

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the matter of the ...
 and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.
 I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Yours obediently,
 J. W. ...

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Done this 10th day of ...
 J. W. ...

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 Thursday, the 27th March, 1958.

P R E S E N T

Shri Dev Kanta Borooh, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair
the seven Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers and sixty-one
Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given.)

**Condition of the Assam Trunk Road from Desang
Bridge to Demow**

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the Assam Trunk Road from Desang Bridge to Demow is almost impassable ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that this state of affair is going on since last year ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the repair of the said road is entrusted to a contractor ?
- (d) If so, what is the name of the contractor and to which district he belongs ?

- (e) Whether it is a fact that due to the mistake of this contractor such things are happening ?
- (f) If so, whether Government has taken any steps against the defaulting contractor ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that there are public agitations regarding this matter both in public meetings and in the Press ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) replied :

93. (a) & (b)—The Assam Trunk Road from Desang bridge to Demow is not impassable at present.

The fact is that this portion of Assam Trunk Road went under water every year and traffic had to be suspended for varying periods during the rainy season. As such the road had to be raised by earthing up. Difficulties to vehicular traffic on new earth-work during the rains of 1957, were aggravated owing to breach of the flood embankment of the Brahmaputra during the rains of 1957 and submergence of the road formation in consequence. However, every effort is being made to maintain this portion in proper order.

(c) & (d)—The repair of the said road is not entrusted to a single contractor. A list showing the names of the contractors with their addresses as well as the items of works allotted to them is placed on the Table. It is also not clear which one of them is meant and what item of work as done by him is referred.

(e)—No. No such mistake has come to the notice of Government.

(f)—In view of the reply to (c), (d) and (e) above this does not arise.

(g)—There were public complaints when the road became partly impassable in the rains of 1957 last and also there was a Press comment for this stretch of road for that particular period. Since November last, no complaints have been received by Government.

**Statement referred to in reply to Starred Question
No.93(c) & (d) asked by Shri Durgeswar Saikia, M.L.A.,
at the Budget Session, 1958**

Statement showing the names of contractors engaged in permanent restoration of the A. T. Road between Desang Bridge to Demow. Miles 230/4 to 232 M. P. and 234/4 to 235 M. P.

A.—Raising the road by earthing up—

1. Shri Suleman Khan of Doom Dooma—230/4 to 232 M. P.
2. „ Abdul Latif of Sibsagar—234/4 to 235 M. P.

B.—Collection of stone soling and metal—

1. Shri S. R. Moheswari of Sibsagar.
2. „ K. L. Agarwalla of Dikhari.
3. „ K. M. Agarwalla of Sibsagar.
4. „ J. L. Lahaty of Sibsagar.
5. „ S. N. Lahaty of Nazira.
6. „ N. Ahmed of Santak.
7. „ Babujan Ali of Santak.
8. „ S. R. Sing of Dibrugarh.
9. „ R. N. Singh of Dibrugarh.
10. „ K. C. Baruah of Nazira.
11. „ Abed Ali of Bihubor.
12. „ R. L. Kamder of Sibsagar.
13. „ K. P. Mazika of Sibsagar.
14. „ J. Sarmah of Dikhari.

C.—Boulder soling and consolidation—

1. Shri L. N. Kakaty of Sibsagar—230/1 to 231/4.
2. „ Jalilur Rahman of Sibsagar—331/4 to 232 M. P.
3. „ Departmental labourers —234/4 to 235 M. P.

* * * * *

***Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra):** চাৰ, ১৯৫৬ চনত মাটিৰ কাম কোন মাহত আৰম্ভ কৰা হৈছিল আৰু ১৯৫৭ চনত কোন মাহত আৰম্ভ কৰা হৈছিল।

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department):** মাটিৰ কাম কোন মাহত আৰম্ভ কৰিছিল সেই মাহৰ ঠিক নাম কেইটা মোৰ হাতত নাই; কিন্তু ইমানে কব পাৰো যে আগ খৰালীত কৰা হোৱা নাছিল, মাজ খৰালীতহে কৰা হৈছিল।

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Sibsagar):** Is it a fact that some of the Minister's including the Minister-in-charge of Roads and Buildings are held up and if so, when?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The present Minister-in-charge of Roads and Buildings was held up for sometime and he could come over after some time. But as regards other Ministers, I have no information, Sir.

***Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA:** চাৰ, প্রশ্নোত্তৰত মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে এখন Statement দিছে। তাৰ ১ নম্বৰ S. R. Maheswari পুৰুষ নে মহিলা Contractor? আৰু ৪-৫ নম্বৰ J. L. Lahaty আৰু S. N. Lahaty একে পৰিয়ালৰ নহয়নে?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: পুৰুষ নে মহিলা সেইটো কব নোৱাৰো কিন্তু বাকী বিলাকৰ বিষয়ে দুটা কথা শুনিবলৈ পোৱা গৈছে। প্ৰথম কথা, স্থানীয় মানুহে Contract লবলৈ নিবিছাৰে আৰু ২য় কথাটো হৈছে যে, এনে ধৰণৰ কিছুমান আপত্তি চৰকাৰলৈ আহিছে আৰু তাৰ বাবে তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member must have mistaken—Maheswari is only a surname.

***Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** ১৯৫৭ চনত আলিটোৰ উক্ত অংশটো পানীত ডুবা নাছিল বুলি চৰকাৰে জানে নে?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: আলিটোৰ ন-টেক মাটি দিয়া অঞ্চল খিনি চাৰি আঙুলি মান ওলায় আছিল, পুৰণি আলিটো পানীত তল যোৱা নিজে দেখা পাইছিলো।

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Why earthwork was not started at the commencement of the dry season?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department)** : Sir, as I have said on more than one occasion on the floor of the House; the whole system of passing the Budget, sanctioning of these demands as well as the financial year will have to be re-examined and overhauled. At the present time it is almost impossible to take up work by October or November in some cases. But, as I have submitted, it is difficult to overhaul these things in a short time because we have a legacy from which it is not entirely easy to extricate ourselves. So, the whole system will have to be re-examined. This cannot be done even within next year.

***Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]** : May I know from the hon'ble Minister from which source he has come to know that the local people do not like to take up contract work ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** : Sir, number (1)—from the Executive Engineers and Subdivisional Officers and number (2) it appears that since we have taken to long pants we have grown a little averse to work.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : যোৱা বছৰ আলিটো বেয়া হৈ থাকিব কাৰণে কিমান মটৰগাড়ী accident হৈ ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হ'ল, এই কথা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেনে? আৰু এইটো জানেনে যে বাস্তৱতাৰ তেনে অৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে Revenue Minister ছিলং পৰা গৈ সেই খিনিৰ পৰা আকৌ ছিলঙলৈ উলটি আহিবলগিয়া হৈছিল?

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Sibsagar)** : I could not quite follow Sir, what the Minister said.

Mr. SPEAKER : Did not you hear ? Will the Hon'ble Minister please repeat ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA : তেখেতে প্ৰশ্ন কৰিছিল যে মানুহৰ গাড়ী accident হৈ ভাঙিছিল আৰু তাৰ ক্ষতিপূৰণ দিয়া হৈছে নে নাই? মই কৈছিলো যে তাৰবাবে ক্ষতিপূৰণৰ কোনো দাবি অহা নাই, আৰু যদি বাস্তৱ কাম লেহেম হৈছে তেনেহলে ৰাইজ নীৰবে থাকিলে কোনো সেই দৰে চলি থাকিব।

***Shri RAM NATH DAS** : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to call for the lists of tenders whether the local people submit their tenders for this work or not ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) :** I think we can do it. But more useful purpose will be served if hon. Members take a little interest to encourage our local people to submit tenders—that will be more helpful. But I can assure the House that Government will try their best to accommodate local people in local works.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :** Will the Minister kindly state why it was not possible to keep the asphalted portion of the road open, as a diversionary way, while raising one of the sides by earthwork ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** The difficulty was that the road was not wide enough to have two lengths and, added to it, the surface was broken up due to very heavy traffic for which these roads were not meant.

***Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] :** May I know whether he has seen the names of the tenderers from the record ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** I have caused an inquiry to be made, but I have not seen the record.

***Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) :** Is it not a fact that people suffered only for the earthwork done in the months of June and July ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** That is one of the reasons.

***Shri RAM NATH DAS :** Am I clear from the answer of the Hon'ble Minister that he will call for a report from the Executive Engineer ?

***Mr. SPEAKER :** That is what he has said. He has already caused an inquiry to be made.

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Sibsagar) :** The Hon'ble Minister's reply was that due to breach of the Brahmaputra embankment this portion of the Assam Trunk Road from Desang to Demowar is under water. May I ask when the Brahmaputra embankment was breached ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department)** : The time of the breach of the embankment is not known to us but we now that there was great pressure of water on this road due to that breach.

(Starred Question No.49 standing in the name of Shri Mohikanta Das, was not put and answered as the questioner was absent.)

Wooden bridges of village Nagendranagar under Ratabari Police Station, District Cachar

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

*95. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total cost of construction of the two wooden bridges of village Nagendranagar, under Ratabari police station, district Cachar ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the two bridges were completely damaged and had become impassable within one year of construction ?
- (c) What was the type of wood specified by the authority to the contractor ?
- (d) Whether the specified type of wood was really used for the said bridges ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

95. (a)—The total cost of construction of two wooden bridges of village Nagendranagar under Ratabari police station, district Cachar was Rs.5,775.

(b)—It is not a fact.

(c)—First class wood specified by the authority to the contractor.

(d)—Specified type of wood was really used for the bridges.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes) :] In answer to (b) it has been said that it is not a fact. Will Government kindly make an inquiry whether the bridges are damaged ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary): As a matter of fact information has already been called for and according to the information we have received, two years after the completion the said bridges were damaged by the cattle. When the cattle were passing over the bridges they were pushing each other and on account of that the bridges were damaged. (*Loud Laughter*) And in addition, people have become slack in maintaining the bridges and thirdly, in the month of May, 1957 there was a terrific storm and as the bridges had already been neglected by the people they were rendered possible to be swept away by the storm.

Wooden bridge over Dalugong on the Ramkrishnanagar-Daula Road under the Ratabari police station, District Cachar

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

*96. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Project be pleased to state—

- (a) When and with what cost the wooden bridges over Dalugong on the Ramkrishnanagar-Daula Road under the Ratabari police station Cachar was constructed ?
- (b) What was the type of wood specified for the said bridge by the authority to the contractor ?
- (c) Whether the wood as specified by the authority was supplied by the contractor ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

96. (a)—The wooden bridge over the Dalugong on the Ramkrishnanagar-Daula Road was constructed during July, 1955 at a total cost of Rs.5,880.

(b)—First class wood was specified for the said bridge.

(c)—Yes, the wood specified by the authority was supplied by the contractor.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Why the bridge was damaged within one year of its construction ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) : It is not a fact that the bridge was damaged within one year of its completion ?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : It is a fact that all the timbers used in the bridge were Simalu timbers ?

Shri A., THANGLURA : I have no information.

**Gaurherkhal sluice gate under the Ratabari police station,
District Cachar**

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharkandi—Reserved for Scheduled Castes) asked :

*97. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total cost of construction of the Gaurherkhal Sluice gate under the Ratabari police station. District Cachar ?
- (b) Who gave the plan ?
- (c) Whether the plan was examined and approved by an expert ?
- (d) Whether the plan was examined after studying the hydrological data for the last few years ?
- (e) If so, why the gate was damaged and completely washed away by a small flood within a few days of its completion ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied—

97. (a)—The total cost of construction of the Gaurherkhal Sluice gate under the Ratabari police station, District Cachar was Rs.4,000.

(b)—Plan was prepared by the Agriculture Department in consultation with Embankment and Drainage Department.

(c)—Yes, it was examined and approved by the Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage and later sanctioned by the Agriculture Department.

(d)—Yes. Hydrological data so far available was taken into consideration.

(e)—The gate was damaged by some miscreant which facilitated its being washed away by heavy floods. The matter was reported to the police, the police duly investigated the case and have submitted charge-sheets against the culprits to the court.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Is it a fact that the rings of sluice gate were founded on sand ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) : Not necessarily.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Is it not constructed without proper survey by suitable experts ?

Shri A. THANGLURA : It was done with expert advice.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Then why it was damaged ?

Shri A. THANGLURA : It was an act of nature which was beyond our control.

Khadi and Endi Centre at Rampur

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

*98. Will the Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any Khadi and Endi Centre at Rampur ?

(b) Who was the organiser of this Centre in 1956-57 ?

(c) Was any case of defalcation detected during the period ?

(d) If so, what was the amount ?

(e) What action has been taken against the offender ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries) replied :

98. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Shri Tarun Chandra Goswami.

- (c)—Yes. It was a case of misappropriation.
 (d)—Rs.11,484-10-6 is involved.
 (e)—A police case was lodged against the offender and the case is sub-judiced.

(English translation of Minister's reply in Assamese)

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Cottage Industries :

- (a) হয় আছে ।
 (b) শ্রীতৰুণ চক্ৰ গোস্বামী ।
 (c) হয়, এইটো টকা অপব্যৱহাৰৰ ঘটনা ।
 (d) ১১,৪৮৪।।৬ পাই ।
 (e) দোষীৰ বিৰুদ্ধে এটা 'পুলিচ কেচ' দিয়া হৈছিল আৰু ই বৰ্তমান আদালতৰ বিচাৰাৰীন ।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): এতিয়া তাত কোনোবা organiser লোৱা হৈছেনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : হয়, লোৱা হৈছে ।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: তেওঁৰ নাম কি ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : এতিয়া মই নামটো কব নোৱাৰিলো ।

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI [Golakganj] প্ৰদেশৰ কোন কোন ঠাইত খাদী আৰু 'এণ্ডিৰ' 'চেণ্টাৰ' আছে ? ধুবুৰী মহকমাতে তেনে 'চেণ্টাৰ' আছেনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : ধুবুৰীত নাই ।

Names of the Firms in the Dibrugarh area getting allotment of wheat

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) asked :

*99. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether an application for a quota of wheat was submitted to the Secretary, Supply Department, through the Deputy Commissioner Lakhimpur, by Shri Ramavatar Singh of Mancutta Road, Dibrugarh ?

- (b) If so, what is the date of submitting that application ?
- (c) What is the fate of the application now ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that applications of some firm submitted later than the one submitted by Shri Ramavatar Singh were promptly forwarded to the Secretary of Supply Department, while the application of Shri Ramavatar Singh was kept pending ?
- (e) If so, why ?
- (f) What are the names of the firms that were given quotas of wheat and on what basis allotments were made ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

99. (a) & (b)—One such application was submitted by Shri Ramavatar Singh on the 25th October 1957 to the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur to be forwarded to Government.

(c)—The application has been withheld in the office of the Deputy Commissioner.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The Deputy Commissioner did not consider it necessary to forward the application of Shri Ramavatar Singh to Government as he is alleged to be not in this line of business previously.

(f)—The names of the firms in the Dibrugarh area getting allotment of wheat are the following—

1. M/S Mahabir Rice and Flour Mills.
2. M/S Panitola Rice Mills.
3. M/S Bharat Rice and Flour Mills.
4. M/S Shree Shankar Flour Mills.
5. M/S Nemichand Mahabirprasad Flour Mills.
6. M/S Dibrumukh Rice and Flour Mills.
7. M/S Jallannagar Flour Mills.
8. M/S Fogla Flour Mills.
9. M/S New Rice Mills.

Allotments are made to such mills having past dealings in this particular business, based also on the recommendations made by the local officers.

Rajabarie and Ougurijan Tea Estates in Sibsagar Sub-division

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

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

- (a) What was the crop per acre at Rajabarie and Ougurijan Tea Estates in Sibsagar Subdivision during last year ?
- (b) What is the average crop per acre in the neighbouring gardens ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware of the present fate of the labourers of these two gardens ?
- (d) What steps Government have taken to provide those labourers means of livelihood ?
- (e) Whether any higher officer from Shillong visited those gardens in 1957 ?
- (f) If so, who are those officers, the dates of their visit and what are their recommendations ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Agriculture for Minister Labour):

100.(a)—Last year's figures are not available but in 1956 the crop per acre of Rajabarie Tea Estate was 4·3 maunds. In 1955 which was the last working season of the gardens, crop per acre of Ougurijan was 2·7 maunds.

(b)—Thirteen maunds approximately.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The question of rehabilitation of uneconomic or mismanaged tea estates is receiving the attention of the Government. In view of the magnitude of the problem no easy solution is possible. Every endeavour, therefore, is made to keep the gardens going as long as possible.

Regarding Rajabarie Tea Estates many attempts were made to settle the dispute amicably. In fact the garden continued to run intermittently till January 1958. Labour Officer, Jorhat is trying to get the labourers registered in the Employment Exchanges so that they may be absorbed in gardens deficit in labour.

Regarding Ougurijan Tea Estate, litigation is pending. The Receiver of the gardens has gone in appeal to the High Court and, without the management, no mediation is possible.

(e)—No officer from Shillong visited these gardens. Labour Commissioner who visited Jorhat in May 1957, also met the proprietor of Rajabarie tea estate and was able to persuade him to reopen the garden.

(f)—On 19th May 1957. No written recommendation was received.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : বজাবাৰী আৰু ঔগুৰিজান চাহ বাগিছা দুখন কেতিয়াৰ পৰা বন্ধ হৈ আছে আৰু কি কাৰণে বন্ধ হৈ আছে ; আৰু লগতে জানিব খোজো যে, বাগিছা দুখন আইন সন্দৰ্ভত বন্ধ হৈছেনে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister in-charge, Agriculture) : উত্তৰতে কোৱা হৈছে কেতিয়াৰ পৰা বন্ধ হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : তেখেতৰ প্ৰশ্ন হৈছে কেতিয়াৰ পৰা বন্ধ হৈছে আৰু আইন সন্দৰ্ভত বন্ধ হৈছেনে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : আইন সন্দৰ্ভত বন্ধ হোৱা নাই।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : 100 (c) What is the total number of labourers affected in these two gardens ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I have not got the figures just now, but I have said that the Labour Officer, Jorhat, is trying to get the labourers registered in the Employment Exchanges so that they may be absorbed in gardens deficit in labour.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is what is the total number of labourers involved in these two gardens? The question concerns with man power, so it is necessary to give the total number of labourers who have been thrown out of employment in these two gardens.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I have no figure with me just now, Sir.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : ইতিমধ্যে চৰকাৰে কোনো কাম যোগাব কৰি দিব নোৱাৰাৰ বাবে খাবলৈ নেপায় আনকি দুজন মানুহ মৰাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in charge, Agriculture) : মানুহ মৰাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে নজানে।

Mr. SPEAKER : মানুহ বোৰৰ কষ্ট হৈছে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : হয়, মানুহৰ কষ্ট হৈছে।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Pending rehabilitation of these labourers, what steps have been taken by Government to provide food to these labourers ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The State Government have already informed the Central Government about the situation. The State Government have moved the Central Government in this matter. I can assure if any demand for help comes the Government will consider it sympathetically,.

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : इन बगानों के श्रमिकों के लिये Test Relief या दुसरी किसी तरह की सहायता के लिये सरकार चिन्ता कर रही या नहीं ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : यह individual case की merit पर निर्भर करता है।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : বজাবাৰী বাগিছা আৰু তাৰ বিখন ব্ৰাঞ্চ আছে তাত যোৱা বছৰ গড়ে ১১ মোণ পাট উৎপাদ হৈছিল। এই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে? যদি নেজানে তদন্ত কৰাবনে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : তদন্ত কৰা হব।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : এই বাগিছা দুখন চলাবলৈ চৰকাৰে কিবা চেষ্টা কৰিবনে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : এই বাগিছা দুখন চলাবলৈ চৰকাৰৰ হাতত প্ৰশাসনীয় ক্ষমতা নাই। সেই বাবে এই সম্পৰ্কীয় আইন প্ৰণয়ন কৰিবৰ বাবে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ অনুমোদন বিচৰা হৈছে।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : বজাবাৰী বাগিছা খন পৰিচালনা কৰিবৰ বাবে judge court এ শিৱগাগৰ জিলাৰ ডেপুটী কমিশ্যনাৰক হুকুম দিয়াৰ কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : সেই কথা চৰকাৰে জানে কিন্তু প্ৰকৃত কথাটো হৈছে বজা বাৰী বাগিছাৰ মালিক শ্ৰীযুত শৈলেন্দ্ৰ প্ৰসাদ বৰুৱা তেখেত নৃত্যৰ পিছত বাগিছা খন বেয়াকৈ পৰিচালিত হৈছে বুলি অভিযোগ কৰাত জৰ্জে ডেপুটি কমিশ্যনাৰক অভিভাৱক নিযুক্ত কৰিলে। গতিকে যি বাগিছাৰ ডেপুটি কমিশ্যনাৰ অভিভাৱক সেই বাগিছাত চৰকাৰৰো দায়িত্ব থাকে। এই বজাবাৰী আৰু ঔণ্ডবিজান বাগিছা দুখন বহু দিনৰে পৰা বেয়াকৈ পৰিচালিত হৈ বন্ধ হোৱাৰ বাবে মজদুৰ সকলৰ যথেষ্ট কষ্ট হৈছে য'চা; আমাৰ যি খবৰ সেই মতে এই বাগিছা খনৰ শতকৰা ৮০ জন মজদুৰ নিজৰ বস্তীত বাস কৰে। গতিকে তেওঁলোকৰ নিজৰ খেতি বাতি কিছু আছে। ঔণ্ডবিজান বাগিছাৰ ওচৰত এটা stone quarry আছে আৰু সেই বাগিছা বন্ধ হোৱাত মজদুৰ সকলে তাত কাম কৰিছে। কিন্তু বাগিছা দুখন বন্ধ হোৱাৰ বাবে মজদুৰ সকলৰ যে যথেষ্ট কষ্ট হৈছে সেইটো সঁচা।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় উত্তৰ দিছে যে ওচৰ চুবুৰীয়া বাগিছাৰ উৎপাদন গড়ে প্ৰায় ১৩ মোণ, কিন্তু বজাবাৰী বাগিছাৰ উৎপাদন গড়ে ২.৭ মোণ। ইমান কম উৎপাদন হোৱাৰ কাৰণ কি? ইয়াৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে তদন্ত কমিটি গঠন কৰিবনে?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : তদন্ত কমিটিৰ কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাই। বেয়া পৰিচালনা হোৱা বাবেই উৎপাদন কম হৈছে।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : এই বাগিছা দুখনৰ কালি কিমান? আৰু কিমান একৰ মাটিত চাহ আছে?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : বজাবাৰীত প্ৰায় ৫০০ একৰ আৰু ঔণ্ডবিজানত প্ৰায় ১০০ একৰ।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : চাহ গছ কিমান মাটিত আছে?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : কিমান মাটিত চাহ গছ আছে।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Agriculture) : Acreage under tea is as follows:—

(1) Rajabarie Tea Estate	450 acres.
(2) Ougurijan Tea Estate	250 acres.

Regarding total grant I have not got the figure at the moment.

Number of Primary School teachers appointed by the Karimganj School Board (Basic Board)

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharkandi—Reserved for Scheduled Castes) asked:

* 101. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total number of the Primary School teachers, temporary and permanent, appointed by the Karimganj School Board (Basic Board) from the year 1952, year by year?

(b) What is the number of Scheduled Caste teachers, so appointed?

- (c) Whether the number covers the reserved percentage for the Scheduled Caste also ?
- (d) If not, why not ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to take necessary steps to see that at least the reserved percentage is reached ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture for Minister, Education) replied :

101.(a) & (b)—

Year	Total No. of teachers appointed	Total No. of Scheduled Caste teachers
1952-53	60	6
1953-54	34	3
1954-55	37	1
1955-56	7	1
1956-57	23	6

All these appointments were temporary at the first instance.

(c)—There is no such reservation.

(d) & (e)—Do not arise.

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) : What is the number of Muslim teachers ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I want notice of that question, Sir.

Mesaki Samabay Gaolia Bank in Dibrugarh Subdivision

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is a Rural Credit Society or Gaolia Bank in the south bank of Sadiya Transferred area known as Mesaki Samabay Gaolia Bank in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Assistant Co-operative Officer, Tinsukia, took Rs.125 from this Gaolia Bank on 28th July 1957 by giving a "Katcha" receipt saying that he would deposit this amount with the Central Bank, Dibrugarh ?

- (c) Whether it is a fact that this Mesaki Gaolia Bank deposited a certain sum of Rs.125 or so in the Central Bank, Dibrugarh in 1956 ?
- (d) Whether the amount of Rs.125 drawn by the Assistant Co-operative Officer, Tinsukia, on 28th July 1957 has yet been deposited ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the same Assistant Co-operative Officer took about Rs.100 from this Gaolia Bank in the middle of 1957 to allot shares of Assam Co-operative Sugar Mills, Dergaon ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the amount has not yet been received by the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mills ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that this Gaolia Bank is not functioning properly for lack of proper guidance from the Co-operative Department ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Co-operative) replied :

102. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The Assistant Co-operative Officer received from the Society Rs.99 on 29th July 1956, Rs.31 on 4th June 1957 and Rs.125 on 28th July 1957 from the Bank to be deposited into the Central Bank.

(d)—No. The Assistant Co-operative Officer who received the money deposited the first two amounts but has not deposited the amount of Rs.125.

(e)—Yes. A sum of Rs.105 was received by the Assistant Co-operative Officer on 28th July 1957.

(f)—Yes. The matter is being investigated.

(g)—The Society has been started only about a year ago, and it is yet to be seen how the Society fares and the department is taking all possible steps to help the Society to achieve its goal.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Why this money taken by the Assistant Co-operative Officer had not yet been deposited to the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill, Sir ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Co-operative) : It can be presumed that there was criminal intention ; he had misappropriated the money.

Eviction of Land in Barbali Kisam in Kapasbari Mouza of Nowgong District

Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a letter addressed by Moulana Hifzur Rahman, M. P., and Shri Amjad Ali, M. P., to the Prime Minister of India regarding the eviction of land in Barbali Kisam in Kapasbari Mouza of Nowgong District, has been referred to the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Secretary to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department has replied to Moulana Hifzur Rahman, M. P. stating the prevailing condition of the settlement matters in that area ?
- (c) Whether Government has taken any step to regularise the settlement anomalies as mentioned in the abovementioned reply to Moulana Hifzur Rahman ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware of the fact that for want of final allotments great difficulties and anomalies have been created amongst the occupants of the Barbali Kisam ?
- (e) What are the reasons of undue delay in giving proper allotments to the premium paid persons of the Barbali Kisam ?
- (f) Whether Government will be pleased to take immediate actions to give allotments and possession to the people from whom premium and revenue were realised ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

103. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is a fact.

(c)—Steps have been taken to regularise the matter as far as possible.

(d) & (e)—The persons in question instead of occupying land allotted to them occupied land allotted to Scheduled Castes and Tribal people. The land originally allotted to these persons has, in the meantime, been encroached upon by others and these encroachers have to be evicted before the lands can be delivered to these persons. Government are aware of the difficulties and anomalies arising therefrom.

(f)—Necessary directions have already been given to the Deputy Commissioner to this effect.

Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh) : চাৰ, মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে মোৰ প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত যি কেইটা কথা কৈছে তাৰ দ্বাৰা কোনো কথাই সহজ আৰু সৰল ভাৱে বুজাবৰ চেষ্টা কৰা নাই। এই বিষয়ে মই আৰু কেইটামান কথা সুধিম।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপুনি গোটেই বিলাক একেলগে নুসুধি এটা এটাকৈ সোধক।

Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED : এটা এটাকৈয়ে সুধিম। মই এই কথা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ক সুধিব খোজো, যে, অন্যায় ভাবে মাটি বিতৰণৰ ফলত সেই অঞ্চলৰ কৃষক সকলৰ মাজত ডাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামা, মাৰামাৰি, মানুহা মোকৰ্দ্দমা আজি তিনি চাৰি বছৰ ধৰি হৈ থকাত এই গৰীব কৃষক পৰিয়াল বিলাক যে ধ্বংসো নুখ হৈ গৈছে, সেই কথা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : এইটো General Question যি হওক, অইনৰ মাটি অইন মানুহে অধিকাৰ কৰিলে ডাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামা হোৱাটো স্বাভাৱিক। সেই ঠাইত সৰ্বমোট তিনিটা সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহৰ মাজত মাটি বিতৰণ কৰা হৈছিল। তাৰে এটা দল হল, অনসূচিত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক, আনটো দল হল জনজাতীয় সম্প্ৰদায় আৰু বাকীটো মুছলমান সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক। এই লোক সকলক তিনিটা পৃথক পৃথক ব্লকত মাটি দিয়া হৈছে। এই লোক সকলে মাটি অধিকাৰ কৰাৰ আগতে আন কিছুমান নতুন মানুহে সেই ব্লক বিলাকত সোমাই সেই মাটি অধিকাৰ কৰাৰ ফলত এনে ধৰণৰ বেমেজালিৰ উদ্ভব হৈছে।

Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED : এনে ধৰণৰ বিতৰণৰ খেলি মেলিৰ ফলত যে এনে বিপৰ্য্যয় হৈছে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ৰ ওচৰত তাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰৰ কাৰণে কামনা কৰি বাবে বাবে আবেদন নিবেদন কৰিছে। সেই বিলাক মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে প্ৰতিকাৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছেনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS, (Minister, Revenue) : মন্ত্রী মহোদয় নামে মোকেই বুজাইছে নে গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট? চৰকাৰ হলে মই কওঁ তেনে ধৰণৰ অভিযোগ সকলো দলৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰলৈ আহিছে। যি হক, সেই লোকসকলক মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হব।

Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED (Jamunamukh) : মই কৈছো যে, ডেপুটি কলেক্টৰে ৰিপোর্ট দিছে যে, বিবিলাক মানুহ তাত বহিছে, তেওঁলৈকে Premium আদি দিয়াৰ পিছত Settlement দিয়া হৈছে। সেই ৰিপোর্টটো অসত্য বুলি যদি কওঁ তেন্তে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে সেই বিষয়ে তদন্ত কৰিবনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : তদন্ত কৰাৰ কানো কথা নুঠে আৰু আৱশ্যকো নাই। কিয়নো ইতিমধ্যে এই লোকসকলক ৪২১ বিঘা মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে। তৰে এটা ব্লকত ৩৯ বিঘা, আন এটা ব্লকত ৩০ বিঘা আৰু আন এটা ব্লকত ৩৩২ বিঘা মাটি দিয়া হৈছে। মাত্ৰ ৩৫ বিঘা মাটি দিবলৈহে বাকী আছে। ইয়াৰ Permission কিৰং দিয়াৰ হুকুম দিয়া হৈছে। গতিকে ইয়াৰ পিছত গোলমালৰ কানো কাৰণ নাথাকিব।

Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED: মই কৈছো যে, Sub-Deputy Collector. বা Deputy Commissioner ৰ পৰা বিবিলাক ৰিপোর্ট আহিছে সেই বিলাক মাত্ৰ তেওঁলোকৰ আয়ত্বকাৰ কাৰণে কিছুমান ৰিপোর্ট দিছে। মই কওঁ যে, সেই মানহ বিলাকক এতিয়াও মাটি দিয়া হোৱা নাই। এই বিষয়ে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে শীঘ্ৰে তদন্ত কৰিবনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : ইবিলাক মানুহক মাটি দিয়াৰেই ব্যৱস্থা হৈছে যেতিয়া তদন্তৰ আৱশ্যক কি?

Shri RAHIMUDDIN AHMED: এই ৰিপোর্টটো Sub-Deputy Collector ৰ এটা মিছা ৰিপোর্ট দিছে। এই কথাটো তদন্ত কৰিবনে?

Mr. SPEAKER : মাননীয় সদস্যই কৈছে যেতিয়া কথাটো সত্য বুলিয়েই ধৰিব লাগিব।

Shri HARESWAR DAS : মই অসত্য বুলি কোৱা নাই। কিন্তু মাননীয় সদস্যই কৈছে যেতিয়া ৰিপোর্টটো অসত্য হয়নে তদন্ত কৰিম।

Shri MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Rupohihat) : How long will it take to settle the land with them, Sir ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : It may take a long time when the people are not co-operating.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : When was the allotment first made, when did the allottees occupying the land, and when did these irregularities occur ?

***Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue)** : Allotment was not made at one time. For 14 persons, it was made in 1944. The next batch got the land in 1951. In 1953 these troubles came up. In 1953 some arrangements were made. Then these people—these Muslims—went up to the High Court. There was delay in the High Court. Ultimately their case was rejected. Then they came to us. When the case was pending before the High Court we could not do anything. Then they came to us and we tried to give them land as far as it was available. They have already been given about 421 bighas of land. As my Friend says that, this is false. I shall make an enquiry.

Dairy Farm at Amlakhi Air Field in Lahing Mouza in Jorhat Subdivision

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) asked :

*104. Will the Minister-in-charge of Livestock be pleased to state—

- (a) From when the Dairy Farm already sanctioned by Government will be started at Amlakhi Air Field in Lahing Mouza in Jorhat Subdivision ?
 (b) Why it has not been started up till now ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister-in-charge of Agriculture, (Veterinary) and Livestock] replied :

104. (a)—No Dairy Farm at Amlakhi Air Field in Lahing Mouza at Jorhat Subdivision has been sanctioned by Government.

(b)—Does not arise.

Nationalisation of the road from Komargaon to Jorhat via Golaghat and Mariani

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) asked :

*105. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) In which year decision has been taken to nationalise the road from Komargaon to Jorhat via Golaghat and Mariani ?

(b) Why the said decision has not yet given effect to ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

105. (a)—It was proposed to nationalise this route from 1st January 1957.

Decision to nationalise the route was taken on 7th September 1956.

(b)—In view of the representation received from the permit holders the implementation of the proposal was postponed temporarily.

Direction to Contractors to work in some Roads where there were sitting Congress M. L. As with an amount exceeding the estimated amount

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that prior to the period of Second General Election in 1956, in some areas where there were sitting Congress M. L. As (like that of Nalbari in the District of Kamrup) some contractors were directed to work so much that not only in many cases it exceeded the allotted amount, but in some cases it exceeded the estimated amount on some roads ?

(b) If so, why it was so ?

(c) Whether it is not clear violation of Budget rules

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) replied :

106. (a)—No. No such direction was issued.

Road schemes included in the Second Five-Year Plan programme were approved by the State Government on the recommendation of the Subdivisional Development Board and Assam Road Communication Board and on receipt of the final approval of the Planning Commission, administrative approval was accorded and instructions were issued to the Executive Engineers to frame detailed estimates and take up work. Allotments were also made on the basis of allocations received

from the Planning Commission and expenditure for the year was regulated accordingly. As is usual for these continuing works, the work was continued during the whole of the working season upto June 1958, in anticipation of provisions being made in P. W. D. Budget for the next year which is usually made in consideration of the working capacity of the Department.

Owing to curtailment of funds by the Planning Commission, work this year has been restricted to allotments received and no excess over allotment is likely to occur.

In one or two cases excess over estimate appears to have occurred. This is under investigation and arrangement to regularise them is being made.

(b)—Please refer to reply to (a) above.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Sir, may I know in which district that case arose ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) : In Kamrup District, of course.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : In which area ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH I will give the name. It is in North Kamrup. It is Behampur-Belsor Road.

Co-operative Trading Society at Patharkandi

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA asked :

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

- (a) Whether a Co-operative Trading Society was started at Patharkandi with Government initiative in the year 1949 ?
- (b) What amount was contributed by the Public in form of share capital ?
- (c) As the Society is not functioning from the last few years, whether the share holders have got back their respective share money ?

- (d) If the answer to (c) be in the negative, will Government take necessary steps to repay the share money which is long due ?
- (e) How many such Co-operatives were started in Karimganj Subdivision at that time and whether the share money of all the defunct Societies were refunded to the respective share holders ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Co-operative) replied :

107. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Rs.5,091.

(c)—No.

(d)—Yes. The Society has since been sent into liquidation. Steps are taken by the liquidator to refund the share money according to the availability of funds as provided under Rule 99 of the Co-operative Societies Act.

(e)—Twenty-two such Co-operative Societies were started during 1949. Since the Societies have stopped functioning, the Department is taking steps to send them into liquidation and the liquidator will arrange refund of the share monies as provided in Rule 99. Liquidation proceedings in case of three such Societies are already going on.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Sir—may I know when the liquidation will be completed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, as early as possible; efforts will be made to complete it.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : ১৯৪৯ ইংরাজীতে সোসাইটি start দেওয়া হয়েছে। আজ পর্যন্তও কেন share এর টাকা দেওয়া হয় নাই ? এই share এর টাকা দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা গভর্নমেন্ট করবেন কি ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : আমি বলেছি যে, বর্তমানে liquidation proceedings pending আছে। Proceedings হয়ে গেলেই টাকা দেওয়া হইবে।

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: ১৯৪৯ ইংরাজীৰ সোমাইটিৰ share এৰ টাকা এখনও দেওয়া হই নাই কেন?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): ৯ বছৰ হৱে গিয়েছে।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Co-operative): ১৯৪৯ ইংরাজীতে liquidation এ যাব নাই। যাই হউক এটা বাবে তাড়াতাড়ি হয় সোটা আনি দেখব।

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA: কোন সময় liquidation এ গিয়েছে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: ১৯৫২ ইংরাজীতে কাজ বন্ধ হয়। নিশ্চয় তাৰ পৰে গিয়েছে।

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): Liquidator ৰ staff ৰ খৰচ society ৰ মূল ধনৰ পৰা নাযনে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Liquidator গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট কৰ্মচাৰী। তেওঁৰ দৰমহা গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে দিয়ে। তেওঁৰ কাম হৈছে asset আৰু liability ৰ হিচাপ কৰা। তাৰ পিচত payment কৰা হয়।

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, the Hon'ble Minister referred to work done by the Co-operative Trading Society. Was the work confined only to putting up a sign-board and removing it after six months?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, rather the Government know that at the beginning the Co-operative Trading Societies did very good work. But subsequently some non-co-operators entered into it.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA: এই share এৰ টাকা সরকারের কাছে আছে না অন্য কোন লোকের কাছে আছে?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: সোটা ঠিক কি না বলা যাবে না। কোন সময় বেন্ধেও থাকে আৰ কোন সময় society ৰ কাছেও থাকে।

Brahmaputra Bund in Saikhowa Constituency

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

*108. Will the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in construction of the Brahmaputra Bund in Saikhowa constituency, Government had to pay compensation to a number of land owners and owners of other immovable property ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that persons of villages such as Bichonimukh, Bokapathar, Bormura, Hahkhati and some others have not yet been paid compensation ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that a Pucca house belonging to one Shri Hem Chandra Sonowal was damaged in constructing the Bund but no compensation has yet been paid to him ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that compensation to Indian Tea Planters such as proprietors of Dhola Tea Estate, and Hahkhati Tea Estate and to the people of Saikhowa Bazar have already been paid ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to pay the compensation due to all at an early date ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Flood Control, etc.) replied :

108. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, the compensation to the villagers of (1) Bukabil, (2) Bhabangkhal, (3) Bichanimukh, (4) Barmura Miripathar, and (5) Bokapathar, will be paid as soon as the land acquisition cases are finalised.

(c)—Yes, the compensation for the house, as admissible under the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955 has been assessed and it will be paid, when the land acquisition cases will be finalised.

(d)—Yes, compensation to Dhola Tea Estate and to the people of Hahkhati Nepali, Dirokmukh and Barmura village have been paid on finalisation of the land acquisition cases started in this connection, but the compensation of Hahkhati Tea Estate has not yet been paid, as the matter is under appeal.

(e)—Yes, the compensation will be paid soon after the land acquisition cases are finalised.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, may I know why preference was given in paying compensation to Dholla Tea Estate and other wealthy people and the matters of poor villagers were delayed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Flood Control) : There was no preference. The cases were started simultaneously. But they depend on various factors. Sometimes the court may be absent. So in some cases proceedings were completed. Therefore, under the circumstances in many cases money was paid. Therefore there was no delay.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether is it a fact that due to the undeveloped nature of those people, they could not get the payment of compensation early as that of wealthy persons ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : No such complaints reached Government before to-day.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire from the local people whether in the case of tea estates cases were started ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I will do so.

Co-operative and Agricultural Officers for Colombo Plan

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palasbari) asked :

*109. Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture and Co-operative Departments be pleased to state—

- (a) When the State Government received a request from the Government of India requisitioning services of certain class of Co-operative and Agricultural Officers for employment under the Government of Nepal under the Colombo Plan ?

- (b) Whether Government is aware that though in the letter in which above mentioned request was made the State Government was directed to submit proposals by 25th June, 1957 ?
- (c) If so, why applications from the employees of the State Government were invited only in July, 1957 and that also by wire ?
- (d) Who is responsible for this delay and what steps Government propose to take against the Officer or the Office Assistant at fault to stop recurrence in future ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Agriculture) replied :

109. (a)—Government of India did not requisition the services of any class of Co-operative Officers, but a letter requesting the State Government to suggest names of officers for deputing to Government of Nepal, was issued by the Government of India on 12th June, 1957 which reached Secretary, Co-operative on 18th June, 1957.

As for requisitioning services of Agricultural Officers under the Colombo Plan, no request from Government of India was received.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Since the Secretary, Co-operative Department had to collect the names of the probable officers through the Registrar of Co-operative Societies who had to collect requisite materials about the probable officers who could be recommended for the purpose and also as he had to ascertain from the District Assistant Registrars if such officers could be spared and would be available (in view of the various urgent schemes that were in hand) it took some time to select the officers and the State Government was able to prepare a list of probable officers on 4th July, 1957 on which date the officers concerned were asked by wire if they were agreeable to accept such an offer.

(d)—In view of above, perhaps it would be appreciated that the time that was taken was reasonable in sending the recommendations.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Sir, may I know the names of officers who were recommended ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Agriculture): The names are :—

1. Shri B. Gogoi.
2. Shri D. Sarma.

Those were the officers whose names were recommended.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : What is the principle of this recommendations ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : According to suitability and also with the consent of those officers.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the Table)

C. I. Sheets supplied in Saikhowa and Sadiya Areas for Public institutions after the 1950 Earthquake

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

346. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) How many bundles of C. I. Sheets were supplied in Saikhowa and Sadiya Areas for public institutions after the 1950 Earthquake ?
- (b) What are the names of public institutions that received the C. I. Sheets and what quantity did each institution receive ?
- (c) Whether these institutions still functioning ?
- (d) If not, what happened to the materials supplied by the Government ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

346. (a)—202 bundles.

(b)—A statement is placed on the Library Table.

[Statement laid on the Library Table in reply to Unstarred Question No. 346(b)]

List of the institutions that received Corrugated Iron Sheets (in Bundles)

Sl. No.	Name of School	C.I. Sheets issued	Sl. No.	Name of School	C.I. Sheet issued
1.	Deopani	3	23.	Kumchand	3
2.	Nazira	3	24.	Bazalmiri..	3
3.	Pahukhowa	9	25.	Saikhowa (Boys)	7
4.	Rampur	3	26.	Saikhowa (Girls)	3
5.	Bhatigaon (Girls)	3	27.	Dighalmesaki	6
6.	Haripur	6	28.	Aroimuria	12
7.	Nagoan	6	29.	Kaliabalunala	3
8.	Jaiagaon	3	30.	Nabormuria	6
9.	Sadiya (Boys)	10	31.	Hakhati	3
10.	Desoigaon	3	32.	Bisanimukh	10
11.	Sadiya (Girls)	6	33.	Lafungkala	2
12.	Sadiya (Bengali)	7	34.	Old Barmuria	3
13.	Barmuria (Girls)	4	35.	Sonowalgaon	3
14.	Sengsap School	3	36.	Patia	6
15.	Sadiya Muktab	6	37.	Bosagaon	6
16.	Nagon M.E.	5	38.	Lokhimpuria	3
17.	13th Mile Sadiya	3	39.	Dalpani	3
18.	Sunpura	3	40.	Bargaon	3
19.	Karini	3	41.	Chapakhowa	3
20.	Taya	3	42.	Bhobongkhal	3
21.	Repot	3	43.	Sismi	3
22.	Paglam	3	44.	Sadiya Girls H. E. School.	10

Total ... 197 | *5—202.

*Distribution unaccounted for.

(c)—All of them are not functioning. These were eroded and also collapsed due to flood.

(d)—C. I. Sheets already allotted were utilised for the erection of new buildings in place of old ones damaged by flood and erosion.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge whether the materials were saved from eroded institutions ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Supply) : In almost all cases materials were saved-and utilised in new institutions.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : What happens to the materials of those buildings which were collapsed due to flood ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Almost all of those were used in the new buildings.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : লাইব্ৰেৰী টেবুলত দিয়াতকৈ উত্তৰ লগতে দিয়া উচিত বুলি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে নে ভাবেনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : সেইটো মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে ভাবিব নে লাগে । এইটো অধ্যক্ষৰ অভিমত অনুসায়ী হব ।

Unstarred questions are general meant for detailed and statistical information and in giving replies to them if any long list or lists of information or statistics are necessary and when it is not possible to get them printed along with the printed answers then the practice, not only in this House but also in the Parliament, is to place them on the Library Table, which means the table next to the Speaker's table, on his left.

Dhubri-Gauripur Public Works Department Road

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golaganj)
asked :

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

(a) Whether the Government is aware that the work of widening of Dhubri-Gauripur Public Works Department Road has not yet been completed though it was started long ago ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that for want of road roller the work could not be completed ?

(c) How many road rollers are there in the Dhubri Subdivision and in other Subdivisions of the other districts of Assam?

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

347. (a)—The Section I (first 2 miles from Dhubri) has been completed in all respects, as per provisions in the sanctioned estimate during September, 1957. As regards the Section II (the remaining 4 miles), all works have been completed except for surfacing the widened portion.

(b)—Yes, but actions have already been taken to detail some additional roller to the Executive Engineer for this purpose.

(c)—Road rollers are distributed Divisionwise in consideration of the volumes of work and not Subdivisionwise. A Divisionwise distribution list of the road rollers has been placed on the Library Table.

***[Statement laid on the Library Table in reply to Unstarred Question No.347(c)]**

List of Road Rollers in Public Works Department Division as on 1st March 1958.

Note:—Rollers are allotted Division-wise and utilised in Subdivisions as and when necessary.

Serial No.	Name of Division	No of Sub-divisions	No of Rollers allotted Division wise	Remarks
1.	Dibrugarh ...	5	4	
2.	North Lakhimpur	3	5	
3.	Sbisagar ...	4	6	
4.	Jorhat ...	4	3	
5.	Golaghat ...	3	7	Out of these 3 Rollers are very old and often go out of order.
6.	Mikir and North Cachar Hills.	5	1	
7.	Charali ...	2	6	
8.	Bhareli Bridge Construction,	1	Nil,	

9. Tezpur	...	2	3	One Roller is very old and not reliable.
10. Mangaldai	...	2	2	
11. Nowgong East	...	4	6	
12. Nowgong West	...	3	2	
13. Aijal	...	4	Nil.	
14. Cachar	...	4	3	
15. Karimganj	...	3	6	One Roller is very old and not reliable.
16. J. B. Road Construction.		3	3	
17. M. B. Road	...	2	1	
18. Khasi and Jaintia Hills.		5	5	
19. Gauhati	...	8	4	
20. Engineering College Construction.		2	Nil.	
21. Mechanical	...	2	Nil.	
22. North Kamrup	...	5	3	One Roller is very old and not reliable.
23. Barpeta	...	2	2	
24. Goalpara	...	2	4	One Roller is very old and not reliable.
25. Kokrajhar	...	2	2	
26. Dhubri	...	3	2	One roller is under repair waiting for spare parts.
27. Tura	...	4	1	
Total	...		81	Rollers of which 7 Rollers are not reliable

***Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) :** Regarding (a), Sir, may I know when the work is expected to be completed ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) :** I cannot give the answer off hand when the work will be completed. Any way, I will collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

***Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) :** Sir, with regard to (c), in the Division of Barpeta Subdivision there are 2 road rollers. Is it a fact that very often these 2 road rollers go out of order and thus the road work is hampered ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** The list does not disclose that those 2 rollers are ancient.

In the list of road rollers there is a remarks column wherein some road rollers are shown which go out of order and in this list I do not find any remark against those two rollers of the Barpeta Subdivision. I will read out from this list about the old rollers that go out of order.

At Golaghat, out of the 7 rollers 3 are very old and often go out of order.

At Tezpur, out of the 3 rollers one is very old and not reliable.

At Karimganj, out of 6 rollers one is very old and not reliable.

At North Kamrup, out of 3 rollers one is very old and not reliable.

At Goalpara, out of 4 rollers one is very old and not reliable.

At Dhubri, out of 2 rollers, one is under repair waiting for spare parts.

So, there is no comment about Barpeta.

***Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) :** Sir, will the Government make an enquiry ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) :** Yes, Sir.

***Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golokganj) :** Is it not a fact that there are road rollers which remain idle?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH :** No road rollers remain idle except those which have gone out of order. As a matter of fact we are trying to procure even second-hand rollers from Calcutta.

Steamer Service plying between Neamati and Kamalabari in the Jorhat Subdivision

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI asked (Titabar) :

348. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R. and B.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that the services of the steamer now plying between Neamati and Kamalabari in the Jorhat Subdivision is not at all satisfactory and that the public are facing lots of trouble during the last several years?

(b) Whether Government are aware that the steamer service ply only once to and from Neamati?

(c) If so, whether Government will take steps to increase the number of trips from 1 to 3 from either sides?

(d) What steps are being taken by Government to improve this ferry service?

(e) What are the terms and conditions of the present lessee?

(f) Whether Government are aware that the present steamer is also satisfactorily run?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) replied :

348. (a)—The Steamer Service between Neamati and Kamalabari is now plying satisfactorily since the vessel "Egret" was put into commission in April, 1957.

(b)—Yes. The Steamer Service plies once only to and from Neamati. But for the convenience of the travelling public a single boat fitted with engine is plying daily in addition to the Steamer since 7th February 1958, starting in the morning from Kamalabari to Kokilamukh/Neamati and in the afternoon from Kokilamukh/Neamati to Kamalabari.

(c)—This will be examined and in case further increase in number of trips is necessitated by the volume of traffic, the question will be given due consideration subject to availability of steamer and boats.

(d)—A provision of Rs. 30 lakhs for purchase of Steamers for Gauhati and North Gauhati ferry and also Kamalabari-Neamati has been made under the Second Five Year Plan. But owing to non-availability of steamers in the Country and difficulties of Foreign Exchange no headway could be made so far.

In the meantime the question of provision of marboats and single boats fitted with engines as an interim measure is under active consideration.

(e)—A copy of the lease containing all terms and conditions is placed on the Library table. (Please see Library Reg. No.S6.)

(f)—The present steamer is running satisfactorily now.

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

পমৰ জাহাজখন বহুত দিনৰ পুৰণি আৰু মেৰামতি কৰি চলোৱা হৈছে আৰু জাহাজখন গোটেই বছৰ নচলে। এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে জানেনে?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) :** খবালি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰত পানী কম থাকোতে জাহাজখন অলপ চলে। কিন্তু বাৰিষা পানীৰ সোঁত বেচি থাকোতে জাহাজ খনৰ চলাচল বন্ধ ৰাখিবলগীয়া হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER : In the printed reply the Minister said "The Steamer Service between Neamati and Kamalabari is now plying satisfactorily.....since April, 1957". That includes the last winter season also. The Supplementary reply should not contradict the written reply. I refer to (f) where the answer is "The present steamer is running satisfactorily now" But what the Minister said in reply to the supplementary question is contrary to this written reply. I think in future Government should be careful so that replies to supplementary questions do not contradict the written replies

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department)** : These are on the whole supplementary answers.

***Mr. SPEAKER** : Yes, supplementary answers must not contradict the written replies.

***Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : প্রশ্নোত্তরত কৈছে যে মাৰ নাওৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰিছে। কিন্তু জাহাজতকৈ মাৰ নাও বেচি নিৰাপদ নেকি ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department)** : বৰ্তমান জাহাজখন ভালকৈ নচলে। সবহ মানুহ উঠিলে কাটি হৈ যায়। আৰু মানুহ মৰাৰ ভয় থাকে। সেই কাৰণে মাৰ নাও চলাবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে।

Nazira Circle Chah Sramik Sangha

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI asked :

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

- (a) Whether a Land Rover belonging to the Nazira Circle Chah Sramik Sangha was refused to be ferried from Kamalabari to Neamati on 23rd December 1957 ?
- (b) Whether the Executive Engineer, Jorhat, received any complaint to this effect ?
- (c) If so, what steps have been taken ?
- (d) Whether there is any rule of paying any rent to the contracted lessee when any passenger or a vehicle is crossed by a P. W. D. or a private boat ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) replied :

349. (a) to (c)—A complaint has been received by the Executive Engineer, Jorhat and the matter is under enquiry by him. He has been instructed to expedite the matter.

(d)—Yes, as per clause 4 of the lease and Sections 13 and 14 of the Northern India Ferries Act, 1878.

***Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)** : চাহ শ্ৰমিক সংঘৰ Land Rover খন পাব নকৰাৰ কাৰণে কি Step লোৱা হৈছে ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department)** : এই বিষয়ে অনুসন্ধান কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে । Report পোৱাৰ পিচতহে stepৰ কথা ভবা হব ।

***Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra)** : দ্বিতীয় পাচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত যি বিলাক Scheme recommend কৰা হৈছে সেই বিলাকৰ copy Member সকলৰে সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে দিয়া হবনে ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department)** : হয়, দিয়া হব ।

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DALEY (Moran, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)** : Sir, I find many important Unstarred Questions in today's list and I want to know what will be the fate of those Questions so far as supplementary questions are concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member may refer to the relevant rules and procedure. So far as Unstarred Questions are concerned ordinarily Members are not eligible for supplementaries. When there are not enough Starred Questions then some chance to put Supplementary to Unstarred Questions is given. What ever may be the case, the rule is very simple that the Question Hour does not exceed one minute beyond one hour.

Profit Bonus Payable to the Labourers Who are no longer on the Roll

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that payment of second half of 1953-54 profit bonus (as under Delhi Agreement) payable to the labourers, who are no longer on the roll, has been held up pending directions from the Government ?

(b) If so, how long it will take for arriving at a decision in the matter ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

350. (a)—Yes. On a reference from the Board of Trustees the amount was kept in suspense.

(b)—A decision on the subject will be taken very soon.

Road Communication Board

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA (Gohpur) asked :

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

(a) Why the Road Communication Board was not called even for once during the current year for selection of new road project ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that fund for such projects is not available ?

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

351. (a) & (b)—The meeting of the Assam Road Communication Board is called for as and when funds are available or likely to be available and envisaged for taking up road schemes and it is necessary to draw up Road Development Programme, and not in consideration of financial year. As the programmes for execution during the Second Five Year Plan Period have already been drawn up on the basis of the funds anticipated to be available during this period, there is at the moment no point in or scope for calling for a meeting of the Road Board. This is expected to be called for if and when the Third Five Year Plan Programme have to be drawn up.

Erection of Negheriting Rungagora Bund in Golaghat Subdivision

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon) asked :

352. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (E. & D) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government has sanctioned erection of the Negheriting Rungagora Bund in Golaghat Subdivision ?

- (b) The reason for non-execution of the work of the proposed Bund ?
- (c) Whether the proposed embankment is going to be abandoned ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Flood Control, etc.) replied :

352. (a)—No.

(b)—In view of its relatively lower priority the scheme could not be included in the Revised Flood Control Programme of the Second Five Year Plan which is awaiting approval of the State Flood Control Board.

(c)—It is unlikely that financial limitations will allow execution of the Scheme during the Second Five Year Plan period.

Regarding Death of One Nimar Ali an Employee of Surma Valley Saw Mill

Shri ABDUL HAMID CHOUDHURY (Karimganj—South) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that one Nimar Ali was an ordinary carpenter in the Bhanga Saw Mill upto 15th Agrahayana 1362 B. S. ?
- (b) Whether the said Nimar Ali was put in-charge of driving the sawing machine on 16th of Agrahayana 1362 B. S. ?
- (c) Whether the said Nimar Ali died of accident while driving that machine on 17th Agrahayana, 1362 B. S. ?
- (d) What was the Police report in that case ?
- (e) Whether *Post-mortem* is necessary in such cases ?
- (f) Whether any *Post-mortem* was done in that case ?
- (g) If so, who performed it and what was the report ?
- (h) Whether the heirs of the deceased were given any benefit of the accident ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister for Labour) replied :

353. (a)—According to the Factory Inspector who made an enquiry into this accident, Nimar Ali was employed as a carpenter in the Surma Valley Saw Mill, Bhanga Bazar P. O. and not Bhanga Saw Mill and he met with the accident on 2nd December 1955.

(b)—No. From the enquiry it appears that the deceased wanted to plane some pieces of wood in the planning machine and was probably feeding the machine with two or three pieces at a time which caused the accident.

(c)—Nimar Ali was not driving the machine but was feeding pieces of wood into the planning machine and he died 13 hours after the accident which took place on 2nd December, 1955.

(d)—No Police report was necessary under the existing rules.

(e)—*Post-mortem* is not necessary in such cases under the rules.

(f) & (g)—Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(h)—Yes, an amount of Rs.1,800 was assessed by the Deputy Commissioner as compensation and the money was disbursed to the legal heirs.

State Central Library Building

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that some rooms of the newly constructed State Central Library Building (children and reference rooms) in Shillong have been occupied by the Secretariat Department ?

(b) If so, when Government propose to vacate the said rooms ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

354. (a)—Yes, only two rooms temporarily.

(b)—One room has already been vacated and the other room will be vacated soon.

**Maduri, Dikhowmukh and Patsaku Dispensaries of
Sibsagar Subdivision**

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Maduri, Dikhowmukh and Patsaku Dispensaries of Sibsagar Subdivision are running without doctors ?

(b) If so, why ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied :

355. (a)—Yes.

(b)—For acute dearth of qualified doctors.

**Settlement of land with Scheduled Castes
people**

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

356. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) How many landless Scheduled Castes families have obtained land during the last six years ?

(b) How many landless sweepers obtained land (please show in a tabular form and Subdivision-wise) ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

356. (a)—No statistics of settlement of land with Scheduled Castes people are available.

(b)—The information is not available.

**Lower Primary Schools at Katajor, Jengrengpara,
Borapeta and Sorbhog Town**

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether Lower Primary Schools at (1) Katajor, (2) Jengrengpara, (3) Borapeta and (4) Sorbhog Town have been taken up by the Barpeta School Board ?

(b) When these schools were established ?

(c) If the reply to (a) above be in the negative, whether these schools will be taken up and when ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

357. (a)—No.

(b)—(1) Katajor Lower Primary School.	...	...	Information being collected.
(2) Jengrengpara Lower Primary School.	...	...	1954.
(3) Borapeta Lower Primary School.	...	...	1953.
(4) Sorbhog Town Lower Primary School.	...	...	Information being collected.

(c)—Borapeta is going to be taken over soon. Other cases will be considered along with other Venture Schools by the School Board concerned, if found suitable.

Opening of the old course of Lokhimijan in Lahing Mauza of Jorhat

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok) asked :

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

(a) What steps are being taken to open the old course of Lokhimijan in Lahing Mauza of Jorhat from the foot hills near Amtal to Koliapani ?

(b) Whether the work of this project will be taken up immediately ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Flood Control, etc.) replied :

358. (a)—There is no such proposal.

(b)—Does not arise.

Production of Sali Paddy in some Mouzas under Tihu Circle

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

359. Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that in some Mouzas under Tihu Circle there is no production of Sali paddy in the year 1957 for want of proper irrigation system and failure of monsoon and that the area is threatened with scarcity of foodstuff ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to take all the possible measures to render help by supplying foodstuff and by other means ?

(c) Whether Government propose to provide the areas mentioned above for production of crops with canal and irrigation system according to the need in the localities ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

359. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, not by alone supplying foodstuff which is not within the purview of the Agriculture Department but by other measures, *e. g.*, by supplying seeds, fertilizers, short term loan and by taking up minor irrigation works to help in production of food crops. Fair price shops will operate in that area.

(c)—Yes. Seven irrigation projects are proposed to be taken up during the current year in addition to 49 existing irrigation projects subject to availability of water resources. Further irrigation projects will be taken up as and when necessary.

Demarcation of the boundaries of V.G. Rs. and P.G. Rs.

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA (Gohpur) asked :

360. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government think it is necessary to demarcate the boundaries of V. G. Rs. and P.G. Rs., with permanent concrete pillars for their future security and stability ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that for non-demarcation of boundaries of these V. G. Rs. and P.G. Rs. the encroachers get an opportunity to enter into and settle in these reserves ?

(c) If the reply is in the affirmative whether Government propose to demarcate them and minimise the innumerable eviction operation cases ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

360. (a) & (b)—Encroachments in the P. G. Rs. and V.G. Rs. are mostly intentional and therefore cannot be checked by erection of permanent concrete boundary pillars alone. Government are considering other possible means where necessary for preventing encroachment.

(c)—Government feel the necessity of demarcation.

Lower Primary Teachers of the State

Dr. SHRI HARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the Lower Primary teachers of the State do not enjoy either pension or gratuity after their retirement ?
- (b) If so, whether the Government propose to consider the matter so that the Lower Primary teachers may also enjoy either pension or gratuity after retirement ?
- (c) Whether Government are taking any step to increase the age limit for persons in service up to 60 years instead of 55 years ?
- (d) If so, since when it will come into force ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

361. (a)—These teachers are not entitled to any pension or gratuity after retirement but are entitled to the benefit of Contributory Provident Fund. Teachers not getting the above benefit for the entire period of service are also entitled to some gratuity in addition.

(b)—No such proposal at the moment.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Condition of P.W.D. Roads within Barpeta Road

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the P. W. D. roads within Barpeta Road are full of mud and that they are very unhygienic ?
- (b) If so, whether they will be improved before the next rainy season ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.) replied :

362. (a)—The Roads are black-topped once. Only the side berms get muddy during rains due to heavy cart traffic.

(b)—Actions are being taken to improve the side berms before the next rains.

Kamakhya Temple Road

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

363. Will the Minister-in-charge of (P. W. D.) be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total amount spent in for the Kamakhya Temple Road ?

(b) What is the time for completion of the Road ?

(c) What is the amount spent for this purpose from provision under Article 275 of the Constitution ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.) replied :

363. (a)—An amount of Rs.5,06,298 has been spent up to January, 1958 out of an estimated cost of Rs.7,68,000.

(b)—The road is expected to be completed during 1958-59.

(c)—The entire amount of Rs.7,68,000 is to be spent out of the grant under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme outside the Second Five Year Plan programme.

Loan Applications from Artisans of Nalbari Circle

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY asked:

364. Will the Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of loan applications received from the Artisans of Nalbari Circle during 1957-58 on personal security within Rs.1,000 each ?
- (b) The number of such loan applications enquired into ?
- (c) The number of such loan applications for which sanctions have been given ?
- (d) The number of such loan applications sanctioned and disbursed ?
- (e) The number of such loan applications which have been rejected ?
- (f) The number of such loan application pending for issue ?
- (g) Whether the petitioners have been intimated of the result of their applications ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving) replied :

364. (a)—98 numbers up to middle of February, 1958.

(b)—19 numbers.

(c)—9 numbers.

(d)—3 numbers.

(e)—1 (one) number.

(f)—94 numbers.

(g)—Yes, for the cases for which loans have been sanctioned or rejected.

Uprooted families in Dibrugarh, Lahoal, Rohmoriam, Bogdung, Rangagara, Hapjan, and Saikhowa Mauzas due to flood and erosion.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

365. Will the Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of families, Mauza by Mauza, uprooted in Dibrugarh, Lahoal, Rohmoriam, Bogdung, Rangagara, Hapjan and Saikhowa Mauzas due to flood and erosion subsequent to the great Earthquake of 1950 in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) How many families have been rehabilitated by the Government (number of families Mauza by Mauza to be given) ?

(c) How many uprooted families in each Mauza are still to be rehabilitated ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that a number of families have been reduced to beggars due to non-rehabilitation on sound economic footing ?

(e) Whether Government are aware of the popular feeling that due to lack of adequate step taken by the local officers the question of rehabilitation to such families has been lingering ?

(f) Whether Government propose to complete rehabilitation of all the uprooted families as soon as possible by giving top priority in this task ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

365. (a)—

1. Dibrugarh Town Mauza	...	1,000 families.
2. Lahoal Mauza	... ..	} 2,000 families.
3. Rohmoriam Mauza	... ..
4. Bogdung Mauza	... ..

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 5. Rangagara Mauza | ... | ... | 70 families. |
| 6. Hapjan Mauza | ... | ... | 67 families. |
| 7. Saikhowa Mauza | ... | ... | 1,207 families. |

(b)—

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| 1. Dibrugarh Town Mauza... | ... | 724 families. |
| 2. Lahoal Mauza | ... .. | } 853 families. |
| 3. Rohmorla Mauza... | ... .. |  |
| 4. Bogdung Mauza | ... .. |  |
| 5. Rangagara Mauza | ... .. | 32 families. |
| 6. Hapjan Mauza | ... .. | 32 families. |
| 7. Saikhowa Mauza | ... .. | 745 families. |

(c)—

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 1. Dibrugarh Town Mauza | ... | 276 families. |
| 2. Lahoal Mauza | ... .. | } 1,142 families. |
| 3. Rohmorla Mauza... | ... .. |  |
| 4. Bogdung Mauza | ... .. |  |
| 5. Rangagara Mauza | ... .. | 38 families. |
| 6. Hapjan Mauza | ... .. | 35 families. |
| 7. Saikhowa Mauza... | ... .. | 462 families. |

(d)—Government have no such information.

(e)—Government are not aware.

(f)—Yes.

'Mara Harang' in the Barkhola Thana of Silchar Sub-division

Shri TAJAMUL ALI BARLASKER (Udarband) asked:

366. Will the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any public representation has been received by the Government requesting to open the 'Mara Harang' in the Barkhola Thana of Silchar Subdivision ?

(b) Whether the Government are aware that the crops of that area are being destroyed every year for want of an outlet of water ?

(c) If so, what action has been taken on it ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY, (Minister-in-charge of Flood Control, etc.) replied :

366.—(a) Yes.

(b) There is some damages due to local water-logging.

(c) This scheme was included in the original Flood Control Programme of the Second Five Year Plan and the necessary survey works for the same are also in progress but due to pruning of the plan ceiling from Rs.8 crores to Rs 7 crores under this Programme, this Scheme had to be omitted from the revised programme in view of its relatively lower priority.

Namdang Bridge on the Margherita-Ledo Road

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware of the sufferings of the public due to disorder of the Namdang Bridge on the Margherita-Ledo Road which is said to be National Highway for the last two years ?

- (b) If so, what action is taken by the Government to mitigate the public sufferings ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that this is the only road connecting Ledo and Tirap with the rest of Assam ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to construct a temporary wooden-bridge till pucca-bridge is constructed ?
- (e) If so, will Government complete the construction of a temporary wooden-bridge before the coming rainy season ?
- (f) If not, what is the alternative ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.)
replied :

367. (a)—No complaints have been received from public but Government appreciate that due to the collapse of the Namdang Bridge on National Highway by floods of July, 1956 certain inconveniences might have been felt by the public.

(b)—A marboat has been provided to facilitate crossing during the rains. The river being fordable during winter, a subway is maintained during the dry months.

(c)—Yes.

(d) & (e)—There is no proposal to construct a temporary wooden-bridge at the moment.

The matter has been taken up with the Government of India to reconstruct the permanent bridge and work will be taken up as soon as the funds are provided by India for the purpose.

(f)—Please refer to reply to (b) above.

Widening of the Bhogdoi Bridge at Jorhat

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

- (a) What steps Government have taken so far in implementing the Resolution passed in the last Budget Session of this House regarding widening of the Bhogdoi Bridge at Jorhat with the help of Government of India ?

(b) When the bridge can be expected to improve ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department) replied :

368. (a) & (b)—Government of India have been moved in the matter and their decision is awaited. The work will be taken up as soon as project is approved and funds are provided by them.

Erosion of Bhogdoi on both banks within the Municipal limits of Jorhat Town.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH (Teok) asked :

369. Will the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware of erosion of the Bhogdoi on both banks within the Municipal limits of Jorhat Town ?
- (b) If so, what steps have been taken to stop erosion as the Bhogdoi is becoming the sword of Democles to the citizens of Jorhat ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the present Bund along the Bhogdoi river in the Municipal limits of Jorhat Town is quite unsafe ?
- (d) If so, whether Government realise that a breach in the Bund will cause inestimable loss to the citizens of Jorhat Town residing in both sides of the river ?
- (e) If so, whether Government propose to erect immediately stone protection work like that of Dibrugarh ?
- (f) Whether there are any public demands to protect both the banks from erosion ?
- (g) If so, what steps are contemplated to be taken ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY, (Minister, Flood Control and Irrigation Wing, Public Works Department) replied :

369. (a)—Yes, in some small stretches the firm bank of the berms have been damaged to some extent mostly due to constant use by the people of the locality for the purpose of washing and drawing water from the river and some cases due to slight erosion by the river itself.

(b)—Government do not think that any anti-erosion measure other than temporary protection work as usually carried out is called for at this stage. However, the situation is under watch.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—No.

(f)—A few applications from the public have been received to put bamboo spurs at some points.

(g)—Temporary protection works in the form of bamboo spurs palisading, etc., will continue to be carried out at the required points as and when found necessary in the light of actual situation during flood time.

Pakonia-Pohumara Road

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

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

(a) When the construction of Pakonia-Pohumara road was started and what is the progress up till now ?

(b) What is the length of the road ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) replied :

370. (a)—Section I (First 10 miles) in December, 1954 and Section II (the next 2 miles) in March, 1956.

All works have been completed in both the Sections except for gravelling the first 10 miles of Section I, which is in progress. There is no provision of gravelling the next 2 miles of Section II.

(b)—The total length of the road is 14 miles upto Pakoniaghat, out of which only 12 miles, as stated above could be taken up according to availability of funds.

Chapakamar-Kahitoma Road

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

371. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Why the Chapakamar-Kahitoma road has not been constructed from Chapakamar ?

(b) If not, why not ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) replied :

371. (a) and (b)—The Chapakamar-Kahitoma road is being constructed from Katajar, which is at a distance of 2 furlongs only from Chapakamar.

The present alignment from Katajar was considered more suitable from the point of stability of the road and also from the point of maintaining the same as an all-weather road.

Storm damaged grants to L. P., M. V. and M. E. Schools in Barpeta Subdivision

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether storm damaged grants to L. P., M. V. and M. E. Schools in Barpeta Subdivision have been granted ?

(b) If not, when they will be distributed ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

372. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Already distributed.

**Number of Trade Unions registered in the State
during 1956-57**

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

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

- (a) The total number of Trade Unions registered in the State during 1956-57 ?
- (b) Whether the Registrar of Trade Unions hold proper inquiry as to the genuineness of the applications before according registration ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that a Union lately de-registered in the District of Lakhimpur for non-submission of annual return has again been registered under a different name ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the General Secretary of the de-registered trade union, Dibrugarh Circle Chah Shramik Sangha, and the newly registered Trade Union, the Plantation and Allied Workers' Union, Dibrugarh, is the same person ?
- (e) If so, why this registration has been allowed ?
- (f) Whether Government are aware of the harmful effects on the trade union movement due to hasty registration of Trade Union ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to take steps for prevention of such hasty registration of Trade Unions in future ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister-in-charge of Labour) replied :

373. (a)—40.

(b)—Yes. Before the union is registered the Registrar ensures that all the requirements of the Indian Trade Unions Act as laid in sections 5 and 6 are complied with. The *bonafide* of each application is thereby assured.

(c)—It is not clear which Union the hon. Member is referring to. If the particular Union mentioned here is the same as mentioned in (d) below, then the reply is in the negative.

(d)—No. The General Secretary of Dibrugarh Chah Shramik Sangha was Shri Bolaram Gogoi and that of the Plantation and Allied Workers' Union Dibrugarh is Shri Nibaran Chandra Bora.

(e)—This does not arise in view of the reply given to (d).

(f) & (g)—No. Government are not hasty. Unions are registered after proper enquiry.

Shifting of the old Government High School of Dibrugarh to the Maternity Ward of old Medical School

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked :

374. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that after the erosion of the river Brahmaputra the old Government High School of Dibrugarh has been shifted to the Maternity Ward of old Medical School ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that teaching of the students of the said School is being hampered due to open hall and congested area ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that there is District Sub-Judge Court and School Board Office in the same School building ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that few classes of the said School are not being regularly held due to lack of suitable sitting accommodation ?
- (e) Whether Government has taken any action in the matter of construction of High School buildings and if so, what ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to take immediate steps to provide suitable accommodation to the classes and make other necessary arrangement until the new school building is constructed ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Education) replied :

374. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The accommodation is not sufficient for the School.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No, classes are being held regularly by shift arrangements.

(e) & (f)—Action is being taken to improve the building and the compound. There is an alternative proposal for location of the School in Jalannagar.

Moderkhat Samabay Sipini Sangha

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

375. Will the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is a Cottage Industries Institution by the name and style as Moderkhat Samabay Sipini Sangha duly registered in 1952 or 1953 ?

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that this Society consists of 33 members and is in possession of 7 looms but without a house of its own ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that it is the only Institution of this type in Moderkhat Mouza ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that this Society submitted representation to the former Chief Minister at Dibrugarh in the first part of the previous year requesting a grant of Rs. 10,000 from the Government ?

(e) Whether Government have sanctioned a grant for the purpose of a building ?

(f) If so, what is the amount ?

(g) If not, whether Government propose to sanction a grant within this financial year ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries) replied :

375. (a)—Yes. The said Sangha was registered on 19th May 1954 under Section XI of the Assam Co-operative Societies Act, 1949 (Act I of 1950).

(b)—The number of members and looms are as follows :—

Member—34 ; but 15 of them have not yet contributed anything towards their share money.

Fly Looms.....6

Country Looms.....33

It has no house of its own.

(c)—There is another institution under the name of Phulampur Mahila Samabai Samity, Limited.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—No. The institution is not properly functioning and no grant can be sanctioned to it unless it functions properly. The Society was granted Rs.375 as loan for share capital and Rs. 1,000 as loans for working capital from Handloom Board Fund. On inspection it was found that accounts were not properly kept.

Employees in the Managerial Cadres of Tea Gardens in Assam

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

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

(a)—What is the number of Assamese, Europeans and other people employed in the Managerial Cadres of the tea gardens in Assam ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that the tea gardens prefer Doon Schooled persons than others and if so, what is the reason for such preference ?

(c) Whether Government are aware of the basis on which the recruitment to these categories is done ?

(a) If so, what is that basis ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

376 (a)—256 Indians and 669 non-Indians were employed in associate gardens of I. T. A., on 1st January 1958.

(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—According to the Employers' Associations, appointments are made on merit and suitability with reference to School and College records, family back-ground, character and apparent suitability for tea garden life. Experience in plantation works as well as administrative ability is also taken into account in case of senior appointments.

Construction of an embankment on the right bank of Beki River

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

377. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to construct an embankment on the right bank of the Beki River ?

(b) If so, when ?

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

377. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Changing the course of the Hakua and Naljora rivers

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

378. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government propose to change the courses of the Hakua and Naljora rivers towards the West in the Kahitoma Forest Reserve ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware of the possible danger of Kherijan Bijni Mouza of Barpeta Sub-division being damaged if the courses of such rivers are not changed ?
- (c) If so, when the work will be started ?

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

378. (a)—No.

(b)—The measures that will be necessary to check the damaging actions of these rivers on the land, crops and other properties of the Kherijan Bijni Mouza will be known only on completion of investigation which is being taken up.

(c)—The implementation of any scheme that may be determined after investigation for protection of the area will depend upon its priority and availability of fund.

Construction of Dong and Embankment from the Kumbhira River

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

379. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Government propose to construct Dong and Embankment from the Kumbhira River towards East in Bijni Mouza of Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) If so, when ?

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

379. (a)—There is no such proposal.

(b)—Does not arise.

Training of Hakua and Naljora rivers in Barpeta Subdivision

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

380. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government propose to train the Hakua and Naljora rivers in Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) If so, when ?

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

380 (a)—There is no such proposal.

(b)—Does not arise.

Embankments on both banks of the river of Puthimari

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

381. Will the Public Works Department Minister (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) Why embankments on both banks of the river Puthimari were constructed upstream from Tangla Railway Bridge to Puthimari Railway Bridge and downstream of the river beyond Hajo leaving the middle portion of the river open and unprotected ?

- (b) Whether Government is aware that unprecedented flood occurred in the unprotected area of the river Puthimari in Kamalpur and Hajo Thanas which kept the banks flooded for 23 days continuously and washed away the harvestable Ahu crop and Sali seedlings ?
- (c) What steps the Government has taken to repair the breaches of the embankment in the upper portion of the river which were damaged last year ?
- (d) What steps have been taken by Government to protect the portions of the embankment in Hahara Lechakona, Dipteswari, etc., which were threatened with breaches last year ?
- (e) Why the Government has not yet taken up the construction of the embankment of the river Puthimari in its down portion beyond the N. T. Road though the scheme was notified and a sum of Rs.26 lakhs has been earmarked for the purpose ?
- (f) Whether the above work will be taken up this year ?
- (g) If not, whether Government propose to reopen the Bund at Gandhibari Jan which was blocked in spite of great opposition of the people of this area ?
- (h) What steps Government propose to take to protect the people from the flood in the down portion of the river Puthimari which has been left open in the middle while embankments have been completed in the upstreams and in further downstreams ?

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

381. (a)—Embankments in the upstream from Tangla Railway Bridge to Puthimari Railway Bridge were constructed first as the flood havoc in the river basin commanded by this portion of the river used to be relatively of higher magnitude. The

downstream embankments have been constructed to act as guide bunds butting against the Brahmaputra Dyke to prevent the Brahmaputra flood entering into the areas protected by the Brahmaputra Dyke by flowing back through Puthimari and spilling over its banks. In view of its relatively lower priority the embankments for the middle portion where the flood problems were of relatively lesser magnitude could not find place in the First Five Year Plan under which the other portions were undertaken.

(b)—Floods in the Puthimari river during the last year were relatively high, and as a result the area unprotected by embankments was subjected to sustained flooding.

(c)—All the breaches in the embankments have since been closed.

(d)—The Department have already taken up to strengthen and raise the whole lengths of the embankment.

(e)—The construction of the embankments could not be taken up as the formalities required after notifying the scheme under the provision of the Assam Embankment and Drainage Act, 1953 have not yet been completed, and the detailed estimate could be completed recently for obtaining Government of India's approval for loan assistance.

(f)—As it will take sometime more to complete all formalities under the Assam Embankment and Drainage Act, 1953 and to obtain Government of India's approval for loan assistance there is no likelihood of taking up actual execution of the schemes this working season.

(g)—No. The Gandhibari Jan which was a spill channel of Puthimari was closed to avert the danger of short circuiting Puthimari River into the Baralia River.

(h)—Embankments in this portion will be constructed as soon as circumstances permit after completing the formalities under the Assam Embankment and Drainage Act, 1953 and in obtaining Government of India's approval to loan assistance.

**Irrigation of the Marnai alias Punai Nadi from
Barnadi in Patidarang Mouza to Madankuri**

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

382. Will the Public Works Department Minister (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) What steps the Government has taken to irrigate the Marnai *alias* Punai Nadi from Barnadi in Patidarang Mouza to Madankuri through the Karara, Barbansar and Madartola Mouzas of the Kamalpur Thana as prayed for by the public ?

(b) Whether any enquiry has been made in this respect ?

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

382. (a) and (b)—The Department will shortly take up detailed investigation of Sukla Irrigation Scheme which has been found after preliminary investigation to fall under the category of Medium Irrigation Scheme. This Scheme when implemented is likely to mitigate the problem of the area in question.

**Maintenance of the Bund on the Darika River
by Sibsagar Local Board**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

383. Will the Minister-in-charge of Embankment and Drainage be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that there was a 'Bund' about one mile in length on the north bank of Darika River between "Dhai Ali" and Desangmukh road in Konwarpore Mauza maintained by Sibsagar Local Board ?

(b) Whether Government is aware or received report to the effect that Sibsagar Local Board was not in a position to take adequate steps to avert flood over this 'Bund' since last 3 years ?

- (c) Whether it is a fact that since last 3 years the flood water over that 'Bund' have been affecting 10 or 12 villages in Konwarpore Mauza of Sibsagar Subdivision such as Kathpar No.1, Kathpar No.2, Kukurapohia, Baroiting Banmukh Chutia, Dihingia Gaon, Gohain Gaon, Pator Gaon, Chetia Gaon and others ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that N. E. S. Block or Community Development Block has been functioning in that area since the last 3 years or more but the schemes of that Block was not adequate to avert flood over that Bund which was less than a mile in length ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that flood in that area in question did not subside up to the month of September ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to bring this Bund (Bund from 'Dhai Ali' to Desangmukh on the North Bank of Dorika River) under the control of the Embankment and Drainage Wings of Public Works Department with immediate effect ?
- (g) If so, when we expect commencement of actual work there ?
- (h) If not, why Government did not consider favourably various representations from the public of that locality to save them from regular flood ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, Embankment and Drainage) replied :

383. (a)—There is a bridle-path 1.5 miles in length along the right bank of Darika River from Public Works Department Dhai Ali to Public Works Department Desangmukh Road maintained by the Sibsagar Local Board.

(b)—Overtopping of the bridle-path by flood water during the last three years was not averted by the Local Board.

(c)—During the last three years the bridle-path was breached in several places by the floods in the river and as a result flood water entering through the breaches reached some of the villages of the Kowarpore Mauza.

(d)—Dimow Block was started as N. E. S. Block in 1953 and was converted into C. D. Block from 1st April 1955 and will continue as such till 1st April 1958. No work has been done by the Dimow C. D. Block on the bridle-path to prevent overtopping of the same by floods.

(e)—There is no such information.

(f)—No.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—The Flood Control Plan of the Embankment and Drainage Department generally does not envisage undertaking construction of dykes in small stretches in sporadic places or converting isolated roads and paths in small lengths into flood embankments.

Motion for allocation of time for voting on Demand for Grants

Mr. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over now.

Mr. Barua will now move his motion.

I am reading the relevant rule in this connection.

The rule is:

“23. As soon as may be after the report has been made to the House, a motion may be moved by a member of the Committee designated by the Speaker: ‘that this Assembly agrees with the allocation of time proposed by the Committee in regard to such and such Bill or Bills or other Government business,’ and if such a motion is accepted by the House, it shall take effect as if it were an Order of the House:

Provided that an amendment may be moved that the report be referred back to the Committee either without limitation or with reference to any particular matter:

Provided further that not more than half an hour shall be allotted for the discussion of the motion and no member shall speak for more than five minutes on such motion.”

This is in respect of the report of the Business Advisory Committee which has been circulated to the Members. The purpose of the rule is very simple. The House is the master of its procedure in terms of these rules. Therefore, I have asked Mr. Barua, to move his motion.

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Deputy Speaker) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly agrees with the allocation of time proposed by the Business Advisory Committee in regard to the Voting on Demands for Grants for 1958-59.

The time table showing the dates and time allotted for Voting on Demands for Grants for 1958-59 has been laid on the table of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : It has been circulated also.

The question is that this Assembly agrees, with the allocation of time proposed by the Business Advisory Committee in regard to the voting on Demands for Grants for 1958-59.

(The motion was adopted.)

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

Motion regarding situation created by sharp rise in prices and short supply of food grains, etc.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We shall now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Nilmoney Barthakur on the 13th March, 1958.

Rev. Nichols-Roy will resume his speech.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when this motion was moved I spoke quite a little about the condition of price in this district of mine. Now, I want to add a few more observations in regard to this. The high prices in my district are due to the following facts :

The closure of border markets. Things do not come any more from East Pakistan. Formerly certain things used to come to this district from Pakistan through border markets. There were about 20 border markets and all these were closed since 15th December last. Therefore, the prices of things have gone up very high. Then there is another reason why prices of goods are higher in Khasi and Jaintia Hills than what they should have been, and that is the monopoly of goods traffic on the Gauhati--Shillong road. The freight per maund is Re.1-4-0 ; if there was no monopoly on this road the freight rate would have been much less, perhaps

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BY SHARP RISE IN PRICES AND SHORT
SUPPLY OF FOOD GRAINS, ETC.

10 annas or so. It is a common complaint that monopoly is not desirable at all for the sake of prices in the whole of this district in former years, Sir, this district used to get things from Sylhet also and, therefore, the freight charges from Gouhati to Shillong did not affect the whole district or all its population. But since that Pakistan side is closed now, all things coming from outside have to come through Gauhati to Shillong and from Shillong they are distributed to the other areas of the district. These are the two main causes for these high prices here. We also know that prices in general have gone up throughout the whole of Assam and this matter will have to be studied by Government with a view to see how they can be brought down.

So far as this district is concerned, Sir, we are suffering not only from the high prices of things coming from outside, but we are suffering also from the low prices of things which are produced here. Some of the products of this district do not get any market at all; for example, it is very difficult to get any market for Pan leaves now; the price of Pan leaves as a consequence has gone down very low. Similarly, the price of *tezpata* has also gone down very low. Then oranges; many lakhs of oranges—about 65 lakhs of them in the Balat area have dropped and have rotted on the ground because they do not get any profitable market. This is the state of affairs in this district.

Now, Sir, I want to make some suggestions how matters can be improved in future. Government should make a very serious study of the problem. I am making a few suggestions. There is urgent need of surveying the flat lands which are inside this district and fit for cultivation. All the flat lands, where they may be on the boarder of Pakistan, should be reclaimed for cultivation. Then there is necessity of helping the people to cultivate the flat land by providing them finance and also by giving them cattle.

Then, Sir, there is a necessity for irrigation also which should be done very quickly. Irrigation should be made in such a way that where there is possibility of terrace-cultivation, water should be stored on high level so that the terrace cultivation on the slope of a hill may be watered. That is very important. If this is undertaken, cultivation in the hill slopes can be done.

Then, Sir, there is the need for producing fish. In the Khasi and Jaintia Hills we have entirely to depend on the fish imported from Pakistan but the price is soaring so high that it is becoming difficult for the poor people to purchase it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are to discuss about food grains.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : The motion is to discuss the critical situation created by the sharp rise in prices and short supply of food grains in the State. I am speaking here about the sharp rise in prices of fish, which has a relation with this. I understand it covers the prices of not only of food grains but also of other commodities of food. Of course, if you do not allow me I shall not speak on this.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may go on.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Sir, the sharp rise of things affects the citizens in all spheres of life. Fish is an essential item of food and its price is sharply going up and as we get fish now from the streams of our district, and from the Brahmaputra and that is very little. The Government should take up schemes not only in my district but in the whole of Assam for production of fish so that the price of fish comes down. For this purpose of growing fish in this district, we should make ponds and small lakes and utilise the ravines by making them fit for fish culture and in this the Fishery Department should help so that we may not have to depend on the fish of Pakistan.

Another thing is this that the people who have left the border areas and have come to Nongpoh area, they are not getting employment. Every able bodied man should be utilised for growing more food crop in this district. There should be a plan of the Government so that every capable man should be utilised for cultivation of food crops and to take up for cultivation of food crops any forest land or unutilised land for growing food crops either by individuals or on co-operative basis. Government should give financial help to people who own land but for want of money they cannot grow food crops.

Lastly, Sir, it is important to abolish the monopoly of the freight traffic between Gauhati and Shillong. If this is done, the prices of all things will come down atonce in this district.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in a way we have a debate on food almost every year and as a friend of mine, Mr. Harinarayan Barua, said that it has become an eternal feature of the House and that we say almost the same thing. Unfortunately, the food problem has become an eternal problem of our State and therefore, it is necessary to discuss this matter and if possible to throw suggestion so that we can make our food position better in the State.

Sir, the motion as it goes, can be divided into two parts one that relates to the prices and the other that relates to production. So far as prices are concerned it is the immediate problem and we have to do something for stabilisation of prices of food materials and particularly of food grains. In a country like ours it is not only from the point of view of giving cheaper food to the people that this is important but the high prices of food may affect the cost of living and which may affect the whole economy of the country. Therefore, Sir, the price element—the price aspect—has to be very carefully looked into and it is only for that purpose that the Food-Grains Enquiry Committee was appointed and that Committee confined more to the problem of price stabilisation than to the problem of production of more food. But this price structure—price element—has something to do with production also. It is also very good today that the Supply Minister happens to be the Agriculture Minister as these two departments are interlinked so also the price is interlinked with production. Although we may succeed in devising a machinery for stabilisation of prices, no machinery of this nature can be useful to get rid of the malady unless production is increased. Therefore, these are very much co-related and inter-related and in a way it is good that the Agriculture Minister has become the Minister of Supply. Now, the demand for food is always increasing and this will be increasing so long our population increases. Now, there is a tendency recently cropped up that the demand is increasing because there is the growth of population than for lack of production. As a matter of fact, a mouth is born with two hands also, therefore, it is wrong to blame only the increase of population so long we do not engage the two hands. Today the high-tening tempo of development activities and the consequent increase in the purchasing power of the people in certain sectors have increased the demand even more; on the other-hand, production, more particularly market surplus, has not kept this tempo because so far as production is concerned we have to depend on the whims of nature.

Now, if we take into account the food position last year, I mean the production of food last year, nature is mostly to be blamed because we find that there was drought in certain areas and also certain areas were affected by flood. This year also up till now the position is not very hopeful. I have received reports from various places that due to the failure of rains, the peasantry has become very hopeless and if this situation continues, it is quite possible that our food position may deteriorate further. Then also along with production is the problem of the suppliers and dealers in the market who cause unnatural fluctuation in the market price by either withholding their stocks or releasing them basing their action expectation of future rise or fall in prices of food-grains. Therefore, when we speak about short-term problem of stabilising prices we have to deal also with those people, who, by their expectation of the future trend of food prices, try to influence the market position and thereby cause an unnatural rise or fall in prices of food-grains. Now, the remedy of this, as I have stated, is obvious. Firstly, we have to increase production and secondly, we have to devise such mechanism which will keep the flow of supply to the market even. Now, Sir, so far as this State is concerned, it is not that we are doing very badly in the matter of food production. As a matter of fact, we actually increased our food production and during 1953-54, the food problem was a problem of the past. It is also true about the country as a whole. We reached the peak position in food production in 1953-54. Then, because of optimism, we immediately abolished control. How far it was due to economic consideration and how far it was due to political pressure, it is not for me to say now. But thinking back, we find that it would have been better for us to maintain some sort of control over food and perhaps it would have been also wiser not to release the stocks that we collected. If we had kept the stocks with us, perhaps we would have been able to counter the rising prices. But what happened? We thought that if we do not sell the food-grains that we had in our godowns Government would suffer and there would be unnecessary loss. Therefore, even at a price lower than the market price we released our stocks. In a matter like food where the entire people are involved, Government should take the risk so long we are not definitely out of the woods. It is necessary to create buffer stocks and if under any circumstances we suffer loss, nobody will blame the Government. If instead of some criticism of the people, we release our stocks and face a critical situation afterwards, people

cannot be blamed for accusing Government for shortsightedness. Even in our State, we find that the price is also not the same every where. Even to-day there is a wide disparity in the behaviour of food prices. I had been to Gauhati yesterday and I heard from the people that in Boko area the price of Sali had gone up to Rs.15 per maund and of the Ahu to Rs.13 per maund. Then also in the Nalbari area I was told that Sali was sold at Rs.16 per maund and Ahu at Rs. 14 per maund. Now, within Kamrup District when there is so much of disparity in the price behaviour, it is quite possible that within the State as a whole this disparity is greater. We have to find out the reason for this wide disparity in the behaviour of prices in different parts of the State. These disparities also suggest the factors which influence the rise in prices in a developing economy ; as for instance, the volume and pattern of demand, changes in the pattern of food consumption and what matters most, is the responsiveness of production to different schemes which have operated unevenly in different parts of the State. If we want a permanent solution of this problem, we have to look from the practical point of view, *viz.*, why is it that in different parts of the State our schemes of production have yielded different results. The crucial question for any problem is whether and how far the various schemes of agricultural development have been and are likely to be effective in increasing the yield. We cannot discuss in isolation the price of food unless we bring in the question of production. In other words, we have to see how far the various schemes of Agriculture Department have been and are likely to be effective in increasing food production. Now, this problem will lead us to discuss the various schemes of Agriculture Department. I do not propose to go into the various schemes at this moment, but it is important for us to gear up the activities of the Agriculture Department in view of what has been happening and is going to happen next year. Now, Sir, we have got tractors, pumps, and we have got also the Department to supply seeds and manure immediately. So far as the present price structure is concerned, I will come to it later. But so far as the remote problem, production—it is not of course so remote—is concerned, if we have to obviate it, it is necessary for us to be more up and doing. I would therefore suggest that in certain areas of the State where there is no such scarcity of water, pumps should be sent immediately. If full aid is not rendered to the peasantry, these areas will become extremely scarcity areas. Now, in certain areas, *e.g.*, the south bank of Kamrup near the riverine

area, because the whole area was silted by sand for the last three or four years it has not been possible to produce anything there; on the otherhand, it is the opinion of the experts that now after three or four years it will be possible to get good crops from that silted area provided we do something for the supply of water and there are also other area where it is necessary to supply the agriculturists with pumps. In this connection I would request the Agriculture Minister that at least the Government should not be very strict about realisation of the cost, in some cases it is necessary to supply those pumps even without cost or at a very nominal cost. It is necessary that pumps would be supplied to the agriculturists immediately to help them in raising Aus crops or Boro crops whatever that may be, and in that way we will be able to raise more crops. Up till now the pumps are confined to certain areas only and in some areas these pumps could not be supplied in time. Similarly also, Sir, I think the Tractor Organisation of the Government can do a great thing if the tractors are immediately sent to the areas where tractors are urgently required, for instance, say in the reclaimed areas or in the tea areas which have been requisitioned from the Tea Estates. If these tractors may be given as aid to the cultivators, certainly we shall be able to raise more food crops. Then again, Sir, I would request the Government to see that in the matter of granting loans to the agriculturists they should be very prompt. I raised that point the other day and I also said that if we want to come to grip with the food problem and tackle the problem on war footing, it is essentially necessary to help immediately the cultivators who need agricultural loans with the necessary loans and there should be no financial restriction or financial rules to stand in the way. If the agriculturists may get the cattle loans, seed loans, agricultural loans in good time and without much restriction we may be able to come to grip with the food problem, at least for the coming year. Sir, when we study the question of price, we have to study the market surplus. There is a distinction between marketed surplus and marketable surplus. Marketed surplus means, the excess over what the cultivator retains in his home for consumption, payment to his labour and seeds, etc., and marketable surplus may be different in the short period but in the long run they coincide. Therefore, on the market surplus we have to keep our eyes open. If we have to stabilise the prices from time to time, the procurement policy of the Government has to be examined in relation to the market surplus and the question of the prices depends on this market surplus. If there is no even flow of the

market surplus then the price is bound to go up. On the other hand the people may try to bring more market surplus to the markets than there is possibility that the peasantry may sell what is necessary even for his own consumption and this may cause artificial scarcity of food grains, therefore, on this point we should be very cautious that we do not adopt a policy of destituting the peasant. Therefore, in formulating the procurement policy, it is desirable that Government should tell the people that if they bring every thing to the market for making the procurement successful, Government will take the responsibility of feeding the people and will not allow anybody to die of starvation. So long we can't take up that responsibility and at present we cannot, we have to retain the normal market and rely on the normal price structure. The procurement policy has to be devised in this way. I do not know whether in one or two years the food production may be improved so as to make the State self-sufficient but what is wanted immediately is to establish a fair price structure. In this connection we would say that we very often misunderstand the significance of fair price shops. The fair price shops are not ration shops. Ration shops are necessary only when we want to take the responsibility of supplying every house with food but when there is imbalance in the food situation that fair price shops are started so as to bring down the price structure of food stuffs and it is on this particular point that I am just now hammering. It is not a problem of opening ration shops, but it is a question of bringing about stabilisation in the market price and that can be done by a large number of fair price shops, not for all the time but at a time when the prices show a tendency to rise up. Looking from that point of view, we find that we have not been able to open as many fair price shops as are necessary. I admit of course that in our State there are certain pockets where it is not a question of opening fair price shops, but of introducing a rigid system of rationing there. I need not name the places. There are areas in Kamrup and in other districts also where there are areas where food-grains have become extremely scarce, where it is not possible with the present purchasing power of the people to purchase food-grains at the prevailing prices now; therefore, we should take rationing in those areas but such rationing cannot at the moment be very big. As a matter of fact in formulating the food policy we may not solely depend on rationing system but at the same time we should concern more and more on building up our food stock. What the

Mehta Committee appropriately called that Food-Grains Stabilisation Organisation is for the purpose of building a buffer stock.

Now, Sir, coming to the problem of procurement it was said yesterday that about 10 lakhs maunds be procured. In this connection I would like to say that I had a discussion yesterday at Gauhati with some officials and they told me that the target at Gauhati was for 2 lakhs maunds and so far they have already procured more than 12 lakhs maunds. In Darang also we have procured enough. So in those areas it may be possible to have a larger amount of procurement, and therefore, Government should consider that problem also. Because we started late, because our machinery was not complete the procurement has not been as hopeful as it ought to have been. In the Government communique, we find the target was fixed at 10 lakhs maunds, but up till now only we have been able to build up a stock of 6 lakhs maunds, and during these months, May, June and July, it will not be possible to have much of procurement. We have to re-allocate our target. Secondly, I would also request the Government not to be very sacrosanct about the price to be fixed. We have always to keep our hand on the pulse of the market. It is necessary to make a corresponding revision of the prices fixed for procurement and as a matter of fact in the past our procurement very often failed as there was no corresponding adjustments in the prices. That corresponding adjustments have to be made. I am aware of the risk involved. If we go on changing our prices there will be a tendency on the part of those who deal in paddy or the actual growers to hold up the stock in expectation of better price afterwards; yet it is necessary. Without coming into that conflict it is possible also to have a revision of prices. I would ask the Government to do so. So far as the food problem is concerned again I say that the crux of the problem is in the production itself. We may skip over the temporary difficulties by a buffer stock, by a price stabilisation policy, but in the long run it is the production that will solve the problem. Therefore, we have to devise our agricultural production in such a way that we may be able to have better production and in the next year we may not have to discuss the food problem, the eternal problem of our State.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):**
 Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are very grateful to the hon. Member who has raised this very important debate and the important suggestions that have been made by the hon. Members. I

have no doubt that it will be of great use to the Government and also to the people. But, Sir, as a matter of fact our replies to the debate will be given by my Colleague, the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture, when he will try to place before the House as much of information as may be possible. It has become necessary for me to intervene in this debate only on account of certain remarks made by the hon. Member from Gauhati, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, the other day, I suppose on the 13th March. I feel, Sir, that on account of those observations made by the hon. Member, I owe an explanation to the House, in fairness to me as well as to the august House. Sir, in course of his speech that day, the hon. Member was pleased to refer to two matters in which he made a reference about me. While discussing about the high prices of sugar, the hon. Member accused me saying—“Are not these people responsible, are not these people from whom you raised donation for the Congress, responsible for the high price of sugar?” Sir, I feel very proud to call myself as an humble worker of the Congress. If we go to the history of the Congress, it is seen, it has been the practice of the Congress from its inception, to raise donations. We may remember about the big contributions that were made by the Tata at the beginning of the movement and by Bazaz, the name of the fund was known as Bazaz Fund at the beginning. We consider them to be patriot, and as a matter of fact, their contribution for the achievement of independence is not small. This practice of raising donations for the Congress is continuing. We raise donation from the rich as well as from the poor while we raise more money from the rich. We do it without any sense of guilt for various purpose, and here I am very sorry to hear if any of the persons are involved in raising the price of sugar from whom we raised the donation. But, Sir, assuming that some of them may be responsible for this I do not see how the hon. Member can blame us for that?

About me he said—“The Chief Minister is a good man but a man is known by the company he keeps”. Can I ask the hon. Member from Gauhati, who is not unfortunately in the House, in course of his professional work, he has to come in contact with a large number of people, may be some of them are accused of serious offences, can I apply the same remarks about him, which he has made against me in this respect? He has to come, as a professional man, in course of his profession, in contact with murderers, thieves, dacoits and

what not. Will it be correct for me to say that they are the companions of the hon. Member, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya? Sir, I have seen a marked fall in the standard of the debate, so far as his speech in connection with the Governor's address is concerned, which we appreciated very much and which I still appreciate. But this speech has disappointed me. The other day he said that we are not depending on the assistance of the people and that we are depending on the donations. Sir, we do not want assistance of the foreign countries. Therefore, we raised donations and we shall continue to raise donations for the Congress.

The hon. Member was pleased also to make certain observation about disposal of land by me. I have understood his remark with all its implications and the insinuation that is within the remark. Sir, this is not a new propaganda against me. I found in the course of my election in Badarpur constituency that one hon. Member ran down to Badarpur and made certain propaganda that I disposed land in order to avoid the Land Ceiling Act. I am very sorry, Sir, that I cannot have any respect for those hon. Members who have no respect for truth. For the information of the House, I would like to say that I own a small tea garden and I belong to a joint family. The joint family owns the tea garden which produces 550 maunds of tea per year like some other small tea gardens. After the Plantation Labour Act came into operation, the obligations in respect of housing, water supply and other things have considerably increased. In order to meet those obligations finances are necessary after declaration of the new taxation policy and after our country has adopted the socialist pattern of society, the surplus that remains for the individuals naturally has declined. We are very glad for it. But we are anxious to meet our obligations for the tea industry. Therefore, some ways had to be found for the investment that is necessary to meet the obligations under the Labour Welfare measures. For that purpose we have converted certain of our land asset for other purposes. Therefore, we sold some land, and that, Sir, I repeat again I sold without any sense of guilt and perhaps I would have sold more land without any sense of guilt, if required.

Now, what is that insinuation that the hon. Member made here on the floor of the House? I am very sorry for the insinuation which he made. Had he been clear about the insinuation within the remark that he had made then I would have

pointed that there is a man who has his moral courage to demonstrate in this House about something wrong that he has spoken. But, Sir, I am sorry, his insinuation within this remark which he made that lands were disposed of just to avoid the Land Ceiling Act is of very mean nature. I can tell you, Sir, in this House that I am not mean and that I am above meanness.

Thanking you, Sir.

Mr. MAHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : উপাধ্যক্ষ

মহোদয়, খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে যি আলোচনা হৈছে তাত মই দুআধাৰ মান কৰ খুজিছো। আজি আমাৰ দেশত যি খাদ্য সমস্যাব কথা উঠিছে যি বিশেষকৈ দ্বিতীয় মহাযুদ্ধৰ পিচব পৰাই প্ৰৱলভাবে প্ৰকাশ পাইছে। ইয়াৰ আগতে এই খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহে বেচি চিন্তা কৰা নাছিল। আজি আমাৰ দেশত যি খাদ্য পৰিস্থিতিৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈছে তাৰ বাবে আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহো কম পৰিমাণে দায়ী নহয়। আমাৰ দেশত যেতিয়া নানা বৰুৱাৰ ব্যৱসায় বাণিজ্য বা সৰু-বৰ শিল্পৰ কথা উঠিছে তেতিয়া সবহভাগ মানুহৰ মন সেই ফালে ঢাল খাইছে আৰু খেতি বাতিলৈ পিঠি দিছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণেই খাদ্য সমস্যাব উৎপন্ন কৰি গৈছে। আমাৰ দেশত যি সময়ত ডাঙৰ সৰু শিল্প বাণিজ্যৰ কথা নাছিল, তেতিয়া খাদ্য সঙ্কটে আমাৰ ইয়াত বেচি আগনি নিদিছিল। কিন্তু আজি আমাৰ দেশত বৃহৎ শিল্পৰ কাম হাতত লোৱাৰ পৰা লাহে লাহে খাদ্য সঙ্কট প্ৰৱল হৈছে। খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে যিমানত আনি বেচি আলোচনা কৰিছো, সিমানত এই সময়ত বেচি জটিল হৈ উঠিছে। যেনেকৈ কোনো বস্তৰ দাম নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবলৈ যোৱাৰ লগে লগে নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ লগত বস্তৰ দাম বৃদ্ধি হৈছে হয়, ঠিক তেনেকৈ খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে আজি যিমানত বেচি আলোচনা কৰো সিমানত এই ক্ষেত্ৰত উপকাৰতকৈ অপকাৰ হৈছে হয়। আজি খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে চৰকাৰে কোনে কাম কৰিব পৰা নাই বুলি বা ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা নাই বুলি বিৰোধী দলৰ কালৰ পৰা যি সমালোচনা হৈছে তাক মই সম্পূৰ্ণ সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো। কাৰণ এই খাদ্য অনাটন সমস্যা সম্পর্কত চৰকাৰ যে সম্পূৰ্ণ সজাগ আছে, সেই কথা মই জানো। চৰকাৰে খাদ্য সমস্যা জটিল হব বুলি ভাবিয়েই যিবিলাক অঞ্চলত সবহ শস্য উৎপন্ন হয়, তাত খাদ্য বস্তু সংগ্ৰহ কৰি বাহি ভৰালৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। এই বাহি ভৰালত (buffer stock) সৰ্বমুঠ ১০ লাখ মোণ ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰাৰ কথা আৰু এই ভৰালৰ কাৰণে এতিয়ালৈকে মই জনাত প্ৰায় ৭ লাখ মোণ ধান সংগ্ৰহ হৈছে।

অথচ আনফালে বাতৰি কাগজত চৰকাৰৰ সংগ্ৰহ কাৰ্য্য (failure) বুলি অপপ্ৰচাৰ হৈছে। এইটো বৰ দুখৰ কথা। কাৰণ এনে প্ৰচাৰে সমাজত আতঙ্কৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে আৰু এই সন্যোগতে লাভখোৰ সকলৰ লাভ কৰাৰ সুযোগ হয়—জনসাধাৰণে কষ্ট ভোগ কৰে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কব পাৰো মোৰ মহকুমা উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰত সংগ্ৰহৰ মোট পৰিমাণ (target) ১ লাখ মোণৰ ঠাইত ৯৯ হাজাৰ মোণ ধান সংগ্ৰহ হৈ জমাই হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে মই এই অপপ্ৰচাৰৰ প্ৰত্যুত্তৰ হিচাপে কওঁ যে, এই খাদ্য অনাটন সঙ্কটৰ ভৱিষ্যত অৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সজাগ। এই খাদ্য অনাটন সমস্যা সম্পর্কত আমাৰ দেশৰ শিক্ষিত সমাজ আৰু আগবঢ়া লোকসকল কম দায়ী নহয়। এই সম্পর্কে মই আগতে উল্লেখ কৰি আহিছো।

আজি আমি সকলোৱে কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ কথা কৈছো। চৰকাৰেও নানান আঁচনি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে—কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ বাবে। প্ৰথম পাচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাখন কৃষি পৰিকল্পনাই আছিল আৰু দ্বিতীয় পাচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাতো কৃষিৰ উন্নতিত অধিক গুৰুত্ব দিয়া হৈছে। কিন্তু এই গুৰুত্ব কেৱল চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰাই দিলেই হবনে? বাইজৰ ফালৰ পৰাও ইয়াত সহযোগীতা দিয়াৰ দৰকাৰ নাইনে? কিন্তু আজি আমাৰ সমাজৰ যিবিলাক জনাশুনা বৃথিক মানহ, তেওঁলোকে খেতি কৰিবলৈ এৰি দিছে। সমাজৰ শিক্ষিত তথা বৃথিক মানুহবোৰে খেতিৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে চাকৰী বিচাৰিছে, নহয় ব্যৱসায়ত লাগিছে। গতিকে কৃষিৰ দায়িত্ব পৰিছে অশিক্ষিত আৰু হোজা মানুহৰ ওপৰত। সেই কাৰণেই কৃষিৰ আজি উন্নতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। আজি আমিও এই সদনত বহুত কথা কৈছো কিন্তু কেইজনে আমি আচলতে খেতি কৰিছো? শিক্ষিত সমাজ বেচি ভাগেই আজি খেতিত মন দিয়া নাই। কৃষি বিভাগৰ যি কেইজন বিষয়া আছে, সেই কেইজনে অকলে কেনেকৈ উন্নতি কৰিব পাৰে।

আজি আমি বাজেটত দেখিছো যে, খাদ্যৰ নিমিত্তে বহুত টকা খৰচ হব ধৰিছে। এই টকা খৰচ কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰ বাধ্য হৈছে। কাৰণ দেশত খাদ্যাভাব হৈয়েই আছে। এই খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পৰ্কে যোৱা বছৰো এই সদনত আলোচন কৰা হৈছিল আৰু এই বছৰো হৈছে। যোৱা বছৰ কেন্দ্ৰৰ পৰা যিমান খাদ্য সাহায্য পোৱা হৈছিল এই বছৰ পোৱাৰ আশা নাই। এই কথা বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীয়ে তেখেতৰ বাজেট বক্তৃতাত কৈছিল যে, এই বছৰত ১৬ হেজাৰ টন খাদ্য পোৱাৰ কথা আছে, কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমান অৱস্থাত এই খিনিও দিব পাৰিবনে নোৱাৰে সন্দেহজনক। তথাপি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কেন্দ্ৰৰ পৰা খাদ্য সাহায্য বঢ়াবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা একান্ত দৰকাৰ।

সিদিনা আমাৰ বাজহ মন্ত্ৰীয়ে তেখেতৰ ভাষণত উল্লেখ কৰিছিল যে, আমাৰ দেশৰ শতকৰা ৮২ জন খেতিয়ক। যিখন দেশৰ শতকৰা ৮২ জন কৃষক সেইখন দেশত খাদ্যাভাৱ হোৱাটো বিশেষকৈ অসমৰ বাবে বৰ লাজৰ কথা। গতিকে আজি এটা আন্দোলন (campaign) চলাবৰ দৰ্কাৰ হৈছে।—“আমাৰ দেশ খাদ্যৰে পৰিপূৰ্ণ কৰিম আৰু দেশৰ খাদ্যাভাৱ দূৰ কৰিম”। আজি চীন দেশে মাটি কম হোৱা স্বত্বেও খাদ্য-শয্য বণ্টনি কৰিছে; কিন্তু আমাৰ দেশত চীনতকৈ খেতিৰ মাটি বেচি হোৱা স্বত্বেও খাদ্যাভাৱ হোৱাটো বৰ দুখৰ কথা। চীন দেশত জনসংখ্যা আমাৰ ডেৰ গুণ; কিন্তু খেতি কৰিব পৰা মাটি চীনত প্ৰায় ২,৭২০ লাখ একৰ আৰু আমাৰ ভাৰতৰ খেতি কৰিব পৰা মাটি প্ৰায় ৩,০২০ লাখ একৰ। ইয়াৰ মূলতে হৈছে, আমাৰ মাটি-নীতি সম্পূৰ্ণ দোষযুক্ত। আজি আমাৰ দেশত এজন মানুহেই বহুত মাটি গোঁটাই থয়। অথচ ভালকৈ খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সেই মাটিত ভালকৈ খেতি কৰিলে আমাৰ অসমত কিজানি খাদ্যাভাৱ কেতিয়াও নহলহেতেন। গতিকে এই ক্ষেত্ৰত বাইজৰ সহযোগ আৱশ্যক আৰু চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰাও সেই সহযোগ দিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়া আৱশ্যক। আজি আমাৰ মাটি-নীতি সংশোধন কৰিব লাগে। এই নীতি দোষযুক্ত হোৱা বাবে এঘৰ মানুহ যাৰ ৪০ বিঘা মাটি আছে তেওঁ ভালকৈ খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। আৰু আৱশ্যকীয় সহায়ো পোৱা নাই। কিন্তু সেই মাটি যদি কেইবা ঘৰবোৰ মাজত ভগাই দিলেহেতেন বা সেই খেতিয়কেই খেতি কৰাৰ সুবিধা দিলেহেতেন তেনেহলে চাৰিগুণ শয্য উৎপন্ন কৰিব পাৰিলেহেতেন। আৰু খাদ্যাভাৱ দূৰ কৰাত সহায় হ’লহেতেন।

কৃষি বিভাগেও কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ হকে নানান আঁচনি লৈছে। কিন্তু ইমাননবাৰ আঁচনি নলৈ যদি সবহভাগ মাটিতো দুটা খেতি ভালকৈ কৰাৰ পাৰিলেহেতেন তেনেহলে দেশৰ বেচি ভাল হ’লহেতেন। বহুত আঁচনি লোৱাৰ ফলত বহুতক্ষেত্ৰত duplication হয়। সেই কাৰণে কৃষি বিভাগে অন্ততঃ দুটা খেতি কৰাত অধিক গুৰুত্ব দিব বুলি আশা কৰিলোঁ।

আজি আমাৰ অসমৰ খিলঞ্জীয়া বাসিন্দা সকলৰ এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা হৈছে যে, নতুন আইয়াৰ আইনকে আদি নতুন মাৰ্চিনীতিৰ আইন বিলাকে খেতিৰ মাটি খেতিয়কৰ হাতলৈ নিব। এই আইন বিলাকৰ ফলত ভবিষ্যতেও আমাৰ অসমীয়া মানুহৰ হাতত মাটি নাইকীয়া হৈ যাব। আজি আমাৰ দেশৰ জনা বুজা মুখিয়াল লোক সকলৰ মাজত নিজৰ মাটিও আনৰ হতুৱাই খেতি কৰাই ভাল মানুহ হোৱাৰ ভাৱ বাঢ়ি আহিছে আৰু আমি এই দৰে লোকৰ ওপৰত ডাঙৰীয়া হৈ থাকোতেই মাটিৰ স্বত্ব হেৰুৱাব লাগিব। এই আইন বিলাকৰ দ্বাৰা আজি আমাৰ খিলঞ্জীয়া অসমীয়াৰ অস্তিত্ব লোপ হোৱাৰ আশঙ্কাই দেখা দিছে। যি অৱস্থা আমাৰ অসমৰ নগৰ বিলাকত হ'ল। আজি আমাৰ অসমৰ নগৰ বিলাকত অসমীয়া লোকৰ মাটি নাই বা থাকিলেও অতি সামান্য। কিন্তু আমি আমাৰ আদৰ্শ অনুযায়ী এই বিলাক আইন বন্ধ কৰিবই লাগিব। সেই কাৰণে আজি অসমীয়া ৰাইজৰ ওচৰত মোৰ নিবেদন যেন এই বিপদৰ কাৰণে আমি সজাগ হওঁ। গতিকে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানকল্পে চৰকাৰে যিবোৰ আঁচনি লৈছে সেইবোৰত ৰাইজক সহযোগ দিয়াৰ সুবিধা দিলে এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাত বহুত সহায় হব আৰু সমস্যাও সমাধান হব।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : For this debate no time limit has been fixed. So, I think it is better to fix the time limit for every hon. Member who wants to participate in this debate. I find several hon. Members who want to speak on this subject. I think this debate can cover the whole day.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) :** Besides this subject there are other items for Private Members' Business.

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) :** I may point out, Sir, that my reply to this debate will take about one and a half hours when it is going to be a full-dressed debate to-day.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the Minister-in-charge will take about one and a half hours then the time for the hon. Members who want to speak this subject may be fixed upto 2-30 P.M. and then the Hon'ble Minister will reply. So, is it the desire of the House to fix the time for the hon. Members up-to 2-30 P.M. and if that is so, then I can fix the time limit for every hon. Member who wants to speak on this subject.

Is it the desire of the House to finish it to-day ?

*Voice :—*Yes, Sir.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had a full-dress debate on this subject and we want that the debate should be conclusive.

For this purpose Government should be given a chance to reply. I would request the Deputy Speaker, to impose a time limit on the speeches and see that repetitions are avoided. In some of the subsequent speeches we find that contrary to rules, there have been repetitions of the same thing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That's true. I think every speaker should have 10 minutes only, so that all the Members who intend to speak, may finish by 2-30 leaving one and half-hours for the Minister to reply. I hope there will also be no repetitions as Mr. Barthakur has pointed out.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ যোৱা বাজেট বক্তৃতাৰ ওপৰত প্ৰায় ৪ দিন আৰু খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ সমালোচনাতো প্ৰায় দুদিন ধৰি সমালোচনা হৈ আছে যে আমি খাদ্য বিষয়তনো কেনেকৈ স্বাৱলম্বী হব পাৰো।

মই বৰ্তমান একে কথাৰে পুনৰুক্তি কৰিবলৈ নিবিচাৰো, যেহেতু এই কথা ইতিপূৰ্বে বহুতো আলোচনা হৈ গৈছে।

আমাৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ পিচৰ পৰা আমাৰ জাতীয় চৰকাৰে উন্নয়নমূলক বহুতো নতুন আঁচনি লৈছে। এই খাদ্য সমস্যা অকল অসমৰে নহয়, ই সৰ্বভাৰতীয় সমস্যা। গতিকে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰেও ইয়াৰ সমাধানৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লৈছে। গোটেই ভাৰতত খাদ্যসমস্যাৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈছে যেতিয়া অসমতো উদ্ভৱ হবই। কিন্তু আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যিবিলাক আঁচনি লৈছে তাৰ দ্বাৰা খাদ্য সমস্যা যে সমাধান হব সেইটো মোৰ বিশ্বাস আছে।

যি হওক, ১৯৩৯-১৯৪০ চনত বৃটিছ ৰাজত্বৰ সময়ত ভাৰতৰ অসংখ্য মানুহৰ খাবলৈ নাপাই প্ৰাণ হানি হৈছিল। সেই ধৰণৰ দুৰ্ভিক্ষ তাৰ পিচত হোৱা নাই। যি হওক, সৰহ শযা উৎপাদন ক্ষেত্ৰত আজি ভাৰত বহুগুণে আগবাঢ়িছে। দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক-পৰিকল্পনাৰ মাত্ৰ দুবছৰ অতিবাহিত হৈছে। আমি আকৌ এই কথা আলোচনা কৰাৰ সময় পাম।

আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ খাদ্যাভাৱৰ এটি কাৰণ আমাৰ প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগবিলাক। যি হওক, এনে ধৰণৰ সমালোচনা যে অকল অসম বিধান সভাতে হৈছে এনে নহয় লোক সভাতে এই আলোচনা হৈছে। আমি দেখিছো আমাৰ বিপক্ষ দলে আমাৰ জাতীয় চৰকাৰে ভাল কামেই কৰক বা বেয়া কামেই কৰক সমালোচনা কৰিবই।

অলপতে লোকসভাত এজন ওক্কাৰ লাল নামৰ এম্, পিয়ে কৈছে যে, "It is a fact that our food policy has proved successful and there has been noticed a reduction in the prices of food. Our apponents has condemned the food policy and have alleged that our food policy has been a failure. This is absolutely wrong." লোক সভাত এই M. P. জনে তেনে ধৰণে মত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। এই বিষয়ে মই আন একো কথা কব নোখোজো।

মই মাত্ৰ সদনত এটা কথা দাঙি ধৰিব খোজা, সেইটোৰ অৱশ্যে আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে উত্তৰ দিছে। মই চমুকৈ অলপ সেই বিষয়ে ক'ম। আমাৰ বিপক্ষ দলে আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীক ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে সমালোচনা কৰিছে। ব্যক্তিগত সমালোচনা চৰকাৰী দলকেইহওক বা বিপক্ষ দলকেই হওক তনোকৈ ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে কাকো সমালোচনা কৰাটো অযুক্তিকৰ কথা। অৱশ্যে ময়ো শিৱসাগৰ আৰু আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ো শিৱসাগৰৰ সেই কাৰণে মই সেইবিলাক কবলৈ ওলাইছো—কিন্তু সকলো স্মৃতিস্তাশীল মানুহেই মই কোৱা মতে কব বুলি ভাবো। অৱশ্যে মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীবিমলা চলিহাৰ এখন চাহ বাগান আছে। তেখেতে কৈছে আৰু ময়ো কও যে, তাতো তেখেতে কোনো অন্যায় কৰা নাই।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How is it relevant to the debate ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, food and Agriculture) : He was as replying to Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It was for Mr. Chaliha, the Chief Minister, to give a personal explanation when thought it necessary, and not for you.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : বাক মই নকওঁ। আমাৰ সবহ শস্য উৎপাদনত অলপ বাধা পৰিছে। কিছুমান বেদখলকাৰী উৎপাতৰ পৰাও চৰকাৰী Grazing Reserve বিলাকৰ পৰা চৰকাৰে উঠাই দিব লগা হৈছে। কিছুমান লোকে আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক তলে তলে উচতাই সেই লোকসকলক বেদখলকাৰী হিচাবে সাব্যস্ত কৰিছে। শিৱসাগৰৰ জেৰেঙা পথাৰত চৰকাৰে-২ হেজাৰ মান বিষা মাটি খুলি ব্যৱস্থা কৰি আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক বিতৰণ কৰি সবহ শস্য উৎপাদন কৰাব দিহা কৰিছে। কিন্তু মই এই বিলাক আচনি কিছুমান বাতি দিনে মানুহক উচতাই ব্যৰ্থ কৰাৰ কোনো অৰ্থ নাই।

গতিকে মই ভাবো যে, যিবিলাক চৰকাৰী মাটি আছে সেই বিলাক মাটি মানুহক দিব লাগে আৰু যিবিলাক গ্ৰেজিং বিজাৰ্ড বা V.G.R. আৰু P.G.R. আছে সেই বিলাক মাটি পঞ্চায়তৰ মত ১ দিন লাগে। কিন্তু বেদখল কৰিবৰ কেতিয়াও প্ৰশ্ন দিব নালাগে। কঠোৰ ভাবে শাসন কৰি শৃঙ্খলাবদ্ধ ভাবে দুখীয়া মানুহক সোনকালে দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

Sir, শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য্য কৈছে যে, Demonstrator নাই, কেৱল ওপৰত ডিবেষ্টৰসকল আছে, গতিকে তেওঁবিলাক কৃষি বিভাগত কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে। তেওঁবিলাকে আৰু কৈছে যে চাহ বাগিছাত অভ্যুন্ন মাটি আছে। মই কওঁ যে আৰু বাগিছাৰ প্ৰায়ভাগ মাটি বিতৰণ হৈ গৈছে। অকল শিৱসাগৰ মহকুমাতেই ১৭ হাজাৰ বিষা মাটি বিতৰণ কৰা হৈছে। ক'ৰাত হয়তো চপৰি বা কম পৰিমাণে খেতিৰ উপযুক্ত মাটি আছে। কিন্তু তেখেতে যি কৈছে, তাক সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সেইকাৰণে তেখেতে নিজকে সমালোচনা কৰিছে বুলিহে ভাবিছো কাৰণ এফালে গাৱঁত ডেম্-নষ্ট্ৰেটৰ নাই। গতিকে Practical agricultural হোৱা নাই বুলি সমালোচনা কৰিছো। তেখেতৰ কথাটো ময়ে সমৰ্থন কৰো কিন্তু বাগিছাৰ মাটি হাজাৰ-হাজাৰ বিষা পৰিখকা বুলি অভিযোগ আনিছে সেইটো তেখেতে Practical কথা কোৱা নাই।

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very true that our country is passing through a food shortage and that there has been abnormal rise in prices. This question has been discussed not only in connection with this debate but practically during the whole Session in connection with various items and various topics.

Now, Sir, it is a fact that there is scarcity of food. It is also a fact that there is abnormal rise in prices of the commodities of foodstuff, but however long we may discuss the problem and we may make one party responsible or the other party responsible but the core of the problem remains and it is to my mind is now to increase food production and to study the causes why there is so much scarcity of food. It is said by some of the friends here that there is abundance of food in the state but if we look to the districts we find that Assam was never Self-sufficient in food. Almost all the items of food except rice had to be procured from outside. So far as the Brahmaputra Valley districts are concerned it might have been a fact in point of rice but so far as the whole of Assam is concerned as an unit it was never self-sufficient in food.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :
Wherefrom the hon. Member collected those figures ?

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : We have already seen that whenever we speak about statistics, we are merely laughed at, so I am not going to give statistics but refer to experiences only.

Before the Great War we did not experience so much scarcity of food and prices of food were also normal. My friends will perhaps bear me out that in those days we had sufficient stock coming to the State from outside. We got food from different parts of the country in normal trade channels, as at that time there was no scarcity of food. In our State we have got a large percentage of non-producer consumers. For instance, tea garden labourers and labourers that are employee; in different industries and also casual labour who come to the State during the winter for periodic works. We find that formerly a particular kind of rice, coarse rice, was imported and not produced here, was commonly used by these labourers. Huge stocks of this rice came from East Bengal and from Burma such as Balam rice. From Manipur also we got a lot. In those days for these reasons the price of rice was normal and rice was available in abundance. Now, we are experiencing so much scarcity for several reasons, one of them is that the normal

output of rice has gone down due to inclemency of weather. It seems just after the great earthquake the periodic weather is not moving favourably and at the time when rain is necessary for cultivation either there is no rain or there is scanty of rain or there is abundance of rain causing flood. If we want to give stress for going for more cultivation for food production we will have to see to this aspect of the question of water supply to the fields. So far our agriculture was dependent upon the bounties of nature but from the nature of things as we have experienced for the last three or four consecutive, years sole dependence on nature has become risky and deceptive. We will have to see also that irrigation and embankments which are done by the Government are done properly and scientifically so that we do not have to repeat the history of the devastating floods caused in the North Kamrup due faulty Bunds and faulty irrigation. There it was found that for these faulty construction of Bunds and irrigation channels either there were flood or there were no water in the fields. So, we must be on our guard against the adverse effects of irrigation.

I beg to give some suggestions in this connection regarding the problem of supply of water, as in the short time at my disposal I shall not be able to deal with the other problems. I will speak mainly about water supply. There is not only scarcity of water in the paddy fields but there is also the scarcity of water for drinking purpose. I would suggest that instead of going for small irrigation projects, we should examine whether we can excavate some new ponds or reclaim or excavate the old and ancient tanks and if we do this we will go a great way to solve this water problem to a great extent. These ponds are to be excavated in the out skirts of the villages near the paddy fields and they will serve the purpose of dams from which water can be pumped out to the paddy fields and for other cultivations also. This will not only help in pumping water to the fields but this will also supply plenty of drinking water. I think, Government should consider this aspect of the question and the Departments concerned should undertake immediate survey for excavating ponds and reclaiming old ponds for supply of drinking water and pumping water to the fields.

Then, Sir, I want to speak another important point. Recently, Rs. 39 lakhs have been allotted for the intensive cultivation of Ahu crop but in my Sub-division I have learnt from actual

cultivators that the amount given to them from this fund some portion is allotted for purchasing seeds and certain amount is meant for purchase of fertilisers, but due to the scarcity of fertiliser and due to the fact that in many cases a villager has to go 15 to 20 miles to bring a few seers of fertiliser, the villagers have failed to take advantage of this money. It is found that godowns for storing fertilisers are situated far apart of each other and if the Government want that the villagers should take advantage of this money more godowns for storage of fertilisers should be made, say one godown in each Mouza. Every Rural Panchayat should have at their disposal one godown for storage of seeds and fertilisers and this will satisfy the need. If this can be done then the cultivators also will be able to collect feritlisers easily without travelling miles for it. I hope, Government will do this needful thing. Much has been said about the Agricultural Department and I need not enter into them. Government will consider these facts also.

With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : I want to speak for two or three minutes.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : I want to speak also for two or three minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Borthakur, how much time you will take to reply ?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Fifteen minutes will do for me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Of the two hours, 15 minutes will be aken by Shri Nilmoney Barthakur, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours by the Minister and the other 15 minutes can be taken by other hon. Members.

(Adjournment)

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

After Lunch.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Patwary. You are allowed only for five minutes.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, খাদ্য সমস্যার বিষয়ে যি motion অনা হৈছে সেই বিষয়ে কব খাজো যে, আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কিছু পৰিমাণে হৈছে বুলি কোৱা শুনা যায়, কিন্তু প্ৰকৃততে খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হৈছে বুলি ভাবিব পৰা নাই আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানৰ বাবে-পৰিকল্পিত ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান হব নৱাৰে গুৱাহাটীত ভাৰতৰ খাদ্যমন্ত্ৰী দেৱ অহাৰ সময়ত আৰু তাত আমাৰ কৃষি মন্ত্ৰী চৌধুৰী চাহাবো আছিল। তাত ভাৰতৰ খাদ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে পৰিস্কাৰকৈ কৈ দিছে যে, অসমত **minor irrigation** পৰিকল্পনা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে অসমৰ খাদ্য সম্পদ বচাব নোৱাৰে তাৰ লগে লগে মই কব খোজো যে, আমাৰ গো-জাতিৰ **protection** আৰু উন্নতি নকৰিলে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান হব নোৱাৰে। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰলৈদে মহকুমাতে ৯০ হাজাৰ গৰু মৰিছে কিন্তু তাত মাত্ৰ ২৩,৯৪৫ টা গৰু মৰাবহে হিচাব দিছে। চেখৰ মৌজাৰ ৭৮ টা গৰু মৰাৰ হিচাব দিছে, কিন্তু মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক মই জনাব খোজো যে, চেখৰ মৌজাত ২,৫০০ ব ওপৰ গৰু মৰিছে। সেইদৰে মাজিকুছি মৌজাত মাত্ৰ ৫টা গৰু মৰাৰ হিচাব পোৱা গৈছে কিন্তু আচলতে তাত ১৬শ গৰু মৰিছে। এনেকুৱা ভুল হিচাবৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিব লগা হলে আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানত আমি আগ বাঢ়ি যাব পাৰো নেকি, ভাবি চাওক।

সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰক মই জনাব খোজো যে, খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান সম্পৰ্কে প্ৰথম আমাৰ পৰিকল্পিত **irrigation** আৰু দ্বিতীয়তে গো জাতিৰ উন্নতি আৰু **cattle-food**ৰ ব্যৱস্থা এইখিনি কৰিব পাৰিলেহে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানৰ পথত আমি আগুৱাব পাৰিম বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস। লগতে এইটো মনত ৰাখিব লাগিব যে, যিবোৰ খেৰ আমাৰ পেলনি যায়, সেই খেৰবোৰ গৰুৰ খাদ্য হিচাবে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিবৰ বাবে ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰিব লাগে। **Supply**ৰ বিষয়ে মোৰ বহুত কবলগীয়া আছিল, কিন্তু সময় তেনেই তাকৰকৈ দিয়াৰ কাৰণে সেই বিষয়ে আৰু কোৱা নহল। আজি এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মোৰ বন্ধ উপাধ্যায় ডাঙৰীয়াই কব লগা আছিল, কিন্তু তেখেত অন পস্থিত থকা কাৰণে তেখেতৰ হৈ মই ইমানকৈ কলো।

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much pleased that a large number of hon. Members of this House took part in the Resolution regarding the critical situation of the State created by the sharp rise in prices of foodstuffs. I am not going into the details of the different issues raised by the hon. Members but taking an aggregate view they conclusively prove that the food situation is not such as can be acceptable to the peasants and the Government. The rising prices have become a problem and that problem had to be tackled not only in the matter of making food accessible to all but also in the implementation of our schemes; because if the prices rise we would not be able to keep 50 per cent of the production. There may be differences of opinion, but from the speeches of the hon. Members

it is apparent that something should have been done by Government. There may be differences of opinion in degree no doubt but not only in the hinterlands but also in the suburbs of the towns it will be agreed that the rising trend in prices of food is noticeable. We have seen even in the recent figures that is the figures during the last two weeks that prices of paddy in Boko has gone up, in Dibrugarh the price has shot up to Rs.14 per maund. If prices rise in this way the situation may be such that famine may occur in certain areas. But the most important point is that the food situation is not unforeseen. When there is widespread drought in the districts, particularly in the district of Nowgong and when the droughts visited several States of India, precautionary measures should have been taken. But what are these measures excepting to create a buffer stock of rice? No serious step was taken by the Government. The procurement target failed. The target should have been higher as to defeat the purpose of hoarders and also to combat the recurring droughts, particularly after the recommendations of the Mehta Enquiry Committee which conclusively and clearly stated in unambiguous terms. Our embankments are, to a certain extent, responsible for this drought and during question hour this morning, we have found that one particular sluice gate gave way just a week or two after construction. The embankments and drainage were neglected by Government; so our negligence could, to a great extent, contribute to drought which at least could have been avoided. The major issue which has been agreed upon by all the Members and the Government and also by the Minister of Agriculture in connection with his speech in the budget is that we must take measures to augment food production. To do this, the most important issue is our problem of land reforms. This problem should be taken up with great earnestness because it involves the most important issue of distributing Khas lands of the zamindaris. We have failed and we can prove it that whatever figures we have got from the Statistics Department they are not reliable. At least in two districts statistics can be supplied. If the fallow lands and the lands under the Zamindaris are taken away and distributed to landless people, for example, in the district of Cachar, there are fallow lands in the tea gardens and in all the Zamindari Khas lands, then the problem of food situation could have been met to a certain extent. The Minister for Revenue referred to landless and landlords. Even if we leave out the two categories of landless and practically $\frac{3}{4}$ of these lands have already been disposed of

That means, food production in those areas could have been increased if these lands had been distributed to landless cultivators, if necessary by ordinance, and I think, the position of food in those areas would have been different than what it is today.

Among other measures that Government have been taking to increase the food production, take for instance the distribution of agricultural loans. But this agricultural loan has been more a waste than a relief, because it never goes to the peasant in time, it goes after the planting season is over. Regarding fertilisers, there has been delay not only in the appointment of agents but the whole mechanism of distribution of fertilisers is so defective that a man has to travel 10 to 15 miles to get a share of this fertiliser. These fertilisers should be stored in almost every important centre so that villagers may have an easy access to them. I am very much surprised at the statement of the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister that 44 per cent of our people are idle, that they do not work and that is why we could not advance in the matter of food production. He put all the blame on our people, but to my mind he did it only to cover his own failings. That may be his argument but that is never a reality. Our landless people have even gone to the extent of squatting on grazing and forest reserves. They want plough cattle and other implements to till the land and it is not the question of their idleness, it is Government's failure to provide them with land and agricultural implements. As to other measures which are very important, for example, cheap grain stores, Government has not run them in proper direction. In running these stores the principle for which these stores are made is not adhered to in most cases. In the villages the quota given is not intended to cover the requirements of the entire people which is not the purpose of the cheap grain shop. It cannot take the place of complete rationing in a certain area. Its purpose is to ward off starvation and to stabilize prices. Therefore the distribution of quota from a cheap grain shop should be such as to force the prices down as far as practicable. Regarding the regulation of prices, it may be that in certain cases it is beyond the control of the State Government but the State Government could have taken measures to prohibit speculation in food-stuff in our State. We have seen how some people taking the slightest pretext raise the prices. If there be difficulty in getting wagons, if there be transport bottle-neck, if there be any disaster in the rail line for which food-stuff could not be transported there could be some justification for the rise of prices.

Even then in such cases, if Government had taken prompt and timely measures this could have been stopped but as we know our Government never take action until a thing takes a serious turn. Then again, in most cases as in the case of sugar, Government wash the hands of their responsibilities because there is no price control for a certain commodity. Because sugar is an uncontrolled commodity Government said they could not do anything beyond making wagons available. Such an attitude on the part of the Government does not give us any hope that the Government is very serious about controlling prices and regulating prices let alone stabilizing them. Therefore my suggestion in this, Sir.....

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture and Food): Does the hon. Member suggest that there should be control in dealing with all commodities in the State ?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): I do not rule out control although indiscriminate application of control orders is neither helpful nor healthy. So it is up to the Government to see if a situation arises where control is necessary, where an essential commodity should be controlled, but in this respect a total control or a total decontrol, I think, will not solve our problem. In both these extremes there are exigencies. So Government should take a well-measured policy in regard to particular commodities the supply of which comes from outside, *i.e.* other States and if necessary that particular commodity should be controlled and its control and distribution should be watched carefully by the Government.

Regarding other measures, immediately Government should take measure to stop all evictions from agricultural land and to have planned settlement pending comprehensive legislation in that direction, otherwise series of struggles will go on and we cannot expect our poor agriculturists to come to Court for relief. Those who do not have a square meal, they cannot bear the expense of running a civil suit. If we are at all serious about solving the food problem and augment food production, we should immediately take steps in that direction.

About irrigation, I think Government should institute departmental enquiry into the conditions of our embankments and sluice gates so that experts may get an opportunity to go into the whole question. I believe these embankments and

drainage leave much to be expected. In most cases they have been mechanical. In certain districts they have done more harm than good. Floods of the Brahmaputra also give food to more people than they robbed. In Nowgong district, particularly in the northern part of Nowgong district, the embankment was definitely responsible for drought in that area.

Regarding the improved method of cultivation and distribution of improved seeds, the Agriculture Department has been tackling the problem as if to keep a scheme going on. With the present seed farms and research stations it is not possible to distribute improved variety of seeds even to one district. Therefore a correct step in that direction would be to select particular areas and saturate those areas with improved variety so that we can eliminate all bad varieties in due course. Only by that method in a planned period we shall be able to saturate the entire areas with improved seeds otherwise the quality of the paddy will be going down and down because in case of paddy it degenerates after a period of 5 years.

Then as regards procurement, even now procurement should be continued and the target of procurement might be extended to 20 lakh maunds. I think even now it is possible if we take measure to control the hoard of grain dealers who have already hoarded the marketable surplus. Even now it is possible to seize some such stocks and purchase them at Government price. If these measures are immediately taken and coupled with the relief we expect from the Centre, we may be able to ward off starvation in our State for the next one year.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely sorry that I was absent in the House when Shri Nilmony Borthakur moved his Motion on 13th March 1958. But I have read all the speeches delivered on that day in the House. Sir, I find every manner of criticisms were made by some Members against the Government. In this connection I can't help mentioning that the part played by my Friend, Shri Mohi Kanta Das, had surpassed every body. He was all critical of the Government activities in the agricultural and food spheres. He finds starvation and hunger all around. He finds the activities of the Government in the agricultural sector without any thought. While a recent neo-convert hon. Member was describing the Government

policy as 'When Rome was burning Nero was fiddling' forgetting the implication of his own statement, *viz.*, that he himself had become a subscriber to the same policy after knowing and seeing the same for at least 6 years. At that time my Friend, Shri Das, in order to keep the parity with his surname said that he should describe it as when people were starving, Government was 'figuring' meaning thereby, by that wonderful English of his, that the Government were supplying baseless figures. This hon. gentleman spoke almost in the same vein in the debate on Governor's address. But I did not take him seriously because I thought he would correct himself for future by trying to realise the implications of his activities. Surely, the House remembers the speeches delivered by my Friend, Shri Das, as a Deputy Minister till the last Session particularly those delivered by him to thank the Governor on his successive addresses. He used to see then honey and flower all around. He was known then as a member specialised in using hyperbolic language to praise the Governmental activities. What has happened within these three months except that he was not occupying the seat just behind the Chief Minister, to see every thing dry all around, I would not have taken his speech so seriously unless it would have raised a serious question of public moral-public conduct expected of an hon. Member of this hon. House. Can an *ex-Member* of the Government be allowed to speak in two languages on the same policy after he ceases to be a member of the Government not by resignation differing on the policy itself? Shri Das as a Deputy Minister was connected with the agricultural extension work in the Community Project and also in the Veterinary Department for 6 years. Does he mean to say that he drew his salaries without any work or associating himself with such work as described by him? Did he ever, either in writing or verbally, speak either in the House or to the last Chief Minister, Shri Medhi, against the policies pursued by the Government of his, of which he was a part? Rather which he spoke then was in high flown language in favour of the Government. As my Deputy Minister in the Veterinary Department, although it was for a short period, he never spoke to me against any policies of the Government generally or particularly of that Department. By his present speeches he is not only expressing against himself and his other colleagues but giving scope to the people to think that what he spoke even three months back were baseless statements. Apparently he is going so relying on the famous saying that public

memory is short but Shri Das should know that his past action is not so old as to judge where lies truth whether in his present statements or in his past ones. I would advise him not to make himself * * in eagerness to be so called effective speaker particularly to indulge in that kind of idiosyncrasy which he is possibly considering as good humours I am sorry, I have to make these remarks in his absence, but I can't help it.

Sir, I would not have wasted the time of the House in these small matters but I can't help referring to the Drain Inspector like conduct of Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya who has a wonderful knack of using vulgar and abusive language.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has used the word "vulgar". This is most unparliamentary language. When referring to other members' speech the Minister is using the epithet "vulgar". Whether this is done in the capacity of a Minister, it does not matter. I am drawing your attention that he should withdraw the word vulgar.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is an unparliamentary language, the Hon'ble Minister will please withdraw it.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): I withdraw it, Sir. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya has a wonderful knack of using abusive language and of doubting the integrity of others particularly by imputing motive because of his perversity of judging others by his own capricious and stunted standard. The man who is incapable of appreciating humours, as had been seen in this House while debate on Governor's address took place, is not even ready to spare three months old Chief Minister. While describing the Chief Minister as a good man, he not only brought in the name of his tea garden and his profession as a tea planter but also added that what sort of man the Chief Minister was judged from the company he kept, viz—the merchants of Gauhati from whom he was alleged to have had realised subscriptions over a lakh of rupees, presumably as Congress President for the Congress Session. Every day in a temple or Church many people go to say their prayers but for that the temple or the Church do not become polluted. Many people pay subscriptions voluntarily

to Congress but for that reason Congress is not answerable for all their conduct. I am sure Shri Bhattacharyya does not care for my advice, as a matter of fact anybody else, unless branded in Russia. Yet I must tell him to be more decent in his conduct at least in this House. He may compare his speech with Shri Nilmoney Borthakur whose experience in this House is of only a year compared to his six years.

Sir, now I would like to reply to the debate. The speeches can be divided into two parts, *viz.*, the rise of prices and the activities of the Government with regard to agriculture in its wide connotation. I have already spoken yesterday about agriculture, hence I would not reply to-day on that unless required by any special circumstances. Now, Sir, I will take up the question on price situation. I will place before the House some facts. It is true to-day the country is suffering from rise in prices but this is not only with regard to food-stuffs. There is a general tendency of inflation in the country. I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that there is increased tempo of investments. We are spending large sums of money for setting up industries and for various types of nation building activities. It will be seen from the following figures as to the nature of the increased tempo of investment. In 1953 to 1954 it was Rs.343 crores; in 1954 to 1955 Rs.476 crores, in 1955 to 1956 Rs.667 crores and in 1956 to 1957 761 crores of rupees. Thus, you will see that the tempo of investment for the nation building activities is on the increase all along. With it if you consider Sir, the question of deficit financing you will find that this is also on the increase. In 1953 to 1954, the amount of deficit financing was Rs.78 crores, in 1954 to 1955 Rs.93 crores, in 1955 to 1956 Rs.180 crores and in 1956 to 1957 253 crores of rupees; this is also on the increase all along. So long I am speaking of public sector. Along with it we find, there is expansion of Bank credit too. From the initial level of 494.2 crores in 1953 to 1954 the rise in 1954 to 1955 was by Rs.58.9 crores, in 1955 to 1956 by Rs.79.4 crores and in 1956 to 1957 by Rs.149.2 crores. Then there is, Sir, the question of adverse balance of trade in India the deficit in 1956 to 1957 was Rs.293 crores and in 1957 to 1958 the adverse balance of trade may be more. In the country, to-day you will find, there has been a great increase in money supply which has gone up from Rs.1994.0 crores on 31st March, 1954, to Rs.2,240 crores on 31st August, 1957. Now if we go to consider the implications of the availability of all these money in the country then it will explain as to the reasons for the

1782 MOTION REGARDING SITUATION CREATED [27TH MAR.
 BY SHARP RISE IN PRICES AND SHORT
 SUPPLY OF FOOD GRAINS, ETC.

inflation. Now on the contrary on the demand side you will find that the purchasing power of the public all over India had been going up steadily and very much because of the increase in supply of money with the public. The money with the public in 1950 to 1951, was Rs.1,980 crores; Rs.1,804 crores in 1951 to 1952 and this went on increasing as follows:

1952-53	...	...	...	...	...	1765 crores
1953-54	...	...	...	...	...	1794 „
1954-55	...	...	..	...	...	1921 „
1955-56	...	...	...	..	...	2184 „
1956-57	..	..	...	...	..	2313 „

Now, Sir, due to the increased amount of money in the hands of the public, they have got the increased purchasing capacity. Coupled with these high income elasticity of demand for the food grains of the bulk of Indian population who live on marginal level, the change in the volume and pattern of food consumption, and increased taking of cereals have added to the situation. The other day I gave an example that if we increase our food consumption by one ounce a day, the total demand on the nation will be 4 million tons a year. In fact you will find that the tempo of industrialisation and urbanisation in the country has not only changed the food habit of the people but also shifted the economic balance to a great extent to urban areas where there is no question of agricultural production. Furthermore, Sir, there is a greater propensity to stock foodgrains to-day, as I said the other day which will be seen from the advance made by the Schedule Bank on foodgrains to the public. These are on the increase as stated below:—

	General (on foodgrains)	Against paddy and rice only
May 1955	... .. 18.85 crores	10.8 crores
May 1956	... .. 38.67 „	22.5 „
May 1957	... .. 42.52 „	21.6 „

Paddy hypothecated was 492.9 thousand ton, 815.2 and 647 tons, in 1955, 1956 and 1957 respectively.

Then the population is on the increase. As against it there is a tendency for the speculators to hoard. Because of the existence of neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Ceylon, Goa, etc., where there are wide variations of prices of foodgrains, there is the propensity to hoard and to smuggle. That is one of the reasons for which we have been fighting with the colonial imperialism in Goa, which is a great source of blackmarketing for the Indian goods.

Now, Sir, I was discussing the other day the part of the Assam cultivator in the field of production and pointed out certain difficulties. But my Friend, Shri Barthakur, had completely misunderstood my views when he described it saying that I had thrown all blame for shortage on the people alone. I never throw all the blame on the people. I pointed out to the House that about 24 per cent of the population in Assam do not produce anything. I pointed out that possibly only about 25 per cent of the population do take part in agriculture seriously and the rest are dependent upon them. I also pointed out that the area under cultivation compared to the total area of Assam was rather meagre. I further said that if we put in maximum efforts the production would be increased to a great extent. I quoted figures to substantiate all these. My intention was not to play with the gallery, as many are accustomed to do it. I said that there was no point in blaming the Government alone without taking into account all these factors. Along with these facts, as I said in my speech on the debate on Governor's address, the marketable surplus in the country was extremely short. There is increased capacity of the agriculturists to hold his goods because of the rise in price, resulting in increase in his total earning-gross earning, because sale of smaller quantities of his production helps him to meet his contractual obligations. Apart from this due to the tempo of nation building activities, he has the subsidiary income in the shape of cottage industries and such other avenues of income. These facts, coupled with the facilities he gets to have loans from co-operative Bank and the Government, he is to-day in a much better position to spend than ever before. To-day there is a class of cultivators who have much greater capacity to hoard than ever before. Due to the abolition of intermediaries they have now become owner of the lands. The former intermediaries are now rich cultivators who have better holding powers. In these circumstances, if we consider these facts, we get one more reason for the increase in the price.

Now, Sir, if you consider the figure of import, it will be found as follows:—

1951	...	...	..	..	...	4.7 million tons
1952	...	...	...	...	..	3.9 „
1954	...	..	...	...	...	0.8 „
1955	...	..	...	...	...	0.7 „
1956	...	...	...	...	...	1.4 „
1957	...	...	...	...	...	3.7 or so

Thus the total availability of grains both from the foreign sources as well as from the internal sources in the country is as follows:

	Total available (million ton)	population (million)	per capita per day.
1954	... 69.50	377.1	18.1 OZ
1955	... 68.37	382.4	17.6 „
1956	... 67.28	387.4	17.1 „
1957	.. 71.75	392.4	18 „

In Assam the present increase of per capita per day consumption is from 18 oz. in 1950 to 21 oz. in 1957. If we take into account all the factors which have contributed to the rise in prices in India as a whole, the position of Assam, which is situated in a corner of India, having no transport and such other facilities, can be easily appreciated. Now, what is the availability of supply of rice in Assam to-day? The whole production is 17.07 lakh tons in 1956-57. How much of it has come to the market? Sir, while defending the Government policy, the other day, I pointed out that the increase in the tempo of development, urbanisation and growth in the population, both indigenous as well as floating, staying power, increase of income, change of food habits and improved standard of living have had their sure repercussions not only on the volume and pattern of consumption, but also on the per capita consumption of rice in Assam in recent years and their availability in the market. On the other hand, as I said that due to drought and also because of the difficulties created by the embankment, a lot of areas have gone out of or under production.

I can tell my honourable Friends that due to drought alone it is estimated we are going to suffer to the tune of 1,08,617 tons in the year ending 31st March 1958. Now consequently, while potential demand has strengthened considerably in recent years production has increased at marginal rate and the proportion of produce available for consumption has experienced a marked shrinkage due to the increase in the holding capacity of the farming population, specially of the substantial farmers.

Then, Sir, at its natural rate of growth, the indigenous population of Assam has increased from 90.43 lakhs in 1951 to 97.22 lakhs in 1957. Then to it if we add the floating population then the increase must be from 90.43 lakhs in 1951 to about 99.72 lakhs in 1957. According to Family Budget Enquiries conducted for different population groups by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Assam, between 1950 and 1952, consumption of rice per adult consumption unit in Assam was estimated at 18 oz. per day. On the basis of this estimate, the consumption requirement of Assam in 1950-51 works out at 13.66 lakh tons. Providing for the normal seed requirement of about 56 thousand tons, the State's total requirement for 1950-51 stood at approximately 14.22 lakh tons. Even granting that the entire residue after allowing for seeds and wastage was available for consumption which is not likely, it appears that there was a deficit in the supply of rice in Assam to the tune of about 12 thousand tons in 1950-51. Increase in the income and growth in the population of the State during these years has further intensified the strain on the available supply, which in relative terms, has declined with the increase in a farmer's capacity to hold stocks. According to available information, market arrivals in 1957 compare only about 60 per cent of the previous year, though in absolute physical terms, the production of rice increased from 16,66,446 tons in 1955-56 to 17,07,188 in 1956-57. According to the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, the consumption of foodgrains has increased by about 14 per cent during the First Five Year Plan period. Consumption in Assam per adult consumption unit, according to this estimate, has increased from about 18 oz. in 1950-51 to about 21 oz. in 1957. Thus the total requirement in 1957 to meet even the consumption demand stemming from the adult population of Assam which has increased from 74.16 lakhs in 1951 to about 81.77 lakhs in 1957 at the increased rate of per capita consumption, stands at about 17.57 lakh tons. This added to the normal seed requirements, the total requirement of the State works out at 18.25 lakh tons. The demand for rice

in 1957 juxtaposed against the year's produce of about 17 lakhs tons reveal a deficit of about one lakh ton. Thus the unbalanced character of supply in evidence in 1950-51 still remains unaltered. While rice production has increased during 1950-51 to 1956-57 by only about 21 per cent, consumption requirement has increased by about 29 per cent. What is even embarrassing and disquieting, market arrivals are steadily becoming slower and smaller after harvest, consequent on improvement in the holding capacity of farmers, who with the implementation of various development schemes, have found subsidiary employment opportunities outside the farm, as I have referred to earlier.

It follows from the foregoing remarks, potential demand has in recent years chronically outstripped available supply and recourse had to be taken year in and year out during the Plan period to import food grains in considerable measures as a corrective to the persistent imbalance. Even in 1957, with the 1956-57 production of about 17 lakh tons, which incidentally is the peak figure since the great earthquake, imports to the extent of about 83 thousand tons had to be undertaken to peg down the price of rice in Assam.

Sir, with this background, in mind, if we consider also the short-term steps, those have been undertaken by the Government, then we may be able to appreciate the whole position. As I have said that we have arranged for an allotment of 16 thousand tons of rice from the Government of India and the Government of India will be giving that rice. This year they have increased the monthly allotment of Atta to 3,000 maunds, apart from some quantity of Suji and Flour, etc., they would be giving. To supplement this we decided to procure 10 lakh maunds of paddy. It has been suggested that this target should have been more and I am quite sure, the honourable members will consider deeply whether there is any further scope for more procurement from the open market. We shall try no doubt. In this connection, certain observations have been made with regard to the fixation of prices of paddy and rice and the delay in starting the procurement.

The draft of the Assam Foodgrains (Licensing and Control) Order, 1958, was sent to the Government of India on 30th October 1957. As Government of India had to consider various aspects in connection with the recommendations of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee there was some unavoidable delay in according their approval. Besides, the

procurement prices had also to be notified by the Government of India and they had to take into consideration various circumstances relating to the entire country. The Price notification was published by them on 14th January 1958. Immediately steps were taken to start procurement and actual procurement began in the last part of January, 1958. It is well known that just after harvest paddy remains too moist and paddy purchased at that time involves considerable loss on account of shrinkage. Naturally, prices immediately after the harvest are a bit low. Still no reports were received to the effect that prices of paddy went below the economic level immediately after the harvest.

Sir, my honourable Friend, Sri Barthakur, raised a point that the price fixed for rice was too high as compared to paddy. If I understood it correctly he said that if the price of paddy was fixed at Rs.10.25 N.P. per maund the maximum price of rice should be fixed at Rs.15.00 per maund. Since 1943 when the Government controlled food grains the price of rice has been fixed by adding Re.1 per maund of paddy as milling charge generally. The same principle remained in force till decontrol in 1954. The labour charges have since considerably gone up. Hence the fixation of milling charge at Re.1 per maund including bagging charges, etc., is not at all high. A detailed breakup of the price of rice is as follows:—

Price of 1 maund paddy	...	...	Rs. 10.25 N.p.
Milling charge	..	...	Rs. 1.00
Total	..	...	<u>Rs. 11.25 N.p.</u>
Therefore 25 seers of rice costs	...	...	Rs. 11.25 N.p.
Therefore 40 seers (1 maund)	...	...	Rs. 18.00

(Outturn of rice per maund of paddy is 25 seers).

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, on a point of further information. Whether the average outturn is 25 seers per maund?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): Yes, Sir, that is the average.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA: [Patharkandi
(Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] যারা সরকার থেকে লাইসেন্স
নিয়োগে বহুক্ষেত্রে তারা নাকি নিয়ন্ত্রিত দর অপেক্ষা বেশী দরে ধানকিনে নিয়ন্ত্রিত
দরে সরকারকে সমজিয়ে দিচ্ছে?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister,
Food and Agriculture):** Now Sir, certain criticisms have
been levelled against the fair price shops. Sir, I am giving
the position in this respect. In 1957 the number of
fair price shops rose to 1234 at the peak period. It started
from 670 shops. It was criticised that rice was not made avail-
able in the food grain shops. If that is so, then I do not
understand, how 38,000 tons of rice was distributed through
the shops and who took them. At present 858 fair price
shops are operating and in the month of last February 2000
tons of rice was distributed through them. For the month of
March last 2,275 tons of rice was allotted. In all these cases
the rice is issued at the subsidised price of Rs.18 per maund.
During February 13,387 maunds of rice were distributed through
150 fair price shops in Khasi and Jaintia Hills. 7,102 maunds
of rice were issued in the first part of the month of March apart
from free lifting from Shillong market. The total subsidised
rice issued in January and February, 1958 for Garo Hills
through 35 shops was 10,800 maunds. In Mizo Hills the
Cost of subsidy for transport alone for the food for the year
1956-57 was Rs.2,57,000 and this year so far spent amounts
to Rs.4,05,793.

It has been suggested that fair price shops should be
increased. For distribution of rice through them at subsidised
price we require considerable quantities of rice. Last year,
38,000 tons of rice were allotted in different instalment in
addition to 7,000 tons for Naga Hills. Owing to scarcity of
rice in the open market and dearth of foreign exchange
the Government of India have allotted only 16,000 tons of rice
for the first six months of the year. It is expected that more
quantities will be available in the last half of the year. This
Government had been pressing the Government of India for
making substantial quantities of rice available. Besides, the
State Government have taken up local procurement of paddy
in order to supplement the Central Government stock of rice
in Assam. Rice from locally procured paddy will be issued at
the subsidised price of Rs.18 per maund. By issuing rice to the
people at this rate we are going to sustain a loss which may
come to 7 lakhs of rupees. The number of fair price shops

is not a static factor. All the local officers have been instructed to open fair price shops whenever necessary. Thus it will be seen that the number of fair price shops started during the last year rose from 670 to more than 1,200. Although this year the existing number of fair price shops is 858 it will surely go up during the lean months. Beside rice, Government of India have allocated 3,000 tons of imported wheat per month. A considerable portion of resultant Atta is being distributed through fair price shops. The main difficulty is that People are reluctant to take Atta. In the present circumstances people should be persuaded to take more Atta to make up the deficit in rice. Though there is difficulty about imported rice we have been assured by the Government of India that as regards imported wheat there may be no such difficulty.

There were criticisms that apart from procurement nothing has been done to tide over the food situation. I will give some figures about the increase in Boro cultivation due to the facilities given in the shape of power pums and concession in charges. In 1955-56, 11,270 acres of land were cultivated with Boro paddy. In 1956-57, 18,010 acres of land were cultivated and in 1957-58 the area will be double. We have allowed permission temporarily to cultivate low land with Boro paddy in Forest reserves. Besides these, we had issued agricultural loan to the tune of about 67 lakhs of rupees from 1954-55 to 1957-58 in addition to the gratuitous relief amounting to about 38 lakhs and 202 lakhs in the co-operative Sector for the same period apart from the 37 lakhs Grow More Food loan issued recently. About all these I do not want to repeat what I have said on the other day. I hope the entire money for Grow More Food loan is going to be utilised propely for the food production.

Rev. Nichols-Roy raised the question of the hills areas. Sir, I gave figures in this connection on the other day and I do not want to repeat them to-day. But I can assure him that whatever possible in this respect will be done. All his suggestions will be kept in mind by the Government.

The other day I spoke about the steps taken to improve matter in the Agriculture Department but I do not want to repeat the same although most of the debate was focussed on the programme of the Agriculture Department. I also agree with the hon. Members that the success of the food policy would mainly depend on our capacity to produce more food.

Now, Sir, what is the position about whole-sale prices? The year 1957 opened with a somewhat subdued tone—the index number of wholesale prices, which in December 1956 stood at the year's peak of 132, receded by no less than 2 points in January, 1957 (Base 1953—100) and this downward trend persisted till March. This fall in the index was induced by fall in the prices of commodities other than cereals. The whole-sale price of rice which stood at Rs.24·37 per maund in December, 1956 firmed up to Rs.24·81 in March, 1957. The index number of wholesale prices resumed the upward trend visible in 1956 and uptrend continued till September when the index touched the 1957 peak at 135, which was 3 points higher than 1956 peak at 132. The rice in the index number of wholesale prices in evidence since March was initiated and maintained mainly by the continued strengthening of the price of rice till September when the prices of rice ruled at about Rs.26 per maund which represents the highest figure for 1957. The rising trend in the index number experienced a smart reversal in November when it declined from 135 in September to 134 in October mainly on account of a fall in the wholesale price of rice from about Rs.26 per maund in September to about Rs.24 per maund in October. The index number of wholesale price in Assam is heavily swayed by the prices of rice. The downward trend in the index visible in October persisted till December, when the index touched the lowest figure for 1957 at 127, and was projected into 1958. This fall in the index was induced by a change in the prices of rice for the better. The wholesale price of rice which ruled at about Rs.26 per maund in September declined to about Rs. 23 per maund in December and ruled at about the December level till the end of February, 1958 on account of arrival of new crop in the market. The month of February witnessed a sharp and phenomenal rise in the price of sugar on account of its shorts supply in Assam. The average wholesale price of sugar in Assam which ruled at about Rs.39 per maund in January, 1958 smartly firmed up to about Rs.54 per maund in February. This change in the price of sugar, however, could create practically no impression on the index number of wholesale prices as the weight exerted by the rise in the prices of sugar was more than counter-balanced by decline in the prices of cereals, particularly rice. Consequent on a fall in the prices of almost all agricultural commodities including rice and paddy, the index number of wholesale prices has slumped by no less than 5 points in January from the December level of 127.

Now, I come to retail prices. I will just compare the prices of certain essential commodities.

Sir, the price of Sali paddy in March 1957 was Rs.12.56 per maund ; it is now Rs.11.25. The coarse quality of rice was Rs.23.38 in March 1957, it is now Rs.22 ; Atta was Re.0.66 per seer in the same period, it is now Re.0.50 ; Arhar dal was Re.0.62 per seer, now also it is Re.0.62 ; Masur dal was Re.0.66 per seer, it is now Re.0.69 ; Salt was Re.0.17 per seer, it is now Re.0.16.....

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Were the prices collected from the Secretary, Supply, or from the market ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): From the market, Sir.

(A Voice: As customers, we do not find these prices).

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Then, Sir, mustard oil was Rs.2.46, it is Rs.2 now ; Fish was Re.1.56 ; it is Rs.2.50 now. It has registered a heavy rise.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Does the Hon'ble Minister know what is the price of fish per seer in the Shillong market to-day ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have already said that the price of fish has registered a rise.

From the figures I have given, it will be seen, Sir, that prices have gone up in respect of the following things, viz., Arhar dal, mustard oil, tobacco, fish and sugar, but in case of all other necessaries, the prices are actually less than what they were in the corresponding period in March 1957.

Now, Sir, Arhar dal, mustard oil and tobacco are not generally produced in Assam. We have to bring these things from outside, mostly from Bihar, Orissa and a part of U. P. It is common knowledge by now to everybody in this House that a worst type of drought is prevailing in Bihar and also in Orissa and the eastern part of U. P. Consequently there is short supply of these things resulting in that prices have gone up at the source itself. Therefore, these things are being sold at higher prices here.

With regard to fish, my hon. Friend knows why the price of fish in Shillong is high. He heard a statement about the border firing yesterday. Most of our fish supply in Shillong comes from Pakistan and because of the difficulties of supply from Pakistan the fish prices have gone up. Therefore, Sir, it will be evident that the rise in prices of these commodities was due to circumstances over which this Government has or had no control. I have already explained the reasons for rise in prices of Arhar dal, mustard oil and fish. The only other thing that remains is sugar.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Paddy also remains, because the price of paddy was Rs.16 per maund at Boko and Rs.15 per maund at Nalbari yesterday.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): I am not prepared to accept the figures of the hon. Member. The hon. Member from Dibrugarh said that the procurement target in Gauhati had been fulfilled and it should now be increased. If the price of paddy is Rs.15 now in Kamrup, as is alleged, how could Government procure at Rs.12 or so ?

Now, Sir, I have got to explain the rise in the price of sugar. I am really constrained to say that there was rise in price and the rise was of a very extraordinary nature. I will just try to give a background of the situation. The matter had already been discussed in the Assembly in connection with a short notice question and the debate on Governor's Address. In Assam, the price of sugar depends upon the ex-mill price at production centres. Owing to excise duty imposed, the ex-mill price also went up last year. The abnormal rise in price from the third week of February to the first week of March, 1958, was due to circumstances beyond control. Even during January the market prices of sugar in Assam were lower than in some areas nearer to the production centres. The Railway authorities had to impose operational restrictions from the 20th January to 19th February beyond Katihar owing to some unavoidable circumstances. As the existing stocks gradually depleted the market prices went up according to the general principle of supply and demand.

Now, Sir, it was asked why knowing about these restrictions the Assam Government did not take any measures. We were not at the first instance informed about such a long break.

We were made to understand that this break would be for a few days only ; subsequently it was increased by another few days ; then a few days more and ultimately it was extended virtually for a month. It is true that the amount of sugar carried by the Railway during the year was more than what they did in the corresponding period last year. But at the same time, it should be noticed that there was practically no carriage of sugar by steamer, unlike in the previous year. So that bulk of the commodity which used to be brought by steamer in the previous year was brought by the railways this year. Then, Sir, a large quantity of sugar was required to cater for the needs of the vast gathering which came to see the Congress Session.

(A Voice: So, the Congress created famine).

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): No, sugar was required for the vast gathering who came to attend the Congress Session and side by side a puny session held by some other political party.

Sir, our Trade Adviser in Calcutta took up the matter with the Railway authorities since the 8th February 1958. As soon as the booking restrictions came to the notice of Government all possible steps were taken since 13th February for rushing supplies of sugar to Assam. Operational restrictions were lifted only on the 20th February and two special trains for movement of sugar were arranged by the State Government in addition to normal movements. Both the Supply and Transport Departments contacted the Railways almost daily for easing the situation. Sugar being a decontrol commodity, Government have no statutory powers to enforce distribution at any controlled price and regulate movement. Still, in co-operation with the dealers some arrangements were made for distribution of certain quantities of sugar at reasonable prices to consumers. By the second week of March the situation became normal throughout the State because of the arrival of considerable quantities of sugar.

Sir, it is true that in this crisis some of the merchants behaved in a very ugly and selfish manner. I find no words to condemn these selfish elements. It is really very unfortunate that these people, while having stocks in their hands which were purchased at lesser prices, took advantage of the situation and sold sugar at such high prices. But as I have

already said, sugar being a decontrolled commodity Government was not in a position to do anything positively. The Government had no power to requisition the stock. They could only counsel and persuade the dealers to sell sugar at reasonable prices. Of course, our persuasion failed to a great extent. Now, it has been suggested that Government had some other power, *viz.*, allotment of wagons.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether it is in the knowledge of Government that some private organisations, who were not dealers, had also hoarded some sugar and when prices rose high they sold some of the stock and that Congress was one of those organisations ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) : Congress was not holding any sugar. This is a mischievous statement.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): This appeared in newspapers that the Reception Committee sold some sugar sometime ago.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Many things appeared in newspaper. It also appeared in newspapers that the procurement policy had failed. But the position is this that more than seven lakhs maunds have already been procured and more is being procured. Newspaper reports are sometimes the product of manipulations.

Now, Sir, it has been said that Government could have controlled the situation by not assigning wagons to these people. The position is this: We are not the only authority to allot wagons. The bulk of the wagons are allotted by the Railway authorities and we have no control over them. Anybody can directly approach the Railway, can register his wagon and bring goods accordingly. Only a small number of wagons is at the disposal of the Government, and these are always used for such emergencies and we used them during the sugar crisis...

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): The other day when a short notice question on sugar was discussed, I put a question to the Minister concerned, "Whether it is a fact that some merchants just before the shortage were allotted

home railway wagons but they refused the wagons and they have been allotted wagons now? They by this action created the artificial scarcity. Has it been enquired whether these persons have been allotted wagons?" The Minister said that he would make an enquiry, may I know whether any enquiry has been made or not?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) : I have already asked the department concerned to find out whether the merchants who refused earlier wagons were again allotted wagons. But enquiry has not as yet been finished. Certainly, we have no sympathy for these unpatriotic persons who refused wagons during a crisis and they should not get any favour from the Supply Department. I will not surely tolerate such behaviour of these merchants.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : May I know the result of the enquiry?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : The enquiry has to be made in various places, such as, Calcutta, Shillong, Gorakhpur, Katihar, etc., therefore it will take some time. We have got the report from Calcutta so far as the Trade Adviser is concerned.

Then, my Friend, Shri Nilmony Borthakur, made a complaint about index numbers of parity between prices received and prices paid by the farmers in the State. I will not quote all the figures but I will give the trend. If we compare the figures of prices of agricultural produce, the prices sharply declined from 1952 to 1955 and the parity between prices received and paid by farmers were unfavourable to them during those years. My Friend referred to those years. But since 1956 the parity is very favourable to the farmers. What is the position in 1956 from November to December and in 1957 from January to November? They are as follows:—

Years and Months	Prices received by farmer	Domestic expenditure by the farmer	Farm cultivation cost by the farmer	Prices paid by the farmer	Parity between prices received and paid by the farmer
1956 (November to December)	153	150	127	143.0	142
1957 (January to November)	158	153	132	146	114

Therefore, it will be seen that due to the corrective measures taken by the Government the position improved and the parity is now much favourable to the farmer.

Then, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Das, suggested that we should stop border smuggling. I can assure him that there is no smuggling from our side to Pakistan. At least the position of the foodgrains is such that there is no question of smuggling from our side to that side.

Sir, from what I have stated it would be seen that the prices of foodgrains in Assam are not higher than in other places in India. The price of sugar, as I have explained, has come down to normalcy again. Yet we will have to consider where lies the solution. Until and unless the inflationary tendencies in the whole of India are not arrested we will not be able to surmount the difficulties of high price in Assam. Some of the steps suggested in this connection are higher taxation and launching of small saving schemes. Drive to intensify small savings scheme is necessary. We must increase our agricultural production. I said about this before and I need not repeat. Apart from all these, the transport bottleneck and want of a bridge over the Brahmaputra is greatly responsible for transport of essential commodities from the northern side to the southern side of the Brahmaputra. This State is to import lot of goods from outside the State by river and rail. But for this purpose we do not get sufficient accommodation in steamers and we do not get wagons regularly and in time the capacity of the rail link is extremely inadequate for our purpose. Besides, there are selfish elements; there are selfish merchants who want to take advantage of the peculiar situation of Assam after and by various ways. We have been drawing the attention of the Government of India about these needs. The bridge over the Brahmaputra is very essential and it is hoped, when it will be constructed, it will ease the transport difficulties. In fact one of the reasons for which we wanted the Refinery in Assam was for having better river transport facilities. Fortunately, the Government of India has agreed to give the Refinery in Assam. Let us hope they will consider the question of river transport sympathetically. They have already agreed to improve the rail link. If all these difficulties are not removed, our difficulties of a fluctuating market will ever remain.

Besides, Sir, in the State itself there are many pockets suffering greatly from internal transport difficulties. For example, the district of Cachar during rains very often remains cut off from the rest of Assam; the Subdivision of Lakhimpur also remains cut off often during rains; communications to hill areas are also not upto the mark. So it appears that our internal communication has also got to be improved. The Public Works Department budget is increasing and we are taking up heavy programmes for constructing newer roads.

It also remains to be considered as to how long we are going to depend on the selfish businessmen who have no root on the soil of Assam and whenever they find an opportunity they behave very badly, possibly because they feel that their relationship with our people is mercenary.

Sir, I have been saying that until and unless we are not in a position to have a class of such merchants in our State who are the sons of the soil, who have love for the people, we will have to suffer like this. I invite the attention of the House to work in that line so that our people may be strong enough economically to take up more and more these business and industries which are very vital to the interest of the community. With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

Private Members' Resolutions

Resolution to take over the Venture Lower Primary Schools having sufficient students by the School Boards.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can Mr. Sarat Chandra Goswami to move Resolution No.1.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam to take immediate steps so that the Venture Lower Primary Schools of the State having sufficient number of students are taken over by the School Boards.

Sir, the Resolution itself is explanatory and I need not explain in greater detail. However, I beg to say a few words in this connection. Sir, we have in our State as many as 13,000 Lower Primary Schools and besides there are at present about 1,200 Lower Primary Schools which are being managed by the different School Boards and Lower Primary Boards. Now, these Venture Lower Primary Schools were managed by the public without the contribution of the School Boards and there is no supervision by the Inspectors. So, these schools are being run in a very haphazard manner. Now,

Sir, this Government has done a lot in bringing about the venture schools every year. For instance in the years 1949 to 1954 as many as 2,168 venture schools had been taken over by the School Boards and in 1956-57 about 500 additional posts have been sanctioned. So, in future also Government is moving in this direction. Sir, I move this Resolution in order to solicit the House to accept it in view of the fact that in our State we have 1,100 Lower Primary Schools now which have on their roll more than 40 students. There are 44,000 students who are having their instructions in these Venture Lower Primary Schools. These venture schools are managed by the public and it is for consideration that the villagers themselves have constructed the school buildings, whatever the quality of the house may be. The teachers which are engaged are not being paid in cash, and in cases where they are paid in cash, they are paid only a very nominal amount. Generally these teachers who are appointed by the public for these venture schools were paid only in kind. That is to say, every family of a particular village where the school is situated, contribute one maund of paddy every year. Now, if this is the plight of the teachers who are serving in those venture schools, how can we expect that they will impart their teaching to the students in those schools? There are no blackboards—nothing of the sort. Naturally, the students who are there will have a very weak foundation in the primary stage. Primary stage being the basic stage upon which proper education is to be based upon should not be overlooked. If at the beginning the students are not made qualified to take up the next higher course in the Middle Schools, then they will be handicapped to a certain extent. In view of this, Sir, I have brought this Resolution and only with this idea that the education of these students is also the responsibility of the State. It is a fact that within 10 years there must be universal and compulsory education but we are moving in this direction so much so that out of the total amount spent for education 9 per cent is borne by the public. Now, whatever the class may be, we must give more emphasis on the primary stage if we are to have real and proper education in the country. If the students are left as they are, *i.e.*, if they are not equipped to follow up the course in the next higher stage, the poor standard will continue even in their higher studies. Sir, education is a chronic problem and at the sametime it is the most important problem. Therefore, we cannot improve education by simply taking over of a few schools by the School Boards we must take the whole problem of education and see how we can adequately bring about the necessary improvement to the schools as well as their

standard. Therefore, if we want to improve education, we must give more emphasis on the secondary stage and unless we do that the students will never come up to the standard, even after they have passed the matriculation examination and even up to the University stage, the students will continue with the same deficiency. We cannot expect the venture schools and other schools managed by the public to come up to the standard. Therefore in order to bring about improvement to the standard of education all public and venture schools having sufficient number of students should be taken over by the School Boards.

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

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution moved is : "This Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam to take immediate steps so that the Venture Lower Primary Schools of the State having sufficient number of students are taken over by the School Boards."

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that before the word "Venture Lower Primary" in the second and third lines, the word "deserving" shall be inserted and the words "having sufficient number of students" occurring in 3rd and 4th lines shall be deleted, *i.e.*, Resolution read as follows:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of Assam to take immediate steps so that the deserving Venture Lower Primary Schools of the State are taken over by the School Boards."

Sir, the main purpose of this amendment is to do away with the question of schools having sufficient number of students. In this connection I would like to say that there are many schools in places where the tribal people are predominantly inhabited but the number of students in such tribal schools are not sufficient due to want of communication but at the sametime these are very deserving schools to be taken over by the School Boards. So if the words "sufficient number of students" are kept in the Resolution, in that case the deserving schools in the places where primarily the tribal people are inhabited and where the number of students in those schools are not sufficient will be left out of consideration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your interpretation by saying insufficient number of students ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The number of students in such tribal schools may be less than 30 or 40. In some cases it may be even less than 10 or 15 students in each school. For example, in the Paham area there are hills on all sides and the

villages are thinly populated and therefore, in such schools little boys and girls when they go to attend their schools they have to cross the hills and also rivers and at the sametime there is no school in such areas within a radius of two miles. Can we therefore, expect that the students in such schools will be more than 40 or 50, certainly not. The number of students in such schools may be quite less say it must be 20 or 25, but those schools are deserving and therefore, it is for that purpose that I am moving this amendment in order that the deserving schools in the hilly places as also elsewhere may receive due consideration of the School Boards. Sir, after independence there is a tendency in the minds of the people to start sufficient number of schools for giving education to their children and as a result of this, people have constructed beautiful school buildings and have employed certain teachers to impart education to their children at their own expense. It is true no doubt that many schools have been taken over by the Government, but still a large number of schools have not been taken over and in some places schools which have been running for the last six or seven years with beautiful buildings have not yet been taken over by the School Boards. For example near Palashbari a school with 80 students has only been taken over about a month back and there are such other schools which have not yet been taken over by the Government. Unless the schools are taken over by the Government the students will not get proper education and they will not at the sametime get proper training. Therefore, the students may not become the responsible citizens of our State. Therefore, with this view point I commend my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, I accept the amendment.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, on a point of order, the hon. Member cannot accept amendment without a discussion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The amendment moved is that before the words "Venture Lower Primary" in the second and third lines, the word "deserving" shall be inserted and the words "having sufficient number of students" occurring in 3rd and 4th lines shall be deleted.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, I am opposing the amendment tooth and nail. It is unfortunate that there are many Lower Primary Schools with good buildings and a good number of students yet those schools have not been taken over

by the Government or School Board. Now my Friend, Shri Das, by his amendment wants that only the deserving schools should be taken over by the School Boards. Sir, I say either the Resolution should not be moved or it should be accepted without any amendment. If we want to be sensible and reasonable, then let us accept the Resolution as it is without any amendment. If our stand is that the School Boards have got certain powers and let those School Boards exercise their own discretion in the matter of taking over any school, there is no necessity of this Resolution, that is our idea. What schools are deserving and what schools are not deserving, let the School Boards determine and exercise their own discretion and take over the schools according to their decision. The amendment will cast a reflection on the School Boards as if they are not taking over the deserving schools. If they are really doing so, what is the justification for re-emphasising what they are themselves doing? Therefore, this Resolution, if amended, will have no meaning at all. But if I have understood Mr. Goswami then in spite of the pressure of numbers I hope he will hold on to the Resolution, because it is an important Resolution. It is in line with the directive principles of our Constitution. Sir, we have seen up till now there are many schools in the country which have not been taken over by the Government and it is necessary that these schools should be taken over to progress in the path of compulsory education. We cannot blow hot and cold at the same time. Here the villagers have constructed these school buildings, they have endeavoured to bring the students into the school; now what objection can there be for the Government to take over these schools? To-day we find in our State budget about rupees four crores have been provided for education. I would like further increase, so that there may be compulsory primary education everywhere. Now the first step in this direction should be to take over those schools which have been built through the initiative of the people and take them all over. There can be no valid objection to it, Sir. Therefore, I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Sri Goswami. He has rightly apprehended that there should not be any clog. I bear like him and tell him clearly that it will be a clog if we make a provision that the schools may be taken over if the School Board concerned think it 'deserving'. With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution of Mr. Goswami and oppose the amendment of Mr. Das, who it appears has done it half-heartedly (*laughter*) and which is meaningless. This will injure the very purpose of the Resolution and it should be rejected.

Sri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when any Resolution is brought before the House, there are some purposes behind it. Now we find two educationists have come with two Resolutions. Mr. Goswami is a Professor of a College—Arts College and Mr. Das also is a Professor of a College—Law College. Here lies the difference, Sir. The point is what do we want to do with this Resolution? We want that our people should be educated because as late John Stuart Mill, an eminent educationist and political philosopher had said—“universal education should precede universal suffrage”. Unless our voters, our masters, be educated, unless and until they know what is their duty in voting—for what purposes they are going to cast their votes, democracy itself is meaningless. Therefore, in spite of our very good Constitution, in spite of the good directive principles, in spite of the fact that there are some good persons and good political organisations, our democracy has not become a real democracy. In the name of democracy, there is an inter-play of communalism, casteism, racialism, localism and what not. Sometimes, they are done with a lot of subtlety, for example, Muslim Communalism can be pampered even by putting up a Non-Muslim candidate in a constituency predominantly inhabited by Muslim voters and *vice-versa*. The point is that so long as the people are not educated, so long as they do not know even the elementary thing which a citizen of a free country should know, there cannot be real democracy.

Now, Sir, happily we find that in our State, the poor people also have started schools and have begun to send their children to these schools and in spite of the fact that these poor people cannot send their children with good dresses either to any Convent or Montesory or Nursery or to any Kindergarten, they as ordinary people, send their ordinary children to ordinary schools; the School Board or whoever that authority may be who decides the question of taking over these schools are not taking over them on the ground of ‘undeserving’. Who is to decide whether it is ‘deserving’? If there is an influential man—a Congress man to push, it will be declared as ‘deserving’. So sometimes if there be a school in a backward area and even if there be 60 students that is ‘not deserving’, because ‘he thinks it so’, and so we all of us, including those Professors, find that in spite of the directive principles of the Constitution, in spite of very tall talks, we have not been able to spread education in our country-side, particularly among those sections of the people who are backward, particularly the tribal people, the scheduled castes people, backward class people.

Now I give one instance ; to-day I have seen a deputation met the Education Minister. They came from a backward area and are tribal people. They have got a school and there are 62 students and all of them are tribal students—some Mikirs, some Kacharis and some Santals. Of course in the plains they are not called tribal. These people have raised a C. I. sheet roofed house but that school has not been taken over by the particular Board, because during the last General Election in that area the Congress did not get the majority votes. They have school which now consists of 62 tribal students and a C. I. sheet roofed house and they have also donated five bighas of land, yet the School Board has not taking it over.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Palashbari) : What is the name of that place ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Beltola. In that particular area the Congress did not get votes. So this education is now becoming a political weapon, and I can give many names in my own Subdivision itself where many schools have been taken over by the Board although there are fewer students. So it is favouritism. So we would have welcomed it if a standard would have been laid down. Let it put the number of students at 20, 30, 40. Some formula should have been made out. It should have been concretised. Then in that case I would have supported the amendment of my Friend, Sri Das. But the amendment he has given does not in any way improve the Resolution, on the contrary, it defeats its very purpose.

So it may be said that my little baby is in danger. What is that little baby ? That baby is mass education in our country. So, Sir, as my baby is in danger, because there are certain dangerous elements who are standing in the way of mass education, should my little baby be kept in the custody of the wolf ? I do not know, if the amendment to the Resolution has got that meaning. Up till now those authorities who were charged with the spreading of mass education in the country should be told that the Legislature takes note of it and send a directive so as to spread mass education by these authorities.

Now, if the Government want to say that let the deserving ones get the benefit, then it would carry us nowhere. So far as I understand, this matter has been discussed also by the hon. Members of this House, not inside the House, but in their party meetings. We also came to know that the hon. Members

belonging to the ruling party or any other group expect that the schools should be taken over where there are large number of students. We were very glad when we saw this Resolution. As a matter of fact, there are some such Resolutions that stand in the names of different hon. Members. But Sir, I want to make some remark whether by the amendments which Shri R. Das has brought, we are now prepared to give the little baby to the wolf? Therefore, I am opposing the amendment moved by my honourable Friend, Shri Das. In spite of my great respect for him as an educationist, I do feel that his amendment will be actually torpedoing the very purpose of the Resolution moved by my honourable Friend, Shri Goswami. Therefore, Shri Goswami should either withdraw his Resolution or he should push the Resolution. I hope that Shri Goswami does accept the fact as it stands. At least, so far as Gauhati School Board is concerned, he knows which schools are deserving and which schools are non-deserving and how their cases are decided. Sir, it is not only the case with the Gauhati School Board. The other day we came to know something about the Dibrugarh School Board also. The Dibrugarh School Board, unfortunately, have become a chess-board of politicians and of many unscrupulous men also. Therefore, this matter may be left to the Legislature for their consideration to give directive for mass education and spreading of mass education in the country immediately wherever there are large number of students with the assurance that students will be imparted education.

With these few words, Sir, I request Shri Das to withdraw his amendment and also request Shri Goswami either to stick to his Resolution or to withdraw it.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have heard with great patience, the observations made by the Leader of the Opposition and the hon. Member from Gauhati. I am really inspired for their desire that mass education should be spread in our country. In this respect, I am one with them. But, Sir, I would not be with them regarding the suspicion that may arise about the word "deserving".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whether you are supporting the amendment or opposing it?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Sir, I am supporting the amendment. I have got also some experience of educational institutions. So I think it would be wise

on my part to place my views before the House. Sir, if a rigidity is imposed—say 40 number of students—there is the possibility of growing in a large number of schools within the vicinity of half a mile in thickly populated and advanced areas. By fixation of a certain number say the schools having those 40 students will be considered deserving and it should be taken over by the School Board.

Again, if there is some relaxation, which may be in the backward areas say 25 students in a school will be sufficient. Where there is lack of education, (sometimes in a certain locality there may be a few families only scattered over a large area, if any rigidity is imposed on schools having 25 students I fear such places may be deprived. Therefore, I support the amendment moved by the hon. Member Shri R. Das. I support the amendment because I don't think that there would be unscrupulous misinterpretation of the word "deserving" according to whims. I hope that the word "deserving" would be interpreted in the best manner for the best interest of our children.

Sir, while I support this amendment, I would like to mean that all deserving Venture Schools of Assam should be taken over as such schools are generally built at the initiative of the local people and that they are being managed by them. If there is delay, it may be that their initiative would be adversely affected.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR: (Dibrugarh): I also want them to be taken over.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Sir, I have no suspicion in our Government that there would be any misinterpretation and there would be any mishandling so that the sincerity could be questioned.

Then, Sir, the schools which are built by the people and managed by the people should receive immediate attention of the Government because I find in some localities that school founded by them are disappearing gradually as there is delay in taking over by the School Boards. In such places, the initiative of the local people are killed and their children suffer for want of a school. Therefore, I hope the Government will come forward to take over all the deserving institutions in Assam.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution in the amended form.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned, till 9 A.M., on Friday, the 28th March, 1958.

R. N. BARUA,

*Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam*

SHILLONG:

The 27th June, 1959.

