

The first of these is the fact that the...

It is also true that the...

The second of these is the fact that the...

It is also true that the...

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**Proceedings of the Third Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the Second General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India**

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 1st May, 1958.

**PRESENT**

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair, Eight Ministers, the Two Deputy Ministers and Eighty-three Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Land allotted to Ministers at Gauhati and Shillong**

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** asked

\*221. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any land at Gauhati and Shillong had been allotted to any of the Ministers ?

(b) If so, to whom, when and how much ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)** replied

221. (a) & (b)—A list is placed at the Library Table.

[Statement laid on the Library Table in reply to Starred  
Question No. 221 (a) and (b)]

## LIST OF ALLOTEES

## 1. Name of allottees who were Ministers at the time of allotment.

Name	When allotted	Where allotted	Area allotted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
(a) Shri Ram Nath Das (not Minister now).	1950	Gauhati	3K, 16L.
(b) Rev. J. J. M. Nichols Roy, (not Minister now).	1950	Gauhati	2K, 10L.

## 2. Name of allottees who were Deputy Ministers at the time of allotment.

(a) Shri H. Das	...	...	...	{	1952	Shillong	436 acres
				}	1953	Gauhati	2K, 10L.
(b) Shri Mohi Kanta Das	...	...	...		1955	Gauhati	2K, 15L.
(c) Girindra N. Gogoi	...	...	...		1957	Gauhati	2K, 0L.

## 3. Names of allottees who have since become Ministers.

(a) Shri B. P. Chaliha	...	...	...	1953	Gauhati	1B, 2K, 12L.
(b) Shri Debeswar Sarmah	...	...	...	1952	Shillong	513 acres
(c) Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury	...	...	...	1953	Shillong	216 "

## 4. Names of allottees who were not Ministers at the time of allotment but became Ministers later on

(a) Shri Motiram Bora (He was then an M.L.A. He transferred the plot in the name of his son just before the last General Election)	1950	Gauhati	2K, 18L
(b) Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma, (He was then an M.L.A. and probably the President of A.P.C.C.).	1950	Gauhati	4K, 10L.
(c) Shri M. M. Choudhury, (He was then Parliamentary Secretary.	1950	Gauhati	1B, 0K, 10L.

## 5. Names of allottees who were not Deputy Ministers at the time of allotment but became Deputy Ministers later on.

(a) Shrimati Usha Barthakur (She was then an M.L.A.)	1954	Shillong	2K, 10L.
(b) Shri Girindra N. Gogoi (He was then an M.L.A.).	1954	Shillong	2K, 0L.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding):** Sir, I think the list of names is very small. Can there be any objection to read the same ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The practice is that whenever a list is submitted before the House it is placed half an hour before the House meets. So the hon. Members should have been alert and should have consulted the list placed before the House.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Sir, there in the starred question here there is no indication that the list has been placed before the library table, so how can we consult the list ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Whenever a question is asked that depends upon the nature of the question. If it is indicated that a list would be supplied, the hon. Member is to be alert. That is the practice in all Parliaments. The list may not be read out in the House and therefore the hon. Members are to anticipate ; that is one of the responsibilities of the hon. Members—an intelligent anticipation of such matters.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Is the Hon. Speaker aware that the papers were blown up by the wind ? *(laughter)*

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member could have brought it to my notice earlier.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Are all the Ministers who have been allotted land, landless Ministers ? *(laughter)*

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Most of them are landless in the town, Sir.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA:** May I know who are they, Sir ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** All of them, Sir. I correct it

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Do Government think it necessary to provide all the hon. Members with land *(laughter)* ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Many of them have got it Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Where ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** In Shillong as well as in Gauhati.

**Test Relief works in the border areas of the Shillong Subdivision and Jowai Subdivision**

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: asked

\*222. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of the Test Relief works which have been done in the border areas of the Shillong Subdivision and of the Jowai Subdivision during the course of last five years ?
- (b) The names of the villages, the villagers of which have applied and which have not been given any grant for roads or paths as the Test Relief works during the said period ?

\*223. Will the Minister for Tribal Areas be pleased to state whether the Government propose to give such financial aid as Test Relief Works to the people of the Border Areas who have applied for such aid ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** (Minister, Tribal Areas) replied :

222. (a)—The list of the Test Relief roads taken up in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District during the course of the last five years is placed on the Library Table. (please see library register No. S. 27.)

(b)—A list of villages, is placed on the Library Table. (please see library register No. S.27.)

The Test Relief roads were invariably selected in consultation with, and on recommendations of, the local M. L. As and other responsible non-officials in the District. The roads were selected to provide work for the villagers of the villages affected. The villagers who applied for grants for such relief works could work either in the works within their own villages or in the vicinity thereof or in some nearby villages, if the roads selected did not happen to pass through their own villages or in the immediate vicinity.

223.—Government propose to continue the Test Relief Programme during the year 1958-59 also, to give relief to the people of the border areas considered to be in need of such relief by the Deputy Commissioner in consultation with the local M. L. As, local M. D. Cs, and other non-official representatives.

**Shri LILA KANTA BORAH (Kaliabar)**: In view of the hardship to which the border people are subjected to since after the partition of the country, may I know from the Government whether they have any schemes so that these people may be provided with some permanent means of rehabilitation ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: Many schemes are in fact under operation, Sir. For example the test relief is one of the schemes. Then there are the Rehabilitation and Distressed loan schemes and subsidised transport for some of the produces. Most of these schemes are in operation. Then there is the provision for gratuitous relief. Now, Sir, in order to work more systematically and to arrange for the rehabilitation of the border people, we have constituted a Committee and that Committee is examining the matters. It has visited the places and when the recommendations of the Committee will be received we will consider what further schemes could be adopted.

**Shri CHATRA SING TERON (Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes))**: To what direction it will be made, Sir, I mean what is the economic objective ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas)**: The terms of reference of the Committee is to examine how far the measures be taken by the Government to relieve the people of the border has proved successful and to see what more measure should be taken by the Government in order to give permanent economic rehabilitation to these people. That will also suggest as to what temporary relief should be given. Naturally it will take time to get the schemes for permanent economic rehabilitation, so for the interim period, they will recommend what interim relief could be provided.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: I want to know what the Government will do in the interim period, Sir ? It is obvious that it will take time for the Committee, say about one month or so to make the recommendations, so in the interim period will the Government be able to give relief to the border people when the Deputy Commissioner recommends ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** : In fact the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, who is also a member of the Committee and who also visited the border areas in company with the other members of the Committee, has been received and Government have already taken action to give temporary relief on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON** [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know from the Government whether it is for political consideration also that major stress has been given for the development of the border areas ?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: It does not arise here.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI** (Golakganj): May I know whether it is only for the Khasi and Jaintia Hills border or it will be extended to other borders ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** (Minister, Tribal Areas): For the present it is for the Khasi and Jaintia Hills border areas. We may start for border areas of other districts in future.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** (Chief Minister): May I submit, Sir, there is political consideration also.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: But that does not arise out of that question.

**Creation of great havoc to certain families due to the breaches of the P. G. J. H., Public Works Department Road at Barbil and Majuli**

**Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO** [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

\*224. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that the sudden breach of the P. G. J. H., Public Works Department Road at Barbil, Majuli in July last created a great havoc to give families destroying their houses and properties ?

(b) Whether Government have so far made any relief-grant to the said people in distress ?

(c) If not, why not ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS** (Minister, Revenue) replied

224. (a)—Yes, due to the breach eight families were affected by flood causing some loss of their houses and properties.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** May I know what is the meaning of P. G. J. H. shown in the question ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Pahu-mara—Garmur—Jengerimur—Hengerimari.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Such abbreviations should not be used unless they are recognised as abbreviations in the English dictionary.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** I have not used the abbreviations but the questioner has put them.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** How could the Hon'ble Minister know the full implication of these abbreviations ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** We got difficulty also and we got them from the Public Works Department.

**Number of appeals against the order and judgment of 3-men Tribunal of the Excise Appellate Authority before the Assam High Court**

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** asked :

\*225. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of appeals preferred against the order and judgment of 3-men Tribunal of the Excise Appellate Authority before the Assam High Court ?
- (b) What was the total amount of money spent by Government in the said appeals while defending ?
- (c) What is the total number of appeals preferred in the Assam High Court against the orders and judgments of the then Excise Appellate Authority constituted with Messrs Kidwai and A. Bhattacharjee, and of the present incumbent, Shri Dam (reply to be shown authoritywise) ?
- (d) What is the total amount of money spent by Government while defending the orders and judgments of the respective Excise Appellate Authorities (amount to be shown separately) ?



- (e) What is the total amount of money that is ordered by the Supreme Court to be paid by the present incumbent of the Excise Appellate Authority in connection with a recent Excise appeal preferred against the judgment of the Assam High Court before the Supreme Court ?

\*226. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state whether Government propose to reconstitute the present Excise Appellate Authority as was constituted previously (before constitution of one-man Tribunal) for greater interest of Public ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise)** replied :

225.(a)—No appeals lie to the Hon'ble Assam High Court against the order of the 3-men Tribunal or against the order of any Excise Appellate Authority, but only one writ petition was filed before the High Court against the order of the then 3-men Tribunal.

(b)—Only the prescribed fee of the Government Advocate, *i. e.*, Rs.60.

(c)—As stated in (a) above, no appeals were preferred but the number of writ petitions filed are as follows—

Against Shri A. N. Kidwai's orders	...	...	12
Against Shri A. N. Bhattacharjee's orders...	...	...	1
Against Shri A. M. Dam's orders	...	...	8

(d)—The total amount of money spent by Government in defending the orders and judgments of the respective Excise Appellate Authorities are as follows—

	Rs.
Shri A. N. Kidwai...	2,837
Shri A. N. Bhattacharjee ...	Nil.
The petition was summarily dismissed.	
Shri A. M. Dam ...	...Rs.2,642.50 nP.

(e)—Nil. No such order was passed by the Supreme Court.

226.—There is no such proposal.

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY**: [North-Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Three Men Tribunal ৰ Judgement ৰ হাইকৰ্টত 'এপিল' হোৱা নাই বুলিয়েই এইটো ৰি লব পাৰেনেকি যে Three Men Tribunal ৰ Judgement ন্যায় সঙ্গত হৈছে ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise)**: সেইটো ৰি লব নোৱাৰিলেও এইটো কথা সচা যে কোনো 'এপেলিট' অৰ্থাৎ 'এপিল' ৰ Judgement ৰ ওপৰত 'এপিল' নহয়।

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY**: Three Men Tribunal ৰ Judgement ৰ বিপক্ষে কি হাইকৰ্টত এপিল হব নোৱাৰে ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: নোৱাৰে।

### Selling of liquor by bottling system

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY** asked:

\*227. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state--

(a) When Government propose to introduce selling of liquor by bottling by the lessees of liquor shop ?

(b) Whether Government propose to introduce the bottling system from next year, *i. e.*, from 1st April 1958 throughout the State in order to check corruption of the Excise staff ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise)** replied:

227.(a)—The bottling system is likely to be introduced from 1st October 1958 in the Dibrugarh Subdivision and Sibsagar District.

(b)—There is no such proposal.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: (Barchalla).** Why the Government want to introduce this bottling system in the Dibrugarh Sub-division and Sibsagar district alone? Will it not be introduced in other districts such as Darrang?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise)** As an experimental measure we want to start in the Dibrugarh Sub-division and Sibsagar district.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur):** May I know how long Government will continue to sell liquor like this?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** No time limit can be fixed now.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Will the bottling system be introduced in Sibsagar district?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** The answer is there. It is going to be introduced in Dibrugarh-Sub division and Sibsagar district.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** What is the criterion for being successful or unsuccessful in this system?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** It is a hypothetical question.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** There was a proposal to start this bottling system from 1st of April last, why it could not be materialised?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** Because the warehouses could not be completed. Some planned system is to be established for sealing bottles. Some accommodation was also necessary, which could not be found.

**Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mangaldoi):** এই bottling প্ৰথা, আন জিলাত আৰম্ভ নকৰি শিৱসাগৰ আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ বাচি লোৱাৰ কাৰণ কি?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** প্ৰথমে এখনটাইতো লব লাগিব। শিৱসাগৰ আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়কে লোৱা হৈছে।

**Mr. SPEAKER :** শিৱসাগৰ আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ প্ৰতি বিশেষ ভাবে আকৰ্ষিত হ'ল কিয় ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise) :** তাত চাহ বাগিচাও বেচি আৰু consumption ও হয় বেচি ।

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) :** Are Government aware that there will be corruption in bottling system as well.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** It is not stated as yet, so loopholes are not known.

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Schedule Tribes)] :** অসমত মদ প্ৰচলনে বিশেষকৈ চাহ-শিৱত সহায়তা কৰিব বুলি ভাবে নেকি ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** চৰকাৰৰ এই বিষয়ে খবৰ জনা নাই ।

**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) :** How many cases of corruption among the Excise staff have been detected ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS.** That is a different question. I want notice of it.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA :** Is it a fact that this bottling system was introduced about 12 years back but this had to be discontinued as they failed to check corruption ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS.** I cannot reply to it off hand.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA. (Saikhowa) :** Whether there will be effective sealing of the bottles so that seals cannot be tampered ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** That is so.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) :** Is it not the practice at present that if excise revenue gets reduced the Excise staff is liable to explain the reason; if that is so, if due to the introduction of this bottling system the Excise revenue becomes less will that reason be proved as a failure of the bottling system ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** That is a hypothetical question

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) :** If it is found that the bottling system will minimise adulteration to a great extent, would the Government consider for its introduction as early as possible in other districts also ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise):** Even here there is some time lag because warehouses have not been constructed yet. If it is found successful we shall extend it gradually.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA North Lakhimpur):** মদ বেচাত দুৰ্নীতি বন্ধ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে bottling system কৰিছে, কিন্তু চাহৰ দোকানত মদ বিক্ৰি হোৱা কথাটো চৰকাৰে গম পায়নে? আৰু যদি গম পায় সেইটো বন্ধ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিছেনে?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** That is another question.

**Property earned and money deposited in Banks by Excise Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and Excise Inspectors of the State**

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** asked :

\*228. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state whether Government propose to enquire about the property earned and money deposited in banks by Excise Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, and Excise Inspectors of the State during the tenure of their services?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Excise)** replied :

228.—There is no proposal to do so, as all the Excise officer are required to submit their declarations of assets every year and these are verified, wherever, necessary.

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY :** আবকাৰী বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ ভিতৰত যোচা খোৱাটো বেচি বুলি সকলোৰে জানে আৰু সেইটো আইনত প্ৰমাণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলেও ধৰ্ম্মতঃ সত্য। এইটো মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে স্বীকাৰ কৰেনে?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** স্বীকাৰ বা অস্বীকাৰ কৰাৰ কথা নহয়। ধৰ্ম্মৰ দোহাইৰ মাজেজি চৰকাৰে কাম নকৰে।

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**  
It will not be very correct to draw any such general conclusion about our officers. We admit that there may be bad officers and there are good officers too, but if such a general remark is made I think, it will not be fair to the officers.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):**  
Whether Government know that there are instances of marked difference of living standard between officers of the Excise Department and other Departments such as Co-operative, Education, etc. etc. having same scale of pay?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister Excise):** We have no such information, but whenever any such information comes to us that one Excise officer is living in a standard which is beyond his means, it will be enquired into.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Will the Hon'ble Minister make inquiry about the Excise officers at Doom Dooma and Tinsukia ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** If such information comes it will be enquired into.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** As the Hon'ble Minister has said that the officers are required to give an account of their assets, whether properties in the name of their wives are included in that list ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** If they have any properties in the name of their wives and sons, that have to be included in the list.

**Fire at Rupahibazar on the night of 15th February 1958**

**Maulavi Mahammad IDRIS (Rupohihat) asked :**

\*229. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have any information about the devastating fire at Rupahibazar on the night of 15th February 1958 ?
- (b) How many shops and godowns have been gutted by the fire and what is the total estimated loss caused by the fire ?
- (c) What measures of relief Government proposes to give to rehabilitate the affected businessmen ?
- (d) Whether the Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, has visited the affected site and submitted any proposal for relief and rehabilitation of the affected businessmen ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :**

229. (a)—Yes.

(b)—About 16 shops and 5 tea stalls were gutted down. The estimated loss is Rs.50,000.

(c)—A proposal to rehabilitate the affected persons is under consideration of Government.

(d)—Yes.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupohihat) :** Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by whom the enquiry as to the loss sustained was made ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :** The Deputy Commissioner himself went there.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS :** Whether it is a fact that the estimate of loss is far below the actual damage caused by the fire ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** We have no such information.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS :** Will Government be pleased to enquire into the matter to ascertain the actual loss ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** It has been enquired into once. So there is no necessity of further enquiry.

**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) :** ঘৰ পোৱাৰ পিচত মানুহবোৰ গৃহহীন হৈ গ'ল। তেওঁলোকৰ পুনৰ বসতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰিছেনে?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** মানুহবোৰ গৃহহীন হোৱা নাই। তেওঁলোকক এতিয়া সহায় কৰাৰ অৰ্থ দোকান মাৰমল কৰিবলৈহে সুবিধা দিয়া।

**Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) :** সেই মানুহবোৰক সাময়িক সাহায্য (interim relief) দিয়া হৈছেনে ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** তেওঁলোকে বিচৰাই নাই।

**Maulavi RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh) :** সেই মানুহবোৰ বজাৰৰ permanent ভিটাৰ ঘৰতে লৰা-তিৰোতা লৈ চিৰস্থায়ী ভাবে বস-বাস কৰি আছে। গতিকে তেওঁলোকক গৃহহীন নহয় বুলি কেনেকৈ কব পাৰি ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** আমাৰ ৰিপোর্ট মতে তেওঁলোকৰ বেলেগ ঠাইত ঘৰ-বাৰী আছে গতিকে গৃহহীন হোৱা নাই।

**Maulavi RAHIMUDDIN AHMED :** মই জানো যে তেওঁলোকে লৰা-ছোৱালী লৈ ভাঙে থাকে। চৰকাৰে অনুসন্ধান কৰিবনে ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS :** কৰা হ'ব।

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS :** On the other day when one Member of this House drew the attention of the House to an important matter regarding the fire havoc in different parts of the State, the Minister was pleased to state that a sum of

Rs.3,000 has already been sanctioned for this particular purpose. But now he says that the matter is under consideration. Sir, how to reconcile these two statements ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)**: It is not exactly Rs.3,000, it is Rs.3,400. Consideration means financial approval is necessary (*Laughter*), so it is under consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: But it is very inconvenient to the Members of the House. unless the Government has finalised about the payment, I do not think it can be placed before the House as an accomplished fact. If the Hon'ble Minister says that a particular thing has been decided then he must come with that statement for the Government as a whole.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: It has not gone to the people as yet.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: It involves a principle. When an Hon'ble Minister makes a statement that Rs.3,400 has been allotted for this purpose, it is not a matter of consideration. It has been decided but the internal arrangement whether this has been passed by the Finance or not is a matter on which this House cannot take any action. As soon as the Minister has stated that money has been allotted, so far as the House is concerned, this money has been allotted. There is no going back upon that.

**Shri LILA KANTA BARAH (Kaliabar)**: May I know whether the Deputy Commissioner has recommended any interim relief ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: He has not recommended any such relief.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupohinat)**: Whether the affected person applied for rehabilitation loan either to the Deputy Commissioner or Government ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS**: They have not filed any petition to Government.



**Bihampur-Belsor Barnibari Road**

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** asked :

\*230. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Bihampur-Belsor Barnibari Road under "81—Capital Account of Civil Works, etc.," was to be constructed having 18 feet in breadth, from Bihampur to Billeswar (one mile), with the estimated amount of Rs.20,000 ?
- (b) If so, why without completing this particular mile (from Bihampur to Billeswar), the road is extended upto village Paikan Dirowa covering a length of about five miles having its breadth 12 feet (not 18 feet as estimated) only with this meagre allotment ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the local people has submitted public petition to the Chief Engineer, Assam protesting in the matter ?
- (d) What steps Government propose to undertake to complete the work ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, Public Works Department)** replied :

230. (a)—A sum of Rs.20,000 was sanctioned for improving 1st mile of Bihampur-Belsor Road with 16 feet 0 inch crest width, alternatively 12 feet wide crest with passing places, two per furlong.

(b)—As per general directive issued as much length as possible within the sanctioned amount, by down-grading the specifications to 12 feet formation width, was taken up and accordingly work was started in about 5 miles. Work in about 5 furlongs of first mile however could not be completed owing to obstruction given by the villagers but those on the other miles were proceeded with.

(c)—Yes, a petition was received on 6th February 1957 to make the road 16 feet wide and also another for completion of the road upto Belsor Temple.

(d)—The question of additional funds required for completing the road is under examination and action to complete the work will be taken as soon as this is decided.

**Construction of an embankment on either sides of the Nadala Jan in the Mouza of Dharmapur, under Police Station Nalbari**

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** asked :

\*231. Will the Minister-in-charge of Flood Control be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that due to non-construction of either sides of the Nadala Jan upto the river Buradia, in the Mouza of Dharmapur, under police station Nalbari, in the District of Kamrup, a good number of villages such as, Nadala, Sahpur, Gumerimuri, Kaithalkuchi, Barbara, Sonora, etc., are severely affected by flood, almost every year, causing tremendous loss to paddy crops ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that in the flood of June 1957, the above mentioned villages were badly affected, Aus and Sali seedlings were damaged and some of the village paths were breached ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the local M. L. A. and the affected people submitted petitions to the then Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department requesting the Government to construct the embankment on either sides of the Nadala Jan ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that after receiving the petitions mentioned in question (c) above the local E. & D. authority was directed to make a survey and to submit the amount of probable estimated expenditure which was done accordingly ?
- (e) If so, whether there is any proposal to construct the embankment within this year ?
- (f) If the reply is in the negative, what is the decision of the Government upon it ?

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

231. (a)—No. The flooding in the locality mentioned in the question including the complete submergence of the Nadala Drainage Channel itself is caused by Pagladiya spills entering into Nadala Jan and surrounding areas through Mora Pagladiya which is flowing by Boroma.

(b)—Yes, flood of June 1957 caused some flooding in the locality and Aus and Sali seedlings in the area were slightly damaged.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No. The petitions received were forwarded to the Divisional E. & D. Officer for submission of a report after proper investigation which is awaited.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Does not arise.

**Maintenance of the 171 miles of bridle paths by the villagers of different villages of North Cachar Hills**

**Shri HAMDHON (MOHAN HAPLANGBAR [North Cachar Hills (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)])** asked :

\*232 Will the Minister of P. W. D. be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the villagers of the different villages of the North Cachar Hills are to look after the maintenance of the 171 miles of bridle paths ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that these villagers clear the jungles on both sides of the paths twice a year and repair the same once a year ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the villagers are paid a meagre amount of Rs.20 per mile annually for their works on the bridle paths ?

(d) In view of the present day high prices whether Government propose to increase this amount ?

(e) If not, whether Government propose to withdraw these forced labour ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, P. W. D.):** replied :

232. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The villagers are paid Rs.20 per mile annually for jungle clearing and surface dressing.

(d)—This will be reviewed.

(e)—The procedure under which the villagers work, is a system of mutual help between the villagers and Government and not a system of forced labour.

**Shri HAMDHON MOHAN HAPLANGBAR :** रास्तोंकी मरम्मत और देखभाल करने के लिये एक मीलपर जो २० रुपये दिये जाते हैं उसे सरकार काफी समझती है क्या ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) :** मेरे खयाल से इस बारेमें सोच विचार किया जा रहा है ।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :** Whether the Minister in charge knows that when such work is allotted to contractors much higher amount is paid, but when it is entrusted to local people very insignificant amount is paid ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) :** This is due to the system prevailing from a long time. As you know Sir, traditions die hard, therefore, this system also will take a long time to die.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) :** What are the rates usually given in other districts ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** It is hard to compare because in the hill areas from where my friend Shri Haplangbar comes there are no outside labourers so that the villagers themselves do the work.

**Shri CHATRA SING TERON (Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes,)) :** Whencan we expect a change of this system ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** Up till now there has been no demand Sir, for changing the system.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) :** Does not Government think that this system conflicts with the idea of socialistic pattern of society ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** Socialistic idea never condemns labour but regards it as dignified, therefore, I do not consider that the system is in conflict with socialistic pattern of society.

**Shri CHATRA SING TERON :** When I asked as to when can we expect a change in this system the Minister replied that there is no demand, may I know from the Minister in charge whether there is no demand from the people or from the department ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** No demand has been received so far from any quarters.

**Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mangaldai) :** Jungle clearing कावण Public Works Department ब एमईनर Rate किमान ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** সেই Rate টো বর্তমান য়েব হাতত নাই ।

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS :** What is the rate given by Local Boards for clearing roadside jungles ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** That rate is also not with me, Sir.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Removal of the Worn-out Wooden Bridge on the Road leading from the Bornagar High School to Jute Farm, Sorbhog**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

714. Will the Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the wooden bridge on the road leading from the Bornagar High School to Jute Farm, Sorbhog, has been removed by the Local Board Chairman ?
- (b) Whether the bridge belongs to Local Board or the Deputy Commissioner, or Bonsi Panchayat ?
- (c) Whether the bridge will be reconstructed by the Local Board Chairman ?
- (d) If so, when ?
- (e) Whether the posts of the bridge have been utilised on the bridge on the Sorbhog-Jamodarbari road leading to the house of the Local Board Chairman ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, L.S.-G.)**

replied :

714.(a)—Yes, some worn-out posts were removed from a completely damaged bridge from the Chakchaka-Dhupguri road to prevent theft of these materials.

(b)—The bridge belongs to the Local Board.

(c)—It may be reconstructed if Board's funds permit.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Does not arise as there is no road named Sorbhog-Jamadarbari maintained by the Board.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) :**  
Whether this road belongs to the Local Board or to the Rural Panchayat ?

\***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** (Minister, L. S.-G.)  
I want notice of that question Sir.

**Provision of Money for Roads in Barpeta Subdivision by  
the Barpeta Local Board**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR** (Sorbhog) asked :

715. Will the Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What are the roads in Barpeta Subdivision in which the Barpeta Local Board has provided money for bridges and earthwork ?
- (b) What are the amounts allotted for different roads ?
- (c) How many of the contractors are Congressmen and how many are non-Congressmen ?
- (d) What are their names ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that non-Congressmen are not entitled to Barpeta Local Board contracts ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** (Minister, L.S.-G.)  
replied :

715.(a) & (b)—The statement is placed on the Library Table. (please see library register No. S. 28.)

(c)—Record is not kept as to who are Congressmen and who are non-Congressmen.

(d)—A statement showing the names of contractors and the works executed by them is placed on the Library Table. (please see library register No. S. 28.)

(e)—No discrimination whatsoever is made on grounds of political consideration in respect of distribution of contracts by the Board.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR:** In reply to (c) Government stated that no record is kept as to who are Congressmen and who are non-Congressmen ; how will Government know as to whom contracts were given ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I have no information, Sir.

## Tender for Public Works Department Contracts with Court-fee Stamp

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

716. Will the Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that tender for Public Works Department contracts with court-fee stamp of Rs.5 for each work both in Road and Building and Embankment and Drainage Wings are sometimes called without sanction of funds ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware of the fact that the court-fee stamps are unnecessarily spoiled and not refundable in cases mentioned in (a) above ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that at the time of getting refund of the earnest money by unsuccessful tenderers, much delay and hardship is caused to contractors by respective offices specially in Kamrup Embankment and Drainage Division ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)]** replied :

716.(a)—No complaints in this respect have come to the notice of Government.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Earnest money is refunded as early as possible on receipt of application for refund. In case of specific complaints, action is taken by Government to get the refund expedited by the Divisional Officer concerned.

Separate reply will be given from the Flood Control and Irrigation Wing so far as Embankment and Drainage is concerned.

**Public Works Department Roads undertaken by Government within Sorbhog Thana in Kamrup District**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

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

- (a) The names of the Public Works Department roads that have been undertaken by the Government since 1956 within Sorbhog Thana in Kamrup District ?
- (b) Whether they have been completed ?
- (c) If not, what are the reasons for not completing the same till now ?
- (d) When they will be completed ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)]** replied :

717. (a) (i)—Ganakpara Senafully Road (3.5 miles).  
 (ii)—Chapakamar Kahitoma Road (7 miles).  
 (iii)—Kumargaon Kahitoma Road (4 miles).  
 (b), (c) & (d)—All these roads have been taken up during the Second Plan period and works are in progress according to programme and availability of funds. These will be completed within the Second Five Year Plan period and according to plan.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR:** What was the amount that was given for this road ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, P. W. D.):** I have not got the amount handy with me Sir.

*Re:* **Shri Narayan Chandra Goswami, a Section Officer of Dikhow Embankment and Drainge Section**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

718. Will the Minister-in-charge of E. and D. Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Section Officer, Dikhow E. and D. Section, has been there for the last 8 years ?



- (b) Whether it is a fact that he was appointed there as Mohorer and subsequently promoted to the position of Section Officer after due training?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that for certain reasons he was degraded to the post of Overseer and ordered for transfer from that place?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that he did not move and come to Shillong to get his order cancelled?
- (e) Whether he could get transfer orders cancelled?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [Minister, P.W.D. (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied :

718. (a)—No. Shri Narayan Chandra Goswami, Sectional Officer, has been holding charge of the Sibsagar E. and D. Section since the 18th January, 1954. The Dikhow Bund—right and left banks—is within the Sibsagar E. and D. Section.

(b)—No. Shri Narayan Chandra Goswami, Sectional Officer, Sibsagar E. and D. Section, was first appointed as Mohorer in Gaurisagar E. and D. Section under the Sibsagar E. and D. Subdivision. After passing the Muhurir Training Course from the Assam Civil Engineering Institute, Gauhati, on the 25th August, 1949, he was appointed as temporary Overseer with effect from the 1st June, 1955 on the recommendation of the Assam Public Service Commission.

(c)—No. The Executive Engineer, Sibsagar E. and D. Division, was ordered to transfer and place Shri Narayan Chandra Goswami, temporary Overseer, in-charge of Survey works in the interest of public service.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

**Appointment of an Expert Committee to Examine the nature and volume of work in the Secretariat and other offices and to submit their report to the last Pay Committee**

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)**  
asked :

719. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Directive Principles of equal pay for equal work laid down in the Constitution, has been followed both in letters and in spirit while determining the pay scales of various services under the State Government ?

(b) Whether any Expert Committee was appointed to examine on the spot the nature and volume of work in the Secretariat and the offices of Heads of Departments in Shillong and to submit their report to the last Pay Committee to enable them to assess correctly the relative importance of work obtaining in those offices ?

(c) Whether the Heads of Departments had been given an opportunity by the last Pay Committee to give their oral evidence before the Committee and to get their views recorded on the disparity in the pay scales of Ministerial hands working in the Secretariat and the offices of Heads of Departments in Shillong ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the disparity has created a perpetual state of mutual distrust and recrimination ?

(e) Whether Government propose to make a thorough enquiry in the matter ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance)**  
replied :

719. (a)—Hon. Member is apparently referring to Article 39 (d) of the Directive Principles of the Constitution, which lays down that there should be equal pay for equal work for both men and women. This Directive Principle is strictly followed inasmuch as there is no discrimination in pay scales on account of sex in any of the services.

(b)—As Government constituted a Pay Committee for the purpose of submitting recommendations for revision of pay scales of all categories of their employees in consonance with the nature of the duties entrusted to them and such other relevant factors, the question of appointment of another Committee only to assess the relative importance of work of the Ministerial officers of the Secretariat and the officers of the Heads of Departments did not arise. It is however seen from the Report of the Pay Committee that in submitting their recommendations for revised scales of pay for the Ministerial officers of the Secretariat and the offices of the Heads of Departments that they studied the findings of other committees which examined the question in the past.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The question of mutual distrust and recrimination does not arise. Even there should not be any ground for discontentment as the difference in the pay scales has been narrowed down to the minimum and the Committee gave sufficient justifications for retaining this difference in consideration of the nature of duties and methods of recruitment in both the services.

(e)—No.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** The answer to my question (c) is 'Yes', but my information is that none of the Heads of Departments was consulted at the time of revising the pay scales by the pay Committee—is it a fact?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education for Minister, Finance):** No Sir, they were consulted so far I know.

**Re: retrenched or landless *ex-tea* garden labourers who are permanent residents of Assam**

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon)**  
asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the vast majority of retrenched or landless *ex-tea* garden labourers are permanent residents of Assam?
- (b) If so, are they Assamese or not?
- (c) What plans have been formulated by Government to re-employ these unemployed section of Assam's population?

- (d) What plans Government have to employ the grown-up boys and girls of the tea labourers ?
- (e) Whether there are any training institutions for free training of the above boys and girls ?
- (f) In lieu of employment whether Government propose to requisition unused waste lands of tea Companies which have plenty of unused waste lands and settle retrenched or surplus labourers on the requisitioned land ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to ask the tea Companies to settle the unused waste lands with retrenched and surplus labourers ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour)** replied :

720. (a)—It is understood that the majority of *ex-tea* garden labourers have made Assam their permanent home.

(b)—They are properly regarded as residents of Assam.

(c) & (d)—All the avenues of employment in Assam are open to them without discrimination according to suitability.

(e)—Yes, there are some labour welfare centres run by the Hindusthan Mazdoor Sevak Sangha, Assam Seva Samiti and Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust where tea garden labourers are given facilities to learn Smithy, Carpentry, Sewing, Knitting, etc.

(f)—They are equally entitled to consideration for settlement when land is requisitioned from tea gardens.

(g)—It is a matter for the Tea Estate to consider any rationalisation of the type suggested which may be profitable to both.

**Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi)** : Whether Government are aware that a Japanese Expert named Shri T. Shasaki submitted a report in the year 1953 with a view to start cottage industries to help and solve this unemployment problem among *ex-tea* garden labourers ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI**: I think such a report was submitted, Sir.

**Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :**  
When will that scheme be implemented ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) :** If and when the report is examined and accepted by the Government.

**Conversion of Tihu Local Board Dispensary into a Primary Health Unit**

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharhuchi Reserved for Scheduled Tribes] asked :**

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

(a) Whether there is any proposal for converting the Tihu Local Board Dispensary into a Primary Health Unit?

(b) If so, when it will be given effect to ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of converting the same into a Primary Health Unit ?

(d) Whether the Minister-in-charge gave any assurance to the public to convert the Tihu Dispensary into a Primary Health Unit ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister)**  
replied :

721. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Not at present.

(d)—There was no such assurance.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRODANI (Golakganj) :**  
Whether the Medical Minister gave any assurance in a public meeting regarding this Dispensary and whether the speech delivered by the Minister was recorded by stenographers ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) :** No, Sir, there was no such assurance regarding this Dispensary.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRODHANI (Golakganj) :**  
My second question is whether the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Minister at Tihu was recorded by a stenographer ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) :** I did not deliver any speech at Tihu.

**Opening of a Leprosy Asylum at Uttar Baska Mauza  
in Gauhati Subdivision**

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi  
(Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** asked:

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

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fact that there are many leprosy cases in the Uttar Baska and Dakhin Baska areas?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken so far ?

(c) Whether Government will consider to open a Leprosy Asylum at Uttar Baska Mauza in Gauhati Subdivision ?

(d) If so, when ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

722. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c) & (d)—Government propose to examine the question of establishing treatment centres after necessary survey.

**Bridge over Bijlighat on the Nalbari-Hajo-North  
Gauhati Road**

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari—  
East)** asked :

723. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (Roads and Buildings Wing) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware of the difficulties experienced by people for want of a permanent bridge over Bijlighat on the Nalbari-Hajo-North Gauhati Road ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that there is heavy traffic on the said road, which, during the rainy season when the temporary bridge is washed away, is practically cut off?

(c) Whether Government are aware that agriculturists carrying their agricultural produce are to cross over the river often and that many people who have lands on both sides of the river, suffer economic loss when they are practically cut off for want of a bridge?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings Wing)]** replied :

723. (a)—Government have received no complaint in this respect but it is quite likely that some difficulties are felt by the local people for want of permanent bridges on this road.

(b)—Government have no definite information regarding the volume of traffic on the road; but the traffic on the Road is not cut off during the rainy season, when the temporary cold weather bridge is washed away. A hand driven Mar-boat is placed for crossing of the traffic.

(c)—No complaint in this respect have come to the notice of the Government.

**Total number of students admitted into the Assam Engineering College and Assam Technical College, Jorhat**

**Shri TAMIZUDDIN PRADHANI (Dhubri)** asked :

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

(a) The number of total students admitted during the last five years to (i) Assam Engineering College (ii) Assam Technical College, Jorhat ?

(b) The number of admissions from Goalpara District into the above Institutions during the last five years ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

724. (a)—(i) Assam Engineering College—

1955-56	...	...	...	72
1956-57	...	...	...	60
1957-58	...	...	..	129
				<hr/> 261

(ii) H.R.H. P.O.W. Institute, Jorhat—

Diploma courses in Engineering

1953-54	...	...	...	60
1954-55	...	...	...	35
1955-56	...	..	...	42
1956-57	...	...	...	68
1957-58	...	...	...	180
				<hr/> 385

Craftsmen courses

1953-54	...	...	...	74
1954-55	..	...	..	87
1955-56	...	...	...	101
1956-57	...	...	...	103
1957-58	...	...	...	...
				<hr/> 365

Courses abolished.

(b)—Assam Engineering College—

1955-56	..	...	...	3
1956-57	...	...	...	4
1957-58	...	...	...	5
				<hr/> 12

H.R.H. P.O.W. Institute, Jorhat—  
Diploma courses in Engineering

1953-54	...	...	...	1
1954-55	...	...	...	1
1955-56	...	...	...	...
1956-57	...	...	...	2
1957-58	...	..	...	5
				<hr/> 9



## Craftsmen courses

1953-54	..	...	...	3	
1954-55	...	...	...	...	
1955-56	...	...	...	...	
1956-57	...	...	...	1	
1957-58	...	...	...	...	Courses abolishd.
				—	
				4	
				—	

**Shri TAMIZUDDIN PRODHANI (Dhubri) :** মই জানিব খোজো এই ১২ জন ল'ৰাৰ ভিত্তবত কেইজননে পাচ কৰিছে ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) :** পাচ কৰাৰ খবৰ আনাৰ ইয়াত নাথাকে।

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Caste)] :** Sir, what is meant by H. R. H. P. O. W. ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) :** Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge how many from among the students are getting State stipends ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** Sir, I will require notice of that.

### Bridge over Kaldia River at Jalah in Barpeta Subdivision

**Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) asked :**

725. Will the Minister, Public Works Department, be pleased to state—

- Whether it is a fact that for the construction of the bridge over Kaldia river at Jalah in Barpeta Subdivision tender was called for and that the earnest money was also deposited in the bank by the Contractor ?
- Whether it is also a fact that some materials, like posts, beams and other implements, were collected to construct the bridge by the contractor ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that some of the materials are still lying on the bank of the river ?

(d) If so, why the construction work was postponed ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** [Minister, Public Works

Department (Road and Buildings Wing)] replied :

725. (a)—Yes ; tenders for this bridge were also called for along with works on the other portions of the road. But, this work (construction of the Kaldia Bridge) had, ultimately, to be dropped, as the allocated amount failed to cover the portion of the Road, where the bridge was to be constructed, and also the bridge.

(b) & (c)—Yes ; some materials were collected by the contractor for the above work ; but he has since diverted them to some other bridge work, subsequently allotted to him.

(d)—The hon. Member may kindly refer to (a) above.

**Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS:** Estimate আৰু Plan ৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি tender call কৰা নহয়নে ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI** (Minister, Education for Minister, P.W.D.) হয়। :

### Recognition of the Gauhati Music College by the Bhatakhande Sangit Bidyapith, Lucknow

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI** (Titabar) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware that a Music Institute namely the Gauhati Music College obtained recognition from the Bhatakhande Sangit Bidyapith, Lucknow ?

(b) Whether Government are aware of the year when this Institute came in existence ?

(c) If so, in what year ?

(d) Whether Government are aware that an examination under the auspices of the aforesaid Bidyapith was held in this year at Gauhati ?

- (e) Whether Government are aware that 88.25 per cent of the students appearing from the Gauhati Music College came out successful in the examination held under the Bhatakhande Bidyapith ?
- (f) Whether Government are aware that out of the successful candidates, two were placed in 3rd position in I.M.C. and I.D.C. Degrees in All-India basis ?

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

- (a) From which year a grant-in-aid (recurring grant) has been paid to the Gauhati Music College, and what is the amount paid per month ?
- (b) Why this grant has not been paid to this Institute for several months ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to pay the same now ?

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

- (a) Why the non-recurring grant of Rs.5,000 (five thousand) which was sanctioned for the Gauhati Music College has not been paid to this Institution ?
- (b) Whether the grant has been paid to some other Institute ?
- (c) If so, why ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education)** replied :

726. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—In 1946.

(d), (e) & (f)—Government have no information.

727. (a)—From 1947-1948—Rs.100 per mensem.

(b) & (c)—There was some delay due to change in the procedure of drawing the grant by the School, as required by Accountant General. Formerly the grant used to be drawn direct from the treasury by the Secretary of the School ; but Accountant General requires that the bills are to be countersigned by the Inspector of Schools. Accordingly the Inspector has been asked to countersign the bills if otherwise in order.

728. (a)—No non-recurring grant of Rs.5,000 was sanctioned to the Gauhati Music College and hence the question of payment does not arise.

(b)—A non-recurring grant of Rs.5,000 was sanctioned last year to Assam College of Music for purchase of equipments.

(c)—The Assam College of Music applied for a grant and the Institution was considered deserving.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is not a fact that the Assam College of Music was started from 1957?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education):** This College was started after the Gauhati Music College.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):** What is the enrolment of that college?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** The figure is not with me now.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** Sir, may I know from the Government whether the recurring grant for the Gauhati Music College has been sanctioned from 1947?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** Yes, but we are not sanctioning non-recurring grants to any music institutions in the State.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** Sir, the Education Minister made a statement in the House other day that the music institutions in Assam are receiving recurring and non-recurring grants. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge why the amount of Rs.5,000 sanctioned to the Assam College of Music was not included in that list?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** Because it was not actually given.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** May I know from the Government whether this amount of Rs.5,000 is not a non-recurring grant?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** All these grants are given to the music institutions in Assam from capital grant, because Government are not granting now non-recurring grant for the development of music in Assam.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** How many music institutions are there in the State?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education):** Sir, I cannot say anything off-hand.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):** What is the total number of students in this newly started College?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** For this, Sir, I require notice.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** May I know from the Government how many professors are serving in the College?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** For that, Sir, also I require notice.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter as to why Rs.5,000 which was sanctioned for this defunct Assam College of Music was not given to the Gauhati Music College which was started in 1946?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** Sir, the whole point is that I cannot accept the idea that other colleges which are now defunct, why their cases should also not be considered. We will have to look into the matter and examine it.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** May I know from the Government why an amount of Rs.5,000 (five thousand) has been granted to a new institution and the case of the institution which was started in 1947 and is affiliated to Bhatkhande Univeristy has not been considered?

#### **Tihu-Haribhanga-Sandheli-Sahpur Road in the Kamrup Division**

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Tihu-Haribhanga-Sandheli-Sahpur Road under '81.—Capital Account of Civil Works, etc.', in the North Kamrup Division is not yet completed as the 1st alignment of the Road made by the Department (from Haribhanga Dispensary to Sandheli

Lower Primary School Portion) has been subsequently altered at the request of some persons despite objection raised by a major section of the local people ?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that earth work was started in the 1st aligned portion and contractors' bill was paid ?
- (c) If so, how much was paid to the contractor for that portion and why it was altered ?
- (d) Whether the 1st alignment was made by the Department with the consent of the Pattadars ?
- (e) If not, why not ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that some earth-work has been done by the contractors in the portion of second alignment, and their bills are paid up ?
- (g) If so, whether earth-work was allowed in the second alignment after finalising the alignments?
- (h) If the reply to (g) above is in the affirmative, when the road is likely to be completed ?
- (i) Whether Government is aware that due to this alteration of alignment, mis-understanding and dis-satisfaction arose among the villagers of Haribhanga area leading to formation of rival groups and numerous criminal cases ?
- (j) If so, whether Government shares the responsibility for all these ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D., Roads and Buildings Wing) replied :**

729. (a), (b) & (c)—Haribhanga-Sandheli-Sahpur Road was approved as a new road construction job under the Five Year Plan Programme at an estimated cost of Rs.60,000 for 3 miles only and earth-work was started along the approved route. The earth-work could not be completed due to objection raised by some land owners in the 3rd mile of the alignment.

An amount of Rs. 1,532 was paid to the contractor for the work done in the 3rd mile of original alignment. When the work could not be proceeded with along the original alignment for reasons stated above, some villagers offered to provide facilities to carry out the work along a different route which is straighter and the local officers in their eagerness to have this work completed expeditiously agreed to their suggestion to take up the straight route and altered the alignment accordingly.

(d)—Yes, the local leaders and people agreed to the work being proceeded with. Consent of individual owners in writing was not taken. Subsequently, however, Pattadars of a small plot of land in last mile raised objection.

(e)—This being an existing village path and the general approval of the villagers being obtained, it was anticipated by the local officer that there would be no objection as the villagers themselves being road conscious frequently asked for road communication. In fact this road was also asked for by them.

(f)—Yes, the amount of work done along the altered alignment is Rs. 1,500 approximately.

(g)—Yes, after the assurance given by local people.

(h) & (i)—In the meantime, the Pattadars along the original alignment withdrew their objections and dispute arose between two rival parties regarding the two alignments. Work had therefore to be stopped.

The matter is being examined and the work will be started at the earliest possible date.

With regard to criminal cases, Government have no specific information but have called for details.

(j)—No.

**Sanction of Rs.6,632 out of the Local Development Works' Fund by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur for the six Development Projects**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)**  
asked :

730. Will the Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Local Development Officer, Dibrugarh has sanctioned 6 development projects and paid Rs.6,632 out of the District Development Fund, during the years 1954-55, 1955-1956 and 1956-57 ?

- (b) If so, what are (i) the names and addresses of these projects, (ii) amount of work done in each such project, (iii) amount of money paid to each such projects and, (iv) the names of executing agencies of each such projects ?
- (c) Whether these projects were inspected by any official ?
- (d) If so, who inspected completion of these projects ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning Department)** replied :

730. (a)—No amount was sanctioned by the Local Development Officer, as such, but an amount of Rs.6,632 was sanctioned and paid for six projects during the years 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 out of the Local Development Works' Fund by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, in consultation with the Subdivisional Development Board.



(b), (c) and (d)—A statement containing necessary particulars is furnished below—

Year	Name and Address of Project	Amount of work done	Amount of money paid	Name of Executing Agencies	Whether works were inspected by an official	Name of Officer who inspected the project
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1954-55	1. Road from Lohit Valley to Dolpani village—(Sadiya Transferred Area).	Work worth Rs.1,000 (approx.) done.	666 Rs.	Local Road Committee	Yes	Development Officer, Dibrugarh.
	2. Uzani-Sadiya M. E. School, Sadiya.	Work worth Rs.4,000 (approx.) done.	2,666	Managing Committee of the school.	Yes	Development Officer, Dibrugarh.
1955-56	3. Sadiya Government M. E. School, Sadiya.	Work worth Rs.1,500 (approx.) done.	1,000	Managing Committee of the school.	Yes	Assistant Political Officer (State), Na-Sadiya.
1956-57	4. Dalpani Gaon Road (Sadiya Transferred Area).	Work worth Rs.875 (approx.) done.	700	Local Road Committee	Yes, by a non-official of standing.	President, Sadiya Rural Panchayat.
Do.	5. Road from Bangara to New Chapakhowa Town (Sadiya Transferred Area).	Work worth Rs.750 (approx.) done.	600	Local Road Committee	Yes	Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya Transferred Area, Na-Sadiya.
Do	6. Sadiya Mising Kala Parisad, Sadiya.	Work worth Rs.1,250 (approx.) was done.	1,000	Sadiya Mising Kala Parisad (amount paid through Assistant Political Officer, Na-Sadiya).	Yes	Assistant Political Officer, Sadiya Transferred Area, Na-Sadiya.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Sir, in the Statement of grants it says that Uzani-Sadiya Middle English School and Sadiya Government Aided Middle English School are also given grants. Whether the Hon. Minister-in-Charge knows that the same school has been sanctioned grants under different names ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Town and Country Planning):** Sir, we are not aware that the same school has been given grants under different names.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** Whether Government know that the Rural Panchayat was not formed there during 1956-57 and how the Rural Panchayat President could certify that the works were completed ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY:** This information is not known to us. If the hon. Member will be pleased to submit in writing we will look into the matter.

**Payment of compensation to the people of Simaluguri Mauza in Jorhat Subdivision for construction of the Jhanji river Bund from Tamulichiga to Ouguri**

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok) asked :**

731. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage be pleased to state whether he had received any complaints from the people of Simaluguri Mauza, in Jorhat Subdivision, regarding payment of compensation of the Jhanji river Bund from Tamulichiga to Ouguri ?

(b) When Government propose to give compensation to the affected people ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in paying compensation ?

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

731. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The construction of the embankment was undertaken on the pressing demand from the people of the locality. The Executive Engineer did not make any provision in the estimate for payment of compensation for the land occupied by the embankment as he could ascertain that the owners would prefer to relinquish their land free of cost than not to have the embankment at all, due to limitation of funds, and actually they

allowed construction of the embankment on their land without any objection. Of late the owners have demanded compensation for the land occupied by the embankment and the question of formally acquiring the same is now under consideration of the Government. Compensation will be paid when the land is formally acquired and compensation awarded by the Collector.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** Sir, it is stated in reply (b) and (c) that the construction of the embankment was undertaken on the pressing demand from the people of the locality.

May I know from the Government whether it is really the case and whether the Bund is necessary or not ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control, etc.):** Yes, after the pressure from the people of the locality there was an agreement.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Sir, when the public has agreed to the proposal, necessary compensation should be given to the people of the locality who were affected.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** At the time when the proposal was made public gave an assurance that they would prefer to relinquish their land free of cost if the people are protected in the locality by the construction of the embankment.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** When Government consulted the people, the question of giving compensation will be considered by the Government.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Sir, Government will have to consider the question of giving compensation if the demand is renewed by the people of the locality.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI:** Will it be expedited ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Sir, as far as possible.

### Bridge over Baruabari on Nalbari-Hajo-North Gauhati Road

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** asked :

732. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the urgent necessity of a permanent bridge over Baruabari on Nalbari-Hajo-North Gauhati Road to keep the link between Barpeta and Gauhati throughout the year ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that the road passes through thickly populated villages and that there is heavy vehicular traffic between Gauhati, Nalbari and Barpeta. ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware of the difficulty of the people during rainy season when the temporary bridge is washed away and communication practically cut off ?
- (d) Whether Government received proposal for construction of this bridge permanently along with the proposal for a permanent bridge on Adabari out of the provision of the latter by providing R. C. C. posts and timber decking on both ?
- (e) If not, whether Government propose to construct a separate permanent R. C. C. Bridge at Baruabari and to provide funds in the Supplementary Budget ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI [Minister, Education for Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings Wing)]** replied :

732. (a)—Yes, Government appreciate the necessity of permanent bridges on public roads.

(b)—May be so. Government have no definite information on the matter, but will arrange to collect statistical data relating to traffic using the road.

(c) A hand-driven Marboat is maintained at Baruabari during the rainy season, when the cold-weather bridge is washed away. No report about difficulties experienced by people has been received by the Government.

(d)—Yes, such a proposal was received from the hon. Member during November, 1957; and the position was explained to him, *vide* Public Works Department's Letter No. DIB/4/-56/6073, dated the 20th November, 1957.

(e)—As per recommendation of the Assam Road Communication Board, held in December, 1956, this proposal has already been included under the 225 lakhs Programme to be financed out of the Central Road Fund (Ordinary) Reserve. The Scheme is still under consideration of the Government of India. There is no scope to take up this new major work out of the State resources at present.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, in (d) there was a condition to construct the Adabari bridge also.

Now are Government aware that out of the provision of Rs.3 lakhs whether they are going to construct both the bridges out of the same amount?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education, etc., for Minister P. W. D.):** So far as our information goes the Barapani bridge has been included and the matter is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY:** Sir, it is a different question and it is with regard to (e). We requested Government to construct both the bridges out of provision of Rs.3 for Adabari and the department on calculation considered it possible. My point is whether it would be possible to construct both the bridges out of the same amount.

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** If it is for the same purpose it will be considered.

#### Sorbhog-Jonkapara Road

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked:

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

(a) Whether Government are aware of the terrible condition of the Sorbhog-Jonkapara Road?

(b) If so, whether it will be improved ?

(c) Whether the said road has been gravelled ?

(d) If not, what is the reason ?

(e) When gravelling will be completed ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI** [Minister, Education for Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied :

733. (a)—Due to sandy soil the road has become dusty.

(b)—Yes. Provision of Rs. 45,000 has been made in the Second Five Year Plan for further improvement of the road.

(c)—Yes, it was gravelled last year, but gravelling did not last long due to sandy soil and heavy cart traffic.

(d)—Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

(e)—Further gravelling will be completed before the rains of 1958.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)**: Sir, in reply to (e) it is stated that further gravelling will be completed before the rains of 1958. May I know from the Government when the rains will start ?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: I think rains have already come.

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI**: Officially rainy season is to start from July.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: The question is whether the work will be completed before the rains of 1958.

**Shri KAMKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI**: Whether this work has been taken or not, I do not know.

The position is that so far as rainy season is concerned, it commences from June.

### Results of Election to the Committee on Public Accounts and Committee on Estimates

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have to announce the results of the election to the Committee on Public Accounts and Committee on Estimates. The number of candidates being equal to the number of seats vacant the following have been elected unanimously.

#### Committee on Public Accounts

1. Shri Siddhinath Sarma,
2. Shri Moti Ram Bora,
3. Shri Mohi Kanta Das,
4. Shri Joga Kanta Barua,
5. Srimati Komol Kumari Barua,
6. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya,
7. Shri Jahan Uddin Ahmed.

#### Committee on Estimates

1. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala,
2. Mrs. Joytsna Chanda,
3. Shri Chatra Sing Teron,
4. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi,
5. Shri Mohananda Bora,
6. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika,
7. Shri Ramnath Sarma,
8. Shri Hareswar Goswami.
9. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur,
10. Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya.

### Short Notice Resolution

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Now, the 2nd item in the Agenda short Notice Resolution.

**\*Shri BISWA NATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :** Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of a short notice resolution, but I find that resolution has not been allowed. The letter that I have received from the Assembly Secretariat in this connection says that this resolution has not been allowed as it concerns the Central Government. But I find the matter referred to in my resolution was once raised in the floor of this House and replied to by the Minister concerned. So, I want to speak a few words on my resolution.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Was it so? But then I do not what particular aspect of the matter was discussed then. But in any case, no question regarding the admissibility of resolution can be raised here. If the Hon. Member so desires, he may please take up the matter with the Secretary or the Speaker, as the case may be.

### Resolution to reduce the rate of royalty of captured elephants and abolition of monopoly fee altogether

**\*KUMAR PRAKITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the fact that the price of elephants has decreased and is decreasing affecting the elephant catchers to a great extent, this Assembly is of opinion the rate of royalty of captured elephants be reduced to Rs.525 for a tusker, Rs.455 for a female elephant and Rs.405 for a Makhna while abolishing the monopoly-fee altogether.

(At this stage the Speaker vacated and the Deputy Speaker occupied it).

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Sir, now I want to speak a few words about this decreasing price of elephants and the high rate of royalty charged by the Government. Sir, in the year 1943 the price of elephant was Rs.600 to 800 and the royalty was Rs.225 for Tusker, Rs.175 for female and Rs.150 for Makhna, *i. e.*  $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the price of an elephant which at that time was even considered to be very high. But at that time there was no monopoly fee. The price of elephant, however, shot up to Rs.5,000 to 6,000 in 1944 and the rate of royalty was raised to Rs.600 or so, *i. e.*  $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the price of the elephant. The salary of the maintenance staff and the incidental expenditure etc., although was very high at that time, no body



grudged to pay the royalty as even after deducting the expenditure, the sale of elephant was a profitable business, and a very good margin of profit was left to the elephant catchers. Subsequently Government raised the royalty still further, and they fixed it at Rs.760 for tusker, Rs.700 for a female and Rs.600 for a Makhna and introduced a monopoly fee which does not seem to have any meaning. In the meantime, however, the feuda system and the Zamindery were abolished, the Rajhas and Maharajas ceased to purchase elephants and as a result the price of elephants has gone down. The Sadagars who used to sell elephants to these Rajas and Maharajas have perforce to reduce the price of elephants. In view of these facts the elephant catchers have no alternative other than to reduce the price of their elephants. The price of elephant in the year 1957 was Rs.1,500 to 2,000 in lower Assam and it must be the same, if not less, also in the Upper Assam. Sir, I was myself present at the Singeswari Mela in Bihar in February 1958, and there out of the 200 newly captured elephants, only five elephants were sold in the whole Mela, and the rest could not be sold. The price obtained by these elephant sellers was much less than that obtained by them even here in Assam. For instance during the year 1957-58 out of the 28 elephants as I had myself counted, captured at Dudnai and Bolbola, only 5 elephants were sold. Sir, I think Government have not yet been able to realise the royalty on the unsold elephants.

Moreover, Sir, though the majority of the elephant owners are non-tribal people, the majority of the Fandis and Mahuts are non-tribal people, and as such it is highly necessary for Government to consider very sympathetically this question of ex-orbitant rate of royalty. Otherwise, I am afraid, this elephant catching business will come to a dead stop and as a result these tribal people whose main avenue of employment is elephant catching will be thrown out of employment. In view of all these things I request rather pray Government to reduce the rate of royalty and abolish the monopoly fees at least as long as the price of elephant does not go high appreciably and ask the department concerned to introduce the lower rate of royalty from the next elephant catching season.

With these words, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the subject and beg to resume my seat.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Resolution moved.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to speak a few words in support of the resolution moved by my friend Shri Prakritish Chandra Barua. Sir, Shri Barua has spoken about the difficulties of

the elephant catchers as a result of this exorbitant rate of royalty charged by Government. I think there is difficulty of the elephant users also. Because it is not only the feudal lords and Zamindars who used or could use elephants, but there are some other people also who can profitably use elephants. For example, various contractors use elephants to drag logs of wood from the difficult terrains, and also for dragging other heavy materials. Some time we also see these elephants being used to solidifying earthworks on the road with a view to make them more durable when steam-rollers are not available. So in various ways these elephants are used by our people. Therefore it is not correct to say that use of elephants is only an aristocratic luxury ; it is also useful for ordinary man. We have also seen that from the different parts of the world there is an increasing demand for keeping them in the zoo. Also we saw that there was a scheme of the Uttar Pradesh Government for using elephants for cultivation purpose. We do not know how far that scheme has proceeded. But as elephants are found in abundance in Assam in comparison with the other States, Government should give a little more attention to this business so that it may be profitable not only for the Government but also for the catchers and the users of elephants. But unfortunately at present the royalty is, indeed, prohibitive. The trade is going down and if the royalty is reduced reasonably, then I think quite a large number of people, specially the contractors of medium substance, will be able to use elephants for bringing logs etc., and also they will find an easier market outside the State. As Mr. Barua has stated just now, last year out of the 200 elephants only 20 could be sold in that Bihar Mela and that also at a very small price in that Bihar Mela because those who had taken the elephants there had foreseen that if they would not sell their elephants at that price then the cost for bringing them back and then to maintain them here would have been enormous. So, they had to be undersold. We should therefore see that such a situation is not created. We should also see that those who are in this line of business do not abandon this business. It is no doubt true that there is some amount of scrambling for seats for catching elephants. But the tendency is that the well-established elephant catchers are becoming less encouraged than they used to be in the past. Those who are new in the line may continue their elephant catching operation for some time more, but those who are old in the line may under the present situation abandon their business and that will not be proper in the best interest of the State in the long run. Therefore, though there will be

some amount of loss of revenue to the Government if there be some reduction in the royalty and abolition of the monopoly fee yet keeping a long view of things it will perhaps be feasible for the Government to abolish the monopoly fee system and to reduce the royalty to a reasonable rate. I am not an expert in the line. So, I cannot exactly say whether the particular amounts suggested by Mr. Barua will be reasonable. It is for the Government to decide. But I am making a plea that Government should see that the monopoly fee is abolished and the royalty is reduced to a reasonable rate in the best interest of the State as well as of the elephant catchers and thus to keep alive the trade.

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY (Boko):** মাননীয়া

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্রীপ্রকৃতিশ বৰুৱা ডাঙৰীয়াই উপাধন কৰা প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰি দৃষ্টিমান কৰ খুজিছো। অসমত বনৰীয়া হাতী বৰাটো আছিল কথা নহয় ই এটা পুৰণি কালৰে পৰা চলি অহা প্ৰথা। এই ব্যৱসায়ত অসমৰ বহুত পৰিয়াল জীৱিত হৈ আছে। কিন্তু জমিদাৰী প্ৰথা উঠি যোৱাৰ লগে লগেই হাতীৰ চাহিদা ইমান কমি গল যে এই ব্যৱসায় মৰি যোৱাৰ আশংকা হৈ পৰিছে। এই ব্যৱসায় মৰি গলে ব্যৱসায়ী সকলৰ লোকচান হোৱাৰ লগে লগে অসম চৰকাৰৰো বহু ক্ষতি হব। হাতীৰ পাজনা হিচাপে চৰকাৰে বছৰি প্ৰায় তিনি লাখ টকা পায়। বয়েলিটি আৰু মনপলী ফী-ৰ বাহিৰেও হাতী পোহা সকলে বছৰি ২৫ টকাকৈ খাজনা দিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ পৰাই কৰ পাৰি যে বছৰি তিনি লাখ টকা আয় হয়। এই টকাৰ আধাখিনি জিলা পৰিষদ বোৰেও পায়। সেই কাৰণে অকল হাতী মহলদাৰ সকলৰে ক্ষতি নহয় অসম চৰকাৰৰো খাজনা ভালেখিনি কমি যাব।

হাতীৰ মহলত কাম কৰা লোক সকল প্ৰায় জনজাতি লোক। যদি এই ব্যৱসায় মৰি যায় তেন্তে শ-শ জনজাতি লোকৰ জীৱিকাও নাইকীয়া হব। আৰু এটা কথা যে পাহাৰীয়া অঞ্চলত যি খেতি হয় বনৰীয়া হাতীয়ে বছৰি নষ্ট কৰে—ফলত জনজাতি অঞ্চলত ৰাদ্যভাৰ হয়। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও যদি হাতী চিকাৰ বন্ধ কৰি দিয়া হয় তেন্তে খেতিৰ নষ্ট আৰু বেচি হব। সেই কাৰণে এই পুৰণি কলীয়া প্ৰথাটো বন্ধ কৰা উচিত নহব বুলি মই ভাবো।

যুদ্ধৰ আগতে হাতীৰ দাম গড়ে এহেজাৰ টকা আছিল আৰু maximum royalty আছিল প্ৰায় ২২৫ টকা। কিন্তু ১৯৪৩ চনৰ পৰা হাতীৰ দাম পাঁচ হেজাৰৰ পৰা আঠ হেজাৰ টকালৈকে বাঢ়ে আৰু লগে লগে royalty ও ৭৫০ টকালৈ বাঢ়ায় দিয়া হয়। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও মনপলী ফী ডেবশ-দুশ টকা দিব লাগে। কিন্তু জমিদাৰী উচ্ছেদ কৰাৰ পিচত হাতীৰ দাম কমি গল, আগৰ পাঁচ হেজাৰৰ পৰা আঠ হেজাৰৰ পৰিৱৰ্ত্তে এতিয়া পোন্ধৰশ বা দহেজাৰ টকা হৈছে। ইফালে royalty আৰু monopoly fee একেই আছে। আগৰ দৰে হাতী বিক্ৰিও নহয় আৰু সেই হাতী ঘৰতে পুহিব লগা হয়। গতিকে খৰচো বাঢ়ি যায়।

আগতে হাতী চিকাৰৰ খৰচ প্ৰায় তিনিশ টকা আছিল আৰু বয়েলিটি দুশ টকা ধৰিলে মুঠ পাচশ টকা হয়। গতিকে এহেজাৰ টকাত বিক্ৰী হলেও পাচশ টকা বাকী থাকে। কিন্তু আজি কালি খৰচ বাঢ়ি গৈছে। চিকাৰতে প্ৰায় দুহেজাৰ টকা খৰচ হয় তাৰোপৰি royalty আৰু monopoly fee প্ৰায় এহেজাৰ টকা ভৰিব লাগে। গতিকে তিনি হেজাৰ টকা খৰচ হয়। ইফালে যদি হাতীটো ১৮০০ টকাতো বিক্ৰি হয়। তথাপিও ১২০০ টকা লোকচান হয়। সেই কাৰণে যদি যুদ্ধৰ সময়ৰ দৰেই royalty আৰু monopoly fee থাকে তেনেহলে দুই-এবছৰৰ ভিতৰতে এই কাৰবাৰ মৰি যাব।

চৰকাৰে কব পাৰে যে হাতীৰ কাৰণত লোকচান হলে মনপলী কিয় বিচাৰে ? হাতী ধবাতো ব্যৱসায়ৰ উপৰিও এটা ভাণ্ডৰ খেল। লগতে পুৰণি মানুহবোৰ চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰভুভক্ত আছিল। চৰকাৰে কিবা বিচাৰিলে ৫০০ টকাই হওক বা এহেজাৰ টকাই হওক as a mark of respect to the demand made by Government দিব লাগে বুলি ভাবে। গতিকে মনপলী ফী competition ৰ কাৰণে নিদিয়াই দিয়ে, mark of respect হিচাপে। সেই বাবে এইটো কমোৱা উচিত বুলি ভাবে। ইয়াতে মই এটা কথা উল্লেখ কৰো যে, আমি গেজেটত দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে NEFA অঞ্চলত হাতী ধবাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। তাত Monopoly fee আৰু royalty ৰ তো কথাই নাই, তাৰ সলনি যিসকলে হাতী ধৰি দিব পাৰে সেই সকলক হাতী প্ৰতি ৫০০ টকাৰ পৰা ১০০০ টকালৈ পুৰস্কাৰহে দিয়া হব বুলি ঘোষণা কৰিছে।

এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত, অসমৰ এটা অঞ্চলত হাতী ধবাৰ কাৰণে Monopoly fee আৰু royalty দিব লাগে আৰু আন অঞ্চলত কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে ৫০০ টকাৰ পৰা ১০০০ টকালৈ সেই একে কাৰণে পুৰস্কাৰ দিয়ে। গতিকে মই ভাবো যে এই নীতিৰ কোনো সামঞ্জস্য নাই।

আনফালে এই ব্যৱসায় লাভজনক নহয় গতিকে চৰকাৰে এই বিলাক লক্ষ্য কৰি অহত: Royalty টোকে হ্ৰাস কৰিব বুলি মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো।

মহোদয়, বিহাৰ আদি ঠাইত হাতী, হালচীনা আদি কাম লগোৱাৰ এটা আঁচনি লব বুলি শুনিছো। আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকল দুখীয়া মানুহ। টকাৰ অভাবত Tractor আদিও ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও তেওঁলোকে সেই বিলাক Mechanism ও নাজানে। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকে হাতী এটা চলাবলৈ জানে। যদি আমাৰ চৰকাৰেও তেনে আঁচনি লয়, সাধাৰণ খেতিয়কে কিছু টকাৰে হাতী এটা কিনি খেতি কৰিব পাৰে। এই আঁচনিটো বহু ফলবতী হব বুলি মই ভাবো। মই আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই আঁচনিটো লোৱাৰ কথা ভাবি চাব।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই সামৰণী মাৰিলো।

**Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA (Jaipur):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard what the mover of the resolution and the supporters have spoken. But it is a fact that elephants are a big forest wealth of our State. We earn about a lakh of rupees from the elephants. It is really very sad that from such a big wealth we earn only one lakh of rupees annually. Now, there is a complaint that with the abolition of zamindaries the elephants do not fetch a high price. That may be so. Shri Chaudhury said that in Bihar elephant is employed for ploughing. Perhaps this practice will increase in time and then surely the price of elephants will rise. The zamindars have stopped buying but perhaps the cultivators will take to buying of elephants and then we will get a fair price for this forest wealth of ours. If the professional catchers are not willing to pay so much royalty and monopoly fee now, they may stop catching the elephants altogether and thus our forest wealth will increase and when the prices will rise we can again

start catching. In this way our State will be benefited in time. Even if the professional catchers are willing to pay more royalty and monopoly fee I suggest we should stop catching now and then so that our wealth may grow. If necessary, it is better to stop catching of elephants rather than decrease the royalty and monopoly fee. Let our forest wealth grow. I therefore oppose the resolution and I suggest to Government that it is better to stop catching altogether now than to reduce the royalty and monopoly fee.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the change of time and change of air everything changes. The world of to-day is not the world of yesterday. Yesterday, the price of elephants was high, to-day it is not so. Government should know how to keep pace with the price level. That is why I suggest that Government should at once reduce the rate of royalty and abolish the monopoly fee altogether.

Sir, elephants should be caught from different view-points, particularly from these three view-points, *viz.*, (1) it will give revenue to the State, (2) many people will be benefited by using elephants and (3) the danger to crops from wild elephants will be reduced as we know, elephants and monkeys do immense harm to the crops of the villagers living near the hills or in the border of forests. We get an annual income of one lakh but the crop damaged by elephants and monkeys will value more than one lakh.

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok):** বান্দবৰ ওপৰভেদে  
monopoly আছে নে ?

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH:** The hon. Member perhaps does not know that every year thousands of monkeys are exported to America from India and there is a tax on this trade. But here I have brought in monkeys only to illustrate my point how elephants, monkeys and other animals damage the crop.....

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** গাহৰি ?

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH:** Yes, গাহৰি too. What I wanted to say was that from these view points the elephants entirely should be caught. In a scientific age elephants will not be much useful to the people and we are progressing towards a scientific age. When there is scarcity of food and people are dying of starvation, it is criminal to allow any damage to food-crops. Sir, in the Nowgong district already

four people have died of starvation. I will give the names: (1) Keshoi Baruani of Kopaheragaon in Mouza Silpukhuri, (2) Kochari Bora—Mikirbheta village, thana Lahorighat, (3) Mikira Das—Kachadhara Kumargaon in Mouza Barapujiya and (4) Kontila Bora, Kujidah Hatichong village in mouza Kachamari.

These four people have already died of starvation. Therefore, when there is such scarcity, the elephants which damage the crops should be entirely caught and brought to human services.

I support the resolution moved by shri Prakritish Barua and I support the speech made by Mr. Bhattacharyya and an other Member but I do not agree to the suggestions made by some Members that elephants should not be caught. I want that elephants causing harm to the people deprading their agricultural crops should be caught whole sale and if necessary they should be tamed like the cows and buffalows. Cows and buffalows also were wild animals and they were caught and brought to render useful services to men. In the same manner, the elephants should be caught and brought to human services.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Will Kumar Prokritish Barooah speak ?

**Kumar PROKRITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur):** No, Sir.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot accept the resolution. If the suggestion is accepted and Government accepts a lower rate of royalty it will go to the benefit of only a few traders who are in this line of business and will not benefit any other people.

What is the rate of royalty:—

For a tusker.....Rs. 760, for a female Rs.700 and for a Makhna, that is a male without a tusk.....Rs. 600. That is the royalty.

Monopoly fee ranges from Rs.30 to 200 per elephant. Now, how this monopoly fee is realised? Generally these Mahals are settled by tender system. These tenderers themselves offer monopoly fee. In addition to royalty they offer monopoly fee. If they offer it why should Government refuse to accept it. After all it is a business. But the peculiar thing is that if these businessmen do not make profit why do they offer monopoly fee? Sir, Shri Radha Charan Choudhury has explained it and said that the cost of capture of an elephant is Rs. 2,000. The royalty per elephant is Rs. 760. Monopoly fee for one elephant is for tusker Rs. 200, thus the cost of an elephant comes to about Rs. 3,000, whereas an elephant is sold for Rs.2,000,

thus the businessman gives a loss of about Rs. 1,000. But if he gives loss in one year he is expected not to come forward next year but not only he comes next year but offers monopoly fee in addition to royalty. Government accept it. That is the position in Assam Valley.

But, with regard to the other valley, *i. e.*, Cachar district, the position is different. The customers generally come from Bihar but cost of transport to Bihar from Cachar is higher than the Assam Valley. Therefore, the price of elephants in Cachar has gone down. The Cachar business people therefore do not offer any monopoly fee but in their tenders they offer a royalty which is less than the specified rate, the Government have no option but to accept the lower rate of royalty because they want to reduce the number of elephants.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Whether it is a fact that in Cachar elephant catching is going down and as a result the number of elephants has increased and they are causing depredation to crops and houses immensely and they are becoming a menace?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests):** It is correct that the number of elephants have increased in Cachar and are doing damage to property. That is why Government are settling mahals without monopoly fee and at a reduced rate of royalty.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Whether Government is aware that the time is coming when the Government will have to offer royalty to the elephant catchers to catch elephants?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS:** When that time comes we will do it but so long as people offer royalty, we are not going to do it. In Assam Valley so long monopoly fee is offered in addition to the royalty we are surely not going to accept the position which has been stated by Shri Bhattacharyya.

For Cachar district it is a different thing. Not only that they do not offer a monopoly fee but in 1956-57, for a tusker royalty offered was Rs.250 instead of 760, for a female elephant it is 250 instead of 700 and for a Makhna it was 200 instead of 600.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** The businessmen may be short-sighted but our Government should be far-sighted.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests):** That is all I have got to say. In view of what I said, I hope, the hon. Member will withdraw his resolution.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Will the hon. Member withdraw his resolution ?

**Shri PROKRITISH CHANDRA BARUA:** No, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is that in view of the fact that the price of elephants has decreased and is decreasing affecting the elephant catchers to a great extent, this Assembly is of opinion that the rate of royalty of captured elephants be reduced to Rs. 525 for a tusker, Rs. 455 for a female elephant and Rs. 405 for a Makhna while abolishing the monopoly fee altogether.

(The question was lost)

### Private Members' Resolutions

**Further discussion on the Resolution to recommend to make a comprehensive study of the problem of untouchability in its present form in the light of the report and recommendation of the Scheduled Castes Commissioner.**

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We are discussing resolution No. 15, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya may speak.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had almost finished my speech. I have a few more words to say.

I was saying that there are certain problems of the Scheduled caste people throughout India and more particularly in Assam. For every State there are more specific and special considerations and circumstances. So far as specific form of untouchability in Assam is concerned, no doubt, it is not as monstrous as it is in South India, yet we cannot remain content with the existing situation in our State and the peculiarities that we have need be placed before the All-India Commission. I was submitting that in that respect this Government has failed up till now. The peculiar and specific problem of untouchability in Assam has not been well represented to the All India Commission as a result of which the remedies that are generally suggested for the whole of India with a special eye of the problems in South India also are suggested here, but they are not of much help. For example, the question of some communities, Namkirtan or occasional inter-Communities dining does not solve the basic problem. The basic problem



is economic and cultural. There should be special emphasis on the rehabilitation of the havenots who are abandoned amongst the Scheduled Castes and there should be special emphasis of that on this very respect. I submitted that instead of giving weightage to these havenots, the Scheduled castes have been forgotten or neglected ; because they are not educationally very advanced, they cannot create a lot of noise. In these days that are passing it appears that the Government's power of hearing has become dull and unless and until there is a great deal of noise and turmoil Government does not seem to hear. As I have said, because these people are educationally backward they cannot create so much of noise and therefore, they are neglected. These people in many respects are really worse than refugees but they have not got any rehabilitation. Whatever help has been given to them is merely as relief than as rehabilitation. Giving a few hundreds of rupees to a few families for construction of their houses or spending a few more hundreds of rupees for occasional inter-communities dining won't serve the purpose of removing this untouchability. So I submit, Sir, that there should be a special study of the specific problems of untouchability as existing in Assam and the result of the study should be placed before the All India Commission so that at the time of giving help or relief whatever that may be, the share that falls to Assam may be used in a manner which is specially suited for the conditions of Assam. We cannot benefit much by the method that may be applicable to Madras because the problem in various respects are different in Madras from those prevailing in Assam.

I, therefore, think that in order to make this sort of specific study of the problem and also to make recommendations to the All India Commission with the background of this State which is different, the step as suggested by my friend is absolutely necessary. Unless and until all specific problems are known, unless and until the remedies that were to be suggested to the Commission are also known, neither the Government of India nor the Scheduled Castes Commission will be in a position to help in a manner that will be most beneficial to us. So, if we want really to help these people, we should on our part also take appropriate steps and these appropriate steps can only be suggested by such a Committee as suggested by my friend.

With these words, Sir, I support this Resolution.

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West):** Sir, I rise to support the Resolution. It is not really a problem of social untouchability in our State, it is a problem of economic backwardness, educational backwardness and cultural backwardness

of the Scheduled Caste people in our State. There is a guarantee in the Constitution and there are Articles in the Constitution wherein it is said that within these ten years the specific privileges reserved for them or the opportunities given to them are to be utilised to the maximum. It is really not a blessing that in our State we are to bring or to keep specific provision or privileges to a section of our people, the Scheduled Castes. It shows that till now the progress towards the improvement of these Scheduled Caste people is not moving forward if these special privileges are still to be kept. During these ten years of our Independence we have seen that much has been said to improve the lot of these Scheduled Caste people, but in practice I have seen that except a few privileges to a few of them, the mass of the Scheduled Caste people are not getting any substantial or sufficient help towards the improvement of their economic, social and cultural life.

Sir, in this connection I can cite some examples. In the villages the Kaibarthas and Namasudras have to live on fishing, but nowadays the fisheries are not in the hands of these people. It is true that it is open to these people, the Namasudras and the Kaibarthas to take auction of some fisheries, but in actual practice almost all the fisheries are in the hands of the non-Scheduled Caste people, the rich and well to do in society. Now the economic condition of the Scheduled Caste people, specially the Namasudras and the Kaibarthas, is going down day by day so much so that almost all of them have no adequate means of subsistence. Now these people are seeking jobs in the towns, in railway stations, in tea stalls in the bazars. Some of them are also seeking land for cultivation, but our Government so far have done nothing to settle lands with more than 10 per cent of them. I know that for some years some Scheduled Caste people are representing to the Government to open some forest reserves which are not necessary at present, but surprisingly enough Government have not paid any heed to those representations. For example, there is one such reserve in Nalbari named Barnibari. The Scheduled Caste people of that area who are very poor have been repeatedly requesting the Government to open that reserve which is not necessary at present, but no step has yet been taken. Similarly some Scheduled Caste people of Barpeta are pressing upon the Government to open a reserve there which is called Barira but that reserve also has not been opened to them although an enquiry has been made by the local Sub-Deputy Collector who also recommended opening of that reserve for settlement with the Scheduled Caste people of that area.

I know that hundreds of Scheduled Caste people are without work and some of them are seeking jobs in distant villages. So, Sir, it is evident that in many places of the State, the poor Scheduled Caste people like Koibarta and Namasudra are going without work. During the last Session of the Assembly we also requested the Government that specially the Scheduled Castes people who are generally known as Namasudras and Koibartas and who are in uneconomic condition should be encouraged and that Government should help them.

Those Namasudra and Koibarta people who are living in town areas their economic condition also is not good and they should also be encouraged and they should be given help. I have seen specially in Gauhati, when the Brahmaputra river was open to the Namasudra and Koibarta people they could earn their daily living by free fishing. But after the introduction of auction system, some big people from the town control fishing, and the scope for free fishing in the Brahmaputra river is now not available to them. In the like way the Namasudra and Koibarta people living in Nalbari Municipal area whose number will be about 500, after the auction system which has been introduced by the Government the people there also are deprived of free fishing from which they could earn their living, and they have now no other jobs to do.

I know also that in Barpeta, in Bhakatpara area there are sufficient number of Namasudra people having no proper work to do. I have very often hear our Government say that our people are lazy and they do not do any work. But Sir, these people whose condition are very bad economically unless they are provided with work, how could these people find suitable work for them? They have been requesting Government to find out work for them, but Government have not done anything for them.

Then regarding Hira and Sonari communittees, the other day I mentioned that they should be encouraged to take up their respective professions, because those people are also going down day by day due to their uneconomic condition. They are also leaving their proper profession, because their profession is not profitable now-a-days, and the Government have not taken any proper step to improve their lot so that they can sell their products in the markets and earn their living from it. But it appers now that they are also seeking other kind of jobs elsewhere as they have no land also to cultivate. So, Sir, I submit that Government should provide adequate jobs to these people also; or make a plan for it.

Regarding Sonari community, we know that the people of this community had sufficient work in the past when the general condition of the people in the respective localities were good. Now-a-days the Sonari community have no sufficient work to do, because they have to compete with organisations which produce modern, scientific and up-to-date and better type of ornaments which attract the general public to purchase them. Therefore, the condition of these people are also going down day by day and in no time they would be extinguished. So, Sir, I would like to submit that a proper survey about the present condition of the people belonging to Sonari, Hira, Kumar, Namasudra and Koibarta communities should be made. After enquiry there should be a proper plan for their improvement. It is stated by Government that they have rendered sufficient help to those people. But, Sir, so far my information goes some amount of money is sanctioned by the Central Government to the people of the poor Scheduled Castes in Assam. But at the time of distribution of that money, the way and manner in which the distribution is done, is not scientific and proper ; rather in some cases it is distributed in such a way where the well-to-do people of the Scheduled Castes communities could reap the fruit and not by the poor people of the communities. I know in my own constituency, there is a village which is called Solmara where, there is a large number of people belonging to the Namasudra community numbering about 3 to 4 hundred families, I know when they demanded some amount of money from the Government, Government had been pleased to sanction only Rs.20 for their library though they requested for more money.

In the same way there is a village called Tapa where 2 to 3 hundred families belonging to Scheduled Castes communities live, but not a single pie has been sanctioned to them by the Government for their help.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I think the hon. Member will do well if he says that the recommendations of the Commission were not implemented.

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West):** In the same way, in my constituency, there are villages called Saria, Chamata and Belsor where there are people belonging to communities like Kumar, Sonari and also in Panigaon where there are people belonging to Namasudra community. During the regime of the present Congress rule no help has been rendered to those people. Though we heard from the Government that sufficient number of grants has been made to those people not a single pie has been granted to them for their improvement. So, Sir, I do not think that the members sitting on the other

side should delight themselves in their feeling by saying that they have done enough for the benefit of the Scheduled Caste people. But, Sir, unless and until that feeling is implemented into realities, the lot of the people will not improve. Though much has been said about plans, there has been no definite and proper plan made by the Government. For example, the other day Shri L. M. Srikant, the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Backward Tribes who visited Shillong during this budget session of the Assembly, some of our Scheduled Caste Members of the Assembly were invited by our Minister for Tribal Affairs to the Pinewood Hotel. We expected that some salutary discussions, suggestions and proposals will be made there. But instead of that they were only offered some cups of tea and some sweets. But no vital discussion was made.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** This is not relevant to the speech delivered by the hon. Member.

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West):** Sir, it is relevant. So, my submission is that our Government is not keen about it; so they did not discuss about the problem although they got the opportunity. They did not avail of it. From the report submitted by Shri Srikant in 1955 he mentioned something about Assam. He, in page 9 of that referred that he had come to Shillong and saw some educational institutions like Don Bosco, St. Marry's School and he was pleased enough to see these. But it shows that except that no vital reference has been made about the poor condition of the schools situated in the Scheduled Caste areas so that he could form a correct impression. Our Government were pleased enough to show him some town schools which are running smoothly but not those schools in the villages which are not running smoothly. We know lakhs of Scheduled Caste people live in villages, a handful of these people are in the towns. So it was the duty of our Government to bring this Commissioner to the villages and show him the real condition of the Scheduled Caste people in the villages. I think if our Government would have been keen to the problem surely they would have taken him to the villages and I am sure if they would have done so surely the Commissioner would have formed a different impression. He would have recommended larger grants of money. So the impression created in the mind of Scheduled Caste Commissioner is not adequate and upto the mark. I therefore suggest that as it has been observed by my Friend, Sri Namasudra, Government should enquire into this matter and to give ways and means for the improvement of the Scheduled Caste people. It

should be accepted by the House and we should not be satisfied with the present work and the mode of the work of our Government. We hope that the improvement in the line should be such that within the stipulated period of ten years the progress in this direction should be such that there would not be any necessity for a separate provision in our Constitution. We feel, Sir, if we are to keep a separate provision in our Constitution due to the backwardness of these people in the field of education, culture, etc., then I should say that it is due to our inactivity, due to the apathetic attitude of the Government towards these people in this regard. We are not happy that a caste or a community is left as a separate caste or community. It does not show the progress of a State. Unless and until we can bring our brethren to the same level with other classes of people, we cannot say that ours is a welfare State. We cannot say that we are progressing towards a Socialistic pattern of Society.

With these observations, Sir, I strongly support this resolution.

**Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Hailakandi):**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a few observations with regard to this resolution. I am in full sympathy with my Friend, Sri Namasudra, the mover of this resolution, with regard to the objective of this resolution, he has moved. I know, Sir, there are some people in our State who are very backward and as I could gather from the observations of Mr. Bhattacharyya, delivered the other day, I can say like him in the words of a poet—"I am grieved to think what man has made of man". Mr. Bhattacharyya complained the other day that some castes and communities like Namasudras, etc., are even now looked down upon by people belonging to higher classes. Sir, my ideas are not very clear about the remedy that has been sought in the report of the Commissioner and that it would be attained by means of this resolution. The resolution recommends to make a comprehensive study of the problem of untouchability. Does it include untouchability as a social evil? If so, steps should be taken to remove it in that line. If it is the creation of religion, I think the proper lines should be taken to remedy that. If it is economic, steps should be taken on that line. If it is educational—both are allied,—education and economic—I think proper steps should be taken in that line. Although I am very sympathetic with the purpose of this resolution, I do not see why such a committee after a long report and enquiry of the Commissioner is necessary. The other day from the speech of Mr. Bhattacharyya I could not gather

what steps are to be taken in this regard, but from his subsequent addition I have the impression that the measures to be taken are partly economic, partly social and partly educational. If we can envisage the course to be taken I do not see any necessity for going round and collecting information and preparing a report in this regard. If it is educational, if it is religious, if it is sentimental—even we have seen that the Scheduled Caste people treat the Muslims as untouchables, but they do not mind—steps should be taken to remedy them in that direction. So if the Scheduled Caste people get the wherewithal to improve their condition economically, educationally or otherwise no one will mind to include them in any gathering. We do not treat them as untouchables. I think it should not come within the purview of a discussion like this. If the matter relates to education, we should request the Education Department of the Government to look into it; if schools are necessary, Government should be requested to establish schools in that particular area so that our Scheduled Caste brethren can get the benefit of education just as the other people can get remedies of their grievances from the Government by referring the same to them. In this connection I remember a statement made by that great patriot, late lamented Subhas Chandra Bose when he was the President of the A. I. C. C. when it was reported to him that a particular section of people were very much depressed, he replied, "Well, we are all depressed, oppressed and suppressed." The statement was made, of course, at a time when we were not yet independent. But, Sir, the statement holds good even to-day also. There are many oppressed and suppressed communities amongst us. But the remedy does not lie in beating about the bush. Let us grapple with the evil straightaway and try to remove it. The report says that untouchability is not in a virulent form in Assam. But we know, Sir, Scheduled Castes are not the only people who are very poor in the State. There are many other communities who are also equally poor. Therefore the Congress organization also a few other smaller organizations are trying to remedy this evil wherever it is. But why should we single out the Scheduled Caste people here, the Muslim there and so on when our motto is observe where service is necessary.

**Shri RAM NATH DAS** [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: But the Constitution has provided for it.

**Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Hailakandi)**: Sir, with respect I beg to submit that these provisions are not unmixed blessings. The Britishers left us in groups and fissiparous condition, these provisions

have a tendency to spread disintegration. I do not ignore the necessity of bringing up certain backward communities to the level of the more advanced ones. I have all sympathy for them. But what I mean to say is that we should not always single out a certain community only. There are backward and poor people among all communities. I remember having pushed up the case of one Brahmin boy for Government service. All the villagers of that village used to live on begging.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :**  
Begging is the profession of Brahmins.

**Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Hailakandi) :**  
But the hon. Member does not live on begging. The officer replied to me over the phone that the Brahmins are over-represented. But I took up the case of the boy and got him appointed in spite of the fact that the caste Hindus were over-represented in the Government Service in consideration of the peculiar condition of the boy. So, when we see that some people are backward, some people are poor or uneducated, we should make a common cause, we should espouse their cause irrespective of any consideration of cast or creed, and try to redress their difficulties. I do not see any point for appointing another committee of the hon. Members of the House. What is wanted is earnest and immediate action for amelioration of the condition of these poor people. Ample provision therefore has been made. What is wanted only is straight-forward action. As my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, said the other day, it should not be the headache of a particular community. If we want India to prosper and thrive and occupy an honourable place in the community of nations, every community, every race, and every sub-tribe living in India must prosper equally. I therefore request my Friend, Shri Gopesh Namashudra, to consider once again whether any useful purpose will be served by the committee as proposed under his resolution. If his community is backward socially and economically, Government must look to it. Sir, this evil is not the making of a day. It has taken root by ages. It will therefore, naturally take some time before it can be completely eliminated from our midst. Forming a committee here and passing a resolution there will bring no solution to it. So we will all have to realise that it is our problem, our duty, duty of us all to apply our head and heart for eradication of this deep rooted evil. Our Government is very sympathetic to the cause of the Scheduled Castes. They are trying their best to see how soon they can be levelled up. Under the circumstances I do not see any point to pass a resolution



of the kind brought by my Friend, Shri Namashudra. I therefore request him to withdraw his resolution.

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

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :**  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should like to speak a few words on this Resolution.

This Resolution has been brought with a view to improving the conditions of the Scheduled Caste people and in this connection some observations have been made by the hon. Members Shri Gopesh Namasudra, Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya and others. I am one with them that the condition of the Scheduled Caste people should be improved and they should be brought to the level of other people of the State. To make democracy successful we should give our first attention to the persons who are at the bottom. Unless we bring them up to the level of advanced people our democracy cannot be successful. No doubt the Scheduled Caste people are victims of our society who have got a theocratic outlook. Sir, when we wish that the recommendations should be implemented immediately I request the people of other advanced communities to change their outlook. We have got many things to do. We are to bring about reforms in our Hindu society. The change of the outlook of the people who claim to be advanced people is of urgent necessity. Unless we can change our outlook, perhaps it will not be possible to implement the recommendations and to bring up all classes of our society into one standard.

Sir, it has been mentioned that the problem of the Scheduled Caste people of Assam is not as acute as in Madras or South India. I think it will not be wise on our part to make any comparison with South India. But on the other hand in Assam we can show an ideal to the rest of India. In fact in many societies in Assam we do not have so much difference as in other parts of India and yet we should try to remove any difference which may exist so that we can show a good ideal to the other parts of India as a whole.

The Resolution has been moved by a Member from the Scheduled Caste community. I could not understand why a Scheduled Caste Member only feels and not others for the improvement of the condition of the Scheduled Caste people (Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : You are also feeling)

Not only I, Mr. Bhattacharyya also is feeling for their improvement. Sir, the intention of the Resolution is that one committee should be formed to look after the implementation of the recommendations. I could not understand why Government cannot implement those recommendations and due to which one committee should be formed which would delay the matter. While there is the necessity of implementing the recommendations immediately and fully, I can not agree with the hon. Mover of the Resolution that there should be a committee, as suggested. Already there is one Advisory Committee for the scheduled caste people. So, if necessary, some power should be given to that Committee so that the real facts can be brought to the notice of the Government. If those recommendations are not implemented or the implementation is delayed, then it is likely that there will be a charge that the ruling party or the Government have got no sympathy for the scheduled caste people. Although I do not agree that the Government as a whole have got no sympathy for the scheduled caste people, it is a fact that there are persons here and there at the top who are sometimes found to be not as sympathetic as they ought to be. But due to the action of those persons perhaps we cannot have a general impression. However, Government will see that such an impression or view that they are not sympathetic towards the down-trodden people is removed. Sometimes in the name of religion somebody may try to take some advantage to make some distinction. But Government should not tolerate it and should try to suppress the idea that some classes of people should neglect the scheduled caste people. I hope that the distinction between the scheduled castes, backward and other people in India will be removed soon and we will be one united people having no distinction of any sort, as in the Western Countries.

With these few words, Sir, I support the desire of Shri Bhattacharyya and Shri Namasudra and others for the improvement of the condition of the scheduled caste people, but I could not support the Resolution to form a Committee.

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA (Jaipur):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with Shri Bhattacharyya I wished that this Resolution should have been brought by some other hon. Member of the House than by a hon. Member of the scheduled caste community. The views expressed already by the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate will have some discount, as the resolution comes from their party. So it is fit that I should speak something on the subject,

Following Mahatma Gandhi the Congress has adopted a policy for the improvement of the lot of the scheduled caste people. But while we are the disciples of Mahatma Gandhi, what in practice we are doing in this regard ? It is clear that because there is no anxiety on our part to improve the lot of the scheduled caste people this Resolution had to be brought before the House by Shri Namasudra. Therefore, Sir, I say that what we profess we do not do in practice.

This is very sad. Because of the Congress policy the Constitution was adopted where it is laid down that these people should have some advantage and, therefore, we find that our scheduled caste friends have had the opportunity to come to this House. They have a scheduled caste Minister also ; of course, he has not the responsibility to look after the progress of the scheduled caste people. . . .

(*A voice*:—The Ministers have joint responsibility).

The hill tribal people have got a Minister, who looks after this portfolio also and the scheduled caste Minister has not got the same responsibility to deal with the scheduled caste people.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas)**: It is for the convenience of the administration of the grant under Article 275 that this arrangement has been made.

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA (Jaipur)**: When there is pressure everything is done and when there is no pressure nothing is done. What we are doing now ? We are simply preaching to the people that we should try to be equal and banish all feelings of high and low. But these lectures won't do. We have been hearing such lectures for a long time and since our school days we have been writing essays on the subject. But what we are doing in practice ? Mere lectures won't do. I would suggest that the so-called high caste people take up the professions of these people which we think to be humiliating. If we do that, our preachings will take a practical shape. The washerman's work is not regarded as honourable, but now the high class people are also doing the same work by starting dyeing and cleaning business. In the same way we can take up other work, which we think to be humiliating and if we do this, things will improve. Sir, our Assamese people care more for honour than for money. They do not go in for professions which they consider not honourable. So if we can induce our people to take to the works done by the scheduled caste people, we shall go a great

way towards solving this problem. Sir, the scheduled caste people have been oppressed in India for thousands of years. You will find in Kalidas's Sakuntala a description of the fishermen. Kalidas was born in sixth century A. D. and he described a story of a thousand years ago. From this we can see that from many thousands of years the scheduled caste people are being oppressed by our Hindu people. For this reason I would have advised the scheduled caste people to follow Ambedkar . . . . .

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think, Mr. Barua, you should confine your remarks to the Resolution before the House. The Resolution is about setting up of a Committee. What is the use of digressing into these things ?

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA (Jaipur):** These are necessary for the purpose of developing my arguments. As Ahom we resented adopting Hinduism and decided this to be cause of our fall. Now I have changed it. The Mongolian people have no prejudice against any religion. Look to China and Japan. Religion is no man's exclusive property. When I take Hinduism it is my property, and about the Hindu religion I would speak one thing. What is the Hindu religion ? A man is called "Hindu" if he admits that Vedas are the supreme authority. In the better part of the Vedas, the Vedanta, what is said ? There are two theories.....

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I do not think you are relevant to the subject-matter under discussion. I don't think I can allow you to go on in this way.

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA:** Our people should know what is there in the religion as these people are oppressed in the name of religion. I should like to say what are the Vedas. I think the Vedas or the Vedanta do not support these things which we are following now. There is Avaitabad which says man is a part of God and there is Advaitabad which says God and man are the same thing ; that is man is the God.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, order. I don't think these are at all relevant.

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA:** These people are oppressed in the name of religion, but I want to say that religion does not allow these things.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Order, order. Please resume your seat.

(Shri Joga Kanta Barua then resumed his seat).

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lohowal):** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই যখনিবে পৰা কেইবাবাৰো কবলৈ চেটী কৰি জপিয়াওতে জপিয়াওতে মোৰ কবলগীয়া কথা পাহৰি গৈছে।

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):**

আপোনালোকে জপিয়ালে নাচ হয়।

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA:** যিহওক, মাননীয় নমোস্বত্ৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই অনা প্ৰস্তাবত যি এটা কমিটি লাগে বুলি কৈছে মই সেই কমিটিৰ কোনো আৱশ্যক নাই বুলি কও। কাৰণ সেইটো হৈ যোৱা কথা। আমাৰ আগত বৰ্তমান যিবিলাক সমস্যা সেই বিলাক সমস্যা কেবল বক্তৃতাৰ দ্বাৰা সমাধান নহয়। অনুসূচিত লোক সকলৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে কিছুমান সুবিধা দিছে। আমাৰ প্ৰদেশ খন অন্যান্য প্ৰদেশৰ নিচিনা ধনী নহয় আৰু অন্যান্য প্ৰদেশৰ তুলনাত আমাৰ প্ৰদেশ বেচি সমস্যা পূৰ্ণ। যি হওক ইয়াৰ ভিতৰেদিও চৰকাৰে যি সাহায্য দিছে তাৰ সহায়ক কৈৱৰ্ত্ত সম্পূৰ্ণদায়ে নিজৰ এটা স্থান কৰি লব পাৰিছে। কিন্তু অতি অবহেলিত হৰিজন ভাই সকলে একো কৰিব পৰা নাই। আমি দেখিছো এওঁ লোকৰ নেতা সকলে এওঁ লোকক strike ৰ যোগেদি দাবী জনাবলৈ উদগাই দি তেওঁ লোকে পাবলগীয়া সুবিধাৰ পৰা তেওঁ লোকক বঞ্চিত কৰায়। আজি হৰিজন সকলৰ কাৰণে বাসস্থান ব্যবস্থা, পোৱাপানীৰ ব্যবস্থা তেওঁলোকৰ স্বাস্থ্য ৰক্ষাৰ যেনে দৰে হব লাগিছিল তেনে দৰে হোৱা নাই। এইটো সচাঁকৈয়ে দুখৰ কথা। চাহ বাগিচাৰ মহিলাৰ কাৰণে যি কম ব্যবস্থা বাগানে কৰি দিছে, সিমান ব্যবস্থাও আমাৰ চৰকাৰে হৰিজন মহিলা সকলৰ কাৰণে কৰা নাই। এই হৰিজন মহিলা সকলৰ বাবে পুৰতী পাব লগীয়া মেটাৰনিটি বেনিফিট এক্ট মতে সকলো সুবিধা দিয়া অতি প্ৰয়োজন আৰু মই আশাকৰো চৰকাৰে অতিসোনকালে এই বিষয়ে স্থানীয় মিউনিচিপালিটি বা চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা ব্যবস্থা কৰিব। যেতিয়া হৰিজন মহিলা সকল কামলৈ যায় তেতিয়া তেওঁ লোকৰ লৰা ছোৱালী ধলি মাকাটিয়ে লেটিলৈ থাকিব লগীয়া হয়, সময় মতে আৰু উচিত খাদ্য খাবলৈ নোপোৱাৰ কাৰণে সিহঁতৰ স্বাস্থ্য একেবাৰে নষ্ট হৈ যায়। সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰে municipality ৰ জৰিয়তে municipality ৰ fund ৰ পৰা হৰিজন মহিলা সকল কামলৈ যোৱাৰ সময় খিনিত তেওঁলোকৰ কেচুৱা সকলৰ দেখা শুনা কৰাৰ বাবে শিশু সদনৰ এটা ব্যবস্থা কৰা উচিত। এওঁ লোকৰ বেমাৰ আজাৰ বা গৰ্ভাৱতী অৱস্থাত ডাক্তৰৰ ব্যবস্থা বা দৰব পাতিব ব্যবস্থা থকা উচিত।

### Adjournment

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

### After Lunch

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal)** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই ইয়াৰ আগতে মেডিকেল কেচিলিটিজৰ কথাই আৰম্ভ কৰিছিলো। আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে ডিব্ৰুগড়ত মিউনিচিপালিটিৰ বহুদিন ধৰি কাম কৰি থকা বৃদ্ধ হৰিজন শিউলোচন দাস, এজন শ্ৰীশশধৰ নামৰ, টি, বি, বোগত আক্ৰান্ত হৈ অশেষ যত্ননা ভোগ কৰিছে। এওঁৰ উপৰিও আমি এজন মতিলাল নামৰ হৰিজনে একই বোগত ভুগিছে, এওঁ লোকক এই অৱস্থাত টকাপইছা আৰু ভাল খাদ্য আদিৰ যোগান ধৰা দৰ্কাৰ। টি, বি, বোগ যে কিমান ভয়াবহ বিপদজনক—এই কথা সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্যসকলৰ অবিদিত নহয়। গতিকে এই বেমাৰত আক্ৰান্ত হোৱা মানুহবিলাকে যাতে উপযুক্ত আৰু প্ৰচুৰ সুবিধা পায় তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে দৃষ্টি দিয়া অত্যন্ত দৰ্কাৰ আৰু অকল সেয়ে নহয় তেওঁলোকৰ মুক্তিৰ পথত যে চৰকাৰে যত্ন লৈছে তাৰেহে প্ৰয়োজন। প্ৰচাৰৰ অভাৱত পাবলগা প্ৰায় সকলো চৰকাৰী সুবিধাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হৈ আছে।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, হৰিজন সকলৰ পৰা ছোৱালীক, শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্ৰত বিদ্যাশিক্ষা কৰিবলৈ, বৃত্তি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা আছে। কিন্তু বৃত্তি দিলে কিহব? যেতিয়া হৰিজন লৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাক লেটেৰা-পেতেৰা অৱস্থাত স্কুললৈ যায় তেতিয়া স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলে নকৰিলেও আন আন লৰা-ছোৱালীয়ে এই হৰিজন লৰা-ছোৱালীবিলাকৰ ওচৰত বহিবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰে আৰু তেওঁলোকক ইতৰিকিং কৰে। এনে অৱস্থাত তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে শিক্ষা লাভ কৰা দূৰৰ কথা স্কুললৈ যোৱাই কঠিন হৈ পৰে। সেই কাৰণে হৰিজন সকলৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে মিউনিচিপালিটি বিলাকৰ ওচৰে পাছৰে সুবিধা ঠাইত স্কুল পত্ৰাব দিহা কৰিব লাগে আৰু লগতে পৰিষ্কাৰ পৰিচছন্নতা সমন্ধেও শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিব লাগে\*।

তাৰ পাচত আৰু এটা শোকলগা কথা হৰিজন সকলৰ মাজত আমি দেখা পাওঁ সেইটো হৈছে দিনটো কাম কৰি—কামৰ অন্তত তেওঁলোকৰ জিৰণিৰ কোনো স্থল নথকাত না না কু-কথাত লিপ্ত থাকে। আৰু সেই কাৰণে তেওঁলোকে কষ্টেৰে উপাৰ্জজন কৰা টকা-পইছা অৱ্যবত খৰছ কৰে আৰু লগতে চৰিত্ৰও নষ্ট কৰে। এইবিলাক যাতে তেওঁলোকৰ মাজৰ পৰা আঁতৰ হয় তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে 'লাইব্ৰেৰী', নামঘৰ আদি দিব লাগে। এওঁবিলাকে হিন্দী পঢ়িব জানে—কাজেই, হিন্দী কাগজ-পত্ৰ তাত যোগান ধৰিলে সেইবিলাক পঢ়ি অৱসৰ সময়খিনি সংচৰ্চাত কটাব পাৰিব। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও তাত 'ৰেডিও' দিলে মজদুৰ মণ্ডলীৰ অনুষ্ঠান শুনিব পাৰিব আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই তেওঁলোকৰ বেয়া কামত খৰছ কৰা পইছা থাকি যাব আৰু চৰিত্ৰ গঠনত সহায় হব। হৰিজন সকলৰ সামাজিক আৰু কু-প্ৰথাবিলাক সংশোধন কৰিবলৈ হলে পাব্ লিছিটি ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্টৰ পৰা সামাজিক উন্নয়নমূলক আৰু ধৰ্মমূলক ছবি সমূহ হৰিজন লাইনত দেখুৱাবৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগে।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে হৰিজন সকলৰ বহুতেই অৱসৰ সময়ত বাঁহৰ কাম কৰে। বাঁহৰ পৰা তৈয়াৰ কৰা বস্ত্ৰবিলাক এওঁবিলাকে বিক্ৰী কৰি যি পইছা পায় তাৰে পাবিৱাৰিক খৰছ যোগান ধৰাত সহায় কৰে অথবা বহুতে মদ খাই উৰাই দিয়ে। এইবিলাক কাম যেহেতু তেওঁলোকে কৰে ইয়াৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে সমৰ্থন পদ্ধতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিলে ভাল হয়। এনে কৰি দিলে, এই মানুহবিলাকে মিচাকৈয়ে চিনেমা আদি চোৱাত পইছা ধকা কাম বন্ধ হব আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা টনকীয়াল হব আৰু লাহে লাহে নৈতিক মনোবল পাই উপযুক্ত নাগৰিকলৈ ৰূপান্তৰিত হব পাৰিব।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই অনুসূচিত জাতিৰ কথা কওঁতে, ইয়াৰ লগতে মই 'বজক' সকলৰ কথাও অলপ কওঁ, আজি আমি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে টাউন বিলাকত বহুত ধনী মানুহে 'লগ্ৰী' আদি খুলি—বজক সকলৰ কামত বাধা জন্মাই টকা উপাৰ্জজন কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ ফলত বজক সকলৰ কাম নোহোৱা হৈছে আৰু কামৰ কাৰণে হাবামুৰি খাইছে। এই মানুহবিলাকৰ শিক্ষা-দিক্ষাৰ অভাৱৰ কাৰণে আন ক্ষেত্ৰতো কাম নাপায়—সেই কাৰণে, চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা সন্যোগ সুবিধা দি এই বজক সকলক সমৰ্থন নীতিত 'লগ্ৰী' আদি খুলি দিলে ভাল হয়। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও আৰু এটা শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহ আছে যাক 'মুচি' বোলা হয়। এই মানুহ বিলাকেও—উপযুক্ত সন্যোগ সুবিধাৰ অভাৱত নগৰৰ বজাৰ বিলাকৰ চুকে কানে বহি কাম কৰি জীৱন ধাৰণৰ কাৰণে দুপইছা উপাৰ্জজন কৰা দেখা যায়। এই শ্ৰেণীটোও আজি অত্যাশু পিচ পৰা। এওঁলোকৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণেও চৰকাৰৰ বহুখিনি কৰি দিয়াত বৰঙনি যোগাব পাৰে। বছৰি বছৰি বান-পানীত বা আন কাৰণত হাজাৰ হাজাৰ গৰু-মহৰ মৃত্যু হয় সেইবিলাকৰ চাল বিলাক সংৰক্ষণ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা সমৰ্থন ভেটিত কৰি দিব পাৰিলে তাৰে এই শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহবিলাক জীৱন সংসাৰ চলাব পাৰিব। এই বিলাকৰ

স্ব-ব্যৱস্থা নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে আজি আমি দুখ পাইছো। এই সম্বন্ধে চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত আৰু এটা কথা মই নিবেদন কৰিব খুজিছো যে, এই মুঠি ভাই সকলৰ আৰু অসমত উঠি অহা ডেকা-গাভৰু সকলৰ নিবনুৱা সমস্যা দূৰ কৰিবলৈ যদি অসমত এটা চামৰাৰ ফেক্টৰী খুলিব পৰা যায়, তেন্তে তাত প্ৰয়োজনীয় কাম সমাধা হ'ব বুলি ভাবো। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই সম্বন্ধে বিবেচনা কৰিব। হৰিজন সকলৰ সৰ্বস্বপ্নকাৰ উন্নয়নৰ কামৰ কাৰণে যোৰহাটৰ প্ৰাদেশিক হৰিজন সংঘৰ জৰিয়তে ডিব্ৰুগড় জিলা হৰিজন সংঘ আৰু মিউনিচিপাল হৰিজন সকলৰ পৰা বহুতো প্ৰস্তাব আঁচনি সহ চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰলৈ পঠোৱা হৈছিল। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় তাৰ আজিও কোনো উত্তৰ পোৱা নাই। সম্ভৱ সেইবিষয়ে কোনো গুৰুত্ব দিয়া নাই, আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে সেই কথা বিবেচনা কৰিব।

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** আপুনি কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাব উত্থাপন কৰাৰ দৰে আলোচনা নকৰি মূল প্ৰস্তাবত যি আছে তালৈ দৃষ্টি ৰাখি যদি সমৰ্থন কৰে কৰক আৰু যদি বিৰোধীতা কৰে কৰক। আপোনাৰ পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়াওক।

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) :** উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় নতুন এটা কমিটিৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাই বুলিয়েই মই প্ৰথমেই মূল প্ৰস্তাবৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰি মোৰ পৰামৰ্শ সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছো। প্ৰস্তাবকৰ জ্ঞাতাৰ্থে মই এই সংঘনিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্যকলাপৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰি সংঘই গ্ৰহণ কৰা যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থাৰ কথাহে সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছো আৰু প্ৰস্তাবকৰ প্ৰস্তাবটো তুলি লোৱা প্ৰয়োজন বুলি ভাবো।

গতিকে মই মাননীয় নমগুড্ৰ ডাঙৰীয়াক অনুৰোধ কৰো যে নতুন কোনো কমিটিৰ প্ৰতি বিশেষ গুৰুত্ব নিদি যদি বৰ্ত্তমান কমিটিৰে কোনো বেমেজালি আছে সেই সকলোবিলাক সংশোধন কৰি নতুন গঢ়ি এই দৰিদ্ৰ হৰিজন নবনাৰায়নৰ সেৱা কৰাত যি সকলে দেখে কেহে লাগি আছে তেখেত সকলৰ লগত পূৰ্ণ সহযোগ কৰি যাতে উদ্গনী দিয়ে আৰু যাতে তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাবটো তুলি লয়। মই মোৰ এই পৰামৰ্শ সমূহ চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত নিবেদন জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণী মানিলো।

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :**  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our society is full of contradictions. There are rich and there are poor, backward area and forward area, Kutcha huts and pucca buildings, Kutcha or muddy roads and pucca roads, tribal and non-tribal. Therefore, our society seems to be full of contradictions. For the healthy growth of democracy the whole organic body of the State should be such that no part of it should be allowed to remain weak. If our body is weak then some medicine should be taken so that it becomes stronger, so also if there is a backward area Government should do something to make it forward and the people also should try to improve the area. If there is a Kutcha road or muddy road, it is the duty of the Government so also it is the duty of the local people to improve the road. In our society if some sections of the people are backward economically and in other spheres, it is the duty of the Government and also it is the duty of the people of the State to improve those sections from backwardness to forwardness. Sir, this is why I say that

a Committee is necessary and the Commission has suggested some recommendations for the improvement of the Scheduled Castes. Sir, the Scheduled Caste community is a backward community specially from the view-point of economic condition. Their economic condition is so wretched that we should feel ashamed of it. It is undoubtedly true if the condition of these people had been better, perhaps the question of untouchability would not have existed in our society. It is really money which is the fundamental thing now-a-days. If a man has enough money there is no untouchability, he is respected everywhere and he will get entrance to everywhere. So, Sir, money is the supreme thing now-a-days. So, as the economic condition specially of the Scheduled Castes people is already bad to a great extent, it is the duty of the Government to try to implement the recommendations of the Scheduled Caste Commission. Therefore, Sir, to go into details about the condition of the people in all the areas inhabited by the Scheduled Caste people this Committee is necessary. All the areas inhabited by this section of people may not be always backward, there may be certain areas where the Scheduled Caste people may be somewhat forward. To study the condition of the entire people belonging to this community it is wise to have a Committee formed as early as possible. If this Committee is formed it will be of great help for us to know in details about the conditions prevailing among the Scheduled Castes people in the State. We find that many Committees have been formed such as Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, Agricultural Produce Markets Registration Committee, etc. If this resolution had come from the Government side, there would not have been any opposition in this House, but as it has come from the other side of the House Government will in all probability say that it is not necessary to have such a Committee. Why not? This Committee is absolutely necessary.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is not always true. All resolutions coming from the Government side are not accepted. Sometimes they are rejected by the Government themselves. So your contention is not right.

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** One of the hon. Members observed that conditions of other castes are also not at all good and they also should be taken care of. I do not deny that and if there were such a resolution recommending to study the conditions of the other castes as well which are as bad as that of the Scheduled Castes according to him, we from our side would have certainly offered our support to that resolution. Now the question is that a Committee should be formed to study the conditions of the Scheduled Castes people. Therefore, I think, other things should not be brought here. My



contention is that our Scheduled Castes people are certainly backward. There are two sections among them—one living on fishing and the other living on agriculture. The section that live on fishing is undergoing great hardships. The Beels from where fishes are caught have been leased out to big financiers. Particularly the poor people do not get these Beels. So when they catch fish in these Beels which are leased out they get very little price for their catches. For example, if he catches a fish of one rupee value he would get only 6 annas. The major portion goes to the lessee. In this way the intermediaries are exploiting the poor fishermen and are taking the lion share of the fish caught. So far as the other section who live on agriculture is concerned, their conditions are also not very good, because the lands so far Government has offered them have almost gone into the hands of the big landlords, for they have no money; they are already indebted heavily. So they generally mortgage the land and once the land is mortgaged it is hardly possible to release. It is true that the Scheduled Castes have been offered land by Government to some extent, but that land is again passing into the hands of the landlords of the locality. I think Government should extend State credit—short and long term loans should be offered to the needy and poor people if and when necessary with a view to relieve them. So, I think, if the Committee is formed it will go to offer suggestions for the improvement of the condition of these people. The money-lenders under the pretext of helping them gradually try to exploit them. Of these producers, out of the marketable goods of 35 per cent. of their production, 25 per cent. goes to the money-lenders and to the landlords. In this way, it is undoubtedly true that these money-lenders, whole-salers and landlords are sucking the blood of our poor people. So, Sir, I think a Committee should be formed which will go into the details about the condition of these people. Their condition should be improved as they are facing great hardships and facing starvation. In these days of democracy if every caste and every section of people do not come forward and do not rise up equally, certainly democracy is a failure. Peace has no meaning and progress is certainly impossible. This is why I thank the mover of the resolution and I appeal to the inner sense of the hon. Members of this House to accept this resolution. It is not a new thing. The recommendations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission are already there. Only they are to be implemented in our State. A Committee should be formed to go into details. I hope the hon. Members will, without any fear of contradiction, come forward to accept this resolution. With these few words, I thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to make my observations. I also thank this August House for showing keen interest on this subject.

**Sri MAHADEV DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীগোপেশ নমুণ্ড্ৰই যি প্ৰস্তাৱ এই সদনত আনিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ সম্পৰ্কত বহু সভাই আমাৰ অনুসূচীত ভাই সকলৰ দুখ দুৰগতিৰ বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰাত আমি সুখ পাইছো। অসমৰ অস্পৃশ্যতা আন আন প্ৰদেশত কৈ আজিও কম বুলি মই বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰো। কাৰণ তাৰ এটি সাধাৰণ উদাহৰণ দাখি ধৰিম। এই বাৰ হাজা উপনিৰ্বাচনত মই নিজে কংগ্ৰেছ কৰ্ম হিচাবে কাম কৰাৰ সুজোগ পাইছিলো, আৰু সেই সময়ত বহু অনুসূচীত ভাই বন্ধু থকা গাঁওবোৰ পৰিদৰ্শন কৰি কিছু ঠাইত দেখিব পাইছিলো যে তাত থকা উচ্চ মতৰ লোক সকলে আমাৰ অনুসূচীত ভাই সকলক কুৱাত পানী খাবলৈ নিদিয়ৈ কাৰণ আমাক মানুহে কুৱা স্পৰ্শ কৰিলে পানী অসুচী হোৱাৰ ভয়ত। গট্টাকৈ এইটো বৰ পৰিতাপৰ বিষয়। আজি কুৰি শতিকাৰ আন আন সভা মহাদেশে কিমান আগ বাঢ়িছে আৰু আমাৰ ভাৰতৰ ভিতৰত থকা অসম কিমান পিচত আছে তাৰ নিশ্চয় আপোনা সকলে অনুভৱ কৰিব পাৰিছে, সেই কাৰণে মই অসম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক কব খুজো যেতিয়ালৈ অসমত থকা অনুসূচীত বন্ধু সকলৰ দুখ দুৰ নহব তেতিয়ালৈ আমি প্ৰগতিৰ পথত যোৱাত বাধা জন্মিব যিহেতু অসমৰ জন সংখ্যা ১৬ লাখৰ ভিতৰত আমি অনুসূচীত ভাই সকল মিলি প্ৰায় ৬ লাখ মান হব। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰত নতুনকৈ উঠি অহা ভগনীয়া ভাই সকল মিলি। আপোনাৰ অবিদিত নহয় যে অসমলৈ যিমান বোৰ ভগনীয়া আহিছে তাৰ ভিতৰত আধা অনুসূচীত নমুণ্ড্ৰ জাতৰ লোক হব।

অনুসূচীত জাতৰ ভাই সকলৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কাম নকৰা বুলি কব নোৱাৰো কিছু কৰিছে, যি কৰিছে সেইটো আমাৰ জন সংখ্যা অনুযায়ী অতি কম হয়। তাৰ প্ৰমাণ হয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাত মাত্ৰ এই ৬ লাখ মানুহৰ বাবে ৫০ লাখ টকাৰহে আঁচনি বহুত মাত্ৰ ১০ লাখ টকাৰে ইমান পাচ পৰি থকা লোকৰ অৱস্থা যে তনকিয়াল কৰি আন উচ্চ জাতৰ বন্ধু সকলৰ লগত সমান হব পাৰিব সেইটো মোৰ বিশ্বাস নহয়। মুঠতে কবলৈ গলে এপাচি কচু শাকত এটা জালুকৰ জাল দিয়া যেন হৈছে। গতিকে মই ইয়াকে কব খুজো যিহেতু আমাৰ Scheduled Caste State Development Advisory কমিটি আজি কেবা বছৰৰ পৰা আছে সেই কমিটিৰ জৰিয়তে দিয়া পৰামৰ্শবোৰ ভালকৈ দাখি ধৰি India Governmentৰ ওচৰত জোৰ কৰি অভাৱ অভিযোগ বোৰ দাখিল কৰিব পাৰিলে বহু টকাৰ সহায় পাম বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস আৰু সেই টকাবোৰৰ দ্বাৰা অনুসূচীত বন্ধু সকলৰ প্ৰগতি পথত আগবঢ়াত সহায় হব। তাকে নকৰি যদি তেওঁলোকে দিয়া দানৰ ওপৰত বিশ্বাস কৰি হাত সাবত মাৰী থকা হয় তেন্তে ডাঙৰ অপকাৰ কৰা হব। তেওঁ লোকে দিয়া দানৰ বিভিন্ন শিনতানত যি টকা ধৰিছে তাৰ ভিতৰত সহ ভোজনত বহু সভাই আপত্তি যদিও কৰিছে মই কিন্তু তাক একে বাবে উঠাই দিয়াৰ পক্ষ পাতি নহয়। যদিও সেই ভোজনত আমাৰ পেট নুপুৰায় তথাপি জনসাধাৰণৰ মনৰ ভাব পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰাৰ কাৰণে সহায় হয়।

অনুসূচীত জাতৰলোক অসমত বহুত আছে যেনে নমুণ্ড্ৰ, হীৰা, বনীয়া কৈবৰ্ত্ত, পাতানী, মুসি ইত্যাদি তাৰ ভিতৰত নমুণ্ড্ৰ আৰু কৈবৰ্ত্তয়ে বেছি। আৰু আটাইত কৈ পিচপৰা আমাৰ হৰজিন ভাই সকলৰ কাৰণ মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰী মতলীৰ মজুন্দাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে মুছলমান সকলও অস্পৃশ্য আৰু পিচপৰা মই কিন্তু সেইটো বিশ্বাস কম কৰো যিহেতু মুছলমান সকলেও আমাৰ অনুসূচীত জাতৰ ভিতৰত থকা হৰি জন বন্ধু সকলক অস্পৃশ্য বুলি ঘৃণা কৰে। গতিকে এতিয়া দেখা গল অনুসূচীত জাতৰ লোক সকলো লোকত কৈ ঘৃণাত, যিহওক যিহেতু কম সময় সেই কাৰণে মোৰ বহু কথা যদিও কব লগা আছিল তাৰ পিনে নজৰ নকৰি এতিয়া মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীগোপেশ নমুণ্ড্ৰই যিটো

প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে। তাক এই কাৰণে সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰাত পৰিছে। যিহেতু আমাৰ এজন আগৰ কমিটি আছে আৰু তেওঁ প্ৰস্তাৱ কৰা অনায়াসী সেই লোক সকলো সেই কমিটিতে আছে। সেই কাৰণে মই তেওঁক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে তেওঁ কৰা প্ৰস্তাৱটো তেওঁ নিজে প্ৰত্যাহাৰ কৰে। আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক টানি অনুৰোধ কৰে যে যি আমাৰ আগৰ কমিটি আছে সেই কমিটিয়ে দিয়া নিৰ্দেশৰ ওপৰত গুৰুত্ব দি আমাৰ চেম্বেল গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ ওচৰত অভাৱ অভিযোগ বোৰ দাখিল কৰিবৰ সুবিধা দি বেছি মাত্ৰা টকা পইছাৰ সহায় লৈ এই অনুসূচীত ভাই সকলৰ যি যি কথাত পিচপৰি আছে তাক টনকিয়াল কৰি এই কম সময়তে অনুসূচীত ভাতৰ লোকৰ মঙ্গল সাধন কৰিব বুলি অনুৰোধ জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণী মাৰিলো। জয় হিন্দ।

**Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reseved for Scheduled Castes)]:** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank the honourable mover of this Resolution for bringing out this point for discussion on the floor of this House so far as the welfare of Scheduled Castes people are concerned. Sir, I appreciate the feeling of Mr. Bhattacharyya for his various expressions and suggestions for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes people in Assam in general and also for those other hon. Members for their sympathetic attitude and expressions made here for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes people.

But, Sir, so long we have been hearing sympathetic expressions only, and actually what we are doing in this behalf? That some schemes for the welfare of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been sponsored by the Government and accordingly various rules have been laid down and protection has been given. The Centre has sponsored various schemes and according to their directions the State Governments in India have sponsored various schemes and have allotted money for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Recently, an Advisory Committee has been formed in our State to look into the welfare affairs of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But, Sir, after attending the meeting of the Advisory Committee and going through terms of reference, I found that this Committee cannot satisfy the needs of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The members of the Committee is concerned very much with the distribution of amount sanctioned by the Government and to see that the schemes sponsored by the Central Government are implemented and not with other things relating to the welfare of the people.

Sir, it is not enough, though our Government have made various proposals and schemes and also issued various circulars

to the district officers in this regard. I am sorry to say that the wishes of the Government are not carried out by the various officers in the lower rung of the ladder in the administration. I do not like to give instances of such things, because there may be misunderstanding and trouble. In short, I will say that the report of our Government is not a correct one and as a result the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes etc, spoke about the unsatisfactory progress made in our State in connection with the welfare of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I have found that some of the officers of the administration are seemed to be very much unsympathetic towards the interest of the Scheduled Castes people. I would like to give one instance. In the recent settlement of fisheries, the co-operative societies formed by the Scheduled Castes people have been neglected, because some of the officers of the Government are not sympathetic towards their interest and that they have interpreted in a different manner that carpenters and business men who belong to the Scheduled Castes and who are members of the co-operative societies could not be interpreted as belonging to the fishermen communities. In this way there are so many instances, which I would not like to give. But, Sir, only I can say that the manner in which some of the officers are carrying out their duties relating to the affairs of the Scheduled Castes are not very sympathetic. Therefore, I would like to suggest that so far as the Resolution brought forward by my hon. Friend, Shri Gopesh Namasudra, although I support the spirit of the Resolution, it can be supplemented by enlarging or making the Advisory Committee as a more work able Committee which means that the terms of reference for this Advisory Committee should be made broader so that the Committee may study the conditions prevailing now among the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in Assam. We are very much concerned with the improvement of the economic condition of these people. In no time, Sir, the vexed question of untouchability will vanish. We are not very much concerned with dining together with other communities and other things of such kind and we are only concerned with the improvement of the condition of the people. Sooner the condition of the people improves, the better it is for all concerned. But it is unfortunate that public from among the educated section also put obstruction in the way of development of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes. Even whenever a plot of land is settled with the Scheduled Castes people, the people from educated section come forward and interfere with the interest of the Scheduled Castes people. In this connection I would like to give an

instance. In the case of settlement of fisheries with the people of Scheduled Castes, the people from the stronger section come forward and destroy the fisheries settled with the Scheduled Castes people who are weaker section of the people and that they cannot fight for the protection of their rights and they cannot engage big pleaders in the court of law and so on and so forth. Therefore, I would like to suggest that if Government cannot pay more attention to the interest of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Government level, then a separate Council should be set up to look into the interest of the people of the Scheduled Castes which will try to fulfil the objective for removal of the deplorable condition of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes in general. While constituting such a Council, I should also like to say that the Council should not be constituted with the Scheduled Castes people above, but it should be constituted with other public men taking interest for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes people so that the privilege which was given to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes may not be extended for another ten years.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to repeat again and again that unless the economic condition of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are improved, their difficulties in social status along with others and their disabilities will not be removed.

Sir, I am sorry to point out one thing here on the floor of this House. Even our Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes whom I once met in Delhi and requested him to pay a visit to our State. I also requested him to inform us about this programme in our State. While I asked him about his programme the other day in the Pinewood Hotel where a party was given in his honour, he said that he had come to our State to visit the Tribal areas. Of course our Government could have given him an opportunity to discuss matters with the M. L. As. belonging to the scheduled castes with a view to improve the conditions of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes. I had also seen in the part the Assistant Regional Commissioner for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes and could learn in the course of discussion with him about the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, that they are to look after the tribal people mainly I happened to discuss with one Assistant Regional Commissioner, for Scheduled Caste and Tribes who happened to be a member from scheduled castes appointed in this region a few year back.

He gave me to understand that the Government are not giving the correct figures. I said that it might be due to the fact that as the Government have to depend on the officers and employees working in the field in this regard, they might not have got the correct figures. Anyway, Government should see that correct figures are collected.

Now with regard to this matter, I myself did not know that there was a Department like this under our Government until I became a Member of this House. It is being dealt in the Tribal Areas Department and I feel it is a misnomer. There should be a separate Department exclusively dealing with matters concerning the welfare of the Scheduled Caste.

Sir, I do not like to take much time of the House. Though I support the spirit of the resolution, I cannot accept it in toto, because we should give a chance to the Committee now entrusted with the work and without giving it a chance we cannot decide to set up another Committee.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Sir, I would like to refer to rules 284 which says—"Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (3) of rule 283, the reply of the mover of the original motion shall in all cases conclude the debate". So, the mover of the resolution should have the chance to speak last of all. I mean that the Minister in charge has no right as such to speak the last word. According to this rule, the mover of the resolution is the last speaker.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** No, no. Rule 283 (3) says—"A member who has moved a motion may speak again by way of reply, and if the motion is moved by a private member, the Minister concerned may, with the permission of the Speaker, speak (whether he has previously spoken in the debate or not) after the mover has replied". So it is clear.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** It is not clear, Sir. Let us get a ruling—let us get your guidance, Sir, as to whether the mover will get a chance to speak after the Minister has replied.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I have given my ruling. You cannot raise that question again now.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):**

*We are bound by the rules of this House, including you, Sir. According to the rules, the Minister will have to crave your permission to speak.*

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Minister has not *taken* part. Therefore the Minister will reply after the mover has *replied*.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** With your permission only the Minister can speak. He has no right. If the Minister has something to add, he will have to take your help.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Yes.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :**

মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার শ্রুতাবের উপর দরদ দিয়ে আলোচনা করার জন্য সকল সভ্যদের আমি ধন্যবাদ জানাই। আমার অভিজ্ঞতা বিশেষ করে আমার উপত্যকার সম্বন্ধে একেবারে সীমাবদ্ধ। কিন্তু যারা আসাম উপত্যকাসম্বন্ধে বিশেষ অভিজ্ঞ তারাও এই সম্পর্কে অনেক দৃষ্টান্ত দিয়ে আলোচনা করেছেন, সুতরাং তাঁদের আলোচনা যথেষ্ট মূল্যবান। আমার প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করণ বা নাই করণ অনেক সদস্য যখন আমার প্রস্তাবে আলোচনা করেছেন তার দ্বারা বুঝতে পারি যে প্রায় সকল সভ্যরা আমার প্রস্তাবে যথোচিত গুরুত্ব দিয়েছেন। এই প্রসংগে আমি পরিস্কার ভাবে বলছি যে আমাদের Scheduled Caste দের সংগে যে বিভেদ তা এখনও আছে সেটা স্বত্তর বাতের দূর হয় আমরা তাই চাই। আমি যে কথাটা বলতে চেয়েছিলাম সেটা হল যে আমাদের আসামে ভারত বর্ষের অন্যান্য জায়গার তুলনায় বিভেদ তা অনেক কম। বিশেষ করে শঙ্কর দেব মহাপুরুষ এবং অন্যান্য মহাপুরুষ দের বানী প্রচারের জন্য এবং নানা welfare work এর জন্য আসামে কর্ম বিভাগটা সত্যিই অন্যান্য প্রদেশের তুলনায় অনেক ভালো। ভট্টাচার্য মহাশয়, ডেকা এবং বরবরুয়া মহাশয় বলেছেন Schedule Castes দের protection দিবার জন্য আইন আছে কিন্তু সেই আইন কার্যকরী হচ্ছে না। উদাহরণ স্বরূপে আমি বলতে পারি একটি ছেলে তার নাম যতীন্দ্র নমগুদ্র, এই ছেলেটি এই বার M.E. পরীক্ষায় 6th হয়েছিল। আমি জানি আইন অনুযায়ী সে অনেক কিছু পাবে কিন্তু কার্যতঃ সেই ছেলেটি স্বলেই admission পায় নাই। আর একটি কথা অনেক বলেছেন যে Schedule Castes Commissioner কে আসামের Schedule Caste দের প্রকৃত অবস্থার কথা জানানো হয় নি। তাঁকে জানানো হলো Schedule Castes দের জন্য শিলঙে Ramkrishna Hospital আছে, এই সুবিধা আছে, সেই আছে ইত্যাদি, কিন্তু তাদের কি কি অসুবিধা আছে সেই বিষয়ে কিছু জানানো হলো না। এমনকি অনেকের আমাদের Schedule Caste দের সম্পর্কে কোনো ধারণা নাই। সুতরাং আমাদের সরকার এখনকার Schedule Caste দের অসুবিধা গুলি উপলব্ধি যদি না করেন তাহলে তাদের অবস্থার বিশেষ উন্নতি হবার আশা নাই।

আমার মতে এক প্রকৃত অবস্থাটির study করা সরকার এবং Scheduled Caste কমিশনকে সকল তথ্য দেওয়া সরকার। মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীযুত ডেকা এবং শ্রীযুত দাস মহাশয়েরা এ সম্পর্কে অনেক কথা বলে গেছেন যে আমাদের সরকার যথেষ্ট সুযোগ পেয়েও তা avail করতে পারেন না। আমিও মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে কমিশন 'নেফা' থেকে ফিরিয়া আসিবার সময় ভালকরে আলোচনা করিয়া Scheduled Caste র বাস্তব রূপটা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারকে জানাইবার জন্য অনুরোধ করেছিলাম। কিন্তু এটা হলনা। এমত অবস্থাই কমিশন কি 'রিপোর্ট' দেবে তা সহজেই অনুমান করিতে পারি। আজ এ সম্পর্কে আমার বেশী বলবার আবশ্যিক নাই— কেননা সদনের সমস্ত সদস্য প্রস্তাবটিকে সহানুভূতি সহ বিবেচনা করছেন এবং আসামে যখন একটা Scheduled Caste Advisory Board আছেই তখন আর একটা নূতন এসম্পর্কীয় কমিটি গঠনের কি প্রয়োজন? আমার বক্তব্য হচ্ছে Scheduled Caste লোকের প্রকৃত অবস্থাটা study করা এবং বিভিন্ন এলাকা ভ্রমণ করে প্রকৃত অবস্থাটা বাহির করে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারকে জানতে দেওয়া। এই বোর্ডে দু'বার সদস্য হিসাবে যোগ দিবার সুযোগ আমার হয়েছিল। কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার যে Scheme করে দিয়েছে সেটা অদল বদল করা সম্ভব পর নয় এবং কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারকে পরামর্শ দিবার জন্য এই কমিটির কথা উল্লেখ করা হয়েছিল।

হরিজনদের সম্পর্কে, এই সদনের সদস্য শ্রীমতি সেনগুপ্তা অনেক কথা বলেছেন। বাস্তবিক পক্ষে হরিজনদের অবস্থা অত্যন্ত খারাপ। আমাদের করিম-গঞ্জ মিউনিসিপালিটির অধীনে হরিজনদের অবস্থা তদ্রূপ। এদের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই। অথচ সরকার থেকে এই ক্ষেত্রে অনেক টাকা খরচ করা হয়েছে এবং এই টাকা অন্য দিক দিয়ে চলে যাচ্ছে। এই ক্ষেত্রে হরিজনদের উন্নত করার পক্ষে দলীয় প্রাধান্যতা থাকা অত্যন্ত অনুচিত। আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি কিরকম ভাবে House Building Advance 58 হাজার টাকা রাতা-রাতি নিজেদের মধ্যে এডভাইজরী কমিটি গঠন করে স্বার্থান্বেষী সকল নিয়ে গেল। এরকম ব্যাপার হইলে কখনো হরিজনদের উন্নতি হবে না হইতে পারে না। আশা করি সরকার ইহাতে দৃষ্টি দিবেন এবং যে গুলি অনুষ্ঠান প্রকৃত পক্ষে Scheduled Caste লোকের উন্নতি কামনা করে তাদের কাজের সুবিধার জন্য যেন টাকা পয়সা দেন আর দলীয় স্বার্থটাকে যেন উৎসাহ না দেন। এ ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের মনোভাব পরিবর্তন করা উচিত। আমাদের মধ্যে বিভেদ সৃষ্টি আমি চাইনা। অনুসূচিত জাতিদের Reservation আদি সুযোগ সুবিধা সংবিধান মতে আর কয়েক বৎসর পাইলেও তার অবসান ঘটবে এবং এরপর আমরা extension চাইনা। আমরা চাই এ সমস্ত অনুসূচিত জাতি যেন অগ্রসর হতে পারে, অন্যান্য উন্নত জাতির মত উন্নিত হয়ে সমতা অর্জন করে এবং এর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে নূতন অসম গড়ে উঠে এবং নূতন ভারত প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। এই উদ্দেশ্য নিয়েই আমি আমার প্রস্তাবটা সদনের কাছে পেশ করছিলাম; আশা করি সরকার গ্রহণ করবেন।

মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি একটি কথা বলতে চাই— মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অসমীয়া বা বাংলা বোঝেন না এমত অবস্থায় তিনি আমার বক্তৃতার কি করে উত্তর দিবেন?



**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):**

We are bound by the rules of this House, including you, Sir. According to the rules, the Minister will have to crave your permission to speak again.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Minister has not taken part. Therefore the Minister will reply after the mover has replied.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** With your permission only the Minister can speak. He has no right. If the Minister has something to add, he will have to take your help.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Yes.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার শ্রুতাবের উপর দরদ দিয়ে আলোচনা করার জন্য সকল সভ্যদের আমি ধন্যবাদ জানাই। আমার অভিজ্ঞতা বিশেষ করে আমার উপত্যকার সম্বন্ধে একেবারে সীমাবদ্ধ। কিন্তু যারা আসাম উপত্যকাসম্বন্ধে বিশেষ অভিজ্ঞ তারাও এই সম্পর্কে অনেক দৃষ্টান্ত দিয়ে আলোচনা করেছেন, সুতরাং তাঁদের আলোচনা যথেষ্ট মূল্যবান। আমার প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করণ বা নাই করণ অনেক সদস্য যখন আমার প্রস্তাবে আলোচনা করেছেন তার দ্বারা বুঝতে পারি যে প্রায় সকল সভ্যরা আমার প্রস্তাবে যথোচিত গুরুত্ব দিয়েছেন। এই প্রসংগে আমি পরিস্কার ভাবে বলছি যে আমাদের Scheduled Caste দের সংগে যে বিভেদটা এখনও আছে সেটা স্বত্তর যাতে দূর হয় আমরা তাই চাই। আমি যে কথাটা বলতে চেয়েছিলাম সেটা হল যে আমাদের আসামে ভারত বর্ষের অন্যান্য জায়গার তুলনায় বিভেদটা অনেক কম। বিশেষ করে শঙ্কর দেব মহাপুরুষ এবং অন্যান্য মহাপুরুষ দের বানী প্রচারের জন্য এবং নানা welfare work এর জন্য আসামে কম বিভাগটা সত্যিই অন্যান্য প্রদেশের তুলনায় অনেক ভালো। ভট্টাচার্য মহাশয়, ডেকা এবং বরবরুরা মহাশয় বলেছেন Schedule Castes দের protection দিবার জন্য আইন আছে কিন্তু সেই আইন কার্যকরী হচ্ছে না। উদাহরণ স্বরূপে আমি বলতে পারি একটি ছেলে তার নাম যতীন্দ্র নমগুদ্র, এই ছেলেটি এই বার M.E. পরীক্ষায় 6th হয়েছিল। আমি জানি আইন অনুযায়ী সে অনেক কিছু পাবে কিন্তু কার্যতঃ সেই ছেলেটি স্বলেই admission পায় নাই। আর একটি কথা অনেকে বলেছেন যে Schedule Castes Commissioner কে আসামের Schedule Caste দের প্রকৃত অবস্থার কথা জানানো হয় নি। তাঁকে জানানো হলো Schedule Castes দের জন্য শিলঙে Ramkrishna Hospital আছে, এই সুবিধা আছে, সেই আছে ইত্যাদি, কিন্তু তাদের কি কি অসুবিধা আছে সেই বিষয়ে কিছু জানানো হলো না। এমনকি অনেকের আমাদের Schedule Caste দের সম্পর্কে কোনো ধারণা নাই। সুতরাং আমাদের সরকার এখানকার Schedule Caste দের অসুবিধা গুলি উপলব্ধি যদি না করেন তাহলে তাদের অবস্থার বিশেষ উন্নতি হবার আশা নাই।

আমার মতে এই প্রকৃত অবস্থাটির study করা সরকার এবং Scheduled Caste কমিশনকে সকল তথ্য দেওয়া সরকার। মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীযুত ডেকা এবং শ্রীযুত দাস মহাশয়েরা এ সম্পর্কে অনেক কথা বলে গেছেন যে আমাদের সরকার যথেষ্ট সুযোগ পেয়েও তা avail করতে পারেন না। আমিও মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে কমিশন 'নেফা' থেকে ফিরিয়া আসিবার সময় ডালকরে আলোচনা করিয়া Scheduled Caste র বাস্তব রূপটা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারকে জানাইবার জন্য অনুরোধ করেছিলাম। কিন্তু এটা হলনা। এমত অবস্থাই কমিশন কি 'রিপোর্ট' দেবে তা সহজেই অনুমান করিতে পারি। আজ এ সম্পর্কে আমার বেশী বলবার আবশ্যিক নাই— কেননা সদনের সমস্ত সদস্য প্রস্তাবটাকে সহানুভূতি সহ বিবেচনা করছেন এবং আসামে যখন একটা Scheduled Caste Advisory Board আছেই তখন আর একটা নতুন এসম্পর্কীয় কমিটি গঠনের কি প্রয়োজন? আমার বক্তব্য হচ্ছে Scheduled Caste লোকের প্রকৃত অবস্থাটা study করা এবং বিভিন্ন এলাকা ভ্রমণ করে প্রকৃত অবস্থাটা বাহির করে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারকে জানতে দেওয়া। এই বোর্ডে দু'বার সদস্য হিসাবে যোগ দিবার সুযোগ আমার হয়েছিল। কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার যে Scheme করে দিয়েছে সেটা অদল বদল করা সম্ভব পর নয় এবং কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারকে পরামর্শ দিবার জন্য এই কমিটির কথা উল্লেখ করা হয়েছিল।

হরিজনদের সম্পর্কে, এই সদনের সদস্য শ্রীমতি সেনগুপ্তা অনেক কথা বলেছেন। বাস্তবিক পক্ষে হরিজনদের অবস্থা অত্যন্ত খারাপ। আমাদের কমিশন-গঞ্জ মিউনিসিপালিটির অধীনে হরিজনদের অবস্থা তরুপ। এদের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার জন্য কোন ব্যবস্থা নেই। অথচ সরকার থেকে এই ক্ষেত্রে অনেক টাকা খরচ করা হয়েছে এবং এই টাকা অন্য দিক দিয়ে চলে যাচ্ছে। এই ক্ষেত্রে হরিজনদের উন্নত করার পক্ষে দলীয় প্রাধান্যতা থাকা অত্যন্ত অনুচিত। আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি কিরকম ভাবে House Building Advance ১৪ হাজার টাকা রাতা-রাতি নিজেদের মধ্যে এডভাইজরী কমিটি গঠন করে স্বার্থক সকল নিয়ে গেল। এরকম ব্যাপার হইলে কখনো হরিজনদের উন্নতি হবে না হইতে পারে না। আশা করি সরকার ইহাতে দৃষ্টি দিবেন এবং যে গুলি অনুষ্ঠান প্রকৃত পক্ষে Scheduled Caste লোকের উন্নতি কামনা করে তাদের কাজের সুবিধার জন্য যেন টাকা পয়সা দেন আর দলীয় স্বার্থটাকে যেন উৎসাহ না দেন। এ ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের মনোভাব পরিবর্তন করা উচিত। আমাদের মধ্যে বিভেদ সৃষ্টি আমি চাইনা। অনুসূচিত জাতিদের Reservation আদি সুযোগ সুবিধা সংবিধান মতে আর কয়েক বৎসর পাইলেও তার অবসান ঘটবে এবং এরপর আমরা extension চাইনা। আমরা চাই এ সমস্ত অনুসূচিত জাতি যেন অগ্রসর হতে পারে, অন্যান্য উন্নত জাতির মত উন্নিত হয়ে সমতা অর্জন করে এবং এর সঙ্গে সঙ্গে নতুন অসম গড়ে উঠে এবং নুতন ভারত প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। এই উদ্দেশ্য নিয়েই আমি আমার প্রস্তাবটা সদনের কাছে পেশ করছিলাম; আশা করি সরকার গ্রহণ করবেন।

মাননীয় উপাধক্ষ্য মহোদয়, আমি একটি কথা বলতে চাই— মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অসমীয়া বা বাংলা বোঝেন না এমত অবস্থায় তিনি আমার বক্তৃতার কি করে উত্তর দিবেন?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SENGMA (Minister, Tribal Area Department)**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to reply.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)**: The Hon'ble Minister has no right of reply unless he obtains prior permission from the Chair.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Hon'ble Minister wants to make certain observations in regard to this Resolution, is not it?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: Yes, Sir.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: And so, I give my permission to make his observations.

**Shri GOPESH NAMAHSUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]**: উপাধক্ষ্য মহোদয়, মহী মহোদয় অসমীয়া বা বাংলা বুঝেন না। এ অৱস্থাই তিনি কি কৰে আশাৰ বক্তৃত্তাৰ উত্তৰ দিবেন ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)**: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister asked me to keep a note of the observations made in Assamese or Bengali in regard to this Resolution by the hon. Members taking part in the debate, and I kept a note of the points raised here and supplied the same to the Hon'ble Minister.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Mover of this Resolution because he has thereby given us an opportunity of discussing the problems of the scheduled caste people in the State of Assam.

But it appears to me, Sir, that some of the hon. Members who participated in this discussion went astray from the main issue. I will read the very words of the Resolution moved by Shri Namasudra:

“With a view to make a comprehensive study of the problem of untouchability in its present form in the light of the report and recommendations of the Scheduled Castes Commissioner and to suggest ways and means for the best implementation of those recommendations along with specific measures commensurate with the specific problems of the Scheduled Castes people in Assam, this Assembly recommends that a Committee consisting of the following persons be appointed.”

The purpose referred to by the hon. Mover of the Resolution is this, and he mentioned just now about the 10 recommendations. He had the occasion today to place before this House a specific question about untouchability. He also

had the occasion to suggest an agency as to how this problem can be properly studied and how best it can be solved. It is a fact that the members of this community are economically, socially and educationally more backward. It has been the case not only in Assam but in the whole of India. The other day Mr. Bhattacharyya had the occasion to refer to the particular Article of the Constitution of India with regard to the special provision intended for uplifting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. That itself shows that the architects of the Constitution of India and in the matter that the people of India have realised that we have certain classes of people in India who are very backward economically, socially and educationally.....

\***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery)**: সদস্য জনৰ অসুখ হৈছেনে কি?

\***Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding)**: Sir, he has no right to ask like that.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I should like to draw the attention of the hon. Members that if any member wants say anything he should address the Chair. So I request Shri Patwary to address the Chair whenever there will be any occasion to say anything in future.

\***Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok)**: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আপোনাৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোঁজো যে এই সদনৰ কিছুমান সদস্য সাংবাদিক সকলৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিবৰ বাবে এনেকুৱা এটা অস্থিত প্ৰশ্ন কৰে।

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I do not think the hon Member should say anything in this regard.

\***Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding)**: The other day, Sir, I read in a newspaper about the criticism he had made on an hon. Member in the House and he said something about sleeping democracy. Today the same hon. Member has made some remark.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: The Minister may continue his speech

\***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas)**: It was also decided by our Constitution makers that all people should be brought to the same level and that India should be a casteless society. Today we are talking about the problem of untouchability and the Mover has suggested that this particular problem should be studied by a Committee which

is proposed to be appointed. He referred to the recommendations of the report of the Scheduled Castes Commissioner. I will read those recommendations—

- (i) A concerted effort should be made by all non-official agencies (Political, social, and religious) to have a country-wide propaganda, aided by the Government, for the removal of this evil.
- (ii) The officials who come in direct contact with the people (for example District Officers, Tahsildars, Police Officers, Government and Municipal Doctors and Teachers), should be given general instructions to educate the masses about their moral responsibility towards their forsaken brethren and of the penalties imposed by law for the practice of untouchability.
- (iii) Free legal aid should be provided to the Scheduled Castes people to help them in dealing with the cases arising *inter alia* out of the practice of untouchability.
- (iv) The State Government should maintain lists of Government and Government-aided schools and hostels where students belonging to the Scheduled Castes are not admitted and in which untouchability is practised with them in matters like drinking of water.
- (v) Separate chapters on the subject should be compulsorily introduced in all prescribed courses of study for schools and colleges.
- (vi) Common messing should be introduced in all hostels attached to Government and Government-aided schools and colleges.
- (vii) Provision should be made for digging of common wells in the village.
- (viii) Cases of offences relating to the practice of untouchability when reported to the police should be properly investigated and exemplary punishment awarded to the offenders.
- (ix) Wide publicity through press and platform should be given to the laws imposing penalty for the practice of untouchability.

- (x) Social and religious functions should be organised frequently with Government aid, in which Scheduled Castes should be asked to participate on equal level with non-Scheduled Castes.

Sir, the hon. Members who participated in this discussion have admitted the existence of economical, social and educational backwardness of the Scheduled caste people and they also suggested what measures should be taken for bringing those people to the level of other advanced people economically, socially and educationally. Government is aware that those people are backward economically, socially and educationally and we have been taking up various schemes for the economic, social and educational upliftment of the people of this particular caste. Today we are more concerned with the problem of untouchability and I expect that the hon. Members who participated in the discussion of this Resolution would be able to give us concrete suggestions as to how best this untouchability, as it exists today in Assam, can be removed.

I do not say, Sir, that the problem of untouchability does not exist in Assam. It does exist, but may be it is not so acute as in other States of India. But in whatever little form the problem exists in Assam, it should be wiped out. I thought Mr. Namasudra, who is the sponsor of this Resolution, would be able to give concrete suggestions in this regard. Government have, of course, taken up various schemes for removal of this evil practice through a number of organisations, Melas and such other measures. Not only this, Sir, a law has been passed by the Government of India banning untouchability; but even after passing of this law why does this problem exist in Assam and in other parts of India?

**\*Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** District Advisory Board এর অনুমোদনা এবং পরামর্শ নেওয়ার ক্ষমতা আছে কিনা? এবং সেগুলি মেনে নেওয়া হয় কিনা?

**\*Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) :** I am quoting from the recommendations of the Commissioner, which the hon. Member himself had the occasion to refer. He suggests that the committee, which he proposes, should study the problem in the light of the recommendations of this particular Commissioner. Here he mentions—wide publicity through Press and platform to the laws imposing penalties for the practice of untouchability”.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Has it been publicised through the Publicity Department ?

**\*Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) :** Yes, we are doing it through the Publicity Department. We have a scheme for that. I am going to deal with all the recommendations of the Commissioner and inform the House what measures have been taken by Government. As I was saying, Sir, that though this problem of untouchability does not exist in Assam in such an acute form as in other States of India, yet in whatever little form it exists it should be wiped out and we are determined to see that this is done. I was also asking, Sir, that even though a law has been passed why does it still exist ? It will naturally depend, as Mr. Bhattacharyya said, on the people themselves. To-day the so-called high caste people should change their attitude. We are not born for laws ; laws are made for our own convenience. No law can change the attitude of a person ; the law cannot bring development in our minds and change the appearance of a country.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** It can create conditions.

**\*Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** Yes, but the agency for that is the human being, you and me. To-day, whether the law exists or not, I should not think anybody to be lower than myself. We are all created by God and we are all equal before Him. The other day I was very much distressed when Mr. Bhattacharyya gave a particular instance about allowing a dog to be in a particular place where the members of the scheduled castes are not allowed entry. The dog is allowed access but not some human beings. Sir, I remember a similar instance while I was a student in Dacca. I was studying in the Jagannath Intermediate College and was putting up in the Baptist Mission Hostel there. There were two messes, the liberal mess and the orthodox mess. In the liberal mess, the Hindus, Muslims and Christians dined together while in the other mess only the Hindus dined. In the orthodox mess they had a Brahmin cook. We had a warden who had a little daughter aged 3 to 4 years. That girl was very friendly with us. One fine morning she found one of her best friends, a Hindu boy, was sitting inside the orthodox mess, in the place where Thakur sat and cooked. Seeing him the girl went straight there and wanted to embrace the boy. But the Thakur with a big stick drove her away. At that very moment, Sir, I found a dog sleeping there. I asked the Thakur "Is this

dog much better than the girl? You cannot allow this little girl to be in that place; but you allow the dog there!"

Well, Sir, can you change the attitude by law, can you change the character of human mind by law? No, if that were possible the various schemes we have taken about prohibition and other things would have been successful. We cannot change the habits of a people by law. Many evil habits exist in our society in spite of the fact that there are laws to eradicate them. So, I say, Sir, that unless that feeling comes to us that in this world everybody is equal and nobody is high or low, unless that feeling comes within ourselves and unless those who consider themselves to be high take the initiative in bringing about a change in the social conscience, I do not think the law can come to our rescue. I would, therefore, make an appeal to the Members of the House to strive in that direction. Sir, I have been very much encouraged to find that a large number of Members not belonging to the scheduled castes have taken interest in this particular problem. That shows that they have real sympathy for these down-trodden people, who are considered to be low in our society. If that sympathy is not confined within the four corners of this House only, if the Members go and make propaganda in their constituencies, something tangible can be done. Mr. Bhattacharyya can himself show the way. We have got a very large number of scheduled caste people, about 53,536, in the Gauhati subdivision, I believe he moves in the area where they live, Mr. Bhattacharyya is himself a Brahmin and he can talk to the high caste people in that area and say "Look here; I am a Brahmin but I am dining with the scheduled caste people". He can go to a place of worship and take the scheduled caste people with him. Unless and until we have a positive means to tackle the particular problem, only by adopting a resolution in this House we cannot solve the problem. Therefore, if that is the feeling of the hon. Members and if that feeling is not kept confined to the four walls of this House but is taken outside and if that feeling is carried and given effect to different parts of the State, why we shall not be able to raise the 4,60,634 people to the same level as the other privileged people in the society? Why to-day we shall make a classless society in Assam? If we are really eager and sincere about it and determined about it, I do not know why we shall not be able to solve this problem of untouchability in Assam and removing this altogether so that it will be only a matter of the past. I do not know whether the proposal which is placed before this House by Shri Namasudra will be able to solve the problem. He suggested that a Committee should be constituted. What is this Committee? Woh will be



its members ?—(1) One Cabinet Minister, as Chairman ; (2) Secretary, State Scheduled Castes Advisory Board as Secretary ; (3) One member from the most representative Scheduled Castes Organisation in Assam ; (4) One member from among the Scheduled Caste Members of Parliament elected by this House ; and (5) The Mover of the Resolution. Can those five persons solve this problem ? Unless the whole State, the entire population of the State have that feeling for these down-trodden people, how can we solve it ? I said that this untouchability can be removed to a very great extent if to-day we can raise the social and economic condition of these people. If I am correct in this, I believe, in Assam this question of untouchability exists because only certain sections such as Mehtars and Muchies are looked down by our people and people feel shy to mix with them. If their economic condition and social status can be made better, this problem will disappear. Therefore, the foremost thing necessary to solve this problem is to raise the standard of living and social status of these backward people. Of course, for this purpose, a number of schemes have been taken up by Government but I have to admit that although we have taken these schemes we have not been able to solve the general backwardness of these people. If we could have done it there would have been no necessity to have discussion in this House regarding this problem to-day. We must admit that at present the condition of these people is the same as it was before. In the field of education, in the field of economy and in the field of other developments in order to bring these people to the same level with that of others still many things are necessary to be done.

Sir, I do not propose to enumerate the number of schemes taken by Government because today we are concerned primarily with the problem of untouchability and to-day we are to discuss how best this evil of untouchability as it exists now in the State can be wiped out. We are very much conscious of the problem and in fact for meeting this problem we have set up a Board, *i. e.*, the State Advisory Board for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. The hon. Member himself is a member of this Board. It will be wrong to think that this Board is not meant for the purpose of solving the problem of untouchability. When this Board is doing the things which the Resolution seeks to do, I do not think, there is any necessity of having this committee as suggested in the Resolution. It is a more representative Board than the one suggested by the hon. Mover of the Resolution.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Schedulee Castes)] :** আমি জানতে চাই এই যে State Advisory Board আছে.....

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You can ask at a later stage.

**Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas):** These are the Members of the Advisory Board—

(1) Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika, Minister ;

(2) Shri Nibaran Laskar, M.P., Cachar ;

The honourable Mover wanted by his Resolution one M.P. The P. M. is already there in this Board ;

(3) Shri Gopesh Namasudra, M.L.A., Cachar, the Mover is already there ;

(4) Shri Mahadev Das, M.L.A., Kamrup,

(5) Shri Ramnath Das, M.L.A., Sibsagar ; a former Minister ;

(6) Shri Omeo Kumar Das, M.L.A., Darrang ; another former Minister ;

(7) Shri N. K. Das, M.A. B.L., Advocate, Retired Income-Tax Officer ;

(8) The President or Vice-President of the All-Assam Scheduleds Castes Association ;

(9) One representative from Harijan Sevak Sangha, Assam Branch ; I think, Mr. Sarbeswar Bardoloi, M.L.A., is the representative ; and

(10) One representative from Kasturba Trust Assam Branch.

Of course, if this particular Board has not been able to cover this particular problem, instead of having another Committee, measures if any should be suggested to this Board so that the problem can be met. Therefore, I do not see that any useful purpose will be served by having another Committee, while we have a more representative Board already. Besides, Sir, this Committee is going to be reconstituted as the one year term will expire soon. If it is felt necessary then the terms and references of the Board can be extended,

Sir, I hope the hon. Members will not mind because in my reply I have not replied to all the points raised by them and dealt particularly this problem of untouchability and how best it can be solved. Therefore, I hope to be excused with regard to the general backwardness of these people. But I can assure the hon. Members through you Sir, that Government is fully aware that our friends belonging to the Scheduled Castes are more backward than us. But hon. Members must be able to tell us as to how best this problem can be solved, they must be able to tell us correctly what are the social and economic handicaps in particular areas. As you know, Sir, this problem varies from District to District, from village to village. That is why it is important that the hon. Members should study this problem very carefully and tell us what is to be done to solve it. For example, I can speak for myself that to-day I have got a pain in my stomach but if instead of telling the doctor that, I tell him that I have a pain in my eye, surely I will get a wrong treatment and the pain in my stomach will remain. So, hon. Members must be able to tell us correctly what are the handicaps of these people so that Government can diagnose the disease correctly and, Government as a doctor will try to cure that disease. If we cannot make a correct assessment of this problem who will be responsible for that? Not the Minister in-charge, but the hon. Members themselves and the leaders belonging to this community.

But I must remind the House also, Sir, that while we are anxious to solve this problem, we must also take into consideration the question of finance. So Members of this community must be able to tell us of a particular place or area where this problem should be tackled first and where to tackle next. So they must be able to tell us correctly how and where the problem should be given priority. In this way I feel that solution of one problem in a correct way always helps in the solution of other problems too. But if we tackle the wrong problem first, then the real problem will remain unsolved. So I would urge upon the Members belonging to this community and also hon. Members of this House who take interest in this matter to bear these things in mind and help Government with suggestions as to how best this problem can be solved. In that way only I am sure this problem of untouchability can be solved and these evil practices can be wiped out. I am personally convinced, Sir, that this problem cannot be solved by that committee as suggested by my Friend. If this bigger committee could not solve it so long, I don't think that smaller committee can do it.

With these observations, Sir, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw the Resolution.

**\*Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** মন্ত্রী মহোদয় যে কমিটির কথা উল্লেখ করেছেন সেই কমিটির কি নতুন Scheme স্থপারিণ করবার অধিকার আছে ?

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** The hon. Member wanted to know whether this Advisory Committee referred to by the Minister can have the right to recommend any new scheme ?

**\*Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) :** I have already replied to that, Sir.

**\*Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA :** দুইবার আমি সেই কমিটির মেম্বার ছিলাম । আমার অভিজ্ঞতা থেকে আমি বলাছি সেই কমিটি এই সমস্যার কোনো সমাধান করতে পারে নাই ।

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Hon'ble Minister has already said that if necessary the Committee can be enlarged. Is the hon. Member withdrawing his Resolution ?

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA :** No Sir, I am not going to withdraw it,

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Then I put the question.

The question is that with a view to make a comprehensive study of the problem of untouchability in its present form in the light of the report and recommendations of the Scheduled Castes Commissioner and suggest ways and means for the best implementation of those recommendations along with specific measures commensurate with the specific problems of the Scheduled Castes people in Assam, this Assembly recommends that a Committee consisting of the following persons be appointed :

- (1) One Cabinet Minister, as Chairman.
- (2) Secretary, State Scheduled Castes Advisory Board as Secretary ;
- (3) One member from the most representative Scheduled Castes Organisation in Assam ;
- (4) One member from among the Scheduled Castes Member of Parliament elected by this House ;
- and
- (5) The Mover of this Resolution.

(The motion was negatived).

(Resolution Nos. 16 and 17 standing in the name of Shri Narendra Nath Sarma and Shri Durgeswar Saikia respectively were not moved).

**Resolution to recommend to the Government to take immediate steps to present to this Assembly a comprehensive Agrarian Relations Bill**

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :**  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly recommends to the Government to take immediate steps to present to this Assembly a comprehensive Agrarian Relations Bill with the following, among other, provisions:—

- (i) Abolition of Landlordism ;
- (ii) Imposition of Ceiling-area ;
- (iii) Fixity of tenure to all cultivating tenants ;
- (iv) Fixation of fair rent ;
- (v) Constitution of Land Boards and Land Tribunals  
and
- (vi) Conciliation Proceedings in the case of small holders.

Sir, though very often it is said that if speech is silver, silence is golden, I should very much like to speak on this very important matter. There should be at least some Ministers to take notes of the discussions and to let the House know Government's point of view before I get a chance of clinging to the job. This is the request to make to the Government because so far as the Resolutions are concerned, they are in the nature of recommendations only. When the point of view of Government is known, the mover can thrash out many other matters and even after that, the spokesman of the Government may definitely, with your permission, speak. So, Sir, in this case also, I should like to request the Government to do so in this most important problem facing us today.

The other day, I was very much pleased to hear a very frank statement from our Revenue Minister. As a matter of fact, I know that he is a frank man and straight forward man. He said categorically that we may bring scores of social legislations, but this will not serve the desired purpose unless and

until we can mobilise the people to fight for their rights. He also drew a correct analogy between the different agrarian legislations and labour legislations. He was pleased to say that so far as labour welfare legislations are concerned, they have become successful in comparison with the agrarian legislations; because to back up the labour legislations there are powerful labour organisations like Trade Unions. There are very strong leading public men who are behind them. Among our Ministers and Deputy Ministers also, there are persons who have come to their position through those organisations. But unfortunately in our country there is no such strong peasant organisation. There is no doubt that there is the Kishan Sabha and other organisations in our State, but they are not yet very powerful. For example there are different unions of the I. N. T. U. C., or A. I. T. U. C., or unattached unions like our union of the steamer workers or the railway men. But though it is true that a legislation alone will not do, it has an important role to play. Just now while intervening in the debate where the Minister in charge of Tribal Affairs was speaking, I said that social legislations are necessary also for creating conditions and for bringing sanctions. If there be a comprehensive agrarian legislation, it can create that sort of sanction. That such legislation is necessary is not only stated by my party but also by other parties probably with the exception of parties of the extreme right like Ram Rajya Parishad and Jana Sangha. That is to say, all the progressive parties in India are agreed on the point that there must be a thorough and complete agrarian reform. Whether we speak of the Congress or of the Communist or of the P. S. P. whatever that might be, all these parties profess that there must be land reform. The crux of the reform is that the peasant must get land and there must be abolition of intermediaries and there should also be many other steps. But although we have been saying this from the very day of our acceptance of the Constitution of free India, uptill now we have not been able to achieve our goal which was envisaged at the time of preparation of the First Five Year Plan that so far as the basic structure of land reform is concerned, it would be completed by the last year of the First Five Year Plan. On a firm agrarian base as the foundation, we would be able to build our industrial super-structure. Now that the First Five Year Plan period is over and it has become quite clear to us that we have not been able to reach the physical targets and that we have not been able even to fulfil the targets in the legislative sphere, it will be repetition of an of repeated matter if I say simply about the Planning Commission's remark

that in respect of agrarian reform Assam's position is far from respectable. Of course, Assam is not the solitary State in this race for failure. There are other States in India who so far as agrarian reform is concerned, have remained in the same position as Assam.

Sir, I think our Revenue Minister who is a Civil Lawyer knows well that law means delay and court means dilatoriness whether it is a High Court, a Civil Court or the Supreme Court. If we are really very serious about this reform, we could have made the necessary changes in the Constitution including some fundamental rights. On several occasions when it was felt necessary for the safety of the Governmental machinery and when it was found necessary for vested interests, the Constitution was changed. As ours is a written Constitution it is not that something could not be changed, but at the same time, Constitution is not a light thing to be changed every day. But at least from our State, can the Revenue Minister say that, in view of the difficulties created, a request was made to the Parliament for a progressive amendment of the Constitution or any request was made in view of the fact that we were facing certain difficulties, which is often said by the Revenue Minister? Did they make any prayer to change the Constitution for that? Did they send any recommendation to the Government of India because that would be a barometer as to how eager, how keen the Government was about the agrarian reforms? I do not thereby impute any bad motive to the Members of the Government. I wish they are as eager or perhaps more eager, to have agrarian reforms in Assam as my humble self is. As a matter of fact, I believe the Revenue Minister will say the Government is very keen about the abolition of intermediaries. Very good. The other day I read in some newspapers that our Chief Minister was very keen about it and that he had expressed publicly the view that within the month of May itself some sweeping land reforms would be carried out. I believe that as there has been no contradiction of the Press report, he has spoken those things. In consideration of that I thought it my duty to bring about a discussion in this House because as I said very often when we discuss on a resolution the range is very wide. We discuss certain principles, some guiding lines and submit our recommendations to the Government. Therefore Government having known the points of view of the different sections of the House can have certain suggestions and find itself enriched to come with some concrete, more detailed proposals in the form of a Bill. Therefore in this connection I have not made any suggestions exhaustive. I have made them rather illustrative, because you will notice

that although I have here mentioned 6 items, as major items, I have not given the details because we want to keep it very free and flexible to discuss in this House. I have said that these 6 items—these provisions will be inter alia. that is, among others. There will be many other provisions and the hon. Members of this House by their suggestions will definitely enrich the discussion by participating in this debate, and I hope the Government will be receptive enough to enrich by the discussion and by the contribution made through this debate.

The first item that I have placed is with regard to abolition of landlordism. One day, one of my Friends, I am speaking rather frankly, he sits on the Opposition bench, asked me what I meant by abolition of landlordism. Here I do not make any aspersion on the hon. Members belonging to the Government party, but I want to say that there are Members belonging to the Government party who are also very keen to bring about this abolition of Zamindari. Again there may be persons belonging to the Opposition who may not be very keen about it. Now my reply to that gentleman was—"Well, by abolition of landlordism I mean abolition of landlordism of all shapes and colour." I only gave emphasis on the words, because I thought that the gentleman having a very very long experience of administration cannot say that he did not know it, but the question was put just as a counter-blast against the very idea. There are some people who run 105 degree temperature as soon as they hear this sort of slogan—abolition of landlordism. I say that this sort of idea is not the monopoly of the Congress party men. There are as ardent advocates for land reform among the Congress as among the Opposition Members. There are issues which should be above party level and land reform is one of them. It is a national question; in solution of this problem we must have a national outlook. We must not make it a party squabble. We should not say that this is not in my strict party line, so we cannot deviate an inch. If we want to solve any national problem there must be understanding among different progressive forces. There must be some amount of spirit of give and take. Until and unless we can solve this agrarian problem on which we should depend for the success of our stupendous Second Plan, how shall we go on building a sperstructure of industrialisation, depending on the loans or advances either from the United States of America or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic? On these help, however good that might be, these cannot be a very stable national economy. Unless the nation stands on its leg, that position cannot be achieved—that cannot come until 80 per cent of our population—the peasants



are placed on its rightful position. That rightful position to the peasantry cannot come so long as they live as land serfs. Of course theoretically we might say that we have crossed that stage of civilization when there was serfdom prevailing in the society; but so far as the reality, the actual condition in which the vast bulk of agrarian population live, it cannot be said that they are in a better position than serfs. The other day, the Revenue Minister gave certain exhaustive figures and for a State like Assam this figure may be astounding. This figure of 20 lakhs of landless people may or may not be correct. It might include the children, babies, etc. We have got a population of about one crore. Out of that one crore, certain percentage—say about 15 or 20 per cent live in urban areas, some are employed in industries and commerce. Out of the remaining population of seventy lakhs or so if twenty lakh peoples are without any means of livelihood, what can be the condition of that State? If out of a population of 70 lakh peasants, 20 lakhs have got no land, that is to say no means of livelihood, it is a very big problem and one of the reasons for that is that whatever land there is for the cultivation is not possessed or owned by the cultivators directly and there is a class of people between the Government and the tillers of the soil. That class is called the intermediaries. So long as this class remains, the actual tillers of the soil will not get any scope or any incentive to work harder to improve the land and make more production. Often it is said that our peasants do not come forward to take to co-operative farming, at the same time we do not realise that all the farms are not of the same standard. Somebody possesses land.....

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Are you concluding Mr. Bhattacharyya?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)**  
No, Sir.

(A voice—He is only just beginning)

#### Announcement regarding curtailment of the Session

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER** : Here is an announcement.

“The Speaker had received requests from several quarters of the House to curtail the Session so that it may terminate after the conclusion of its sitting on Friday, the 2nd May, 1958. He accordingly convened a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on the 30th April, 1958 who also agreed that the Session should prorogue after transacting business on the 2nd May. The list of business has been drawn up accordingly, printed copies of which will be circulated to the hon. Members. This report is made to the House under Rule 230.”

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9 a. m. on Friday, the 2nd May, 1958.

Shillong,

The 23rd December, 1959.

R. N. BARUA.

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.