mr Palmer and the present Leader of the European Group who were at the helm of this organisation when it was started, whose master-piece it was to make this organisation a discreditable one? Sir, who is to be blamed for the failure of this organisation? I pause for a reply.

**Mr. R. A. PALMER:** The Minister may reply himself.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Yes, Sir, I can, it was our European Friends. Now, Sir, Government is not unmindful of the fact which I have stated on several occasions, that this organisation as it is run at present is not at all desirable. I am entirely at one with them—not only myself but the present Government is entirely at one with them. This kind of organisation may be preferred during the war time when everything was topsy-turvy, when there was no question of high wage, no question of high salary and nothing of the kind, somehow or other to go on. There were plenty of money to squander about. But when things are coming to normal we should be given this much credit that we have realised the present situation and feel that this organisation in the present state of affairs and under the present circumstances cannot be profitably run. This Government was not responsible for creating this organisation and running it at the beginning, but, Sir, before a step is taken, before a thing is condemned, I think, every hon. Member will agree with me that Government should know causes for which this organisation has come to such state. Therefore, we appointed an Enquiry Committee after we took office. The report of the Enquiry Committee in two parts has been placed before the Government and the Government is considering what steps should be taken now. I can assure the hon. Members that they will not take long to arrive at a decision.

So far as the question of having expert opinion is concerned, I can tell the hon. Members of this House that in big industries which we are intending to take up, we are taking expert advice from outside. So far as sugar is concerned, those who are interested and have sent suggestions to the Government, have been invited to come up here for a discussion on the 26th of this month. So far as paper is concerned, Sir, we have no expert in our Province. We tried from other places but could not secure. Therefore, we approached the Central Government and the Central Government was kind enough to depute one of their experts, Mr. Bhandery, who came to this Province, toured both the Valleys and went back with necessary data and information and has recently submitted a scheme which is also under the consideration of the Government. Then as regards textile, Sir, I myself went to Calcutta with our Industrial Adviser and secretary, Planning and Development Department and discussed the matter



with experts there, and we took their opinion. Then we went to Ahmadabad. There also we discussed with big Guns and took their opinion. Next we went to Bombay and there also we took expert opinion. By expert, I mean, those who are connected with more than one mill at least.

After taking advice of these people we consulted the Engineers at Bombay and then we placed our orders with the manufacturers according to the advice of these experts. Now, Sir, the details of these are yet to be discussed and arrived at. In this matter we are thinking whether we should set up an Advisory Committee. I should like to tell the hon. Members, of the European Group, that it is quite natural that we should be more vigilant to protect the interest of our Province and to see that our money is not wasted. I am glad that they are also at one with us in this matter and that they are giving us timely warning. I am grateful to them for this. But, Sir, as I have said before, this should have been done in a different way.

Some hon. Members have said that we are not going to give any facilities for private enterprises. I can say, Sir, that the Government is contemplating to take up only 5 Industries. As regards Hydro-Electricity, nobody has mentioned that there are private companies or firms who are willing to take this up and so it is our duty to take up this scheme. It has been mentioned by some hon. Members that cheap electricity should be given to the general public and to the industrialists so that our cottage industries as well as big industries may thrive. The Government is also at one with them in this respect. Sir, I have mentioned about 3 industries before and the only remaining one is the Jute Industry. Now, Sir, excluding these 5 industries there are hundreds of industries but we find very little enthusiasm for those industries. Fortunately for the province and unfortunately for the capitalists-Government have decided that these 5 industries should be State-owned and, therefore, the attention of everybody—"by everybody" I mean the Capitalists, has been focussed only on these 5 industries, as if there are no other industries, there is no scope for investing and earning money and there is no scope for improving the condition of the Province. I can tell the hon. Members that if any private enterprises approach the Government in respect of other industries, certainly Government will give their full co-operation and assistance to make their enterprises successful. In some cases, even if Government are willing to participate and even if Government do not participate, all possible facilities will be afforded to those who would take up those industries.

Sir, there was a suggestion that a body of Technical Financial experts should be formed. The suggestion will be borne in mind by Government and Government will see how best they can utilise this suggestion.

Sir my hon. Friend Mr. Sen Gupta gave some very good suggestions and they will be borne in mind and I can tell him that some of them are already in our schemes and the rest will be scrutinised and if found sound will be taken up one by one. As regards Mr. Sen Gupta's suggestion regarding use of Government of India's grant for productive schemes, I am sorry to inform him that the Government of India will not allow us to spend the money, which will be given for the general improvement of the Province, on productive schemes, *viz.*, State owned industries (proposed).

In conclusion, Sir, I can tell the hon. Members that the suggestions-which they have given will be very carefully considered by this Government.

Now, as regards the last point mentioned by Mr. Sen Gupta that Government should do something for the labourers and the point mentioned by our hon. Friend Mr. Brahma about the Tribal people, it might be, Sir, that in so many words no money has been provided for these two classes but certainly if a Medical College is started or an Engineering or an Agricultural College is started, all the people, all



the inhabitants of the Province will get the same quality, as is done by the labourers and the Tribal people. Sir, I am grateful to God and especially thankful for the day when in India and especially in Assam there will be no distinction between the rich and the poor, between the employees and the employers, between the hills, Surma Valley and the Assam Valley people. As we have decided to be treated equally, I am eagerly waiting for that day when we will be equal. If that Assam is our Province, there will be no difference of interests. The interests are common for all of us and we are all equally interested in its welfare. If we are all equal on these lines we shall certainly be in a position to reach the goal of the place not only in India but in the World.

I hope, Sir, after what I have said, there will be no response from any quarters in opposing the Demand and with this I am, Sir, concluding.

**Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** : What will be the Government's policy regarding water in the rural areas, Sir?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** : I have no reply to the question for that. In the Post-War Reconstruction Budget, the water supply schemes are reserved and how it will be worked out will be decided later.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : What does the Hon'ble Member propose to do with his Cut Motion?

**Mr. R. A. PALMER** : In view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister's reply, I shall propose my Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : I see I am getting a question.

The question is:

"That the total grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 under Grant No. 32, Major head 63-B, Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, at page 195 of the Budget, be refused, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand refused".

The question was lost.

We pass on to Cut Motion No. 3. It stands in the name of Mr. Tunstall.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL** : In view of the fact that most of the Members of my Group who have † Cut Motions to move with fewer cuts will have an opportunity of making statements in reply to Hon'ble Mr. Mookerjee's statement. We have

†3. **Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL** to move:

That the provision of Rs. 17,41,500 under Grant No. 32, Major head 63-B, Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 37, Education (total), at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To draw attention to the desirability of providing supplementary training in all high schools to prepare the students for leadership.)

4. **Mr. H. PATTERSON** to move:

That the provision of Rs. 40,17,500 under Grant No. 32, Major head 63-B, Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 38, Medical (total), at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To criticise certain aspects of the Government's Post-War Development Schemes under heading Medical.)

5. **Mr. J. S. R. TELFER** to move:

That the provision of Rs. 40,17,500 under Grant No. 32, Major head 63-B, Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 38, Medical (total), at page 190 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

(To criticise certain aspects of the Government's Post-War Development Schemes under heading Medical.)



decided not to move the other Cut Motions up to No.13, which stands in my name, and with your permission, Sir, I wish to move that now.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then we pass on to Cut Motion No.13.

6. Mr. H. PATTERSON to move :

That the provision of Rs.16,82,500 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 39.—Public Health (total), at page 191 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise certain aspects of Government's Post-War Development Schemes for Tuberculosis Organisation.)

7. Mr. H. J. STEVENS to move :

That the provision of Rs.16,82,500 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 39.—Public Health (total), at page 191 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To criticise certain aspects of Government's Post-War Development Schemes for Tuberculosis Organisation.)

8. Mr. H. J. STEVENS to move :

That the provision of Rs.16,82,500 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 39.—Public Health (total), at page 191 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To draw the attention of Government to the importance of strengthening the Department of the Public Analyst for Assam in order to ensure the proper working of the proposed new Pure Food Act, 1947.)

9. Mr. J. S. R. TELFER to move :

That the provision of Rs.16,82,500 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 39.—Public Health (total), at page 191 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To draw the attention of Government to the importance of strengthening the Department of the Public Analyst for Assam in order to ensure the proper working of the proposed new Pure Food Act, 1947.)

10. Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL to move :

That the provision of Rs.50,83,000 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 40.—Agriculture, Sub-head D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, Detailed head 1.—Grow-More-Food Campaign (total), at page 191 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To draw attention to the omission of any provision for any experimental work or mechanised farming.)

11. Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL to move :

That the provision of Rs.50,83,000 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 40.—Agriculture, Sub-head D.—Agricultural Experiments and Research, 1.—Grow-More-Food Campaign (total), at page 191 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To draw attention to the desirability of making provision for the encouragement of private enterprise in large scale mechanised farming particularly in the production of oil-seeds and pulses.)

12. Mr. A. C. TUNSTALL to move :

That the provision of Rs.2,25,000 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 42.—Co-operation, Sub head F.—Other Charges, Detailed head 2.—Co-operative Collective Farming, at page 193 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(To draw attention to the inadvisability of embarking on schemes of collective co-operative farming without previous experience of mechanised agriculture in Assam.)



**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 2,01,62,000 under grant No. 32, Major head 63—B—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 43—Industries, Sub-head A,—Industrial Development (total), at page 193 of the Budget, be refused, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 2,01,62,000. My object of moving this Cut Motion is to point out that the mandatory Financial Rules regarding the inclusion of detailed expenditure in this case have not been observed.

Sir, there has been a very serious infringement of the rights of this House by Government in framing the portion of the Demand included in Grant No. 32 under the Minor head 43.—Industries, A—Industrial Development. It will be seen from page 193 of the estimates that a sum of Rs. 2,01,62,000 is proposed to be spent on (a) Interim Schemes and (b) New Schemes. Of this, two crores is for State Owned Major Industries.

A reference has been made in the Appendix containing the Budget for the Post-War Development Schemes of the Government of Assam for 1947-48 at page 132. There against the whole of the items included on this page, it is stated that details are under preparation. I need perhaps say no more than that the omission to furnish details renders this portion of the Demand for a grant completely invalid. It is a recognised right of this House to examine and discuss proposals for expenditure, before it is voted, and I am at a loss to understand how any Member can examine or discuss schemes when details of the schemes have not been supplied. It is a responsibility of Government to see that the Budget Estimates are placed before this House in a proper form, and they have not discharged that obligation in respect of a very large sum proposed for expenditure, a sum almost equivalent to the pre-war expenditure of the Province. The Manual prepared by Government places clearly on the Finance Department the onus of seeing that Estimates to be placed before the House, are in the accepted form and contain details essential for the appreciation and examination of the new expenditure.

With your permission, Sir, I will quote a few extracts from the Budget Manual of the Government of Assam:

Page 1.—“The duty of preparing these important estimates and proposals for grants is laid upon the Finance Department under rule 17(h)(3) of the Business Instructions framed under section 59(3) of the Act and it is empowered to obtain from the Departments concerned material on which to base its estimates.”

The relevant portion of Rule 17(h)(3), as far as this issue is concerned, is as follows:—

Page 14.—“The Finance Department shall examine and advise on all new schemes of new expenditure for which it is proposed to make provision in the estimates, and shall decline to provide in the estimates for any scheme which has not been so examined”.

This language is clear and precise. There is no option given. It is a mandate. No examination of schemes—no inclusion in the Budget.

The provision in Rule 17(h)(3) already referred to is reiterated in paragraph 53 of the Budget Manual. It is there stated that “No scheme should be submitted after 30th September”. This provision is designed to ensure that schemes in complete form are submitted in sufficient time for expert examination, and it is implicit in the administrative arrangements that only schemes complete with full details can be admitted into the Budget Estimates.

Paragraph 55 lays down that Votable expenditure—and this provision in Grant No. 32 is votable—must be specifically provided for by means of a schedule of New Schemes



What a schedule is, Sir, is already well-known to Members but to illustrate my point I will draw attention to the extent of detail which normally goes into a schedule of new expenditure. If hon. Members will turn to page xi of Appendix A of the Memorandum on the Budget Estimates, they will find under 37.—Education—Government Secondary Schools for boys—Pay of Establishment, a new scheme involving an expenditure of only Rs.572. This scheme is explained in no less than six lines of print and the calculation showing how the sum of Rs.572 is reached is clearly worked out. There is, however, not a word about expenditure of over two crores of rupees.

Allow me to refer to a footnote on page 8 of the pamphlet "Progress of Assam's Planning". There it is stated that the Centre has promised to advance loans for starting State-owned industries, subject to the schemes being proved to be financially sound, which Government state they hope it will be possible to prove. The Central Government will advance a loan, not secured on the schemes, but on the general revenues of the Province. Even so, they wish to be assured that the money will be wisely invested. The tax-payer, who is an ordinary shareholder in a State enterprise, is entitled to be given the company prospectus and full details of how profit is to be secured by these share enterprises. We, who represent the tax-payers, have a responsibility for seeing, no less than the Government of India who are merely lending the money, that the Schemes are proved to be financially sound.

In conclusion I would submit that this portion of Demand No. 32 is entirely unconstitutional and that this House should not be asked to vote these funds. It will, of course, be open to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to delete this provision and arrange for the inclusion of expenditure under this minor head by means of a Supplementary Demand some time later when details have been examined by the Finance Department and supplied for the consideration of Members of this House. It is painful for me to have to draw such pointed attention to the failure of the Finance Department on whom this House so largely relies for control of Government's spending. The business instructions of the Government of Assam state unequivocally; "The Finance Department of the Government shall be responsible for the application of the principles of sound finance."

We have listened with great attention to the speech given by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Planning and Development and regret to note that he has completely failed to grasp the point firstly, of our objection to money being spent in anticipation of sanction in the current year, and secondly that in the Post-war Plan money is to be voted without there being any considered financial plan or any detailed examination of the individual schemes.

This, Sir, is not blowing hot and cold: there is a correct road to take. One can deviate either to the right-hand or the left-hand and fall into serious difficulties. Any deviation, Sir, from this straight road involves depriving this House of its legitimate right—the right of full discussion before supply is voted.

We have said on numerous occasions to-day that we are not opposed to Post-War Planning and that we support the principles entirely. But we consider that it is a serious mistake to spend in haste and have to repent at leisure. It is not a question of politics but of administration, and I trust that the Hon'ble Finance Minister will recognise that a serious mistake has been made which can only be remedied by deletion of this provision.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved: "That the provision of Rs. 2,01,62,000 under Grant No. 32, Major head 63B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 43.—Industries, Sub-head A.—Industrial Development Schemes, (total), at page 193 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 2,01,62,000."



**Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to oppose the Cut Motion moved by hon. Mr. Faull asking this House to refuse the grant of Rs.2,01,62,000.

Sir, when Mr. Palmer and Mr. Morley moved their Motions asking the House to refuse the major Grant of 4 crores odd rupees they made certain pertinent suggestions and those suggestions, I am sure, the Government must give due consideration to and will act up to them. It is well known, Sir, that the Government has accepted the policy of nationalisation. Whether the policy is good or not and whether it should have been accepted or not, is open to discussion. For a lot can be said for nationalisation, and perhaps more against nationalisation, and many instances of failures may be cited. Now here, however, is a question that the industries are to be run by Government, the policy to that effect has been explained by the Government. We are now to examine the question as to what is possible to be done at this stage. The schemes that the Government have in view are the establishment of cotton mills, jute mills and sugar mills. As is well known, all these industries have proved to be very successful in the hands of private industrialists. These are some of the schemes which are working successfully provided proper arrangements are made. If there is a suggestion that the Government will not be able to make proper arrangements for want of experts or technical personnel that are required for the purpose, then no one can be successful in such schemes on the same grounds. Government has ample resources at its command to get together technical experts, technicians and such other persons that may be required in a scheme like this. As you know, Sir, and as the Hon'ble Minister has mentioned already, it is at present not possible to have exact quotations for a cotton mill or sugar mill or a jute mill. Manufacturers, whether in England, in Switzerland or in America, do not quote any definite price at the present moment, and their prices are subject to fluctuation. So, unless definite quotations are available for the machinery required, the schemes that are in hand cannot be given effect to at all. When it is not possible for Government to have definite quotations of prices of such machinery from the manufacturers and if the Government has to wait for exact rupees, annas and pies then the schemes cannot be put into practice.....

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** Then, Sir, what is the basis for Government to include an exact figure in the Demand?

**Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA:** Perhaps that has been ascertained on the basis of different quotations that have been made or perhaps that represents the amount of money that the Government of India has agreed to give by way of a grant or by way of a loan. Sir, when there is an acute shortage of cloth, sugar and many other things in the country, Assam has been allotted money for starting a number of mills, like cotton mills, jute mills, sugar mills and so on, in the Province. If we are to wait indefinitely to know the exact figures of rupees, annas and pies then these schemes cannot be put through. So, that should not be a reason to oppose the original Motion or to refuse the whole Grant altogether.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Faull is this: according to the mandatory provision in the Financial Rules no detailed expenditure has been shown for a particular amount and so he desires that the House should refuse that particular amount. Now, Sir, as the matter stands at present, this money is still in the air because we shall have to take it from the Central Government as loan for our productive schemes. It has already been pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr.



Himatsingka, for which purpose we have allotted this amount. Sir, in my Statement I mentioned this point also and while I was replying to the previous Cut Motion I made mention of this particular item. Sir, we have ordered for the machinery, but we do not know the price. The details are not yet known and cannot also be found out from here; these details must come from the countries, with whom we have placed orders. Now, Sir, as I mentioned before, while you were absent and the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker was in the Chair the other day, the same Mr. Faull blamed my Hon'ble Friend the Finance Minister for not having anticipated expenditure on this head and for not providing money for the same but for coming before the House all on a sudden for a big sum. Sir, at the time of preparing the scheme we had no definite idea as to what would be the attitude of the Central Government. That attitude was clear to us only after a Conference that was held at Delhi in May last. Then only we came to know what was our position and what minimum amount we could expect from the Central Government. Now, Sir, we have placed orders for the machineries for cotton mills; these may arrive in course of a year or so and in that case we must have buildings to house the machineries. So, we have made provision for this lump sum. It is not going to be spent from the provincial revenues; it will be a loan money, and, as has been stated by the hon. Mover himself, the Government of India are there. They have given us a warning that before they give us any loan they want to satisfy themselves that the schemes which are going to be taken up are sound and would ultimately be productive. The check is here.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is it the Hon'ble Minister's point that the matter concerns only the Government of India and the Assam Government, and the rate-payers have got no say in the matter?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** No, Sir, that is not my point. My point is that there is the safety valve for ascertaining whether the schemes we are going to take up are sound or not. The schemes will first be checked by the Central Government before they make any advance to us—if even a farthing. That has already been pointed out by my hon. Friend the Mover of this Cut Motion. He knows it. The provision is for machineries and buildings. Now, Sir, we have got a scheme from an expert of the Government of India regarding Paper Industry... ..

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is the amount of two crores meant for buildings only?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** No, Sir, for machineries and buildings. Now, Sir, we may get either the Cotton Textile machinery or the Paper Mill machinery. The details will come.....

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** After the expenditure is voted! That is what we are complaining about.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** We have simply made some provision to meet any emergency.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The point raised by the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion is a very important one. He says that certain statutory financial rules have been violated.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** It is not so, Sir. As I have already mentioned we shall come before the House with details as soon as we get them.



Now, Sir, as I was going to mention, we have placed orders and we shall surely be required to deposit some money in advance.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Why did Government not come with a token demand for rupee one?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** That would not have been proper, Sir. When we are going to spend crores of rupees, it would not have been fair to the House to come forward with a demand for rupee one knowing full well that the return will not be obtained during the year.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is it fair to ask for two crores of rupees without telling the House how the amount will be spent?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I am giving the explanation, Sir. The money will be spent for buildings and machinery *etc.*, Sir, the position would have been all the same if I had asked for a token grant of rupee one. In that case, the criticism would have been that while Government were going to spend crores of rupees they had come forward with a demand for rupee one only. So, Sir, it will be appreciated that we must make provision for paying advance against our order for machinery. If we do not make any provision now, but come forward with this demand at the far end of the year when we know it for certain that we would incur some expenditure in the meantime, we would be liable to criticism.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** On a point of information, Sir. Can the Hon'ble Minister kindly give us some idea of the method by which he arrived at any figure? He said he has no details at this stage, but he must have made some calculation by which he arrived at any particular figure, against which he gave absolutely no details. All the explanations now given might well have filled the blank spaces that are in the estimates.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** In this connection I would like to mention one thing, Sir. That point was raised on a previous occasion also. I am sorry I could not touch that point. The Budget with regard to the Post-War Development Schemes was placed very late. We are not to be blamed for that because the Government of India approved the schemes very late. It was therefore beyond our power to place them before the hon. Members earlier. We have taken the earliest possible opportunity.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** When were the proposals sent to the Government of India?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** They were sent long before.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What was the date?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I do not remember the exact date, Sir. But a date was fixed by the Government of India and we sent our proposals before that date. It was either the latter part of October or the beginning of November last. When we got the approval of the Central Government which was received only 6 or 7 days before, we brought this out before the



hon. Members—all possible steps were taken to expedite the matter. But there were some factors which were beyond the control of this Government, and the matter could not be done earlier. So, I hope the the hon. Members will appreciate our difficulties and not blame us for the drawbacks for which we are not at all responsible.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** The correct way of dealing with this situation was to leave the demand for the time being, until Government could deal with it regularly and bring in a Supplementary Demand with full details possibly during the adjourned part of this Session.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** That is where we do not agree, and see eye to eye with each other. There lies the difference. Sir, whatever money will be spent in this connection the hon. Members will know in details afterwards.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** After spending the money or before spending the money?

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Certainly after spending the money, Sir. Otherwise what is the good of having this demand for grant passed, unless we are authorised to spend the voted money? There may not be any detail for this, just at the present moment, but it is due to the fact that we do not know what percentage of price of the machinery will be demanded by the manufactures. That is our difficulty. They may ask for 25 per cent., 30 per cent., 40 per cent. But whatever they ask they must be paid for immediately. If we follow the line suggested by the hon. Member, we will be late by a year at least in getting our machinery. Moreover, the manufacturers won't wait for us. There is a great demand for the machinery from different provinces as well as from private individuals and unless we can satisfy the manufacturers on their terms and conditions we might not get the machinery in time. That is our difficulty. Supposing, Sir, we come to learn that the machinery we have ordered for will be available here in the month of December or January we must arrange for keeping them, even if a building or a factory is not possible, at least under some sheds. These are the things over which we have no control and we do not know exactly what will be our position and what terms the manufacturers will dictate. It is not an ordinary common place transaction that if a firm do not agree, another firm will agree. That is not the position in this particular case. Therefore, we have made this lump provision and we propose to come forward with details, if available in the meantime, before this hon. House get some money in our hand for the machinery and buildings it will be simply impossible to carry on. We appreciate the idea of the hon. Member but the thing is that if we are to stick to that principle, if it is the desire of the House to come forward with the demand when everything is settled, then nothing will happen and the progress will be deterred. I hope, in the circumstances and with the explanation that I have already given the hon. Member will see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** In the absence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister Mr. Faull made some comment on the violation of Financial Rules. Has the Hon'ble Finance Minister got anything to add?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I have not looked into that matter. But if I am permitted to make a statement on this I may say that this is just like a resolution authorising a company to take a loan and incur some expenditure. There is a proposal to take a loan from the Government of India



in order to bring some machinery and construct some buildings. As regards the details of the scheme, the price of the machinery, cost of the buildings and how the scheme will be worked, all these will be placed before the House in detail. And at that time the House will get a second chance of voting. There will be no difficulty as the entire scheme includes the expenditure involved and how the interest is proposed to be paid and how it will be profit bearing will be placed before the House again and the House will get a second chance of voting.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There may not be any difficulty with Government but will you come before the House after having spent the money?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** What I say is that, Sir, we have arranged for a loan for a particular scheme and when we get full details we will place them before the House again.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** May I ask one question to the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion, Sir? Will it be all right to spend the amount without any approval of the House and then come before the House that we have spent these 2 crores of rupees? That will, I think, be equally bad.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** It will be all right. You may come forward with a Supplementary Demand. That is what he said, a few minutes ago, if I understand him correctly.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** I did not say so, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What does the hon. Member propose to do?

**Mr. W. R. FAULL:** Sir, I have heard a hundred excuses why the Government submitted these Estimates without giving details, but I have had not one valid reason, and under the circumstances I beg to press my Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is—

“That the provision of Rs. 2,01,62,000 under Grant No. 32, Major head 63-B—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 43.—Industries, Sub-head A.—Industrial Development (total), at page 193 of the Budget, be refused, *i. e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Rs. 2,01,62,000”

The question was lost.

**Mr. E. W. B. KENNY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs. 55,30,000 under Grant No. 32 Major head 63-B—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 50—Civil Works, Sub-head A.—Original Works, Detailed head (b)—Communications, at page 195 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of this Cut Motion is to draw Government's attention to the urgent necessity of replacing the suspension bridge over the Kalapani river thus restoring all-weather communication between the East and West sides of this river in the thickly populated area in the North of the Mangaldai Subdivision. Many years ago a suspension bridge capable of carrying loads upto 3 tons was built across this river, the cost being borne equally by a European tea agency and the Mangaldai Local Board. Unfortunately during the high floods of 1942 this bridge was completely wrecked and the river banks widened.

The roads terminating on both sides of this bridge-head were modernised in 1941 under the Tea Rates Roads Scheme and subsequently handed over to the Public Works Department, and the responsibility for replacing this bridge now, of course, rests with them. We had hoped that provision would be made for this in the Budget for the Post-War Development Schemes. But in this we have been disappointed. Under item 22 at page 79 of this Budget, provision has been



made for the construction of a road from the Mangaldai town to Khoirabari Railway Station *via* Pathari Ghat. But the value of this road will be greatly decreased if there is no link between both sides of a river that in the north of this Sub-division virtually cuts the District in two. I therefore, urge that provision be made from money allotted to major bridges, if necessary, for the re-building of this bridge in addition to building of the road allowed for under item 22, heading (b)—Communications.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

“That the provision of Rs.55,30,000 under Grant No.32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 50.—Civil Works, Sub-head A.—Original Works, Detailed head (b)—Communications, at page 195 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY :** Sir, it is the desire of the Government to expedite re-building of this suspension bridge. We would like to do it if we have the money. We wanted to include this in the Provincial expenditure during this coming year. But on account of difficulties of finances we have to wait for a convenient time. But it is the intention of the Government to do the best they can. Under the present financial conditions they have to postpone it. But surely we shall keep this in mind and do the best we can.

**Mr. E. W. B. KENNY :** Having regard to this assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Cut Motion ?

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

**\*Mr. H. J. STEVENS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of what has been said previously, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my \*\*Cut Motion. (No.15).

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** If he does not want to move there is no necessity for withdrawing.

I shall now put the original Demand as a question.  
The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,91,89,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1948 for the administration of the head ‘63-B.—Post-War Development Schemes’.”

The question was adopted.

\*Speech not corrected.

\*\*15. Mr. H. J. Stevens to move :

That the provision of Rs.55,30,000 under Grant No. 32, Major head 63-B.—Expenditure on Post-War Development Schemes, Minor head 50.—Civil Works, Sub-head A.—Original Works, Detailed head (b)—Communications, at page 195 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,91,89,000. do stand reduced by Re 1.  
(To draw attention to the need for expediting the construction of bridges on the North Bank main line of communications.)



**The Assam Electricity Control (Emergency Powers) Bill, 1947**

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Electricity Control (Emergency Powers) Bill, 1947, and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir, the purposes of this Bill have been explained, partly by you, Sir, the other day, when the date for introduction of this Bill was questioned and partly by the Hon'ble Premier. At present there is control over the distribution of electrical energy. The control has been necessitated by the deterioration of the existing machinery of the different electrical installations and for want of parts to replace and repair them. Unless this control is allowed to continue which has been exercised under the Ordinance, there may be cases of breakdown in different installations. Therefore, the introduction of this Bill is necessary. But Sir, at the same time, we feel that the provision of surcharge which is under the Ordinance should not be allowed to continue under the provisions of this Bill.

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved.

"That the Assam Electricity Control (Emergency Powers) Bill, 1947 be taken into consideration."

**Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a small suggestion to make in this connection. Certainly this power is necessary to protect some of the Companies which cannot meet the demands of the public and are not in a position to give additional or new connection within the areas where they are bound to do so. But there are some Companies which are in a position to give new connections and therefore, some option should be given to such Companies that if they are in a position to meet additional demands of the public or consumers they should be allowed to do so. I know of one company which is in a position to supply the demand made of it. As a matter of fact, during the war also when there was a large demand from the Military they met it. Therefore, there should be some provision that if a Company is able to meet such demands it should not be forced to refuse it. So, there should be a proviso added for such Companies.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** I am at a loss to follow how this suggestion can come from the Jorhat Electricity Company. The Manager of the Jorhat Electricity Company wrote to us that the control should be continued by the Government. At the same time, Sir, I can see the point raised by the hon. Member and there is provision in the Bill for Government to see which installation can produce more power for distribution and according to the advice of the Electrical Adviser that power will be distributed, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Now I am putting the question.

The question is :

"That the Assam Electricity Control (Emergency Powers) Bill, 1947, be taken into consideration."

The question was adopted.

**The Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1947.**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** We now take up item No 2—Consideration of the Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1947, clause by clause.



There is one† Amendment in the name of Mr. Himatsingka. Does he desire to move his Amendment?

**Mr. PRABHUDAYAL HIMATSINGKA:** I understand from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that my Amendment may not be exactly in order. I drew the attention of the Hon'ble Finance Minister to the fact that three annas per gallon on Diesel oil or oil which is sold at annas eight or so will be much too high a rate of taxation and the Hon'ble Finance Minister has told me that Government will take that fact into consideration, and therefore, see that Diesel oil is not taxed at three annas a gallon and also see that action is taken on those lines by the Government. In view of that, I do not think, it is necessary to ask for permission to move the Amendment. I am also told that the Amendment I have tabled may not be in order as it affects the provision of the original Act as it stands.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then there is no Amendment. The Hon'ble Minister may now move the Motion for passing the Bill.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** I would like to make a statement with regard to this Amendment.

Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1947, be passed.

In moving this Motion, at the outset, I draw the attention of the hon. Members that the Amendment that has been tabled by Mr. Prabhudayal Himatsingka is out of order on two points.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I think we should not go into that as the Amendment has not been moved.

**Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA:** It is, I think, necessary for the Hon'ble Minister to clarify the position because we are going to tax the people.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It is not for the Hon'ble Minister to say whether a Motion is in order or not.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** The purpose of the Amendment is that so far as Diesel oil is concerned the tax imposed under the principal Act, under section 3, being three annas per gallon, should be reduced. This object can only be achieved by an Amendment of the principal Act so that the rate of tax imposed may not be as high as it is now. This matter will be taken into consideration by the Government, and if the principal Act needs any Amendment we would introduce it at the next opportunity.

**Babu RABINDRANATH ADITYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one fact. As soon as this Bill is passed into an Act every consumer of Diesel oil will have to pay a tax at the rate of three

† r. Prabhudayal Himatsingka to move:—

That notwithstanding anything contained in the Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Act, the tax to be levied on Diesel oil and other internal combustion oil shall not exceed 20 per cent of the value thereof or anna 1 per gallon whichever is less.



annas per gallon. Of course, as you know, it requires a severe strain on our imagination to include Diesel oil in the definition of motor spirit. Any way since it is done, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to see that before the Amendment of the parent Act is tabled, the consumers of Diesel oil are not made liable to pay the tax of three annas per gallon, because this will be a heavy tax on production. In all small rice mills and oil mills and other small industries, Diesel oil is used and that is why it will be taxing the ordinary necessities of life manufactured by small enterprisers and industrialists. Moreover, in the scheme of our industrialisation we are to see that the cost of manufacture of these commodities is as low as in other provinces, so that they can be made to compete in the open market. In that view of the matter I would request the Hon'ble Minister to take steps to exempt Diesel oil consumers from the payment of tax at the rate of three annas per gallon as soon as the Bill is passed into an Act.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Any other hon. Member taking part ?

*(After a pause)*

The question is :

That the Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1947, be passed."

The question was adopted.

**The Assam Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1947**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Item No. 3. Consideration of the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1947, clause by clause.

There are as many as 12 Amendments. Are the hon. Members going to move the Amendments ?

\* No. 1 stands in the name of hon. Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika. He is absent.

No. 2 stands in the name of hon. Srijut Lakshmidhar Borah.

**Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH :** I beg to move that in the line 3 of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, for the words "fifteen days", the words "two months" shall be substituted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Amendment moved :  
"That in line 3 of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, for the words 'fifteen days', the words 'two months' shall be substituted."

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS :** There is another Amendment which proposes that 'thirty days' shall be substituted. That should also be taken up.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The hon. Member is absent.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS :** Of course, we put down the period to be fifteen days, but although the hon. Mover has not made any speech, I quite realise that there are good reasons for increasing this period beyond fifteen days. An order passed by a District Magistrate sometimes takes time to reach

\*1. Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika to move :

That, in line 1 of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, after the words "District Magistrate", a "comma" and the words "a sub-divisional Magistrate or any Magistrate of the first class specially empowered by the Provincial Government" shall be inserted.



Government. And within fifteen days of a District Magistrate having passed an order Government decision may not sometimes be possible to be communicated to him. Therefore, Sir, I have no objection to accept this Amendment for 'two months'.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The question is :  
 "That in line 3 of sub-clause (2), of clause 2 for the words 'fifteen days' the words 'two months' shall be substituted."  
 The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** \* Amendments Nos. 3 to 6 stand in the name of hon. Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika, who is absent.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then I put the question.

The question is :

"That clause 2 of the Bill, as amended stands part of the Bill."  
 The question was adopted.

In respect of clauses 3 to 5, both inclusive, there are no Amendments. So I put the question.

The question is :

"That clauses 3 to 5 of the Bill, both inclusive, stand part of the Bill."  
 The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** We pass on to clause 6.  
 There are three Amendments. Amendment No. 7 stands in the name of hon. Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika. He is now in the House. Does he want to move ?

†**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Sir, I beg to move that in line 3 of sub-clause (1) of clause 6 after the word "order" the words "empower the District or Sub-divisional Magistrate" shall be inserted. I withdraw the portion, "or any Magistrate of the first class".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** How does the word 'Sub-divisional Magistrate' fit in when his first Amendment is not incorporated ? Has the hon. Member seen the difficulty ?

†**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** With your permission, Sir, I want to move my Amendments to clause 2.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS :** That clause has already formed part of the Bill.

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\*3. Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika to move :—  
 That in line 3 of sub-clause (2) of clause 2, for the words "fifteen days" the words "thirty days" shall be substituted.  
 4. That in line 2 of sub-clause (3) of clause 2, between the word "bond" and the "comma" thereafter, the words "before such authority or persons" shall be inserted.  
 5. That in lines 8 and 9 of sub-clause 6(b) of clause 2, for the "comma" and the words "or with fine or with both" the words "and with fine" shall be substituted.  
 6. That in line 4 of sub-clause (7) of clause 2, for the "comma" and the words "or with both," the words "and with fine" shall be substituted.  
 †Speech not corrected.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** We cannot reopen that matter.

**\*Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Then I do not propose to move, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** We come to Amendment No. 8.

**Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in lines 2 and 3 of sub-clause (2) of clause 6, for the words 'one year' the words "two years" shall be substituted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Amendment moved:  
"That in lines 2 and 3 of sub-clause (2) of clause 6, for the words 'one year' the words 'two years' shall be substituted."

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** In the original Bill we provided for one year's punishment, but I have no objection if 'two years' be substituted. Provision of a maximum sentence does not fetter the discretion of Courts to pass lesser sentences.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I am now putting it as a question.  
The question is:  
"That in lines 2 and 3 of sub-clause (2) of clause 6, for the words 'one year' the words 'two years' shall be substituted."  
The question was adopted.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to move the other Amendment standing in my name.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:  
"That clause 6 of the Bill, as amended stands part of the Bill."  
The question was adopted.

**Srijut LAKSHMIDHAR BORAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in line 2 of sub-clause (2) of clause 7, for the words "one year" the words "two years" shall be substituted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Amendment moved:  
"That in line 2 of sub-clause (2) of clause 7, for the words 'one year' the words 'two years' shall be substituted."

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** As I have already accepted a similar Amendment to clause 6, I have no objection to accept this Amendment in clause 7.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:  
"That in line 2 of sub-clause (2) of clause 7, for the words 'one year' the words 'two years' shall be substituted."  
The question was adopted.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to move the Amendment in clause 7 standing in my name.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:  
"That clause 7 of the Bill, as amended, stands part of the Bill."  
The question was adopted.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to move the Amendment in clause 8 standing in my name.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then there is no other Amendment in this clause I am putting the question.  
The question is:  
"That clause 8 stands part of the Bill."  
The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** As there is no Amendment to clauses 9 to 12 of the Bill, I am putting them as a question.  
The question is:  
"That clauses 9 to 12 of the Bill both inclusive stand part of the Bill."  
The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:  
"That clause 1 stands part of the Bill."  
The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:  
"That the Title and Preamble of the Bill, stand part of the Bill."  
The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1947, as amended, be passed.

(At this stage the Hon'ble the Speaker pointed out that in some places it was written as "the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1946", while in other places it was written as "the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1947". In view of this discrepancy, the Hon'ble the Speaker asked for the opinion of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge as to which one was correct. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge replied that "the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1947", was the correct one and he further remarked that the Secretary might be asked to correct the mistake wherever it had occurred.)

Now, Sir, when I moved the Motion for consideration of the Bill I explained its objects very fully to the House and at this stage I need only say that it is only a precautionary measure intended to meet any emergent situation that may confront the Government. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Sir, Government have got sufficient warnings about Law and Order being in peril and Government by adopting this measure want to get themselves armed in advance to meet any situation that may arise in the Province. I assure the House that there need be no apprehension that this measure would be applied harshly or without any justification. It would be the endeavour of Government to take utmost care to see that the provisions of this Act are not at all abused. Now, it is very clear that these provisions will only supplement the already existing law to the minimum extent. It is for swift and speedy action that these provisions have been embodied in this measure. I, therefore, hope that the House will unanimously pass this Bill.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then I am putting the question.

The question is:

"That the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Bill, 1947, be passed."

The question was adopted.

### **The Assam Revenue Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1947**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** We now pass on to Item No. 4—consideration of the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1947, clause by clause. Under clause 2 there is one Amendment standing in the name of Mr. Faull. He may move his Amendment.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in clause 2 for the words "by one or more of its members" the words "provided that no case or class of cases shall be heard or disposed of by a Bench consisting of less than two members" shall be substituted.

Sir, the present constitution of the Revenue Tribunal is a non-official President with the qualifications of a High Court Judge, a non-official member with legal experience and the Director of Land Records, Assam. It seems obvious that a Tribunal composed of such different elements should have been devised with the purpose of bringing together wide experience in different walks of life so that when revenue matters of the highest importance are to be decided, these are settled by a body possessing a very wide and varied experience. If, however, matters are to be decided by members sitting singly, the original object of the Tribunal will be defeated, and we would urge that all matters should be decided by a Bench consisting of the official and non-official elements, i. e., two members. More important matters, or where there is disagreement, would go to a Bench consisting of the whole Tribunal. We would not, however, raise any objection to the Government taking powers to constitute a Bench of two members, leaving it to convention to establish a Bench of two members, leaving it to convention to establish that ordinarily one of the members should be an official and the other a non-official.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 for the words 'by one or more of its members' the words 'provided that no case or class of cases shall be heard or disposed of by a Bench consisting of less than two members' shall be substituted.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised that an Amendment of this kind has been brought forward from the European Group. I may ask them to remember that since the inauguration of this Constitution, the Revenue Tribunal consisted of only one member. No objection was then taken when one member was trying all the serious and complicated matters. Now, this amending Bill that we have introduced is to give discretion to the Tribunal to deal with and dispose of matters which are not of a very serious and complicated nature even by one of them according to the rules that will be framed. This Bill has been introduced by the Government in line with the Act of an advanced Province like Bombay. If one member could try complicated revenue matters during the last 9 years since the inauguration of this Constitution there is no reason whatsoever why simpler cases cannot be tried by one person having the qualification of a High Court Judge or persons



having an established practice in the country for more than ten years. In view of all these facts I request the hon. Mover to withdraw the Amendment so that easy and petty cases may be disposed of easily and expeditiously in accordance with the rules that will be framed under the new amended Bill.

**Mr. W. R. FAULL :** Sir, though I scarcely support the contention that one weakness justifies a further weakness yet in view of what has been stated by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Amendment ?

The Amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then I put the question before the House.

The question is :

“That clause 2 stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** “That clause 1 of the Bill stands part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The question is :

“That the Title and Preamble of the Bill, stand part of the Bill.”

The question was adopted.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1947, be passed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved :

“That the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1947, be passed”.



*(After a pause)*

Then I am putting it as a question.

The question is :

“That the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1947 be passed”.

The question was adopted.

**The Shillong Civil Courts and Laws Bill, 1946**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Then I take up consideration of the Shillong Civil Courts and Laws Bill, 1946, clause by clause. There is no Amendment in this Bill. Therefore I ask the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to move the next Motion that the Bill be passed.

**The Hon'ble Mr. BASANTA KUMAR DAS** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Shillong Civil Courts and Laws Bill, 1946, be passed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved:

“That the Shillong Civil Courts and Laws Bill, 1946, be passed”

*(After a pause)*

Then I am putting it as a question.

The question is :

“That the Shillong Civil Courts and Laws Bill, 1946, be passed”

The question was adopted.

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 2 p.m., on Friday, the 21st March, 1947.

SHILLONG :  
The 17th May 1947.

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

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