



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 26th March, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair, the Eight Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers and fifty-eight Members.

Calling attention regarding recent firing at Bhanga by Pakistani troops

Mr. SPEAKER: I call the attention of the House under rule 54, about the notice for discussion given by Sri Bishwanath Upadhyaya, regarding the recent firing at Bhanga.

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय ! हम जिस गुरुत्वपूर्ण विषय के सम्बंध में सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहते हैं वह समाचार कल के *Assam Tribune* में प्रकाशित हुआ है। पहले-पहल मैं उस समाचार को सदन में पढ़के सुनाऊंगा और उसके बाद अपना विचार प्रकट करूंगा।

महोदय, इस वर्ष ११ मार्च को काछाड़ के भांगा नामक स्थान में गोलीबाजी शुरू हुई थी। और उस समय से पूरे ११ दिनों तक यह गोलीबाजी चलती रही। इस सम्बन्ध में विचार-विमर्श करने के लिये तथा इस समस्या का समाधान करने के लिये सिलहट जिला का सेला नामक स्थान में २१ मार्च को काछाड़ तथा सिलहट जिलों के अधिकारियों की एक सभा हुई। काछाड़ के आयुक्त और पुलिस आरक्षी तथा सिलहट के आयुक्त तथा पुलिस आरक्षी की यह सभा थी। पूर्व पाकिस्तान के D.I.G. भी उस सभा में मौजूद थे। २१ मार्च को इन अधिकारियों ने आपस में समझौता किया और उसपर दोनों जिलों के अधिकारियों के हस्ताक्षर हुए।

Mr. SPEAKER : विधान सभा के नियमों की ओर मैं सदस्य महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करूंगा। इस नियम के अनुसार महोदय को भांगा की गोलीबाजी के बारे में सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना है। उनको इस विषय में कोई भाषण देने का मौका नहीं है।

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi):
 अध्यक्ष महोदय ! समाचार-पत्र के प्रति मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ, और साथ ही सरकार से विनम्र अनुरोध करता हूँ कि सरकार इस विषय में ऐसी कोई उचित व्यवस्था करें ताकि सीमा अंचल में रहनेवाले लोगों का आतंक दूर हो।

It has appeared in the *Assam Tribune* of 25th March, 1958 which says—"Fresh firing by Pak troops at Bhangra.

Karimganj, March, 24. Four-hour continuous shooting by Pakistani troops at Bhangra bordering Sylhet district on the Pakistan side yesterday sent people scurrying home from the bazar and post office which were the possible targets.

The incident was reported soon after the signing of the cease-fire agreement between the Deputy Commissioners and Police Superintendents of two bordering districts Cachar (India) and Sylhet (Pakistan) on March 21.

Reports received from Barapunji, ten miles south of here, said that Pakistani troops opened fire this morning to which Indian troops replied."

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):
 Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a statement on the recent firing on the Indo-Pakistan border.

On 11th March, 1958 some Pak nationals escorted by Pak Armed Forces came to Mathergram (Pak), opposite to Nij-Jalapur of the Indian Border and proceeded to harvest winter crops grown illegally by the Pakistanis on the Char-land on the left bank of the Surma river which lies within Indian territory. Our border patrol protested against the harvesting, whereupon the Pak Armed Forces opened fire on our Police Patrol. Our forces had to return fire in self-defence. This happened at 16.30 hours on 11th March, 1958.

Later the same night (11th March 1958) Pak Armed Forces without any justification opened fire on our Leverputa Outpost at 21.00 hours. On receipt of this information by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, he sent a protest to the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet on 12th March, 1958. He followed this up with another telegram on the same date that the Pak Armed Forces be ordered to cease fire. Our Deputy Commissioner also contacted the Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet on the phone on the afternoon of the 12th, and informed him that while we had given instructions to our Border Outposts not to fire except in

strict self-defence, he (Deputy Commissioner, Sylhet) should order his Forces to cease fire. Despite this there was heavy firing resorted to by Armed Pak Forces on our Leverputa Outpost, and firing continued till late at night. Besides the concentrated fire on our Leverputa Outpost, where apparently automatic weapons, including L.M.G. had been used, the Pak Armed Forces had opened intermittent fire on the 12th on Nij-Jalalpur and Pirnagar Police Outposts and also on Bhaterchak and Madhabpur. There was also heavy firing on our Pirnagar Outpost from 19.00 hours to 22.00 hours.

We only fired in self-defence. The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar again contacted his opposite number in Sylhet and asked for cease fire. It was also reiterated to our forces that they were not to act except in pure self-defence.

On getting information on the 12th morning, the Chief Secretary had brought these matters to the notice of the East Pakistan Government and requested for a cease fire. Meantime despite the arrangements between the Deputy Commissioners, Cachar and Sylhet, Pak Armed Forces opened fire on our Nathenpur Border Outpost for the first time on the 13th March and continued firing. Similarly they continued to fire at our Nathenpur-Outpost intermittently throughout the 14th. Between the 15th March and the 17th March there was a lull. Again, however, on the 18th of March without any justification Pak Armed Forces opened firing on our Harinagar Outpost. Our Police fired only in self-defence. The Pak Armed Forces again fired on Harinagar Outpost on the 19th. Sporadic firing on other outposts was also resorted to by the Pak Armed Forces. They also opened fire on Bhangra village and on our Police Outpost there and continued to fire throughout the day.

Another protest on these developments was sent by the Chief Secretary to the Chief Secretary, Dacca on the 20th and requesting that immediate cease fire should be given effect to, and in the interest of peace and good-will that the Deputy Commissioners of Cachar and Sylhet should meet to see that firing does not continue.

Throughout the 20th, Pak Armed Forces continued firing at Bhangabazar. Another protest was addressed to Dacca. From further information that was available to Government it appeared that there was to have been a conference at Superintendents of Police level at Karimganj on the 20th March 1958 to discuss cease fire matters. Unfortunately this meeting

could not take place. The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and Superintendent, Cachar however, were in contact with their opposite numbers in Sylhet. Meanwile on the 21st, information was received from Dacca protesting against alleged firing by our forces and stating that the District Authorities in Sylhet were being told to discuss with our District Authorities and to arrange a cease fire.

A meeting between the Deputy Commissioners, Cachar and Sylhet was held about 15.00 hours on the 21st March, 1958 (at Sheolamukh Dak Bungalow just inside Pakistan) and the following decisions were arrived at:

(1) There would be a cease fire from 05.00 hours on the 22nd March 1958.

(2) If by mistake one side opened fire the other side would not retaliate but the Deputy Commissioners would contact each other.

(3) Even pending action by the Deputy Commissioners, the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj and the Resident Magistrate at Zakiganj would contact each other and see that the situation did not deteriorate.

(4) Re-inforcements of armed personnel on both sides brought up since 11th March, 1958 would be withdrawn.

It was hoped that as a result of this agreement the firing on the border would cease.

This hope has, however, not unfortunately been fulfilled. On the 22nd March, 1958 Pak Forces fired on Harinagar and on Chandinagar Outposts.

On the 23rd March, 1958, Pak forces at 15.30 hours resorted to unprovoked firing on our Bhanga Bazar Outpost, Post Office, bazar and the Saw Mill and continued till 18.30 hours. The Postal Superintendent who visited the Bhanga Post Office was fired at but he escaped unhurt.

On the 24th March, 1958 Pak forces shifted firing at 3.30 a.m. from Surma to the Mahisasan and Barpunji area and continued till 20.30 hours. Harinagar Border Outpost was also under firing from 11.00 hours.

In all cases our forces had to retaliate in self-defence. There have been no casualties amongst our Forces or civilians.

On the 25th March, 1958 Pak forces again fired at Mahisasan from 4 a.m. This firing continued in Mahisasan, Madanpur, Borpunji area. We had to reply in self-defence. Today (on the 26th March 1958) it has been reported that firing started again in the Mahisasan, Madanpur area from about 1 a.m.

The Deputy Commissioner, Silchar is trying to contact his opposite number in Sylhet to bring about an effective cease fire. We are protesting to Dacca. We are also keeping the Government of India informed about these incidents.

General discussion of the Budget

Mr. SPEAKER : Now we resume debate on the budget.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister Food and Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members of the House for the lively interest they have taken on Agriculture, Embankment and Drainage and Veterinary. I have been a Member of this House for the last six years ; I have not seen such interest being displayed on these subjects in the past. In fact, my grievances were that these subjects not only did not receive the proper attention of the Governments in the past but also did not receive the proper attention of the House as well as of the public outside. Therefore, Sir, when you decided to have an Estimates Committee to investigate into the affairs of the Agriculture Department, it was I who welcomed it most. So, Sir, when I find that the hon. Members of this House are taking keen interest in these very subjects, I feel really very happy and I think that many of our difficulties will find a solution now.

Sir, the criticisms can be divided into 4 heads: (1) That Assam has not been able to attain self-sufficiency in food, (2) that there is high food prices, (3) that the machinery of the Agriculture Department is very weak and (4) that the officers are not sufficiently equipped enough either with experience and training or from the psychological point of view to take up the increased responsibilities and as such the money of the Department is being mis-spent frequently.

Sir, I will have an occasion to raise many of these points in the Food debate which will take place tomorrow. Therefore I will not give much of my time now to this subject. Suffice it to say that the rise in the price of food-grain is not an individual phenomenon. In fact, that it has connection with the general rise of price in the country. Due to an increased tempo of investments, due to deficit financing, due to expansion of bank credit, due to adverse balance of trade and due to great increase in money supply in the country, the prices have gone up and agricultural production market is not outside the sphere of influence of the same. But I will not dilate on these matters now as I said I will have the occasion to speak on the subject tomorrow.

The first question that I am going to raise is this: whether the Agriculture Department had bluffed in the past the hon. Members of this House about the increment in the food production? In the First Plan the target for food production was 2.25 lakh tons with an outlay of Rs.242.65 lakhs. In fact the Agriculture Department not only achieved that target, they surpassed the same by having raised the food production to 2.31 lakh tons. In the Second Plan with an outlay of Rs.319.5 lakhs we were expected to achieve a target of 2.29 lakh tons. That was the original target fixed by the Planning Commission, but later they raised it to 4.5 lakh tons without corresponding increase in the outlay. This Government felt that it was too ambitious a target. So we told the Government of India and the Planning Commission that without increasing the money possibly it would not be possible to get more than 3.83 lakh tons. Now if we examine the figures of production, year by year, it would be seen that there had been a steady increment.

In 1952-53 the area under cultivation was 42.38 lakh acres, the production was 16.53 lakh tons. In 1953-54 the area under cultivation was 42.62 lakhs acres and the production was 16.54 lakh tons; in 1954-55 the area under cultivation was 41.94 lakh acres, the production was 16.92 lakh tons; in 1955-56 the area under cultivation was 43.08 lakh acres, the production was 16.66 lakh tons and in 1956-57 the area under coverage was 43.12 lakh acres, the production was 17.07 lakh tons.

From these figures it would be seen that there had been a steady rise in our production. Still then, Sir, the question is why we are not self-sufficient?

In this connection let us examine the whole matter. It is true that we attained self-sufficiency in the matter of food at the end of the First Five-Year Plan or during the First Five Year Plan. But our self-sufficiency was of a very marginal in nature. We have got to consider some more factors along with it.

Sir, the purchasing power of our people has increased very much. It would be evident from the fact that in 1950-51 the the money circulated in India was 1,980 crores and in 1956-57 it increased to 2,313 crores. Now due to the increase in the circulation of money in the country and the shift in the distribution of national income, *viz.*, due to issue of more loans and additional employment facilities as a result of the increased nation-building activities for the poorer people during the First and Second Five Year Plans and due to high income elasticity of demand for food-grains of the bulk of the Indian population who live on marginal level and change in the volume and pattern of food consumption and increased taking of cereals there has been considerable increased demand on the foodgrains. It would be appreciated if I point out that to increase one ounce of cereal for a man would mean that the demand for the whole nation in India would be increased by 4 million tons. So it will be evident that while we are not really very much self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains, we are facing increased problems day by day. As I have stated that due to higher standard of living there is more need for foodgrains as the food habit of the people is changing now. Therefore, there is increased demand for food. Further due to industrialisation particularly in the urban areas, population as compared to previous census have increased in the urban areas of the country. As a result of this there is considerable change in food habit for which cereals are being consumed much more than what it was before. Along with it we have got to consider the increased propensity of our people to stock and hoard of foodgrains. We will realise the position, when we consider that in May 1955 out of the advance of Rs.18.85 crores given by the Schedule Banks the advance on foodgrain was 10.8 crores of rupees. In May 1957 the figure of general loan was 42.52 crores of which Rs.21.6 crores were against foodgrains. Then so far as rice and paddy is concerned, due to wide variation of prices in the neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Ceylon and Goa, there is great propensity to hoard paddy and rice to keep them in stock for profit.

Then along with it, I would like to say about increase in population in Assam. Sir, my honourable Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, is not present here. The other day when I asked him while he was speaking on more production, whether he meant by more production, production of food or production of more children, he became angry with me as if it is an offence to speak about production of children or otherwise. But it would be seen that in Assam within the last 50 years the population has doubled. In 1901 the population in Assam was 38·17 lakhs, and today it is above 90·43 lakhs. If all these factors are taken into consideration with the immediate cause, *viz.*, drought in two or three districts in the State, we will find the reasons as to why we are facing shortage of food today in Assam. I feel these facts are well-known to the honourable Members of this House as to why there is food shortage. Then, Sir, one might ask about our plans for future food supply. In this connection we are to consider the over-all future demand for food. There is increase in population, there is increase in consumption of foodgrains. Therefore for future years our problems relating to food are much more complicated than what they were in the past. These problems were discussed ably in the Report of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee. We have got to consider not only these difficulties but some special difficulties of Assam. In Assam comparatively a small portion of population are engaged in agriculture. I am just giving figures for the information of the House.

Cultivators and their dependants having land 52·35 per cent of the population.

Cultivators (having no land) and their dependants 11·58 per cent.

As against this, the percentage of the people who are not agriculturists, is 24·10 per cent apart from labourers engaged in cultivation. Therefore, we see that there is a great percentage of population in Assam who do not themselves do agriculture, but they are in a sense parasite on the agriculture. Then, Sir, you will find that out of 329·38 lakhs acres of land in Assam only 59·21 lakh acres of land are under cultivation. It is relatively a small area to feed such a big population. It is because of our geography and such other factors for which we have only 59·21 lakhs acres under cultivation out of an area of 329·38 lakhs acres of land.

Enough arguments have been made against the Agriculture Department. It is possibly not known to the honourable Members of this House that our agriculturists engage themselves in work for 158 days in a year of 365 days. They do not do mostly double cropping; they do not raise any multiple crops and they only work for 158 days in a year. 43 per cent of the families do not work at all in the slack season in the rural areas of our State. During the slack season only 39 per cent of the families contribute one person in agricultural work. So I do not admit that the blame lies alone with Agriculture Department. Each family must work hard and they should not leave their land fallow. As has been pointed out by our *ex-Agriculture* Minister, Jonab Mazumder Saheb, in his speech that land should not be kept lying fallow and we must tell our people to use the land to its maximum. It would be surprising to know that in Assam even one-fourth of the cultivable land is not under double-cropping, leave aside the question of improved method of cultivation. I think double-cropping is very important for Assam as it would go a long way to solve the food problem. Here is a great duty for the hon. Members of this august House and the great leaders of public opinion who are in helms of social and political organisations to educate our people.

Today in our midst there is a considerable number of cultivators who are likely to respond to their calls. Some of the hon. Members have said that the Agricultural Demonstrators are not found in the villages. I admit that in many cases they are not found in the villages. They take advantage of the weak public opinion. After all they are the product of our own society. Anyway, about this I will speak later on. But I may point out what the Demonstrators in the villages are to tell the cultivators; possibly how to do double cropping, treble cropping or multi-cropping or to take to improved methods of cultivation. In this very State there are several lakhs of very good cultivators including those who migrated from Mymensing and settled here. These migrant people are very good cultivators. They spread over almost the whole State of Assam. They do improved methods of and multiple system of cultivation. Let us leave aside the Demonstrators. Have not these migrant people demonstrated to our indigenous cultivators as to how improved methods of cultivation is to be practised? But have our people taken to it? How can we expect a few Demonstrators of the Agriculture Department alone to change the mentality or the psychology of our people? How can we expect our departmental officers to do

that? So, in this matter I asked for the co-operation of the hon. Members of this House several times and I hope this will be forthcoming very soon.

Next, Sir, I want to refer to the problem in the hill areas. The Jhum cultivation there, as has been pointed by my Friend, Mr. Teron yesterday, is a wasteful method of cultivation and yet this method of cultivation is going on in the hills for ages. Now the question is how to solve this problem? The land in the hill areas is not a subject which comes within the purview of this Government. We cannot legislate about land; we cannot legislate to ask the people to stop from doing Jhum cultivation. We cannot legislate to ask the people to go for permanent cultivation there. We cannot confer to these people periodic rights over the land in the hill areas. Sir, all those are to be considered when we talk about this problem in the hill areas. There is another problem peculiar to Assam. There has been a considerable increase in the cultivation of the special crop, that is jute, in the State. You will be surprised to hear, Sir, that when the all India increase in jute acreage is 36.5 per cent., Assam's, increase is 47.9 per cent. This is one of the causes for the shortage of food production. Some of our people now have taken to cultivation of cash crops like sugarcane too. Now due to these what is happening today? Our acreage of paddy land has been reduced to a great extent. This is one of the difficulties that we are to face today.

There is a certain system of right that has been given to some backward and tribal people of the State. This is known as the 'Line System' in some areas. In this system there are both good and bad effects. The bad effect is this that these people being isolated and remaining confined among themselves do not go to take to improved method of cultivation of others and the result is that their method of cultivation is still primitive. So long this system continues it will be different for these people to take to improved methods of cultivation following the examples of others.

Now, Sir, let me come to the administrative side itself. I have already said that I was called upon to take charge of a moth eaten department. It was never thought in remote past that a time would come when the Agriculture Department would have to play such a vital part in the national economy and the result is this that this Department is running with a great shortage of officers at all levels. When we started the Agricultural College in our State we thought that more and

more boys would come to join it. But what is the outturn of this college? When in the rest of India the minimum qualification for admission into an agricultural college is I. Sc., in our college the minimum qualification had to be reduced to matriculation. Even then, Sir, we get mostly 3rd division matriculates who come to take admission. What better service can you expect, Sir, from these 3rd division matriculates? I leave it to the hon. Members of the House, to judge. You have got to remain satisfied with the standard of service produced by these 3rd division matriculates. Therefore, today I agree with the hon. Members of the House, when they say that our officers are not efficient and not well equipped with agricultural knowledge. But wherefrom are we to get the really efficient or more qualified personnels except those 3rd division matriculates. We must depend on the personnels produced by this institute of ours. When we do not get really qualified people to become officers how can we expect to get qualified people to be Demonstrators to work with the village people? So, we had to go for such boys who read up to class VI, VII or VIII. It is said that as soon as they get jobs they change their dress and begin wearing coat and pant and become 'Bhadralok' overnight. This is the disease in many places. In the Secretariat our Chaprasis are to wear now-a-days closed neck coats. But, Sir, they do not prefer the same. They are eager for double breast or open neck coats. This is our position. We are more anxious about our dress than our work.

What is the position at higher level? Even in the Secretariat? During the last 6 months or so I had to discuss these problems with three successive Secretaries. Before one Secretary finds out a solution he is changed and when the next Secretary tries to come to a solution he is again changed. This is the state of affairs. With the shortage of food there is also the shortage of personnels and change of Secretaries. Of course nobody can possibly be blamed seriously for this. We are now to run our Departments with great shortage of personnels both in the technical and non-technical sides.

Another point is the pay scale given to the staff of our Agriculture Department: this is comparatively much less than those of other Departments. We are to consider also the fact that the people who are required to serve in the Agriculture Department have not much scope for promotion and so they are expected to have better scale of pay. The Engineering section of the Agriculture Department has virtually neither good pay nor prospect.

There had been considerable duplication of work at various levels for want of proper co-ordination between the various nation building departments. With all this difficulties we had to work in the past.

It has been said that the system of supply of seeds is not satisfactory as seeds are not supplied in time. There is no seed store of this Government. Until and unless a seed store is built up and until and unless the House is prepared to write off some money for the occasions when seed not being sold has got to be disposed off as paddy, possibly this problem cannot be solved.

Another point that has been raised is this that fertilizers were not supplied in time. I admit that this was correct. In fact the Agriculture Department had to be run under various administrative difficulties. Since the present Government started functioning it has brought about certain changes to remove these difficulties. The first is this that all the allied Departments connected with agriculture have been brought under one Ministry. My Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, was very critical about this subject yesterday. I can tell him from my short experience that this change will go to solve our problem to a great extent. Now, the Government has taken up the question of reorganising the Secretariat as well. I have already said that during the last 6 months or so there had been changes of three Secretaries in my Department. Now Government would see after finalising their proposals that in future one Secretary takes charge of all the possible allied Departments and he works for a fairly long period.

Sir, in the past the works of the Embankment and Drainage Department and the Agriculture Department were without co-ordination. The Embankment and Drainage Department used to work independently of the Agriculture Department. In fact, the Agriculture Department was not associated with almost any sphere of activities of the Embankment and Drainage Department. But now Irrigation Boards have been set up in the district and subdivisional level to co-ordinate the works of the Agriculture Department with the Embankment and Drainage Department. Similarly, in the Flood Control Board at the State level, the Agriculture Department has been associated. I am sure now the difficulties which we had experienced in the past will no longer be there to the same extent. Not only that ; we have already set up a Board to investigate into the difficulties created by the works of the

flood control and the irrigation wing of the Government. We now desire to utilise this Department more for irrigation work than for anything else. So far as seed is concerned, we have taken up certain new schemes which we are thinking of putting into operation in the course of next year. My Friend, Shri Biswadev Sarma, said that a minimum standard of production should be fixed. I entirely agree with him. Unless and until the whole of our agricultural programme is backed up by some sort of legislation to the effect that people must not keep their land waste, they must take to double cropping and better seeds and fertiliser, possibly our condition would not improve much. Therefore, we are thinking a new system of seed distribution. The proposal of the Government is this: they will notify a particular area and in that area they will issue as loan good seeds and fertiliser and saturate the area with good seed. Then out of the production of that area *viz.* the A class seeds collected from that area, they will increase the area of operation next year and in this way cover a subdivision. These are some of the measures already taken in order to increase food production. Sir, further to encourage the people to take to double-cropping we have lately issued a Grow More Food loan amounting to Rs.37 lakhs of rupees. Some members of this House said that they were thinking that this money would not be spent. I can tell the House that almost the whole amount is being distributed and will be distributed. There is no difficulty about that. These are some of the steps we have already taken in this connection.

Now, Sir, it has further been stated that the publicity wing of the Agriculture Department should be strengthened. We have taken steps to strengthen the Publicity Department. As I have said, Sir, not only publicity is necessary, but it is more necessary that public opinion should be associated with our activities. In order to do that, we have been holding lately village leaders' training camps in many a places all over the State. Prizes are given in crop competition. We are also taking steps to have farmers' forum all over the State. It is a good news that this year also a large number of our cultivators attended the farmers' forum held in New Delhi. Then we are thinking of implementing the Balwantrao Mehta Committee's report in order to bring about more democratic decentralisation. So far as the work of the officers is concerned, as I have said, in the past nobody had any fixed responsibility. Now we have fixed the responsibility of each officer. We are breaking our targets to the district and village levels. We will now fix a target

for each Gram Sevak and each Demonstrator and he will have to achieve that, unless and until this is done, he will not be considered as a fit person capable of doing his job.

Now, Sir, with regard to fertilisers, there were great difficulties in the past. What happened was this: the contractors for fertiliser were people who held both the tea quota of fertiliser as well as the agricultural quota. But, the price of fertiliser of the agriculture quota is lower than the price of the tea quota as the balance is subsidised. Therefore, at the time of distribution, it was apprehended that the contractors used to black market most of their quota of agricultural fertiliser taking advantage of their dealership in the tea quota. There was no appreciable chance to control them. Therefore, Sir, the Government took a policy decision in the middle of last year not to give the agricultural quota to those holding tea quota. As a result, tenders were invited. Of the eight parties from whom tenders were received, one was rejected because his tender was wrong. Out of the seven parties, it was found that five parties were tea quota holders; therefore, their tenders were automatically rejected. Government were then left with two parties. Of these two, one party, *viz.*, the Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society, was also granted the quota. This Apex Marketing Society is an apex organisation of all the marketing co-operatives of the State. It is a Government sponsored organisation in which Government have contributed to the tune of one lakh of rupees as share capital. The Director Board consist of people among whom are representatives of the Finance Department, the Co-operative Department and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The Secretary of the Society is a man of the Co-operative Department. We are sure, Sir, that the position with regard to the distribution of fertilisers would now improve very much. Sir, this selection of ours has created a stir. It has been given out in the shape of an anonymous pamphlet that this Assam Apex Marketing Society is a Benami organisation of the Marwaris. Sir, the Secretary of the society is a man of the Co-operative Department; the Government of Assam is associated with it and they have contributed share capital of one lakh rupees, the Board of Directors consist of representatives of the Finance, Co-operative and other Departments. Now, if this society is called an association of the Marwaris then the Government of Assam can also be called an organisation of Marwaris, Sir, our action in giving the fertiliser quota to this society has evoked praise from the Government of India inasmuch as the Government of India had been telling for a long time that we should encourage Co-operative as far as possible in this

matter and that caution should be exercised in case of tea quota holders. In a note circulated in the last meeting of the National Development Council, all other States of India were asked to follow the example of Assam, who have entrusted amongst others a co-operative organisation to distribute fertiliser. Sir, I am sure after this new agents have been selected there will not be any difficulty about distribution of fertilisers. In fact, the position has already improved. Sir, in the past the highest quota was sold to Dibrugarh district although it has got less agricultural area than other districts. This year this has not been the case and I am sure our fertilisers will not go to the black-market as has been suspected in the past.

Now, Sir, I will take up the questions raised by my Friend, Mr. Teron. Sir, I have said that Jhum cultivation cannot be stopped by Government. My Friend has stated that Jhum cultivation is a very wasteful and bad method. I agree with him, but at the same time I want to state that it cannot be stopped by Government because we have no right to legislate in hill areas with regard to land. We cannot force people to refrain from Jhum cultivation. We cannot also confer any permanent right of tenancy to the people in the hill areas and thus stop them from shifting their cultivation every year. I may tell my hon. Friend that whenever I visited any hill district I told the members of the District Council that they should take steps to confer permanent right of tenancy to the people. Unless and until such rights are given to the people, possibly we cannot stop shifting cultivation. So far as this Government is concerned, we can help them only by demonstrating other methods of cultivation and by making propaganda amongst them. In order to do that, the Government have taken up a policy that if a man in the hill areas goes in for terrace cultivation, this Government gives him Rs.200 per acre, of which 50 per cent is subsidised. If a man in the hill area takes to terrace cultivation, this Government gives him subsidy, ranging from Rs.50 to Rs.200.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: On a point of information, Sir, may I know whether this grant of Rs.200 was made after due consideration of all the factors involved, particularly the cost that may be involved in cultivating one acre of land by terrace method,

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): No Government can pay every cultivator his entire cost of cultivation. If that were to be done, the whole Government

would go bankrupt. We can only help a cultivator by giving a part of his cost as subsidy, just to encourage him. If we are to give everybody his entire cost, this Government will have to be mortgaged with somebody outside the State. It is impossible. Therefore, Sir, we are helping and encouraging the people by giving them subsidy. For each acre of land we give Rs.200 of which 50 per cent is subsidised. Similarly people in hills are given subsidy for raising up cash crops, or doing wet cultivation, etc. These are the ways by which the Government is trying to help the hill people so that they may shift themselves from Jhum cultivation to normal cultivation, but we cannot force them.

My Friend said that in the Hills we should study the problem of Jhuming. In fact, a pilot scheme for control of Jhuming was initiated by the State Government in the Forest Department in February 1953 as a result of the recommendations made in this regard by a team of expert from the Central Government. Their main conclusion was that although the quantum of actual soil erosion was not very significant in the areas in the Garo Hills and the Naga Hills that they visited, still there was considerable evidence of diminishing soil fertility because of repeated cropping of the same areas at diminishing intervals. It was suggested by them that Pilot centres should be constituted first in the Garo Hills and then in the other Sixth Scheduled districts, where tops of the hills would be dedicated to forestry, the middle slopes to cash crops, such as, cashew nut, black pepper, coffee, rubber, etc., and the lowest slopes and in valley bottoms should be utilised, after terracing, for raising food crops. Sir, apart from the 30,000 pounds of cashew nut seeds distributed free by the Agriculture Department....

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): How many of them germinated ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): I think, cent percent germinated. Apart from the cashew nuts distributed by the Agriculture Department 3 centers have been taken up in Garo Hills by the Forest Department in 1957. The tribes in all the other hills are also very enthusiastic about it. Centres have also been opened at Diphu and other places in Mikir Hills as well as in Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Mizo Districts, etc. Impressed with the progress that can be made,

particularly with respect to cashew nut grown by the tribesmen in their Jhums, Government sanctioned late in 1957-58 a scheme for growing cashew nut in Jhums in the Mikir Hills District, the tribesmen being given half wages in cash for growing cashew nuts in their own Jhums, the other half of the expenditure being treated as a loan to the villagers. It is proposed to implement the scheme in the Mikir Hills district in 1958-59 and if possible, extend the same to other hill districts. The Jhum control centres of work opened upto 1956-57 are 16, and for 1957-58 centres of work opened are 9. The total expenditure from 1953-54 up to 1957 April has been about Rs.11,16,741 in this respect. The expenditure expected to be incurred in 1957-58 by 31st March is Rs.7,99,102. During the Second Five Year Plan period the target expected to be achieved is 75 centres of work distributed in all the sixth scheduled districts. These centres include wattle cultivation, coffee, black pepper, rubber, cardamom and other cash crops.

With the expanding activities all over the sixth scheduled districts of the State and the necessity for making greater progress with terracing, bunding of streams for irrigation to produce paddy in terrace permanently, and the other soil conservation measures, various scientific schemes of research have been started. Government have started high altitude paddy research scheme, ginger research scheme and cardamom research scheme in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and cotton research scheme in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the cotton research scheme in the Garo Hills.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Are all the schemes started by the State Government?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): These are the schemes under the 2nd Five Year Plan and they are financed by the Centre and State Government.

Apart from these, the Government has sanctioned in the current year a scheme costing Rs. 1,80,000 exclusively for development of agriculture in the border areas of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills for rehabilitation of the border people affected by the partition of the country and under this scheme the people are being supplied with free seeds, fertilisers, etc.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY [Cherapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, may I know whether the Minister said that fertilisers have been distributed free in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : So far as border areas are concerned, fertilisers have been distributed free.

Now, Sir, in this connection, further I want to say that a sum of Rs. 75,00,000 was allocated for the 2nd Five Year Plan period for soil conservation work of which only about Rs.19,00,000 would be expended by the end of 1957-58. For utilising the balance amount of Rs.56,00,000 for soil conservation particularly in the hill areas effectively, the Government is proposing to have a separate Directorate of Soil Conservation apart from the Agricultural Directorate in collaboration with N. E. F. A. We are in correspondence with the Government of India to start a research station on soil conservation at Nongpoh.

Sir, I have already stated some of the various measures taken up by the Government in the hill areas in order that the people in the hills may shift themselves from Jhuming system of cultivation to other modes of cultivations, such as raising of cash crops, utilising high altitude lands for wet paddy or terrace cultivation, etc., and for which Government is giving sufficient subsidy to the cultivators. All these subsidies are given in order to induce people to take up better types of cultivation but this is not sufficient as you cannot change the ways of life of a people by subsidy alone. You have got to create public opinion in this regard. So, I would request the hon. Members from the hill areas to create public opinion and to persuade the hill people to give up the pernicious system of Jhuming.

My Friend said another thing that in the hill areas we should start an Agricultural College. I do not know whether...

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : I did not mean a College but an Agricultural Institution which will be able to examine the various agricultural problem of the hill areas.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : It is a question of funds, Sir. There is already an institution for training Hill boys in agriculture at Upper Shillong.

Apart from that the students of the Hills studying in the Assam Agricultural College get scholarships and the students get the opportunity of studying the various problems of hills, such as soil conservation, terrace cultivation, etc. Every student has got to assume some practical training in soil conservation. Besides, Government is proposing to start a Soil Conservation Directorate with N. E. F. A.

Apart from this, Sir, my Friend was speaking about fruit preservation and horticulture. He has suggested that we should start small fruit preservation factories in various places in the hill areas. Sir, this question was examined and it was found that our transport cost being heavy and at the same time there is not much consumption inside the State, it would not be economically feasible to start small fruit preservation factories. It may be known to my Friend, Sir, that there is a big scheme under the Second Five Year Plan to start a fruit preservation factory at Gauhati. It took several years for Government to find out a private party interested in this matter. In spite of advertisements no body was forthcoming. In fact those who were ready to start the said fruit preservation factory were asking the Government to guarantee purchase of half the produce for several years after the starting of the factory. So, Sir, unless the question of transport is solved, I do not know whether such a scheme can be successfully worked out. Recently a F. A. O. expert came to our State to study the question of fruit preservation and horticulture in the hill areas and we are utilising his services to study this problem. The problems of the northern region will have some solution in the proposed plant at Gauhati. But the problem of the southern region will continue to trouble us. Hence we have put forward a proposal to the Government of India for setting up a fruit preservation factory somewhere in between the Khasi and Jaintia and the Lushai Hills so as to enable us to take advantage of the fruits grown in those areas. We expect that if we get the help of the Government of India we can start this factory very soon.

Then again, my Friend was speaking about starting of piggery and poultry farms in different places in the hills. I can inform the hon. Member and the House as well that this is being done, particularly under the Community Project.

My Friend, Maulavi Mahammad Idris, was speaking about jute retting tanks. This Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 48,578 in 1957-58 for constructing 184 jute retting tanks : 50

per cent of the cost was and is subsidised. In 1958-59 Budget we have provided the same sum. I can assure my Friend that we will pay our serious attention to this matter.

Let me now come to the Veterinary Department. The position of this Department is still worse. The area in this State is 52,100 sq. miles and cattle population according to last census is over 54 lakhs. Now, what is the number of Veterinary dispensaries in the State today? It is 106—the average coverage of a Veterinary dispensary is 500 sq. miles and 54,000 animals. This is the position. Now, Sir, if we consider that there are 5.54 lakh acres of land in Assam under P. G. Rs. and V. G. Rs., then the position becomes more difficult because, as has been stated by my colleague, Jonab Matlib Mazumdar, our people are not used to stall feed their cattle. They let loose their cattle to graze in these P. G. Rs. and V. G. Rs. and thereby they are subjected to various pests and contagious diseases which is one of the main causes for the high cattle mortality in our State. Now, how our veterinary dispensaries are being run? Sir, it is known to every one of us that there is acute shortage of qualified personnels in this department. Even ever since 1952 we were not getting a technically qualified Director for the Department with the result that for a long time a non-technical man had been placed as Director of the Veterinary Department. Then there are several vacancies even in the lower levels as Deputy Director of Veterinary and Livestock, Veterinary Surgeons, etc. With this shortage of personnels the Department is being run now. If we open more and more dispensaries as demanded by my Friends, then I do not know by what magic, Government can run those dispensaries. The Veterinary College was started in 1948-49; by this time we have had spent nearly Rs. 10 lakhs for this College: what is the outcome? Only 12 veterinary graduates under regular course have come out. It is not for me, or as a matter of fact for the Government to produce personnels to man this Department. A great deal rests on the public and on the public opinion.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): A department can be opened from the Government side.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): If my Friend would like to take up, he is most welcome and he can be employed (*Laughter*).

Now, Sir, coming to the same problem it is very difficult to get students for the College. Good students are not forthcoming

in this line; we got only third division matriculates. This year we have admitted students, almost all of them are third division matriculates and still there are about 20 seats vacant to be filled up. Even 3rd Division Matriculates are not available. Now to meet this position the Department thought it fit to reduce the standard of the College and to give Diplomas to the students. A short course of Veterinary Fields Assistants which lasts for 6 months was introduced and this course is open to boys of class V or class VI. Now these are the quality of the boys who will in future man this Department. What can be expected from these ill qualified people. I feel my Friends should pity my helplessness—I want nothing more than this consideration from them. Similar is the condition Sir, in other sections of this Veterinary Department; although in other States in their various schemes like dairy farming, cattle disease investigation institutions, poultry farming, etc., they had appointed Special Officer for each branch, this State due to shortage of personnel could not do so. With these handicaps it is very difficult to meet the problems properly. This Government is paying due attention to this so that we may be able to utilise the materials at our disposal. I may inform the House that so far materials are concerned there is no shortage nor is there shortage of money even, but our main difficulty is shortage of qualified man power.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury was complaining that in the E. and D. Department there is no shortage of personnel—he was quoting certain figures of his own. Let me tell him that this E. and D. Department was started in 1954. What was the expenditure in that year—it was Rs. 116 lakhs. What was the personnel? It was 102. Now in 1957 the expenditure is 585.84 lakhs and the number of personnel is 305. Thus when the expenditure is five times more than in 1954, the staff is not even 3 times more than what it was in 1954. In fact we are running the Department with a shortage of 14 Engineers and 813 Overseers. Again, my Friend referred to the River Valley Projects. I can tell my Friend that Government has not abandoned anything with respect to the River Valley projects. Regarding the Barak Valley project the report is that no suitable site could be found for a dam across this river. Therefore, the scheme was proposed to be dropped but the Flood Control Board did not agree to abandon the scheme. It has been decided to carry out further investigations to find out the feasibility of a dam across this river.

Next Sir, I come to Kopili. I may say that the detailed investigations for both the power and irrigation aspect are in good

progress and are expected to be completed in 1959. Then regarding the Noa Dehing the preliminary project report as prepared by the Assam Investigation Circle has been sent to the Central Water and Power Commission for their further scrutiny. Then about the Subansiri project I may inform that the preliminary investigations are being taken up soon. As regards Jia Bhorali, geological reconnaissance only has been carried out.

Now, Sir, Shri Jogakanta Barua has said in his speech that erosion in large scale is going on at Naharkatiya. My Friend, Shri Hari Narayan Burua, has also made some reference regarding the erosion at Jorhat by the Bhogdoi river. As far as erosion at Naharkatiya is concerned permeable timber spurs have been provided there since 1956 and these spurs have checked the progress of erosion almost to a halt. As far as erosion at Jorhat by Bhogdoi river is concerned, I may say that the erosion at Jorhat is not of a very serious nature; the erosion can be checked by properly maintaining the bamboo spurs; I hope the hon. Member Shri Barua should not have any misgivings about the erosion at Jorhat by the Bhogdoi river.

However, I assure my Friends that these things will be looked into by the Government. Next Sir, my Friend, Shri Nurul Islam, said that the people protested against the construction of the embankment from Silghat to Dhing, but this is not so. The project was actually undertaken on the demand of the people themselves as well as the representatives of the locality. With regard to the question of opening the spill channels we have already taken up the matter as I said before. Further, we have appointed a Commission under the Presidentship of Shri Bhagawati to investigate into this matter and this Commission has already issued a questioner and I believe the hon. Member must have received it in the meantime.

The next point, Sir, I want to reply about the question raised by my friend, Shri Durgeswar Saikia. He said that certain schemes which were included in the 1957-58 budget have not found a place in this year's budget. Further he said that many schemes included in the last budget were not started by the Department although financial provisions were there. In this connection I would like to inform the House that the Flood Control and Irrigation Wing Budget is mainly financed from the Central Loan assistance. At the time of preparation of 1957-58 budget no indication as to what amount would be available as loan assistance from the Centre was given, though they tentatively agreed that the Flood Control Programme under the 2nd Five-Year Plan would be Rupees 8 crores. Accordingly on the basis of the plan allocation a budget of 2.26 crores was framed for that year for the Flood Control

Works in anticipation that the whole amount would be forthcoming as loan from India. But I am sorry to say that subsequently Government of India reduced the plan allocation from Rs. 8 crores to Rs. 7 crores and allocated only Rs. 1.12 crores for the year. So, you will find that just for that one year the allocation for this programme was reduced by Rs. 1.14 crores. The amount had been drastically curtailed and therefore, we had to plan our programme accordingly resulting in that several schemes provided in the last budget could not be implemented as there was no money although they were provided in the budget due to the fact that the Central Government had reduced the allotment from 8 crores to 7 crores. Moreover, it has now been found, that embankments, which were originally designed without sufficient provision for openings for Flood Irrigation, require additional funds to the tune of Rs. 60.00 lakhs for sluices and another 94.00 lakhs for raising and strengthening to bring them to the standard of specification prescribed by the Central Water and Power Commission. Another sum of Rs. 45.0 lakhs had to be found out from the plan allocation for collection of Hydrological data which up till now was the responsibility of the Centre. In revising the plan therefore, many schemes of relatively lower priority from technical considerations have now to be given up.

Sir, one more thing I have to reply. Yesterday some Members had spoken that the Embankment and Drainage Budget was the Budget for Kamrup and Cachar districts. I am really sorry to hear this criticism. The underlying insinuation is this that Embankment and Drainage Minister is from Cachar district so possibly a good amount of the money has been given to that district. I am very sorry for this. In the past when I was a Member of this House I used to speak about Cachar district and I used to request the Government to allot more money for that district as not only it was a very undeveloped district, but it did not get its due. I am sorry to point out that in the First-Five-Year Plan Cachar did not practically get anything in this Embankment and Drainage Budget. In this connection, Sir, I would give the figures to show that the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar are getting big allotments. The district of Lakhimpur ever since the starting of Embankment and Drainage programme has already got Rs. 415.85 lakhs, Sibsagar has got Rs. 149.24 lakhs, Kamrup Rs. 215.91 lakhs, Nowgong Rs. 116.19 lakhs and Cachar has got only Rs. 86.24 lakhs including this year's budget. Now, Sir, it is very easy to say anything one likes but if you compare the allotments with the other districts you will find that Cachar is getting only Rs. 86.24

of price and production and the economic situation as a whole and as preliminary report of the Council they have suggested not only more industrial investment, but they have also recommended to hold on the line of wages. We know the workers in England in the various industries are more organised. There was a series of strikes by the workers, the workers of the Railway and Buildings and Trade. They launched the struggle and the Government was forced to climb down and agreed to the wage increase. As a result of the struggle of the working classes participating in the strikes, Government was forced to revise their policy and on the 20th March again they have lowered the Bank rate from 7 per cent to 6 per cent. These are the features which should be studied and there is no reason why the working class of America should behave otherwise if there is recession in America. I am sure they will give an answer, if there is a recession. One thing should be borne in mind that the recession is one of the features of the dollar areas. Because of the strong peace movement of the world, the war industrialists are feeling shy to make any investments. They are not even prepared to invest even in scientific researches, for example, it was left to the army, navy and air forces, which was theirs. Even the Sputnik which is still to be born in America—the other day it died after its birth—was undertaken to be made by the Army. These investors transferred their investment for War industries to other industries, and as a result recession has occurred. The other factor is the assertiveness of the backward countries—Colonial countries such as South—East Asia, Middle East. There is a national urge among these people to achieve economic prosperity, to raise their productive power in agriculture and in industries. These two factors contributed a recession in America. This along with the progress of the working classes in America will check the coming of recession and it is hoped it will not affect the world economy. One Principal factor of the present trend of the world is growing strength of the force of peace and further assertiveness of the backward and newly independent countries of the world. There is the Summit Talk and if it comes to a successful conclusion, the American policy will have to be revised. This will have an impact in the international field. In this compass we also should view our plans and economy and the entire plan should be based on that economy. Therefore our plan is not immune from that idiosyncrasies of the capitalist world. They are out to throttle the success of our plan, because our success will prove a serious blow to the capitalistic system itself. We must bear this in our mind. Our shortage of foreign exchange and adverse balance of payment and their unwilling-

ness to co-operate with the Government account for the unwillingness of the capitalist class to co-operate with the public sector. Therefore that part of the situation is worth study. Our country stands for the progressive force, therefore in our country we have to gear up our entire plan in this direction. I find that we are not going to have any big industries here. In the public sector we are going to have an industry, I mean the oil refinery. We should see that it is made as big as possible. It should not be smaller than for 2.5 million tons. Regarding other important industries in our State *viz.*, tea industry, which gives us foreign exchanges, cannot be said to be very safe. Sri Bhattacharyya has said that crisis in that industry may come at any moment. The United Kingdom is the biggest consumer of our tea and therefore our Government should try to improve this industry with greater emphasis. To avert the possible crisis, we should try to expand the Indian market, East European countries and the Middle East. These markets should be probed. Government is spending a good deal of money in propaganda in America which is practically a chocolate-eating country. Now in the small tea gardens the crisis may come at any moment. Already their condition is very bad. Views have been expressed in this House that Government should come forward to help them with subsidy, or take over these gardens. Well, to suggest the taking up of these uneconomic gardens with their liabilities sounds like the Mundra Deal which will be for the interest of the private capitalists. Here it is the responsibility of the Government to see that these industries do not suffer. There should be a plan for integration of these small tea gardens. These small gardens should be integrated. The gardens below 100 acres should be integrated with other small gardens thereby they can put their capital together and run the gardens. Besides Government should see that part of the workers of those uneconomic gardens may be engaged in Drainage and Embankment works of the Public Works Department.

Then here in this august House much has been stated and discussed for development of power. We have enormous power potentiality in our State and power is necessary for the purpose of developing our industry. Otherwise there is no salvation for us.

Sir, I am very glad that the Honourable Finance Minister has stated regarding food position in our State. It has been stated—"Thus the economic prospects in the country and particularly within the State, are not such as will warrant complacency on our part. It will require vigilance at all

times and special measures for removing shortage in food-grains and essential articles of consumption.”

What are those special measures for augmenting food production. To have food production the essential requisite is comprehensive land reforms. Now the comprehensive land reforms is not only essential but also in it lies a suitable basis for our economy. But from the speech of the Honourable Revenue Minister relating to land reforms what we heard the other day? I should like to say that the Government even do not understand the very meaning of fragmentation. To me it appears almost like a Mandal giving Koifiat before the Sub-Deputy Collector. অসমত আৰু মাটি নাই; যিকন মাটি আছিল, সেইকন ইতিমধ্যে দিয়া হ'ল। ভবিষ্যতে মাটি ওলালে দিয়াৰ চেষ্টা কৰা হ'ব।

Nobody ever suggests that all landless people should be settled with land. That is never planned in any State and in any country of the world. As far as practicable, the Government should provide land to the majority and the bulk of the landless cultivators. What has been stated by the Honourable Minister appears to me as jugglery of statement. There is a saying that there are three lies—lie, down right lie and statistical lie.

***Mr. SPEAKER:** I do not like to interrupt the speech of the hon. Member. But it was said by the famous writer that there are three kinds of lies—lie, damn lie and statistical lie.

***Shri NILMONEY BOTRHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** So, Sir, the statistical lie is the most dangerous. The Honourable Revenue Minister is trying to juggle with figures that there are about 15 lakhs of landless people in the State, to which we may add another 5 lakhs of refugees starting from 70 years old people to one year old baby. Among the refugee families there are shop-keepers and other artisans. According to the statistics that have been collected about the refugees we found that there are about 2½ lakhs of people among the refugees who are actual cultivators. Now family-wise—say 4 in a family—there would be about 60 or 70 thousand. But the real figure is much higher than this.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Sir, for the information of the hon. Members of this House, I would like to say that family-wise there are 1,86,400 families who are landless.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Now, Sir, it was according to the statistics of 1954 compiled by the Economics and Statistical Department. In the Hills there is no land problem, I think, if we leave to the District Councils who are making necessary land legislation. But in the Hills, the only problem for the Government is caused by erosion of land. So the Government will have to take steps for conservancy of soil erosion, fertilisation and specialised cultivation. In the plains area land reform is one of the most important issue. Here in the plains area there are thousands of cultivators whose figure with their dependants comes to 42,78,000 and who are dependant on agriculture.

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister Agriculture):** May I know from the hon. Member what book he has referred to?

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** The name of the book is— "A Bulletin on Statistics of Agriculturists in Assam".

Then, Sir, to suggest that there are 20 lakhs of landless people who require land immediately, that figure is not correct. But, Sir, the most important point is the attitude of the Government. We do not say that there is enough land. But there are lands under survey. Our only complaint has been as to how much arable land should be brought under cultivation, which is lying fallow according to our *ex*-Minister of Agriculture? Who is responsible for this?

Now there are forest reserves in our State. According to the international figure only 25 per cent of the area should be kept as forest reserves which should be protected by the State whereas the landless people who are human beings they are not even protected by giving them land. There is another complaint not only from one subdivision but from different subdivisions, that forest reserves which used to be held by tea estates, the Forest Department divided them into 15 coupes and the timbers were sold to the contractors. Forest reserves will be distributed according to real needs. But there is no point in keeping the land reform measures for land distribution in abeyance.

The other factor which the Minister for Revenue has stated is that there is fragmentation of holdings. He further said that the laws in this regard had been framed in accordance with the recommendations of the Planning Commission. Now it is for the people to carry them out.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** I said, Sir, that measures regarding fragmentation cannot be implemented without the help of social and political organisations.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** I do admit that without the help of the people that cannot be done. So, people's help is necessary. But how can it be given in all cases. For a charge of encroachment some Kishan leaders were arrested and kept in police lock-up the charges being that they were involved in a case of dacoity. But after some months, trial it was found that there was no evidence against them. If some people are harassed in this way then it does not appear that the Government is really serious about people's co-operation or help. It also does not indicate that the law is the real guide. Laws can serve certain purposes only, but they cannot alone solve our problem. The mechanism for the implementation of this Act must work. But it has not worked so far. Enactment of laws will not alone help matters. Government should have foreseen that along with the Ceiling Act there should have some other measures as well. But it has not been done. I have received a dozen of wires stating that eviction is going on while the people require land out of necessity. In this connection some people have been put in jail also. Who are responsible for this encroachment for which there is eviction? The people concerned are also peace-loving and law-abiding. But the only point is that they are landless. It is the circumstances that force them to live on. But how to do it. For that purpose land is required. So, wherever a landless person finds a vacant plot of lands he feels compelled to occupy it. He also does not like that this plot should lie fallow or uncultivated. That is why Pandit Nehru once said that eviction is a guide. From that only it should be judged, who are responsible for that. It is we who are actually responsible for not being able to provide them with land. We give them high hopes that ours is going to be a socialistic pattern of society. But actually what do we do? We have encroached their aspirations. We do not give them social justice and we do not actually give them scope to live in a socialistic pattern of society. Therefore, Sir, this eviction must stop. I do not hold the view that all kinds of eviction should be stopped. There are people who break law. Unless we provide land to

the landless in a planned manner then it may upset the entire development plan. It must be considered that because we have not been able to give them land it is the circumstances that force them to squat on any land they find vacant, either in the grazing reserve or in the forest reserve. So, their problem should be viewed from that angle. I hold the view that the Revenue Minister is responsible for the delay in settling the landless people in a planned manner for which there is encroachment and for which eviction has been resorted to. The Zamindari Acquisition was conceived in 1949 and a Bill was introduced in 1951. But up till now the records or right of the Zamindars have not been prepared in the District of Cachar. Within these 10 years that could not be done. Is it land reform? So, I say this land reform question is a very intricate problem.

The Government has conceived an idea of phased development.

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** The conception of phased development is of the Planning Commission and not our programme.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** According to this before the completion of the first phase the second phase is to start. Before distribution of land fragmentation of land is not possible. We must start things right from the beginning. In the process of settlement the first and second phases here are intermixed. In settlement of land we should see that the village cultivators really get the benefit so that their problem can be solved. We find here that all the phases have been interlinked. One phase cannot be started from the other.

If we go to the budget itself we find that the entire budget has given us just an account of routine expenditure, which in a sense are continuation of the existing schemes that have been taken up already. The Finance Minister has been very frank to admit that we are drawing our reserve. To balance our budget particularly from the capital side we are to draw our reserve. When a man starves he draws his reserve fat. Similar is the case with us, as we have drawn from our Consolidated Fund. There are two kinds of funds. One is the State Transport Depreciation Fund and the other the State Transport Insurance Fund. The State Transport Insurance Fund should have been invested separately to give us interest. Now we are drawing all the reserve and to make up our deficit the Minister

*Speech not corrected.

suggested several measures. I want to call it a wasteful suggestion. I may refer to page 26 of his speech which runs as, "If by any chance we succeed in getting a larger loan from the Centre or in improving the collection under Small Savings which will improve our share also, the overall gap between Revenue and Expenditure will be narrowed. Otherwise we shall have to draw in full from our cash balance and the year will thus end with a reduced balance of Rs. 174 lakhs." First he said that he expected a windfall from the Centre and unless we get it the budget will remain unbalanced. Our share or loan from the Centre should be increased just as is done in West Bengal. We should try to impress the Centre that ours is the most backward and the greatest strategic State and that our transport should be fully developed and field for various industries should be created. But nothing appears to have been done at least in the budget proposal. Again, if we can improve the collections under the Small Savings Schemes we can balance our budget to some extent. I am quoting from the Reserve Section of the All-India Congress Committee.

"The Small Savings Movement seems to have suffered a distinct set-back and there is every likelihood of not even 50 per cent of this year's collection target being fulfilled. This is disquieting in view of the strategic role assigned to Small Savings under the financial scheme of the Second Five Year Plan. During the whole Plan period Small Savings are expected to contribute as much as Rs. 500 crores. Unfortunately, the best collection on record, since the Second Five Year Plan got into stride, does not go anywhere near Rs. 100 crores which is the yearly target. The collections last year reached a figure of Rs. 63 crores which was lower by Rs. 4 crores than what was collected the previous year. During the first nine months of the current financial year the collections aggregated to only Rs. 32 crores against a full year's target of Rs. 120 crores. This is bad performance indeed...."

From this we can understand the overall position of the whole country. In our State, Sir, there is semi-starvation everywhere, in the villages, in the suburbs and in the towns. The Finance Minister suggested to us to tighten our belts and contribute to the Small Saving Scheme. Sir, this suggestion in the face of semi-starvation conditions in the country is most preposterous. It is idle to expect our people to contribute to the Small Savings Fund when they have not only no savings but cannot even get two square meals a day. Instead of coming to their help the Government want them to contribute to the Small Savings Scheme. We do not believe the

position of the Small Savings Fund would improve unless the capacity of the people to save also improves. So, unless the over-all economic situation of the people is improved, it is idle on the part of the Finance Minister to expect any contribution to the Small Savings Scheme. On the other hand, Sir, there should have been an attempt on the part of the Finance Minister to curb extravagant expenditure on the part of the Government. We find the same extravagance continuing from year to year. I can illustrate this from the working of the Departments under his charge. Coming to the Public Works Department, under "50.—Civil Works". Establishment Charges, we find under Roads and Buildings Section, one Chief Engineer, one Additional Chief Engineer, one Deputy Chief Engineer, one Assistant Engineer, one Additional Assistant Engineer, one Assistant Secretary, nine Superintendents and a whole army of 354 people. What is their job here? They are in charge of establishment work: They are technical personnel, who should be released for work in the field instead of wasting them in establishment work here. Why this is necessary? Why nine Superintendents are necessary? It is possible to manage the Department with one Chief Engineer two Assistants and at best five Superintendents. The others can be released for field work. If a particular Chief Engineer, cannot do that, let us get rid of him and bring in one who can manage with a lesser staff. This is sheer wastage.

Then, Sir, in the Architectural Section, a sum of Rs.1,70,000 is being wasted. I do not understand what the people there are doing. I can just draw the attention of the House to the Central State Library building here and River Research Institute building at Burnihat. The architecture of these buildings is neither fish nor flesh; it is neither Gothic nor Moghul, nor ancient Hindu architecture, nor the modern streamlined architecture of the United States or the U. S. S. R. In the Central State Library building, the height of the turret is less than the height of the roof and the design was completed after the completion of the building. Similarly, in the River Research Institute building, we find two wings and just a semi-circle in the middle. This is what our Architectural Department is doing. Government should have economised expenditure by bringing blue-prints from Bombay or Bengal. One of the Engineers could have studied them and evolve a model for us.

This is the type of economy that we are practising. Then, Sir, there is a proposal for recruiting more Engineers from outside and thus creating potential unemployment for the students of our Engineering College. This kind of extravagance

should stop. In other Departments also, we find overlapping in over-head personnel and at the bottom the whole budgeting system is wrong. If there is a weaving co-operative somewhere, the Weaving Department will give grant to it, the Cottage Industries Department will give grant, the Development Board will give grant, the Panchayet will give grant and if it is in a Tribal or Scheduled Caste area, the Tribal Areas Department will give it grant under Article 275. So, we find there is over-lapping at the top as well as at the bottom. If this kind of extravagance is stopped, I think we can meet a part of our budgetary deficit. We shall then have a lesser deficit which can be filled up by taxing the higher income groups. There are several taxation proposals and the gaps can be filled up. But I feel that relief should be given to the people of the lower-income group, particularly the agriculturists in the villages who are facing starvation and semi-starvation conditions.

With these few words, I hope Government will take the whole scheme into consideration and if necessary, affect necessary changes in the different grants when they will be brought before the House.

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA (SONAI): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, গত ছয় বছর ধরে আমি এই সदनে সভা আছি, কিন্তু এই ছয় বছরের ভিতর কোনো বারও আমি বাড়তি বাজেট দেখি নাই। এইবার আমাদের বাড়তি বাজেট দেখে খুসি হয়েছি। মাননীয় বিত্ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয় দেশের অর্থনৈতিক সমস্যা সমালোচনা করেছেন। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি কাছাড় জিলার অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলা প্রয়োজন মনে করি। কাছাড় জেলায় ১৩ লক্ষের উপর লোকসংখ্যা। বেশী সংখ্যকই কৃষিজীবী। কাছাড় জিলার কৃষির অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে হয়তো সরকার অবগত আছেন। কাছাড় জিলায় কৃষির যা দুর্বস্থা হয়েছে তার একটা প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা শাস্ত্রে না করলে কাছাড় জিলার লোক আর টিকে থাকতে পারবে না। কাছাড় জিলার চা-বাগানগুলির অবস্থাও অতি শোচনীয়। অনেক বাগান বন্ধ হবার পথে চলেছে। সরকার যদিও চা-বাগানের সমস্যা সমাধানে কিছু চেষ্টা ইতিমধ্যে করেছেন কিন্তু সমস্যা এত জটিল হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছে যে আমার মনে হয় কাছাড়ের কৃষকদের যা অবস্থা হয়েছে চা-বাগানের শ্রমিকদিগকেও সেই অবস্থায় দাড়াতে হবে। কাছাড়ের অর্থনৈতিক অবস্থা এইরকম চলতে থাকলে সেখানকার জনসাধারণের বেচে থাকাই অসম্ভব হয়ে দাঁড়াবে। কাছাড়ের জনসংখ্যার প্রায় ৪০ ভাগই ভূমিহীন। ভূমিহীন কৃষকদের ভূমি দিবার মতি সরকার অবলম্বন করেছেন কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় কাছাড় শতকরা ভূমিহীন ৩ জন লোককেও আমরা জমি দিতে পারি নাই। চা-বাগানের অতিরিক্ত জমিগুলি প্রায়ই ক্ষেতের অনুপযোগী। এছাড়াও যা পাওয়া যায় উহাও ছাটাই শ্রমিকদের দখলে। তাদের যাহা দেওয়ার প্রয়োজন সেই গুলিতেও অনেক ধরণের অসুবিধা আছে। ক্ষেতের অনুপযোগী জমি যাহা চা-বাগানগুলিতে পাওয়া যায়, তাহাকে সরকারী করেষ্ট রিজার্ভে পরিণত করতঃ তার বদলে রিজার্ভের ক্ষেতের উপযোগী জমি, ভূমিহীনদের দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা অনায়াসে করা যেতে পারে। আমরা এ সম্বন্ধে পূর্বেও বলেছি এবং এবার বিশেষ ভাবে এ বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি দিতে সরকারকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আনার চক্রে হাতীখাল বলে একটা জায়গা আছে উহা মনিয়ার খাল Forest এলাকার মধ্যে। উক্ত এলাকা না কি unsurveyed এলাকা? Settlement Advisory Committee, Silcher উক্ত এলাকা ভূমিহীন কৃষকদের বন্দোবস্ত দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করেন। Senior Conservator of Forests, Assam ও এক পক্ষে জানান যে উক্ত এলাকা রিজার্ভের বাহিরে কিন্তু কাছাড়ের ফরেস্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট উক্ত এলাকা রিজার্ভের আওতায় Inner line Reserve বলে রিপোর্ট করেছেন। সুতরাং সেই এলাকার একটি বিহিত ব্যবস্থা করা প্রয়োজন মনে করি।

এই জমি ঠিক রিজার্ভ জমি নয়। এই জায়গাটা হইল মনিপুর লুসাই পাহাড় জেলা-দ্বয়ের সংলগ্ন কাছাড় জেলার সোনাই খানার মধ্যে। আমি বুঝি আমাদের Reserve এর ও প্রয়োজন আছে, তবে বনজ সম্পদ বিহীন এলাকাকে ফরেস্ট রিজার্ভ করে রাখার কোন আবশ্যিকতা নাই। কাজেই এই জমিটুকু শস্যোৎপাদনের জন্য খুলিয়া দেওয়া প্রয়োজন। এবং সরকার এই বিষয়ে বিহিত প্রতিকারে ব্যবস্থা অতি শীঘ্রই নিবেন বলিয়া আমি আশা করি।

অভাবের চাপে কাছাড় জেলার বহু কৃষক অন্যান্য জেলায়—যথা নওগাঁ ও মিকিরহিল জেলায় ও অন্যান্য জেলায় আশ্রয় নিয়াছে। তাহাদেরও দুর্গতির সীমা নাই। যখন খুসী তাহাদেরে উৎখাত করা হইতেছে। এই সম্বন্ধে গত বাজেট সেশনেও রাজস্ব মন্ত্রী ও মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণকে অনুরোধ করিলে বিহিত তদন্তের আশ্রয় দেওয়া সত্ত্বেও আজ পর্যন্ত কোনও প্রতিকার না নেওয়ার আমরা অত্যন্ত দুঃখিত। আশা করি অচিরেই আশু প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হইবে।

কৃষকগণের জীবন মরণ সমস্যার সহিত জড়িত কাছাড় জেলার বরাক নদী নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য সরকারকে বছরের পর বছর ধরিয়া কাছাড়ের জনসাধারণ তীব্র দাবী করিয়া আসিতেছে। অর্থমন্ত্রীর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় Zoologically suitable dam site না পাওয়ার দরুণ Investigation বন্ধ করা হইয়াছে বলায় অত্যন্ত দুঃখিত হইয়াছিলাম কিন্তু অদ্য কৃষি মন্ত্রী এসম্বন্ধে পুনরায় Investigation হইবে বলিয়া আশ্বাস দেওয়ার একটু আশাপ্রদ বলিয়া মনে হইতেছে। বিত্তমন্ত্রীর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় Dam site পাওয়া যাইতেছে না একথা আমরা layman হিসাবে মানিয়া নিতে পারিতেছি না। আমি জানি বালুর উপর দিয়া প্রবাহিত নদীকে ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা সম্ভব হইয়াছে কাজেই সূক্ষ্ম ভাবে Investigation করিতে বরাককে ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ করা সম্ভব হইবে বলিয়া আমাদের দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস। শুধু বরাক নদীই নয়—আমি দাবী করি বরাকের অন্যান্য উপনদী গুলির নিয়ন্ত্রণেরও ব্যবস্থা সরকার করিবেন। কারণ এই নদীগুলি সর্বদা এই জেলায় জলময় করিয়া থাকে। এই প্রসঙ্গে বরাকের বড় উপনদী সোনাই নদীকে নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য সরকারকে বিশেষ অনুরোধ করি।

কাছাড় জেলার বাস্তুহারাদের সংখ্যা অত্যন্ত বেশী এই সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্রী চেষ্টা করিবেন বলিয়া আশ্বাস দিয়াছেন। এদের মধ্যে শতকরা ৫০ জনই কৃষক এবং ভূমিহীন একথা বোধ হয় সরকারের নিশ্চই জানা আছে। এদম্পর্কে আশু প্রতিকারের আশা রাখি।

তারপর বেকার সমস্যা হইতে আমাদের বিশেষ করিয়া কাছাড়ের যুবকদের বাচাইতে হইলে সরকারের তরফ হইতে কারীগরী শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা অত্যন্ত দরকার। কিন্তু আমাদের ভাগ্য এতই খারাপ যে, বহু আবেদন নিবেদন করা সত্ত্বেও সমাজ পরিকল্পনার মাধ্যমে শ্রীকোনোতে একটা জুনিয়র টেকনিকেল স্কুল ও অরুণাচলে পুনর্বাসন বিভাগের মারফতে সেইরূপ একটি জুনিয়র টেকনিকেল স্কুল খোলা হইয়াছে। উভয় স্কুলই এক মাইলের মধ্যে। এই উভয় স্কুলে আমাদের স্বার্থ বজায় থাকবে বলে মনে হয় না যতক্ষণ না ডিপ্লোমা কোর্সের প্রবর্তন করা হয়। ২য় পঞ্চবাষিকী পরিকল্পনায় কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার আমাদের একটা পলিটেকনিক Institute খোলার সুযোগ দেওয়ার খবর পাইলে আমরা গত বাজেট সেশনে সরকারের নিকট হইতে জানিতে চাহিয়া ছিলাম যে, সেই সুযোগ কাছাড়কে দেওয়া হইবে কি না? এবং ইহাও জানিতে চাহিয়াছিলাম যে, ইহ

কি সত্য আমাদের রাজ্য সরকার নওগায় এই পলিটেকনিকেল স্কুল খোলার জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের নিকট অনুমোদন করিয়াছেন। তখন উত্তর পাইয়াছিলুম নওগায়ের জন্য কোন ও অনুমোদন করা হয় নাই, কাছাড়ের বিষয় বিবেচনা করা হইবে, কিন্তু অর্থ মন্ত্রীর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় নওগায়ে এই স্কুল স্থাপিত হইবে বলিয়া জানাইয়াছেন তখন প্রশ্ন করা সত্ত্বেও এই তথ্য প্রকাশ করা হয় নাই। নওগা অথবা আসাম রাজ্যের যে কোন জায়গায় হইলেও আনার বলবার কিছুই নাই তবে কাছাড় জেলায় এই সুবিধা পাওয়া দরকার— কারণ কাছাড় জেলায় হইলে কাছাড় জেলার বাহিরেও লুসাই পাহাড়ের ছাত্রদের পক্ষে ও সুবিধা হয়। কাছাড় এবং লুসাই পাহাড় এই দুই জেলার ছাত্রদের পক্ষে আসামের অন্য জায়গায় গিয়া আর্থিক দুরবস্থার জন্য অধ্যয়ন করা সম্ভবপর নয়। এই প্রসঙ্গে কৃষি মন্ত্রীর অধ্যক্ষ ভাষণে প্রকাশ পাইয়াছে যে কৃষি কলেজের জন্য I.A. বা I.Sc., পাশ Candidate এর স্থলে Matric খাউভিভিসন পাশ Candidate পাওয়া যায়। তদুত্তরে আমি বলিতে চাই Agriculture Demonstrator এর জন্য মেট্রিক পাশ Candidate এর অভাব কাছাড় জেলায় নাই। সেই হিসাবে কৃষি কলেজের জন্য I. A. বা I. Sc. পাশ যুবকদের অভাব কাছাড় জেলায় আছে বলিয়া আমি মানিয়া নিতে পারি না।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): ছাত্রেরা দখীল দেয় কিন্তু বৃত্তি না পেলে যোরহাটে থাকতে পারেনা।

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA (Sonai): এ কথা দিক যে অনেক ছাত্র বৃত্তি না পাইলে পড়তে পারেনা এর কারণ হল—এই ছাত্রদের guardian এর আর্থিক অবস্থা এতই ধারাপ যে শতকরা দুই এক জন ছাত্রও উচ্চ শিক্ষা নিতে পারেনা কারণ তাদেরকে অন্য জায়গায় পাঠানো সম্ভবপর হয়না। তদুপরি সময়মত কখন তাহারা ভৃত্তি হইবে তাছাও কাছাড়ে খবর বায়না এই অসুবিধা বাহাতে উবিঘাতে আর হয়না তার জন্য সরকার ব্যবস্থা নিবেন বলে আশা করি।

এর পরে আমি—এই প্রসঙ্গেই শিলচর মহরের পানীয় জলের দুরবস্থার কথা বলি এবং সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি। এই মহরের জল সরবরাহের বা ব্যবস্থা সেটা ২০।২৫ বৎসরের আগের এবং সে সময়ে মহরে ১০।১৫ হাজার লোকের বসতি ছিল। এখন তাই জায়গায় ৬০ হাজার লোক সংখ্যা হয়েছে। এই জন্য জল সরবরাহের উন্নত ব্যবস্থা করা আশু প্রয়োজন। এ সম্বন্ধে শিলচরের মিউনিসিপাল বোর্ড অনেক বার রাজ্য সরকার সমীপে আবেদন নিবেদন করিয়াছেন। শিলচর মহরবাসী বর্তমানে পুকুর ও বরাক নদী হইতে অতিকষ্টে পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা করিতেছে; এই দুর্ভোগ মোচনের আশু ব্যবস্থা সরকার অবশ্যই গ্রহণ করিবেন বলিয়া আমি দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস রাখি।

আমাদের সরকার ২১টি মহরে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যে শিলচর মহরকে এই পরিকল্পনা থেকে বাদ দেওয়া হয়েছে। এই পরিকল্পনার জন্য শিলচরকে কেন উপযুক্ত মনে করা হয় নাই এবং কেন বাদ দেওয়া হয়েছে আমি তার কোন সঙ্গত কারণ বুঝিয়া উঠিতে পারিঙ্গাই। তবে গুনিয়াছি শিলচর ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানীকে একটি Loan দেওয়া হইয়াছে।

কাছাড় জেলার Plains tribal দের জন্য আমাদের সরকার বিশেষ কিছু করেন নাই। তাদের যে গুলি প্রতিষ্ঠান আছে, সে গুলিতে দরকার অনুযায়ী সাহায্য ও দেওয়া হয় নাই। আমরা ইং ১৯৫১ সন থেকে representation দিয়া আসিতেছি যে কাছাড়ের বর্ধন সম্প্রদায়ের লোকসংখ্যা প্রায় ৫০ হাজার হইবে। ঐ লোকগুলিকে Plains tribal দের মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করা উচিত। কিন্তু plains triball

হিসাবে গ্রহণ করে নাই এবং তাদের অনুষ্ঠান গুলির জন্য এখন পর্যন্ত কোন সরকারী সাহায্য দেওয়া হয়নি। এই ক্ষেত্রে আমি সরকারকে অনুরোধ করি যাহাতে সরকার এই বন্দন সম্প্রদায়ের অনুষ্ঠান গুলিকে সাহায্য দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করেন। আমাদের মন্ত্রী শ্রীকপনাথ ব্রহ্ম আগাম উপত্যকায় থাকিয়া যদি Plains tribal হইতে পারেন, তবে কাছাড় জেলায় তাহারই আত্মীয় স্বজন বন্দন সম্প্রদায় “Plains tribal” হইতে কেন পারিবে না।

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): They are getting aid from Article 275 grant.

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA (Sonai) মাত্র দুই একটা অনুষ্ঠানকে হয়ত কিছু দেওয়া হয়েছে। আমি আশা করি এবং মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি যেন এই বন্দন সম্প্রদায়ের অনুষ্ঠান গুলিকে কিছু বেশী সাহায্য দেওয়ার ন্যায় সঙ্গত দাবী হইতে তাহারা যেন উপেক্ষিত না হন।

এখন আমি আমার নিজ সমষ্টির দুই ত্রকটা কথা বলব। আমার সমষ্টি শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্রে অত্যন্ত পশ্চাদপদ। সেখানে ধলাইতে একটা মাত্র হাইস্কুল আছে। সেই স্কুলের অবস্থা মন্দ নয়, কাণ্ডে ১৬-১৭ হাজার টাকা জমা আছে এবং স্কুলের অবস্থা পরীক্ষার ফলাফল ও বেশ ভালই। সে জন্য Sub-divisional development Board এর মিটিং এ এই স্কুলকে বহুমুখী স্কুলে পরিণত করবার জন্য অনুমোদন করেছিল, কিন্তু এখন পর্যন্ত সরকার হইতে কিছুই করা হয় নাই। এই অবহেলিত স্থান গুলিতে যে সব স্কুল আছে, সেই স্কুলের সর্বাঙ্গীণ উন্নতির জন্য Non-recurring grant দেওয়ার জন্য আমি সরকারকে অনুরোধ করি এবং আশা করি কাছাড়ের এই পশ্চাদপদ এলেকা এবং অনুষ্ঠান গুলির জন্য সরকার বিশেষ লক্ষ্য রাখবেন।

আমার চক্রে রাস্তা ঘাটের বিশেষ কোন সুব্যবস্থা নাই। বনাকালে রাস্তার অবস্থা ভয়ানক হয়ে পড়ে। যে সমস্ত বৃহত্তর পুল আছে সেইগুলি এখন পর্যন্ত তৈয়ারের ব্যবস্থা হইতেছেনা। জন সাধারণকে অনেকদূর হইতে কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে বাসের জন্য ২৪ মাইল পর্যন্ত হাটেরা আসিয়া বাস ধরিতে হয়। সেজন্য কাছাড় জেলায় রাস্তা-ঘাটের আশু উন্নতির জন্য আমি সরকারকে বিশেষ ভাবে অনুরোধ করি।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): বাজেটে এই পুল গুলির টাকা ধরা আছে।

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA: উক্তটাকা গত তিন বৎসর ধরিয়া বাজেটে ধরা হইতেছে, তাহা আমি জানি। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আজ পর্যন্ত কাজ আরম্ভ হইতেছে না।

চিকিৎসা সম্বন্ধে আমি বলতে চাই যে আমার চক্রে দুইটা Public Health Dispensary দেওয়া হয়েছে। একটা হরিণাটে আর অন্যটি বিদ্যারতন পুরে। সেজন্য আমি স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রীকে ধন্যবাদ দিতেছি, কিন্তু সেই দুই Dispensaryতে আজ পর্যন্ত Midwife দেওয়া হয় নাই। সেইজন্য আমি সরকারকে অনুরোধ করি অতি সস্তুর Midwife দেওয়া ব্যবস্থা করবার জন্য। সোনাইতে একটি Full-fledged

State Hospital करवार जन्य शिलचर Subdivisional Development Board सरकारेर निकट recommend करियाछिन । किन्तु उहाओ आज पर्याप्त विवेचित हय नहि । सेखन्य सोनाहिते उक्त Full-fledged Hospital टि स्थापन करार जन्य आनि सरकारके अनुरोध करि ।

सर्वशेषे आनि दुईटि विषये सरकारेर दृष्टि आकर्षण करिते छै—एकटि हईल सनाज उन्नयन परिकल्पनार माध्यमे गणियार खान चा बागानेर एकाकार एकटि Multi-purpose Seed Farm खोला हईयाछे । उक्त कार्केर जन्य जमि requisition करिते गिया १२-१७ टि परिवार छाटिहि शुनिकके अन्याज जमि देओरा हईने बलिया तादेर २५-७० बन्सर दखनीय जमि सेह कार्केर जन्य requisition करा हईयाछ । उहा कृषि-सङ्गीओ निजे जानेन । किन्तु दुःखेर विषय उक्त गरिव शुनिकदेर जमि देओरा हय नहि एबं से जयगा हईते उठिये याओरार जन्य निर्देश देओरा हईयाछे, ईहा अत्यन्त अन्याय बलिया मने करि । ताहादेर आओ व्यवहारा जन्य आनि दावी करि । द्वितीय विषयटि हईल, गत १७ई मार्च बेला एकटार सिद्धेरबन्दे तीसण अश्लिकाओ हये १२१ खाना बाडी धवन्श हये गेल । सेह निःसङ्गल जनगण एखन विभिन्न ग्राम-बागार माहायेत आछे । आनि सरकारेर दृष्टि आकर्षण करि एबं तादेरके येन माहाय देओरार जन्य विशेष व्यवस्था करेन ।

Sri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय ! हमारे अर्थमंत्री महोदय ने सन् १९५६-५९ के लिये इस सदन में जो बजट पेश किया है, उसे देखकर मुझे इतना ही कहना कि यह बजट “मन्दिर भालो” । महोदय ! जिस निर्वाचन क्षेत्र से निर्वाचित होकर मैं यहाँ आया हूँ वह दो बातों के लिये सारी दुनिया में प्रसिद्ध है। एक वहीं के नरखादक वाघ “Man Eater” और दूसरा है “Malaria” । इन दोनों ने मेरे निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र को प्रसिद्ध कर दिया है। इन दोनों के कारण पानेरी की जनता बेचैन है।

महोदय ! टंगला में मेरा घर है। हजारों लोगों का बसवास है इस स्थान में। किन्तु यह हमारे लिये बड़ा दुःख की बात है कि इस स्थानों में पानी का बहुत बड़ा अभाव है। पहले रैलवे विभाग के सौजन्य के कारण सरभोग प्लेशन से इस स्थान के लिये पानी की व्यवस्था हुई थी। किन्तु अब यह व्यवस्था बाद हो चुका है और लोगों को भीषण कष्ट हो रहे हैं। इसके कारण लोगों को बहुत बड़ा दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। इसके कारण जनता को इतनी दिक्कतों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है कि जिसका बयान तक करना मेरे लिये मुश्किल है। हमारे मंत्री वहाँ जाते हैं तो वहाँ की जनता उनके पास पहुँचती है और मंत्री महोदय भी उन्हें आश्वासन देते हैं और मंजूर करते हैं। किन्तु यह बड़ा दुःख की बात है कि उनको चले आने के बाद वहाँ कोई काम नहीं होता है।

सरकार ने टंगला के लिये एक एस०डी०सी० सरकल कायम करने का निश्चय किया था। मंत्री महोदय ने ऐसा कहा भी था। किन्तु आज तक वह हुवा नहीं है। इसी तरह हमारे बन्धु स्वास्थ्यमंत्री महोदय ने भी वहाँ के लिये एक मातृ-मंगल केन्द्र खोलने के लिये आश्वासन दिया था। सन् १९५५ में ही इसके लिये जमीन भी मिली थी। किन्तु

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : आप लोगों के यहाँ एक मातृ-मंगल केन्द्र है न ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : जी हाँ, किन्तु वहाँ की जनता एक मातृ-मंगल केन्द्र चाहती है। उन्हींकी बात कह रहा हूँ ! इसी लिये मैं आशा करता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार जल्द-से-जल्द ये सुविधायें हमें कर दें। नहीं तो वहाँ के लोग कहते हैं कि सरकार हमारे यहाँ के लिये कुछ नहीं दे रहे हैं।

इस मातृ-मंगल वर्ड के लिये जमीन का भी बन्दोवस्त हो गया है।

(Read from a letter No.I-14/55/3232, dated Tezpur, 14th May, 1955 from the District Medical Officer of Health, Darrang to Shri Hiralal Patwari, Secretary, Tangla Dispensary Committee) "I have the honour to inform you that the Government propose to open one Maternity Ward attached to the Tangla Dispensary. I think you will admit that if the Ward is constructed on other side of the road, it will offer scope for further extension and in future we may start a General Ward which is an absolute necessity in a place like Tangla....."

सन् १९५५ के अक्टूबर महीने में ही यह काम होनेवाला था। किन्तु अब तक इसके न होना हमारे लिये बड़ा दुख की बात है। इस ओर मैं सरकार की कृपादृष्टि का आकर्षण करता हूँ।

पानेरी क्षेत्र सभी दृष्टियों से बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ है। ज्यादातर जनजाति चाय बगान के श्रमिक तथा चाय बगान के भूतपूर्व श्रमिकों का बसवास है। बाघ, हाथी जैसे भयंकर जानवरों की रंगभूमि है। हिमालय पर्वत के नीचे के जंगलों जंगली हाथी हमेशा इस स्थान में उपद्रव करते हैं। ये हाथी प्रायः लोगों के घर तोड़ते हैं, और उससे कितनों की जान चली गयी है। सरकार इस ओर विशेष ध्यान दें। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार इन पिछड़े हुए लोगों की उन्नति के लिये सभी प्रकार की सुविधायों की व्यवस्था करें और इन्हें भी नागरिक सुविधायें प्रदान करें।

आसाम प्रान्त में कई लाख श्रमिक हैं। इन मजदूरों की शिक्षा की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। सरकार इस ओर भी विशेष ध्यान दें। हमारे विधान के ४६ वें दफ्ता में ही स्पष्टरूप से लिखा हुआ है कि सरकार समाज के दुर्बल लोगों की शिक्षा तथा सामाजिक उन्नति की ओर विशेषरूप से ध्यान देगी, और इन लोगों के विकास के लिये आवश्यकीय कारवाई करेगी। किन्तु जहाँ तक हमने देखा है इस ओर कोई विशेष ध्यान सरकार का नहीं हुआ है। श्रमिक कानून के मुताबिक शिक्षा और अन्यान्य सुविधायें पाना श्रमिकों का हक है। आशा है कि हमारी सरकार श्रमिक की शिक्षा का विशेष प्रबन्ध करेगी। हमारे मंगलद्वे इलाके में ही ४० हजार के करीब चाय बगान श्रमिक हैं। किन्तु हमारी दस साल की साधना के बाद भी उनमें एक भी मैट्रिकुलैट नहीं निकला है। उसी तरह एम. ई. अथवा एम. भि. पास लड़के भी नहीं के बराबर हैं। इसलिये मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि इन गरीब श्रमिकों की शिक्षा के लिये राष्ट्रीय नीति अपनावे। यह हमारे लिये बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि हमारे श्रममंत्रीजी शिक्षा विभाग के मंत्री भी हैं। वे एक माने हुए मजदूर नेता हैं। शिक्षा और मजदूरों की विभिन्न समस्याओं से भलीभांति परिचित हैं। हमें आशा है कि उनके नेतृत्व में हमारे मजदूरों की शिक्षा की समस्या का पूर्ण समाधान होगा।

शिक्षा के बारे में मैं दो-चार बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। आज हम उपयुक्त तथा योग्य शिक्षकों का बहुत बड़ा अभाव अनुभव कर रहे हैं। सभी लोगों का कहना है कि आज स्कूलों के लिये अच्छा अध्यापक नहीं मिलते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि कम वेतन ही इसका मूल कारण है। इसलिये अध्यापकों के वेतन के बारे में सरकार को पुनः विवेचना करनी चाहिये। उनका वेतन-क्रम बढ़ा देना चाहिये। योग्य अध्यापकोंपर ही हमारे बच्चों तथा देश का उज्वल भविष्य निर्भर करता है। इसलिये वेतन कमेटी द्वारा वेतन-क्रम को जल्द-से-जल्द प्रवर्तन करना चाहिये।

Adjournment

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

(After Lunch)

Sri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): Sir, मैं शिक्षककलन विषय में कहना चाहता हूँ। शिक्षा शिक्षककलन विषय में अब भी कलन नहीं आया है।.....

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):—The Hon. Member is speaking in Assamese now.

Sri HIRALAL PATWARI: Yes, to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister from Cachar.

Mr. SPEAKER: Our rules permit the Hon. Members to speak in any languages mentioned in the rules, as they choose, but it will be inconvenient for the Reporters, if the Hon. Members change the medium of their speeches. In future, I hope, when the Hon. Members start speaking in one language, they will conclude it in the same language, not so much for the convenience of the Members but for the convenience of the Reporters.

Of course one or two similes may be in perfect order, but if the entire speech is changed, the Reporters will be put to a great deal of inconvenience. As you know, our language Reporters are not too many.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI: अध्यक्ष महोदय! मैं अपने भाषण में शिक्षकों के वेतन-क्रम के बारे में इस सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित कर रहा था। हमने देखा है कि शिक्षकों के वेतन-क्रम में कोई भी सामंजस्य नहीं है। एल. पी., एम. ई. और हाई स्कूलों के शिक्षकों के वेतन-क्रम में एक दूसरे के साथ कोई सामंजस्य नहीं दिखाई पड़ता है। इसलिये इस सम्बन्ध में विचार-विमर्श करने के लिये एक वेतन कमेटी का नियोग किया जाय जो इस विषय को उचितरूप से विवेचन करें और शिक्षकों के वेतन-क्रम को उचितरूप से निर्धारित करें। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार के द्वारा निर्धारित इन तीन सिद्धान्तों की ओर मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

१—योग्यता के अनुसार वेतन-क्रम का निर्धारण करें।

२—वेतन-क्रम का निम्नतम स्तर सर्वोच्च क्रम के तीन हिस्से का एक हिस्सा हो।

और

३—तीस साल के अन्दर वेतन का सर्वोच्च स्तर प्राप्त हो।

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): তেজেশ্বৰ
নিম্নতম দৰমহা ১০০ টকা হলে উচ্চতম দৰমহা ৩০০ টকা হবনাগে।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): इय ३०० टका
श्वनागे आक गेशेटो २० बखत दिव नागे।

इन सिद्धान्तों के अनुसार वेतन-क्रम का निर्धारण हो तो मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ योग्य अध्यापकों का अभाव दूर होगा। ऐसा करेंगे तो एक ओर हमारे अध्यापकों का लाभ होगा और दूसरी ओर देश का भी विशेष लाभ होगा।

हमारे लिये यह बड़ी खुशी की बात है कि सरकार ने इस साल ५८७ बैचर (venture) एल. पी. स्कूल को लेने का निश्चय किया है। इस साल शिक्षा के लिये ४३५ लाख रुपये का बजट बनाया है। इससे हमारे स्कूलों के गृह-निर्माण सम्बन्धी बातों में विशेष लाभ होगा।

और एक बात हमारी जनता के बीच शंका उत्पन्न कर रही है। वह यह है, हमारे देश के बड़े बड़े लोग अपने बच्चों को पब्लिक स्कूल या दूसरे किसम के स्कूलों में भेजा करते हैं। बड़े लोगों के इस आचरण के कारण जनता के मन में सन्देह की भावना उत्पन्न होती है, जिसका होना बहुत हद तक स्वाभाविक भी है। वे यही सोचते हैं, कि ये बड़े लोग अपने बच्चों को अच्छे अच्छे स्कूलों में भेजकर बड़े बड़े अफसर बनाना चाहते हैं। आशा है हमारे मंत्री महोदयगण तथा दूसरे अफसरगण इस प्रकार का आचरण न करें जिससे जनता के मन में सन्देह उत्पन्न हो।

अध्यक्ष महोदय! अब मैं एक सब से बड़ा तथा महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। यह विषय है शराब की दूकानें। हमने अक्सर देखा है कि हमारे प्रान्त में बजारों के बीच ही शराब की दूकानें हैं। इससे हमारी जनतापर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ता है। लोग कुछ खरीदने के लिये बजार जाते हैं और अपना लोभ संभाल न सकने के कारण शराब पीकर अपना पैसा बरबाद करते हैं। इस तरह कई परिवार को नष्ट होते हमने देखा है इससे हमारी नैतिक अवनति का अवसर रहता है। इसलिये मैं अपनी सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि खुले बजार में शराब की दूकान रहने न दे। शराब की दूकानों को बजार से दूर और किसी जगहपर रखें ताकि हमारी जनता को बुरी आदत के लिये कोई अवसर न हो।

इसके बाद गोरक्षण और गोपालन की ओर भी मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। आज सबेरे ही हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि "Veterinary Department" ही सब से रद्दि विभाग है। यह हमारे लिये बड़ा दुःख की बात है। गो-जाति की अवज्ञा करके हम सारी जाति की अवज्ञा कर रहे हैं। गो-जाति की उन्नति

पर हमारी सारी जाति की उन्नति निर्भर करती है। गो-जाति की उन्नतिपर हमारे देश की कई समस्याओं का समाधान हो सकता है। इसीपर हमारी सामाजिक अर्थ-नैतिक और शारीरिक उन्नति निहित है। हमारे पास समय बहुत कम है। इसलिये इस बारे में मैं विस्तृतरूप से कहना नहीं चाहता हूँ। लेकिन यह इतना गुरुत्वपूर्ण विषय है कि इस बारे में हमें गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करना चाहिये। सरकार से मेरा अनुरोध है कि वे पशु के लिये खाद्य की व्यवस्था करें। वे ऐसी और व्यवस्था करें जिससे हमारा देश में गो-जाति की उन्नति हो। देश में अधिक दूध उत्पन्न करने के लिये चेष्टा करें। आप सब लोगों को मालूम है कि आज हमारा देश वैदेशिक विनियम मुद्रा के अभाव का सामना कर रहा है। इसलिये हमारे देश में ही अधिक परिमाण में अर्थात् हमारे आवश्यकों के अनुसार दूध उत्पन्न हो तो वैदेशिक विनियम की इस समस्या, के समाधान में भी बहुत कुछ सहायता प्राप्त होगी। आपको मालूम है कि विदेशों से बहुत बड़े परिमाण में हमारे यहां "पाउडर दूध" आता है। अगर यहां काफी दूध उत्पन्न हो तो हमें विदेशों पाउडर दूध मंगान की आवश्यकता न होगी और इस तरह वैदेशिक मुद्रा की भी काफी बचत होगी; और दूसरी ओर इससे जातीय स्वास्थ्य की भी उन्नति होगी। क्योंकि हमारे बच्चों को ताजा और पौष्टिक दूध मिलेगा। इसलिये सरकार को इस दिशा में कोई अच्छी योजना तैयार करना चाहिये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय! अब मैं अपनी पुलिस के बारे में भी दो-चार शब्द कहना चाहता हूँ। पुलिस ने गौहाटी कांग्रेस के अवसर पर जो पट्टा दिखाई थी वही अगर हमेशा दिखाया होता तो पुलिस के प्रति किसी की कोई शिकायत नहीं होती। किन्तु आफसोस की बात है कि आज इसके त्रिलकुल विपरीत है पुलिस की व्यवस्था। इसके उदाहरण स्वरूप मैं दो "case" आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ।

एक "case" पिछले अगस्त महीने में तिनसुकिया में हुआ था। जब कि वहां दिन-दहारे एक व्यापारी का खून हो गया था। किन्तु पुलिस अबतक उस खूनी को पकड़ नहीं सकी। दूसरा "case" है टंगला में हुआ था। यह "case" ऐसा है कि किसी ने वहां के Apex Bank का ताला तोड़कर धान के बोरे चुरा लिये, किन्तु पुलिस इस दोषी को भी पकड़ा नहीं सकी है। इसके लिये Managing Committee की भी नियुक्ति हुई है, मगर अब तक दोषी पकड़ा नहीं गया है। सरकार पुलिस की कमियों की जांच करने के लिये कोई तदन्त कमेटी की स्थापन करें, और इस बारे में विचार-विमर्श करें कि हम किस प्रकार अपनी पुलिस को अधिकाधिक पटु और कर्तव्य-परायण बना सकें।

और एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित कराना चाहता हूँ। हमने देखा है कि वीडि के कैनवाचार अवसर माइक बजा-बजाकर वजारों में अपनी वीडि का प्रचार करते हैं। वे जब "लाड़े लाप्पा" जैसे सस्ते फिल्मी गाने बजाकर वजारों में घूमते फिरते हैं। वे जब "लाड़े लाप्पा" जैसे सस्ते फिल्मी गाने है। मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि इन कैनवाचारों को माइक बजा-बजाकर अपनी वीडि का प्रचार करने की "Licence" न दें।

Adulteration के बारे में भी हमें विचार करना चाहिये। इस जातिय अवनति को बन्द करने के लिये हमारी सरकार को कड़ी नीति का अवलम्बन करना चाहिये। आज हमारा मन ही "Adulterated" हो गया है। इसका बहुत बुरा असर हमारे जातीय जीवनपर पड़ रहा है। मैं रोज जब रोटी खाता हूँ, घी लता हूँ, तो हमेशा यह खयाल मेरे मन में आता है कि "हे भगवान! हम अपने खाद्य में भी कितनी "adulterated" चीज व्यवहार कर रहे हैं। इससे हमारी जातीय स्वास्थ्यपर कितना बुरा असर पड़ रहा है। सरकार को इसे बन्द करने के लिये सख्त कारवाई करनी चाहिये।

Shri GAURI SANKAR ROY (Kathlicherra): "Adulteration" को बन्द करने के लिये आप कौनसा सुझाव पेश कर रहे हैं ?

Mr. SPEAKER: क्या आप उनको बढ़ावा देना चाहते हैं। उनको तो अब मुस्तुसर करना है।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): "Adulteration" के कारण हमारा स्वास्थ्य नष्ट हो रहा है। हमारे बच्चों को पौष्टिक खाद्य नहीं मिल रहे हैं। किसी दवा के सेवन से हमारा स्वास्थ्य अच्छा नहीं बन सकता। दवा किसी बीमारी को अच्छा बना सकती है। हमारा स्वास्थ्य हमारे खाद्यपर निर्भर करता है। हम हमेशा अगर "Adulterated" खाद्य खाया करें तो हमारा स्वास्थ्य की अवनति का होना अनिवार्य है। हमारे मेडिकल मिनिस्टर हमें स्वास्थ्यरक्षा में सहायता कर सकते हैं। किन्तु दुषित खाद्य खाकर यह कहांतक संभव हो सकता है ?

उस दिन हमारे एक माननीय सदस्य ने हमारे हम विरोधी दल के सदस्यों को अपना शत्रु कहा है। यह हमारे दुषित मन का परिचायक है। हम अपने विरोधियों को कभी अपनी शत्रु नहीं समझते हैं।

खाद्य उत्पादन की ओर भी सरकार को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिये। मैं सरकार से अपील करता हूँ कि वह ऐसी व्यवस्था करें कि हमारी जनता को कम दाम में खाद्य-सामग्री मिल सके। इसके लिये अधिक खाद्य उत्पादन होना चाहिये। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि हमारी जनता में एकता बढ़े। जनता को कोई अभाव न हो। जनता को सस्ते दामों में आवश्यकीय चीजें मिलें।

आखिर में मैं मंगलदई महकुमा के प्रति सरकार की विशेष कृपादृष्टि का आकर्षण करता हूँ। वहाँ की जनता बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ है। मैं सरकार से अपील करता हूँ कि मंगलदई से आये हुये शुभेच्छा-मंडल को दिये आश्वासन के अनुसार हमारी समस्याओं का समाधान करें।

PU LALMAWIA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid I shall not be able to express my feelings properly for shortage of time. I have been waiting to speak during the last few days, but I could not do so. I must thank you, Sir, for giving me a chance to speak today.

I have many things to say. However, within the time allotted to me, I will try to speak something. I would request the House not to think that I am constituency-minded. Because of time limit I am going to say something concerning my district, though I would like to say something regarding other districts and subdivisions also. I would like to make some observation on the speech delivered by the Finance Minister. The first point, which I would like to mention is about economic situation in our State. The Finance Minister mentioned that the rise in cost of living index was taken with 1944 as the

base year. According to this, the rise in 1956 is Rs.123 and in November, 1957, it is Rs.136. If we take the cost of living index in the case of Aijal, the rise would be much more, because the prices of essential commodities now prevailing in many cases, are ten times more than what it was in 1944. So if we take a number of different items together, the rise in cost of living index will be not less than 150. For that reason cost of living in the hill areas, specially in the Mizo district is very high. During Mr. Medhi's time, I used to ask for some sort of allowances to be given to the people working in the Mizo district, specially for the doctors, because we could not find any doctor in the Mizo district, particularly in place like Bualpui, Demagiri and Tuipang, etc., because these are interior places. But the allowance which was given was only Rs. 40 and this did not improve the situation, because the same amount was given as hill allowance to doctors and others working in the other Hills, and for that reason they do not like to go into the interior place of Mizo district. So it is very necessary that special allowance should be given to Government Servants working in the Mizo district, otherwise we cannot get any doctors to work in our district. In my district, there are a number of dispensaries without any doctor in charge, but we have only compounders who remain in charge of such dispensaries. Also the supply of medicine is not at all sufficient in those dispensaries. So I believe that Government will do something in this respect.

Sir, there are some Fourth Grade Government Servants whose pay scales are increased. But there are certain class of 4th Grade Government Servants also whose cases were not properly considered by the Pay Committee. During my last visit to Aijal and even prior to that a number of complaints came to me regarding increase of pay scales to the 4th Grade Government Servants as recommended by the Pay Committee.

There are some Headmasters of M. F. Schools who are not receiving Headmaster's special allowance of Rs.20—though they are entitled to it. I do not know why they are not receiving the special allowance of Rs.20. Some of them are under-Matriculate, but I think if this allowance is to be given to Headmasters of M. E. Schools, I think they should also get the special allowance of Rs.20.

Now, Sir, I would like to comment on the food situation. From the figures of food production we find that there is some increase. But considering the increase in population of our State and increase in circulation of money, increased food

production alone cannot cope with all these factors. For that reason the prices of food-stuff is rising up and accordingly the cost of living is rising. In normal years the Lushai Hills produce enough food to feed its population. But due to communication difficulties distribution is not possible. For that reason even in normal times, in some areas, people are starving. I would like to inform the House that in the Mizo district we are expecting a severe type of famine to come sometime next year or at latest in 1960. The famine lasts for two or three years and we call it Mao Tam. The famine whenever it comes is preceded by flowering of bamboo which bear fruits and this is followed by abnormal increase of rats. Now in our district, the bamboos have started flowering, and about 50 per cent of bamboo areas have already been affected. We have received information that in a number of places there have been increase of rats. I am glad to know that last year the Finance Minister gave me an assurance, when I talked about this Mao Tam famine, and I believe that assurance still stands, though we do not find in the Budget any provision to take precautionary measures for the protection from this Mao Tam famine. Mao Tam means the dying out of bamboos. Mau means bamboo and Tam means die.

In this connection I would like to tell the House about my trip to Burma in November last. I went to Rangoon and contacted one of the Ministers of the Union of Burma. I told him about this anticipated famine and casually I asked if they could allow us some rice from Burma from the areas adjoining the Lushai Hills, because the price of rice in those areas is very cheap and at that time it was selling at Rs.6 to Rs.7 per maund. But the Minister during the discussion told me that it would not be possible to sell rice at a rate different from what they already offered to our Union Government. But if the anticipated famine really comes, he gave me the hope that the Burma Government might be willing to give us some rice as free gift. Then I told him as a free gift he would give us about 1,000 maunds or so which would not sufficiently help us. Then he said that if one Government gave something to another Government it may not be less than 10,000 tons. I said that if this amount was given, we would be satisfied. The Minister wanted to know that if the Burma Government give some rice to India to feed the famine stricken people in the Lushai Hills would the Government of India make transport arrangement. I told him that the India Government would willingly arrange transport for the same. So, Sir, if famine really comes we can approach the Burma Government for some help or relief. If

that country is willing to give us some help I am sure our own Government also will not sit idle and will surely do something to take preventive measures also. In my district the price of rice has already shown increase and it will continue to be so for some two or three years. So, it is high time that preventive measures be taken by the Government. It is high time for the people of my district to produce more food and to accentuate their activities in food production. For this reason some people in Cachar district wanted to make rice cultivation in some border areas and I noticed that they cut down some virgin forest on the border of the Cachar district. Then some officials of the Cachar Forest Division came and destroyed the huts of those people. Some trouble is going on there. In this connection I would like to inform the House that according to the map which is in possession of some people in the Lushai Hills those areas cleared by these Lushais were within the Lushai Hills border, but so far as our knowledge goes, the Forest Department extended the Cachar border and they have come very far into the Lushai Hills District. At a number of places the boundary pillars were still standing and some people have changed those pillars. At present the boundary pillars have been shifted to far distant places from the old Cachar border. It is not only in that area but in the Hailakhndi Subdivision also they have shifted the boundary pillars to a distant of about one or two miles. I met a number of people who could point out to me exactly where the old boundary pillars were first erected. The troubles are going on. I think that it is high time that our Government should look into this matter so that there will be no boundary dispute between the two Districts. It is the desire of the people of these neighbouring Districts that they should be allowed to live peacefully and in friendly terms.

As regards the accounts of 1956-57 and also 1957-58 I notice that the revenue deposit in 1956-57 was 3.65 crores while at the close of the year that deficit came to only 71 lakhs of rupees and in the 1957-58 the estimated deficit was Rs.4.61 crores while the actual deficit at the close of the year was Rs.1.22 crores. This less deficit was the result of increase in revenue of Rs.4.08 crores and also excess in expenditure by Rs. 69 lakhs. When I saw these figures it appeared that whatever expenditure was estimated in the budget was fully expended. But, when I looked to the figures of the Lushai Hills and also some other autonomous districts I find that the estimated expenditure is never utilised in full. In many cases some amount already sanctioned is surrendered in full and next year the same amount appears

again. I can point out a number of such items, but it will not be necessary. But I should like to give one or two examples only. That is, for the electrification of the Aijal town, in the last year's budget we had over two lakhs of rupees. This year also the same amount appears again. That shows that during the last year nothing has been done. Similar is the case with the road improvement programme for the Aijal town and Lungleh town. For Aijal town 3 lakhs of rupees were sanctioned by this Assembly some years ago, and for Lungleh town 2 lakhs of rupees were sanctioned. But for two or three years the same amount had to be shown. So, this is the condition of things.

Regarding road construction, there are a number of road schemes approved to be implemented during the Second Five Year Plan period. But two years have passed and we have not utilised even 20 per cent of the total amount sanctioned and in some cases the roads have not been surveyed as yet. If this is going to be the progress of development then I do not think this Five Year Plan will bring any real development in the autonomous districts, particularly in the Mizo district. Sir, it may be the fault of the Members from autonomous districts for not revealing the facts, for not bringing their problems to the notice of the Government. But now, the Government is fully aware of all these problems and I believe the Government will do the needful and see that better progress is made in the coming year.

Another point I would like to mention is about forests. As you all know, the hills districts are covered with dense forest, but due to the nature of the country, our forest wealth cannot be utilised to the fullest extent. But bamboos are to be found in low-lying areas; these can be brought down to the rivers and down the river to the plains. After visiting almost all the districts in Assam, I can say that in bamboo the Lushai Hills is the richest and next comes the Garo Hills. If bamboo is any good for making paper and rayon, certainly there is no better place for the establishment of a paper mill or rayon factory than Lushai Hills. If anyone wants to establish a paper mill or a rayon mill profitably, then without asking anybody he can go to the Lushai Hills or Garo Hills. Last year I was told that some investigation was being made in the Lushai Hills to see how much bamboo could be obtained. But this investigation is taking a very long time. I do not think such a long time is needed as we know very well that nearly half of the Lushai Hills is bamboo areas. Lushai Hills is not rich in other mineral deposits, but it is rich in forest wealth, particularly bamboos. If our

forest wealth is properly utilised, the deficits district can be made into self-supporting districts. If we can utilise our bamboos we can feed ourselves. I believe you are well aware that Garo Hills and Khasi & Jaintia Hills have rich deposits of coal and limestone, where cement factories can be started successfully. Then paper mill can be started in the Lushai Hills and Garo Hills. I believe Lushai Hills has also some coal deposit. I myself collected some coal from Kolasib area. If a proper geological survey of the country is made, I am sure we can find many valuable mineral products. So, I would request the Government to look into this and do the needful immediately.

Sir, we have many big rivers which can be utilised for generating electric power.

As regards education, I would like to stress the need for giving more grant to the tribal people to educate their boys and girls. I understand that in Shillong there are many tribal boys and girls who cannot get hostel accomodation. In our district we have no college. During Mr. Medhi's time I requested him to allow us to start one private college. But he did not allow to start even a private college. He always said, "It would be better for you to send your boys and girls to the plains or Shillong so that they can learn more things". Sir, presuming that it is better to send our boys and girls outside inspite of so many difficulties, if we do not have at least hostel facilities, it is not possible for poor tribal people to have their boys and girls educated. Without education we cannot do anything in these days of competition. The Public Service Commission will reject people with lesser qualifications : they select people only with high qualifications. We find some of our M. As., and M.A. B.L.s, are still going without any job because there are people with better qualifications. If that is the case, the chances for the tribal people to grow are very remote.

About the housing problem, Government provided some fund for giving some loan, but in our district we have not been granted a single pie for building any house. This low-income group housing loan has not yet been made available for the applicants in our district. The Government blame the District Council for not altering the land system so as to allow the occupier of the land proprietary right. But the District Council allow the land to be used as security to people who ask for loan and the District Council is even ready to allow them to sell that land if necessary for repayment of the loan. But they do not allow the sale of land or house to non-tribal people and

it is limited to tribal people only, and thus the land there is as good as belonging to the occupier. So the Government should realise the feelings of the people and accept the offer of their land as security for housing loan even though they are not allowed to sell their land to non-tribals.

Another point, I would like to raise is civil supply at Lungleh. As you all know, the road to Lungleh is not yet motorable, so we have to depend on mules transport and human carriers to a great extent. During dry season it is zeepable, but most part of the year it is not zeepable. For this reason it is very difficult to deliver goods to Lungleh and interior places. The transport cost from Silchar to Aijal is Rs.10 per maund and from Aijal to Lungleh is Rs.30 to 40 per maund. For this reason the Government is kind enough as to subsidise the essential commodities sent to Lungleh Subdivision. The amount sanctioned last year for this purpose was Rs.3 lakhs. Similar treatment is required to be extended to the people of north eastern side of Aijal Subdivision because they are also very far away from Aijal and Silchar and the difficulties experienced by them are almost similar to the people of Lungleh. While, Sir, we are requesting Government to extend this facility to other areas, I regret very much to note here that the amount allotted for the next year for this purpose has been reduced from Rs.3 lakhs to Rs.2½ lakhs. I cannot understand the reason for this. However, I would request the Government not to reduce the same, rather increase the figure of subsidy and extend this facility to other needy areas, as people are suffering for the high cost of transport of essential commodities to their areas. I would request the Government to concede to the suggestions in this connection by the District Council.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to inform the House that many of the Lushai people have migrated into Burma recently, and the Government, I understand, is surprised as to why so many Lushai people have migrated to Burma. From the figures I got from the Deputy Commissioner, I find that people of border areas, mainly from Champhai area have migrated in large numbers. The reason for their migration, I understand, is mainly for not getting essential supplies at subsidised prices and not getting the supply by air dropping. My statement has been confirmed as more people from that area are leaving their homes and going to Burma. So, Sir, it is high time that Government should extend their helping hand to the people in Lushai Hills living in distant places and in areas not connected with suitable communication, so that they may

not have to migrate to Burma. Migration from one country to another means a lot of trouble, and this involves international problems also. For these reasons, I would request the Government to look into this matter and take necessary action immediately

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Shri LILA KANTA BARAH (Kaliabor) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we offer our hearty thanks to our Finance Minister for his illuminating speech on the presentation of the budget wherein he has dealt with almost all important factors of the administration of the State. The picture given by him on different items is on the whole a redeeming one excepting on the food front which is unhappy and gloomy.

Sir, the most important aspect of the budget to me this year is that provision for a number of new projects has been made and that there is no proposal for further taxation, I think the Finance Minister has realised that the burden of taxation on the people is already heavy leaving no room for further taxation.

Another important feature of the budget is that though there is an overall deficit, the deficit this time is not so heavy as in the previous years. I think, the Finance Minister is rather fortunate this time as the recommendations of the Second Finance Commission has increased the State's share of Central grants under certain heads. In this connection, we are sorry to learn that the Commission has not made any change of the amount of grant due to Assam in respect of assignment of jute export duty, which is likely to disappear by 1959-60. We hope the Central Government will consider this matter very seriously and sympathetically too as this will hit hard on a poor State if this grant is not allotted to her.

Sir, the year 1957-58 may be called a year of trial for our State because Government had to face a number of problems during this year, special mention of which may be made of the Naga Hills issue and the Refinery issue. We are not satisfied, rather disappointed, at the way in which the Naga Hills problem has been tackled by the Central Government. We are however glad that the Refinery issue has been settled to our satisfaction. We are also glad that a separate Railway Zone has been established for Assam and a bridge over the Brahmaputra has been conceded, but yet one great thing remains for us, that is, a river valley project. Although most of the

States in India got one or more river valley projects, we are sorry, Sir, that so long we in Assam have not got any. We have been told by our Finance Minister as well as by the Agriculture Minister that the detailed investigations of the Kopili project will be completed by 1959, but may we know from our Government whether our Government have got any assurance from the Government of India that this river valley project will be taken over by them as soon as the survey work is completed? Sir, we know how much important a river valley project is to raise the economic status of a State, and specially for a poor and backward State like ours which is all the more essential. So we would urge upon the Government to use their influence so that the Kopili Valley Project may find place in the Second Plan period.

Sir, many of the speakers have spoken on agriculture and the Agriculture Minister also has now realised that Members this time took keen interest on agriculture. Why? That is so? Because agriculture is the backbone of our country. We know Sir, that the people of Assam live in the villages. More than 90 per cent of its population live in the villages and of these more than 80 per cent are agriculturists. Sir, though our Government have done a great deal yet we feel that development in this respect is not as is expected. Sir, when I said that more than 90 per cent of our people live in the villages, I think I shall not be wrong if I say that more than 60 per cent of these people do not have two full meals a day even though it is more than ten years since we attained, Independence. It is not our foremost duty to see that the poverty of our people can be driven away as soon as possible? Sir, by this I do not mean that our Government have not done anything in respect of development of agriculture. As I have already said, whatever has been done falls far short of our expectation and it is found that though it is more than ten years of our independence we have not been able to give our poor people two full meals a day. So we hope our Government will consider this matter of development of agriculture in our State very seriously. Sir, I feel that we are trying to develop our State in full respects. If we can do so, well and good. But there are certain difficulties also, such as supply of necessary materials, paucity of capital etc. etc. During the First Plan period we have constructed a number of roads, established a number of schools, dispensaries, and so on and so forth. Of course in these respects we have advanced a great deal. Now my idea is whether we cannot go slow with these things, *i.e.* construction of roads, or school buildings etc. Can we not divert more attention, more energy, more time and

more resources for the development of agriculture, cottage and small scale industries so that the economic lot of our people is improved? I have no doubt in my mind that if we can once improve the economic lot of our people those things such as construction of roads, dispensaries, schools, etc., which we are after now can be easily achieved. When the economic lot of the people is improved they will not grudge to pay more taxes for the development of these things. I feel that whatever has been done during the last five or six years can be done within two years with the willing co-operation and contribution of a well off and satisfied people. I find that all the various agencies that we have adopted, for example the N.E.S. Blocks, C.D. Blocks etc., are entrusted with various activities, *i.e.*, for development of education, communication, sanitation and so on. Can we not at least get these N. E. S. and C. D. Blocks, and Rural Panchayats also to work for development of agriculture and small and cottage industries now? Why should they be engaged in works like construction of roads, school buildings, dispensaries when these things are also being done by the Government and the Local Boards as well? My point is, can we not engage all these agencies, *viz.*, N. E. S. Block, C. D. Blocks and Rural Panchayats on productive works specially food which is the main necessity of the people? I think our Government would do well to think deeply now on this because it is high time and we cannot allow our hungry millions to continue in this way. We must not think that we can always keep these mute and ill-fed people in their present state. It is our primary duty to see that they are well-fed and well clothed.

Sir, while I speak these things my mind goes to our Nowgong district. We all know that Nowgong is a surplus district in respect of food. But now nature has turned against us. It is practically the whole of Nowgong, except a few areas here and there, that is going arid and dry. During the last harvesting season people in a number of Mouzas in the district could not get to reap anything at all and it is mainly due to the drought. Even money crop like jute also failed for want of water for retting. We thought we could get something by cultivation of boro paddy and we tried our level best to make this boro cultivation more popular amongst the people. For this Government also were pleased to allow our cultivators to cultivate in grazing grounds as well as forest reserves wherever it was possible to grow this boro paddy. But I have been told now, Sir, that the growth of boro paddy is also stunted for want of rain. Then we thought we could get something by

way of cultivating rabi crops such as sugarcane, mustard, etc., but these crops also failed due to drought. We made a propaganda throughout the district so that the people can take to *Ahu* cultivation which is the next hope for the people. The people also have kept the fields ready for sowing *Ahu* seeds as well as jute seeds, but unfortunately till now there is no rain and the result is that the over all picture of the district in respect of food is absolutely gloomy. This has caused us much anxiety, we are at a loss to think how the people in our district can be saved. Sir, there is insistent demand from the people to open more cheap grain shops as well as to give test relief works to them. At present there are more than 100 cheap grain shops in the entire district, this number is quite insufficient to meet the situation. I would like to inform the House that even in the existing cheap grain shops the supply is irregular and at the same time quite inadequate. In this connection I want to inform the House that in 1949-50 there were about 400 cheap grain shops in the district of Nowgong, but now the scarcity of food is still greater and the existing cheap grain shops cannot give proper facility to the hungry people to get their food. I suggest therefore, that at least two hundred more cheap grain shops should be opened early so that the poor people can be helped to some extent.

We have come to learn after we have come here to attend the session of the Assembly that the Government have given some money for test relief works and as far as I know the amount is between 60,000 and 70,000 rupees, but this is absolutely nothing, it is just like a drop of water in the ocean, when lakhs of people are suffering. The present amount given by the Government will not be able to do anything in comparison to the big problem of drought facing this district. I would therefore request the Government that much more money should be given to that district so that the people will be in a position to earn their livelihood. Sir, I do not like to speak more on this but I would request the Government to find out ways and means as to how best we can solve the difficulties in respect of food facing the people of Nowgong due to drought.

Sir, yesterday Shri Idris referred to the Nowgong Co-operative Sugar Mill. But as I have said above, the drought condition in our district has made the situation very acute and has created some difficulties in the realisation of the share capital in respect of the Sugar Mill. A news appeared in the *Natun Assamiya* that the Nowgong Co-operative Sugar Mill in Assam has been cancelled by the Central Government.

I do not know how far this is true and we are all in suspense and this news has made the realisation of share capital still difficult. The Minister-in-charge has not clarified the position as yet. Will he please enlighten us as to what is the real position now ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY (Minister Supply) : Sir, may clarify it ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Member finish his speech then you will clarify it.

Shri LILA KANTA BARAH (Kaliabor) : Sir, in our district a good number of devastating fires took place in the heart of the town. I would like to draw also the attention of the Government to a news which appeared in the papers regarding the devastating fire which took place at Rupahi. This fire has caused loss of property to the tune of more than 10 lakhs of rupees. Again we have received another news yesterday that the devastating fire which took place at Doboka a few days back has caused loss of property worth about seven lakhs of rupees. But I am sorry to say that in spite of such devastating fires which took place one after another we have no modern appliances to cope with the fire. May I request the Government to see that in order to remove this genuine and urgent need of the people a few fire-brigades will be placed at the disposal of the Municipal Board there ?

Sir, many hon. Members have spoken about corruptions in the different spheres of Government officials. I do not want to go into all the details of these things now because I hope Government is also aware of this state of affairs. Yet Sir, I cannot but say a few words regarding the corruption which is so rampant in the Deputy Commissioner's office. Some Peshkars under the very nose of the Magistrates do not hesitate to take bribes and all these things are going on merrily in the Deputy Commissioner's office also. When people come to us and say whether we are not in a position to remove all these corrupt practices, we are but to remain silent and feel quite unhappy. Cannot Government drive away corruptions at least from the Deputy Commissioner's office, cannot Government do something so that the poor people would not be harassed by the Office Assistants as is being done now ? Many things have been said in this connection in this House ; therefore, I would

simply draw the attention of the Government to this aspect of the matter so that this corrupt practice can be removed as early as possible from our society.

Now I would like to say a few words about my constituency. I am not going to speak about the demands of my constituency, but I would like to place two things before the House. Firstly, I want to say that one Reclamation Project, the Rowmari Beel Reclamation Project which was taken over by the Government last year it appears that no provision has been made for that project in this year's budget. Not only the project was taken over by the Government but estimates were sent to the Government and even tenders were also called by the Department. But I do not understand, Sir, how this project has not found a place in the budget of this year. Another thing I would like to say is regarding a road project—the Dalal-Salal Road *via* Hatbar and Sakmothi which is about seven miles with a bridge over Kolong river at Hatbar. Two miles of the road have been completed but I do not know why provision has not been made in this year's budget. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this fact and request them to clarify the same.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY (Minister, Supply and Co-operative): Sir, what happened is this : the promoters of the Nowgong Co-operative Sugar Mill were to raise necessary finances within the 31st December 1956. If they could have promoted the money by selling the share then the Government would have participated and possibly the mill would have come into existence by now, but unfortunately for the economic distress prevailing in that district, the promoters could not collect the share capital within 31st December 1956. At our instance the Government of India extended the period but even within the extended period, they could not collect the funds. Meanwhile the country was faced with foreign exchange difficulties. Due to the foreign exchange difficulties not only with regard to the Sugar Mill in question but with regard to many other projects, the Government of India asked us to go slow. So naturally this project, *viz.*, the Nowgong Co-operative Sugar Mill is going to be delayed both due to the failure of the promoters to realise the share capital and also because of the foreign exchange difficulties. I may tell Mr. Bora that even today they have not been able to realise the necessary share capital. The rate at which they are proceeding above for that reason it may come by the Third Plan. Even then he has nothing to worry ; if they can collect necessary finance, the share capital, certainly we will do our best so that the mill is established as early as possible.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought I would not be able to take part in the budget discussion. I have already taken part in the Governor's address. I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to take part in this discussion. Sir, before I enter into the discussion, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting the budget before this House and for trying to meet the demands of all sections of people. Sir, much has been said about the food problem in the country. Our State and India as a whole is waging a war for the increase of food production. This was started for some years back, spending crores of rupees, but little result could be seen. We are still behind the target. People are clamouring, what is this? After spending so much money no tangible result is seen. The question arises whether the shortage is due to the damage caused by natural calamities such as floods, drought, pests and so on and so forth or whether the Agriculture Department has failed to push their schemes. I do not like to go into the question of their failures. I want to speak about my constituency, because as a Member elected by the people I am bound to be constituency minded. As you know the problems of the Hill People are different. I shall be failing in my duty if I do not represent the cause and interest of the people who sent me here because there will be nobody to bring their grievances to the notice of this House. So it is my duty although I may be constituency minded to bring into this House the difficulties of my people. Sir, in my constituency the present scheme of giving grant for terrace and contour bunding, do little help to temporarily increase food production. Further Government is also giving grant for wet paddy cultivation, but the grant given by the Government for reclaiming waste land for wet paddy cultivation is only Rs.50 to Rs.75 per acre. As the amount is too small, 95 per cent of these people receiving such grant could not reclaim the land as they ought to have done. As such the money given by Government is merely a wastage. So, to encourage people in food production, I would suggest that more grant be given to those people who would reclaim land for wet paddy cultivation. Once the people could reclaim land it will be permanent. Thus it would help the campaign of food production. Sir, in my constituency we have enough land still to be reclaimed. We want the Government to help our people to reclaim those land, because once these lands are reclaimed it would enable us to have permanent cultivation and help us to increase the food production. Sir, as I have said last week, we have got a valley called Latein in

the Jowai Subdivision, for which, I am grateful to the Chief Minister who is taking interest on it. That valley is 10 miles in length and about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in breadth. If that valley could be reclaimed, at least $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the Jowai Subdivision could be easily fed from it. I thank again the Chief Minister because he has taken interest for the development of that valley.

Another thing very serious in our hill areas is the indiscriminate setting of fire in the country side. I have submitted a Resolution to that effect. Sir, I am afraid that I shall not able to move it because it is not under the purview of this House, so I want to enlighten the House that indiscriminate setting of fire in the country side is causing great harm to our land. This will, I am afraid, after two or three decades make our country barren. I bring this question here, because I wish the Government to move the District Council to this effect and to take up the question very seriously in order that our country might be saved in future. Otherwise as I have said, if these things continue, I am afraid after a few decades the country will become barren and at the same time the question of soil conservation and such other things will not do any good, if indiscriminate setting of fire is not stopped.

Another point. I came to know last week that the Agriculture Department is surrendering the amount of Rs.12,000 on 'Minor Irrigation Work'. I cannot understand, the idea when people are in need of money to reclaim land why such a big amount of money is surrendered. So I would urge upon the Government to make an enquiry into the matter and see that the money is reallocated for the purpose. Then I come to another point. We have some test relief works in the border. The work is continuing and progressing. I understand the Deputy Commissioner has asked the Subdivisional Officer to surrender the money. As you know, the border people are now in a fix, if the money is going to be surrendered. As you know our people are in distress, unless they get work they will be starving. So, I would request the Honourable Minister in charge that the money so surrendered is to be reallocated as soon as possible, so that those people in the border areas may get work.

Then I come to say a few words about manures. Our paddy fields in the subdivision are using bone-meal as a manure. This is the only manure well-suited for our fields. Had it not been for bone-meal, yields in our cultivating fields would have

been very poor. Last year the Agriculture Department supplied the cultivators with mixed fertilisers. This had proved a failure. Now people are crying for bone-meal. Therefore, I request the Minister for Agriculture to direct the Department to keep stocks of bone meal and to send the same to Jowai Subdivision for distribution to our cultivators.

Now regarding Primary Schools and Middle English Schools. In the Jowai Subdivision the private primary schools are far greater in number than the Government primary schools. The pay scales of these teachers range from Rs.15 to Rs.25. I need not dilate on this point because from the pay you could realize the condition of the teachers. So naturally the teachers have to find some other means other than their job for their livelihood. Therefore, it is not expected that a teacher in such schools could discharge his duties faithfully and sincerely.

Then one thing that strikes me most that there are Government primary teachers who are working as Sub-Post Master, as Secretary in the Co-operative Societies and so on. This very fact is known to the Department concerned. I want to have a clarification from the Minister-in-charge whether Government servants can do any other job than his own.

Then as regards Middle English Schools, I am glad that the Finance Minister has already mentioned in his budget speech that "3 Middle English Schools have been started in the Jowai Subdivision". These are the proceedings Middle English Schools run by the local people. Two were started last year and one *i.e.*, Sutuga—this was started about 6 years ago. With great difficulty the people could make it into a full-fledged Middle English School. I am glad in this two or three years the Government is giving recurring grant to the school. But the people have now found it difficult to maintain it. The people of the locality have sent representation twice to the authorities concerned. But I do not know what Government is doing about this. However, I would request the Government to provincialise this school (*i.e.*, the Sutuga Middle English School) in the coming year.

In the matter of industrial loan, none from the Jowai Subdivision has ever received such though there were many applicants who applied for the same.

Then in the matter of small scale industries and the like, the grants given to our subdivision are very low in comparison with other places.

Another point. With regard to Medical the Jowai Presbyterian Hospital it was built 8 years ago by the Welsh Mission with a nominal contribution from the people of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills in cash and labour. As it was the policy of the foreign Mission to hand over it to the local people, so about 3 or 4 years ago the hospital was gifted away to the Synod of Khasi and Jaintia Hills by the foreign Welsh Mission. Now it is wholly and solely under the management of the local people. The hospital consists of about 100 beds. The hospital is ably managed by the highly qualified doctor and a matron. In such a big hospital there are only two doctors, one junior doctor was deputed for a condensed course of M. B. for two years. In his absence the senior doctor is running the whole show successfully. You would ask me how they could manage to do work? The answer is very simple. It is the spirit of service and sacrifice. In Government hospitals where there are 20 or 25 beds there will be 3 or 4 doctors, yet it is said that they cannot cope with the works. Sir, the outlook and mentality of those who are in service should change, if we are to build the welfare state. The charge in this hospital is, if I may say, nominal. Those who could not pay, they were politely told by the Doctor before leaving the Hospital that they should not forget to help the Hospital whenever they can. In this hospital T. B. patients are admitted. Most of them are treated free. The Hon. Minister for Medical knows it, considering the humanitarian works done by this Hospital, I appeal to the Government particularly the Medical Minister, to see that grant is given to this Hospital for the treatment of T. B. patients.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I am happy to say that our Finance Minister made an attempt to give us some rays of hope as far as medical and public health schemes are concerned. There is a scheme for the expansion of the Gauhati hospital, there is a scheme for control of Filaria, there is a scheme for providing attached T. B. wards in some of the existing hospitals in the Hills Districts. There is approval for introduction of Post Graduate studies in M. D. and M. S. in Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh under the Guahati University. So, in this way many schemes are taken up to combat diseases and so we are happy that at least some enterprises are made in this respect. But, Sir, if we analyse these things one after another what we find? We find that much has been said than what is practically done.

Sir, when we are the members of the society we must look to the welfare of the society in all respects. Children of today will be the parents as well as leaders of tomorrow. So, we must lay more stress on the children's health. Of course thereby I am not going to exclude the elder ones. Children's health must be given priority. So, a survey as regards children's health is of utmost importance. Survey should be made to find whether they are ill-nourished or undernourished or sick. Government should take necessary steps in this direction. Another point is that a survey for the common diseases should also be made as far as practicable which will help in preventing and curing diseases. In this connection I want to say that Government will come forward to make an enterprise of scheme to investigate and check up the children's health from Lower Primary School up to Matric standard, *i.e.*, up to High School.

Next I come to sanitation. This is an important point for the prevention of diseases. Greater emphasis should be given in general cleanliness both rural and urban areas. People in the rural areas are mostly illiterate and backward in all respect. They cannot adopt themselves with the day to day affairs of life. So, they must be taught either by way of instruction or by way of magic lantern or by way of cinematographic show so that they can understand the things properly and can judge the things which are harmful and which are not. There are Rural Health Inspectors, Sanitary Inspectors, etc., to manage these affairs in the rural areas. But we practically see that people in the rural areas very rarely know who is a Rural Health Inspector and who is a Sanitary Inspector. So, unless there is co-operation, it is very difficult to implement the development programmes. Therefore Government should look into in and take bold steps so that these Rural Health Inspectors and Sanitary Inspectors go to the rural areas and do the needful for the purpose they are meant for.

If we look into the urban areas we find that it is also not up to the mark. The town bazars and hotels are extremely dirty. Heaps of refuses are found here and there, sewage and other filthy things are found in heaps, swarms of flies and mosquitos are seen flying everywhere. There is no proper means to dispose of the refuses and they remain there for days together. And as a result obnoxious smell comes out from them. Not to speak of D. D. T. the ordinary phenyl is not available for that purpose. Flies being contaminated with germs pollute the articles of food resulting in outbreak

of epidemic. If things go on like this then we can imagine what will be the ultimate result.

We have heard about Sanitary Inspectors, but we do not know what they do, and what for they are appointed. If the Government is not serious about sanitation then the chance of outbreak of epidemic is much more. So, Sir, if proper care is taken then the chance of outbreak of different diseases is also less. So, sanitation plays an important part on health matter. In this connection I draw the attention of the hon. Members of the House to Pragjyotishpur Congress Session how seriously these measures were taken and how important those are.

Now I come to vaccination. Vaccination is another important point to be remembered. It gives immunity to diseases—may be for a short duration or long duration, and so it gives relief to the mass people. But the most important thing is that the lymph must be fresh or rather must contain potency. If lymph is not potent it may do harm than good and then it will be just like the whipping a tired horse. We have sad experience in the outbreak of cholera epidemic in Barpeta town. Many of the amples containing lymph were old and their date already on the verge of expiry date. If such things happen at such a critical time we can very well imagine what may be the ultimate result. Sir, this is a very serious matter and to this I want to draw the attention of the Government so that such mistakes would never occur in future.

I now come to anti-malaria measures. Assam is an endemic area as regards malaria. So a survey of most epidemic areas is very essential. After locating such areas antimalarial measures, both preventive and curative, should be applied. The scheme is there. But it seems there is slackness in taking proper measures. Whether effective measures are taken or not can be judged by the control of diseases and lessening of mosquitos. Not to speak of the rural areas, if we look to Gauhati town we find great number of mosquitos flying here and there. Seeing this can we say that the scheme is a successful one and the measures are taken properly?

Now I come to adulteration of food. Much has been said about this. We definitely require wholesome food. As there is a crisis for food the chance for adulteration is also more. Very often we find adulteration in mustard oil. This must be checked, otherwise many diseases are likely to occur as a result.

There is adulteration in milk. Milk powder is supplied to the school children, but reports are that after taking such milk powder many children became victims of some diseases like Gastrointestinal disorder, vomiting, purging, etc. These things should not be allowed to occur. The Government should be cautious so that the milk powder that is supplied to the children is fresh. If any consignment of milk powder is found to be not fit for human consumption then it should be discarded. Many spurious drugs are found in the market. A drive against this is very essential. The most important thing that I am going to impress is about the loose selling of sulph-drugs. These drugs are sold in huts and bazars without any proper medical supervision. Sulph-drug is definitely used for good purpose, *i.e.* curing or relieving of disease. But when the mass people take this without proper supervision of medical personnel, instead of doing good it will do harm, ultimately resulting in many urinary complications.

So, I request the Government so that a drive against these things are done soon.

As regards Tuberculosis much has been said already and so I do not like to dilate upon it. But what I want to stress is that Government should make a scheme for implementation of one more important but cheap method of detecting T. B. and that is 'mass miniature radiography.'

Sir, incidence of cancer cases is gradually increasing. Treatment for this disease is practically nil in our State. What we have got in this respect is only Deep-X' Ray thereby which is very costly. I therefore, urge upon the Government to see that those suffering from cancer receive this treatment free; along with this a ward should be established for cancer patients for their treatment and further investigation, as necessary.

Then, coming to water supply, as water is required for cultivation, so it is required for human beings. But this water is the source of many diseases, which are called water-borne diseases. Unless we use pure water we are very prone to have some infection in our system leading to the upset of the whole human machinery. So, the supply of pure water, both in the urban and rural areas, is very important.

Now, Sir, I would like to say a few words about our Medical College at Dibrugarh. On the one side it is a teaching institution, where our students are admitted for being taught, and on the other side, patients are admitted for having better treatment. But, Sir, if the persons concerned with the teaching as well as treatment remain very busy with their private practice the students as well as the patients will never

receive proper attention. Let him be a physician or surgeon, he will get less time for study and will, therefore, be unable to give proper education to the students. On the hospital side, he will have less time to devote for the patients who will consequently not receive proper care. If we judge from these angles, actually this hospital is now meant only for the rice people, the poor people never get any benefit from it. It seems to be a money-making pharmacy. If therefore think, Sir, private practice should not be allowed. If necessary, they may be given a non-practising allowance. Next, Sir, regarding Veterinary, I need not go into details. I have already drawn the attention of the Minister in charge to the various anomalies which are going on in the veterinary dispensaries in our State. I simply with Government will endeavour to do away all sorts of anomalies which prevail in the veterinary dispensaries in our State.

With these few words I conclude my speech.

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Leader of the House told us that the Government would take only two hours. But we find now the Government members are encroaching on our time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The settlement of the Government time is a matter between the Speaker and the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House wanted two hours, but I thought from my experience that they would not be able to reply to the points raised in the debate within two hours. I, therefore, suggested four hours. The Hon'ble Ministers have already exhausted four hours, and the Hon'ble Finance Minister has still to reply. I am told that the hon. Leader of the House will also intervene in the debate. I think this is in the fitness of things because when Members make observations they also expect replies from the Ministers. The Ministers are speaking here with a view to give replies to the specific points raised by the Members. Therefore any time the Ministers take is not an encroachment on the time of the private Members. In fact, it helps the Members to contribute to the debate.

So far as the point raised by Mr. Barua is concerned, in fact we got one full day extra including the question hour. Therefore, I think there need not be any misunderstanding or misapprehension on that score.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to reply to the specific points raised by the hon. Members regarding the Medical and Public Health Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have to be brief. The principal responsibility for replying to the debate is that of the Finance Minister. Other Ministers intervene only to clarify certain points. Therefore, the Hon'ble Minister will have to be brief. The time at our disposal is also short because on Friday both the Finance Minister and the Leader of the House will intervene. The Hon'ble Minister will, therefore, have to be brief.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA Minister, Medical) : Yes, Sir, I am glad that so far as the Medical and Public Health Departments are concerned excepting a few suggestions from some hon. Members, there has not been any adverse criticisms. During the discussion of the Governor's Address, I gave a general idea to the House regarding the activities of these two departments. To-day, Sir, I will simply touch the salient points raised by some of the Members. At the outset, I must say that the greatest handicap to the progress in our State is the acute dearth of qualified doctors and other health personnel. But in spite of this handicap, I must say that the Medical and Public Health Departments have been able to make considerable progress in extending medical and public health facilities to different areas of the State.

The manner in which the Public Health personnel dealt with the situation during the outbreak of plague and during the Congress Session clearly shows what great efforts are made by the Public Health and Medical Departments to put a check to the outbreak of epidemics in our State. Now, Sir, I am not going to details. I find that there are only two hon. Members whose speeches were exclusively confined to the Medical and Public Health Departments. They are Dr. Ghanasyam Das who was my Deputy in the previous Ministry, and Dr. Srihari Das, who probably graduated from the Medical College about which he has spoken something to-day. Both these hon. Members want that private practice in the Medical College should be stopped. We have given thought over the matter and I can inform the hon. Members that it is also the instruction of the Government of India. I hope we shall be in a position to stop private practice in our Medical College, so far as the Professors and Assistant Professors are concerned, within a short time with Central subsidy.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Dr. Ghanasyam Das, who was my Deputy, knew very well what measures and schemes we had while he was in the Ministry because he had the opportunity of handling files and seeing the various schemes. Knowing them fully well, he now comes and makes certain statements

before the House. I am not accusing him, but what I want to say is that he knew all these things.

Now, regarding unification of the cadres. We had Assistant Surgeon I and Assistant Surgeon II. My Friend, Dr. Das, knows the decision regarding this unification. Anyway, he brought it to the notice of the House.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Sibsagar): Is it a secret thing?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): I am not accusing him. We took up this matter in right earnest. We have a Secretaries' Committee in the Secretariat level with Chief Secretary, as its head and Medical Secretary and other Secretaries are its members. This Committee scrutinised this proposal thoroughly and they could not recommend the unification of these two cadres and the Cabinet to which these recommendations came, accepted the recommendation of the Secretaries' Committee, and decided that at this present juncture it would not be possible to have the unification of these two cadres.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we adjourn today, I would like to know how much time the Finance Minister will take to reply the debate on Friday.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Finance): I think, I will take about 90 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Last year the Finance Minister took 3 hours and odd minutes; if he takes 90 minutes it is all right but as it is a Friday and the House will sit upto 11-30 A.M. and cannot be extended beyond 12-00 noon as the Muslim Members will have to go for Zumma prayers and at the same time the Chief Minister will also intervene. That means we will have to race against time. May I suggest that the question hour on Friday is taken to some other day? Does the House agree?

(*voice*—Yes—Yes).

Now, the House stands adjourned till 10-00 A.M. tomorrow, the 27th March, 1958 and the Hon. Minister, Public Health will continue his speech on Friday.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 27th March 1958.

Shillong.

R. N. BARUA,

The 20th June, 1959.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly,
Assam.