

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at
10 A.M., on Monday, the 2nd April, 1956.

P R E S E N T

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the
nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the two Parliamen-
tary Secretaries and seventy-five Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Brahmaputra Embankment from Silghat to Jurbeel in
the district of Nowgong**

Maulavi MUHAMMAD IDRIS asked :

1. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Depart-
ment be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that alignment for the Brahma-
putra Embankment from Silghat to Jurbila in
the district of Nowgong were finalised for execu-
tion during the current season ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Embankment and
Drainage Department has begun construction
work only upto Sutirpar and not upto Jurbeel ?

(c) If so, why it has not been done till now ?

(d) Whether Government will take immediate steps so
as to complete the construction before the rains
set in ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

1. (a)—No. Only the portion from Silghat to Lalunggaon
(Sutirpur) was finalised for execution during current season
though the scheme was drawn up for the whole length from
Silghat to Borbeel village near Dhing.

(b) & (c)—Replies furnished *vide* 1 (a) above.

(d)—As the working season is coming to an end it is not
possible to execute and complete more length than that already
taken up in hand for completion.

Allotment of Land in Umpling Area in Shillong

Shri HEMCHANDRA HAZARIKA asked :

2. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some plots of land in Umpling area were allotted to some of the office Assistants of Shillong in the year 1954 ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that no notices for payment of premium have been issued to the allottees as yet ?

(c) If so, why such notices have not yet been issued ?

(d) Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state whether these allottees will be given possession of land on payment of premia ?

(e) If so, when ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

2. (a)—Some plots at Umpling were proposed to be allotted.

(b) & (c)—Formal allotment order could not be issued as the development charge for roads, water supply, etc., which is to be realised along with the premium has not yet been fixed.

(d) & (e)—Yes, as soon as the development scheme particularly with regard to water supply is finalised.

Shillong Jail Road Government Girls' High School

Shri NILMONI PHOOKAN asked :

3. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Shillong Jail Road Government Girls' High School is one of the Schools in the town where Assamese is also a medium of instruction ?

(b) If so, how many Assamese girl students are there in Classes IV to VI (to be shown separately class by class) ?

(c) How many new Assamese girls have been admitted this year in Class IV from other schools ?

4. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is a Lower Primary Section in the said school where medium of instruction is Bengali alone ?

(b) If so, how many Bengali girls have been promoted to Class IV this year from the Lower Primary Section ?

5. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is also a fact that at the time of yearly promotion all the seats in Class IV are filled up by promotion from the Lower Primary Section of the said school and thus deprive the other Assamese girls who have passed the Lower Primary standard from other schools to be admitted there in Class IV ?

(b) If the reply to question (a) above is in affirmative, will Government be pleased to state—

(i) How many of such Assamese girls seeking admission in Class IV have been refused admission this year and the reason thereof ?

(ii) Whether any arrangement has been made to accommodate these Assamese girls in the school ?

(iii) If not, why not ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

3. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Class IV—2.

Class V—A—8.

Class V—B—Nil.

Class VI—9.

(c)—Two Assamese girls are newly admitted in Class IV.

4. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Forty-six Bengali girls.

5. (a)—No. Some Assamese girls passing out from other schools are also admitted.

(b)—(i) Seven.

(ii) The matter is receiving consideration.

(iii) Does not arise.

Shri NILMONI PHOOKAN: Sir, with regard to Question No. 4, it is shown in the reply that the Bengali girls admitted in Class IV this year are 46 and the Assamese girls 2.

May I know how many girls can be entertained in one single Class ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Sir, I require notice of this question. But this much I can say that in some cases variation has to be made to meet the situation.

Shri NILMONI PHOOKAN: Sir, is it not a fact that according to the rules more than 30 students cannot be entertained in such Classes ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): It may be so. I have already said, Sir, that variation has to be made.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, how many students are there in the said school ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): It is apparent that in one Class, that is, Class IV, there are 48 students, and they are in one single section.

Shri NILMONI PHOOKAN: Sir, is it not a fact that 48 students cannot be entertained in one single section under the rules ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I have already replied, Sir.

Shri NILMONI PHOOKAN: Is it not a fact, Sir, that due to the promotion of 46 Bengali girls from the Lower Primary Section there was hardly any room for Assamese girls and so the Assamese girls have been refused admission ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Sir, the whole question is receiving the attention of the Government. There are two Assamese girls' schools already in existence—one is at Laban and the other at Laitumkhrah and therefore probably there had been no such pressure until this time for the admission of Assamese girls in Jail Road Government Girls' High School.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Public Health and Local Board Dispensaries without Qualified Doctors

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*35. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical and Public Health be pleased to state how many Public Health and Local Board Dispensaries are without qualified doctors for the last two years ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

35.—Two Public Health Dispensaries. In regard to Local Board Dispensaries, necessary information is being collected.

Number of Government Employees Living in Rented Houses at Shillong

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

(a) The number of Government employees who have been living in rented houses at Shillong ?

(b) How many of them are married ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

36. (a)—Three thousand, four hundred and sixty-seven.

(b)—Two thousand and thirty.

Overseas Scholarships

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

- (a) The number of persons who were granted Overseas Scholarships since 1947 ?
- (b) Their names ?
- (c) Their community ?
- (d) Their home districts ?
- (e) How many of them have qualified themselves in foreign countries ?
- (f) How many of them failed to qualify ?
- (g) How many of those who qualified themselves were absorbed by the Government ?
- (h) How many of them got jobs under the Central Government ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

37. (a)—Thirty-one.

(b), (c) & (d)—A statement is placed on the Library

Table.

(e)—Twenty-two.

(f)—One.

(g)—Eighteen.

(h)—One.

All-round Development of the People living within the Transferred Area in Dibrugarh Subdivision

†Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

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

(a) Whether he has lately received any representation from the Questioner as to the all-round development of the people living within the Transferred Area in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken on the representation submitted by the Questioner ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

38. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A report has been called for.

Recent Operation in the Naga Hills

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

(a) The number of houses of Nagas searched during the recent operation in the Naga Hills ?

(b) The amount of ammunition and number of arms seized ?

(c) The number of houses, if any, destroyed ?

(d) The number of Nagas who lost their lives in clashes with the Military or Police ?

(e) The number of leaflets, books, pamphlets, if any, seized ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

39. (a) to (e)—Information has been called for.

†The Question was asked by Shri Chanoo Kheria on authorisation.

Approved Suppliers of Stationeries to the Government Offices at Shillong

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*40 Will the Minister-in-charge of Printing and Stationery be pleased to state—

- (a) The names of the individuals and firms who are approved suppliers of stationeries to the Government Offices at Shillong ?
- (b) The names of individuals and firms supplying stationeries who were black-listed for charging higher prices and dishonesty during the last three years ?

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Minister) replied :

40. (a)—(1) Messrs. Dutta Brothers, Police Bazar Shillong.
- (2) Messrs. Assam Stationery, Laban, Shillong.
- (3) Messrs. Kailashprasad Mahesh Kumar, Bara Bazar, Shillong.
- (4) Messrs. Sardah Stationery, Bara Bazar, Shillong.
- (5) Messrs. Assam Stationery Agency, Laitumkhrak, Shillong.
- (6) Messrs. Orient Knittings, Limited, Gauhati.

(b)—There is no record of any approved supplier of stationery to Government Offices at Shillong being black-listed for charging high prices and dishonesty.

Settlement of High Land at Sabukdhara Block in Matiyari Grazing of Jokaisuk Mauza, Sibsagar

†**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU** asked :

*41. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any petition for settlement of high land at Sabukdhara Block in Matiyari Grazing of Jokaisuk Mauza in Sibsagar Subdivision by Shri Phonidhar Das and others of Sabukdhara Kaibarta Gaon was lately submitted to Government ?
- (b) If so, on what date the petition was received and what action has been taken by Government on the strength of the petition submitted by them ?
- (c) On what date the petition was forwarded to the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar District for report ?
- (d) Whether the report from the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, has been received back by Government by now ?
- (e) If not, what action has been taken by Government ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

41. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The petition was received on 15th March, 1955 and a report was called for from the Deputy Commissioner concerned.

(c)—It was forwarded on 24th March, 1955.

(d) & (e)—Final report has not been received, but the Deputy Commissioner has submitted an interim report saying that he directed the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar, to hold a fresh enquiry into the matter and to submit a detailed report.

†The Question was asked by Shri Chanoo Kheria on authorisation.

Eviction of Families by the Assam Oil Company

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

- (a) The number of families who were evicted in the last two years from their lands to enable the Assam Oil Company to start their operation ?
- (b) The total acreage that was requisitioned ?
- (c) The amount of compensation paid for (i) each Bigha of paddy land, (ii) Basti, (iii) each house, (iv) each fruit or bettle-nut tree ?
- (d) Land, if any, allotted to them by the Government ?
- (e) The terms of allotment ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

44.—The information has been called for from the District Authority.

Allotment of Government Land to the Government Officers.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

- (a) How many Government officers were allotted Government land at Shillong ?
- (b) How many of them live in quarters provided by Government ?
- (c) How many have constructed buildings on the land allotted to them ?
- (d) How many of them are living in the houses built on it ?
- (e) How many of them have let the houses out ?
- (f) The number let out to the members of the public ?
- (g) The number let out to the Government for use as offices ?
- (h) The total amount of rent paid for these houses by the Government ?
- (i) Whether any Government servant being allotted land and house building advance, was allowed to resign without realisation of the advance ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

45. (a)—377.

(b)—5.

(c), (d), (e), (f), (g) & (h)—Information has been called for from Deputy Commissioner but the same has not been received as yet.

(i)—One Government servant who was allotted land has resigned. Part of the house building advance given to him has been realised. The balance is being realised by instalment.

Enforcement of Standard Weights and Measures within the Shillong Municipal Area

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

(a) If standard weights and measures are enforced within the Shillong Municipal Area ?

(b) If not, why not ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

46. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Does not arise.

Re: Assam State Transport

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*47. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the total emoluments of a Class IV employee of the State Transport are lower than that of an employee of a Class IV employee in other Departments of the Government of Assam ?

(b) Whether as a result of cash conversion of rice concession and free ration as was done last year the average earnings of the Class IV employees of State Transport went below those of the Class IV employees of other Departments ?

- (c) Whether the Class IV employees of the State Transport made representations before the authorities for upgrading their allowances to the level prevailing in other Departments ?
- (d) Whether the authorities offered the employees the option to choose between the rate of dearness allowance prevailing in the State Transport and that prevailing in other Departments ?
- (e) How many employees opted for the dearness allowance existing in the State Transport and how many for the introduction of dearness allowance prevailing in other Departments ?
- (f) Will the Government give the dearness allowance at the rates applicable to Departments other than State Transport to the employees who opted for it ?

*48. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the number of cases of defalcation of cash in various stations of the State Transport detected during the past five years ?
- (b) What was the total amount involved ?
- (c) What action has been taken against the persons involved ?
- (d) To what extent have the defalcated amounts being recovered ?

*49. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Secretary, Board of Control, State Transport, alone of all other employees in the Department has been made permanent ?
- (b) If so, whether Government propose to make all other employees in the State Transport permanent ?
- (c) If not, why not ?

*50. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the three topmost officers of State Transport, *viz.*, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Board of Control and the Accounts Officer draw dearness allowance at the rates prevailing in other Departments of Government ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

47. (a)—Yes, as a result of cash conversion of rice concession and free rations of the same class of employees in other Government Departments, last year. Before cash conversion it was not so. State Transport has been paying dearness allowance at consolidated rates (since dearness allowance has been introduced) from the beginning. The time-scales of Grade IV State Transport employees are equivalent to employees of corresponding rank in other State Government services. But the State Transport employees of Class IV are receiving lesser emoluments as they are entitled to a dearness allowance at consolidated rates applicable in State Transport Services.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Three hundred and three employees opted for dearness allowance prevailing in State Transport and 951 employees opted for dearness allowance prevailing in other Government Departments.

(f)—The matter is receiving consideration. It is the intention of the Government to adhere to one class of dearness allowance either at consolidated rates of the State Transport or at prevailing rates or in other Government Departments in the entire State Transport Service.

48. (a)—Eight cases of which two were cases of defalcation and the other six being cases of loss of cash from custody of officials in-charge of stations and sub-stations due to theft, etc.

(b)—Rupees 9,135-3-0.

(c)—In two cases of defalcations employees were dismissed from service and in six other cases of losses employees concerned were degraded in rank and pay, and they are debarred from handling cash.

(d)—The defalcated amounts have been recovered in full from the persons responsible.

49. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under active consideration of Government and a decision in this matter will be taken soon. The difficulties that confronted the Government have been explained in the House in replying to a Cut Motion.

(c)—Does not arise.

50.—No. Only the Secretary, Board of Control, State Transport, is drawing cost of living allowance at rate prevailing in other Departments of Government, as the rates fixed by the Board of Control does not apply to this post.

Lakwah Tea Company

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*51. Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government is aware of a case of misappropriation by some labour workers in the Lakwah Tea Company ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to bring the guilty persons to book ?

(c) Whether any case has been started against them and if so, against whom the case has been instituted ?

(d) Whether the Minister received any complaint from the Lakwah Garden Union against Shri D. Saikia ?

(e) If so, what steps have been taken against Shri Saikia ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

51. (a) to (e)—Government have received information from the General Secretary, Lakwah Chah Karmi Sangha, alleging that Shri S. N. Dutta and others have misappropriated a sum of Rs.3,298 payable to the factory workers of Lakwah Tea Company, Limited, Sibsagar, as over-time wages for the year 1952. Government have also received information to the effect that the matter is *sub judice*. Hence, Government have no action to take at this stage.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Whether Government also received from the Secretary allegations that one D. Saikia was also involved in this defalcation ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is said that the case is *sub judice*; so you cannot put all these questions.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : I do not say anything about the merits of the case. All that I want to ask is whether "others" include also D. Saikia ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : The matter was enquired into by the Nazira Police and they arrested some persons. Beyond this we have not received any further information.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : When the Minister said in reply to question (a), (b), (c), (d), that allegations were received against S. N. Dutta and others, whether Government knows who are those others?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : Sir, I cannot say anything further.

Lady Keane Girls' College, Shillong

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

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

(a) How many members of the teaching staff of the Lady Keane Girls' College, Shillong, resigned during the last three years ?

(b) The reasons for their resignation ?

- (c) Whether a good number of the Assamese public of Shillong have stopped sending their daughters and wards to the Lady Keane Girls' College ?
- (d) If so, what is the reason behind it ?

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Lady Keane Girls' College is the oldest girls' college in the State having been started about twenty years back ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that it is still being run as a coaching institution with University affiliation in a few Intermediate subjects only ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that grave charges were made against the Principal by some members of the staff in 1953 and the Principal was superseded temporarily ?
- (d) What was the amount of aid given to this institution in the year 1955-56 ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

52. (a)—No permanent member of the teaching staff resigned, but two temporary teachers left the College in December 1955.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No. A large number of Assamese students attend the College.

(d)—Does not arise.

53. (a) - Yes.

(b)—No. The College is affiliated to the Gauhati University for Intermediate standard. Affiliation in Botany and Commercial Geography only are still to be obtained.

(c)—No. The Principal was never superseded.

(d)—Rupees 1,500 per mensem for maintenance and Rs.600 non-recurring for sports and library.

Number of Wells sunk for the Dhansiri Bridge

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*54. Will the Minister for P. W. D. be pleased to state—

- (a) How many wells have been sunk for the Dhansiri Bridge and how many wells were originally estimated to be sunk ?
- (b) What is the average cost of these wells ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that well No.5 in this bridge was sunk during the flood and that there was none to supervise the work ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that this has caused loss to the State to the extent of Rs.4,29,000 ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that these facts were brought to the notice of the Chief Engineer when he visited the place ?
- (f) If so, what steps have been taken to counter the loss to the State ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

54. (a)—Three wells were sunk originally to designed depth and one was partly sunk (6 ft. short of designed depths) before the advent of rains of 1955. The total number of wells estimated to be sunk originally was six only.

(b)—Total estimated cost of all the wells is Rs.3,35,000 and the average cost of each well is Rs.55,826.

(c)—No. Well No.5 has been sunk during this winter and one Assistant Engineer is in sole charge of this work and he is stationed at work-site.

(d)—No. Pier No.2 which was partly sunk has been damaged by flood of 1955. It has therefore since been decided to sink all the wells to a further depth of 18.75 ft. (from R. L. 259.66 to R. L. 240.91) and for these additional works along with further length of bridge considered necessary, total additional cost will be about Rs.3,56,000.

(e)—Yes, it was brought to the notice of the Additional Chief Engineer during his inspection tour of November last.

(f)—The original design was prepared after proper and scientific calculations based on available data. High flood of 1955 showed that the behaviour of this particular river differed from the assumptions and conclusions on which the alternatively accepted design formulæ were based. Such factors are indeterminate and the loss in such exceptional cases, if any, cannot be avoided.

However, the Engineers have taken note of this case and will try to ensure that such losses are reduced to the minimum by particular attention and collection of required data for rivers, especially those on the North Bank for longer period than has hitherto been done. This will mean a "go-slow" and cautiousness in the tempo of bridge construction programme than what is expected of them.

Request to supply Unstarred Questions and Answers to Members twenty-four hours before the House actually sits

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : On a point of information, Sir, this big book of Unstarred Questions has been supplied to us just five minutes before the Assembly began and it is, therefore, very difficult to do justice to all the Questions. Can the Unstarred Questions and Replies be made available to us at least 24 hours before ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I think that once I directed like that, I expect that my Secretary as well as the other Secretaries will try to supply the printed list of Questions to the Members at least 24 hours ahead. Elsewhere also it is given about 48 hours ahead. I trust our Secretaries will try to do that.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : If most of the Questions are replied on the last day, that creates difficulty for the Members. Cannot Answers be distributed throughout the Session, as otherwise it is difficult to do justice to the Question ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : As regards distribution of Questions, Sir, I may point out that Questions are received late. As soon as we collect information, we submit Replies to the Questions. It is seen that even when summons are received, the Members do not send their Questions. The Questions are generally sent at a late stage and this is why delay takes place. As you know, Sir, in many cases we

have got to collect information from the districts. Due to the last cyclone even telegraphic communications have been disrupted in many places. I hope the hon. Members will appreciate these difficulties and try to send their Questions earlier instead of sleeping over the matter at the beginning.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : As I spoke to you this morning in the Library, Sir, that my Questions were not forthcoming.....

Mr. SPEAKER : I do not hear anything outside the House (*laughter*).

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : After I spoke to you, I got this book and it is very difficult for me in course of this short time to find out my Questions and also to attend to other Members' Questions and the Minister concerned reply thereto. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that Unstarred Questions should be supplied to the Members 24 hours before

Mr. SPEAKER : I have already requested my Secretariat and also the other Secretaries to see that Unstarred Questions may be distributed 24 hours ahead. I expect they will try to do so. At the same time, the hon. Members have also a share in the blame. The Questions filter through towards the end of the Session. I have seen that only about 5 per cent of the Questions come before the Session, about 10 per cent during the early part of the Session and the rest are all put through towards the end of the Session. Therefore, a share of the blame should be taken on the shoulders of the hon. Members also. All the same, I request my Secretary as well as the other Secretaries of the Ministers to see that you may get the Questions at least 24 hours before.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Some of the Questions were admitted long before, in the first week of the last month, but the replies came towards the latter part of the Session.

Mr. SPEAKER : Not in this book at least (*laughter*). Better send your Questions early. As I said, a very meagre percentage of Questions came before the Session began.

(The Secretary to the Assembly, spoke something to the Speaker.)

My Secretary points out that there is one difficulty regarding supplying Questions before 24 hours. Rule 31(4) says, "Printed or typed copies of (1) unstarred questions and answers and (2) short-notice questions and answers shall be laid on the table half an hour before the Speaker takes his seat". Unless the House amends this Rule, I am unable to do anything, except expressing a pious wish. If the House so desires, it may amend the rule.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : There will be another difficulty, Sir, if we are to supply replies 24 hours before. Three days are required for printing the Questions and Answers and supplying them to the Members after replies are received from Government by the Assembly Secretariat. Now, if the Questions and Replies are to be supplied 24 hours ahead, the Replies must be sent four days before the Session closes. This will only delay matters. I think the purpose will be served if printed Questions are laid on the table half an hour before the commencement of the Session.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY : निफं आधा घंटा पहले ऐसी एक बड़ी किताब हमारे सामने रखी जायेगी, ऐसा Rule में नहीं लिखा है।

Mr. SPEAKER : बड़ी या छोटी किताब का सवाल यहां नहीं उठता। यह तो प्रश्नों की बात है। प्रश्नोंकी संख्या ज्यादा होगी तो किताब इस तरह कीबड़ी ही होगी।

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Area of land lying waste and under cultivation in the Cachar District

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

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

(a) The area of land lying waste in the Cachar District fit for cultivation ?

(b) The area of land under cultivation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

119. (a) & (b)—A report has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.

Tea Gardens not implementing the decisions or awards of Appellate and Industrial Tribunals

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

120. (a) Will the Labour Minister be pleased to state which are the tea gardens that are not implementing the decisions and awards of Appellate and Industrial Tribunals respectively resulting in great hardship to workers ?

(b) Whether Government propose to take steps to improve the situation by speedy prosecution of offenders under the Act ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

120. (a)—It has been reported that Gabruparbat Tea Estate, Narayanpur Tea Estate and Deopani Tea Estate have not yet implemented the decisions or awards.

(b)—These are now under enquiry by the local officers. On receipt of their reports appropriate action will be taken by Government.

Re : Electricity and Factory Inspectorate, Assam

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

121. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of the Labour Department be pleased to state whether the Factory Inspectorate has been separated from that of the combined Electricity and Factory Inspectorate with effect from the 1st March, 1955 ?

(b) Is it a fact that out of a permanent strength of the clerical staff in the combined set-up as many as eight permanent staff have been detailed to the newly created Factory Inspectorate ?

(c) Is it a fact that just after separation, the Electricity Department has been created a Major Head of a Department with the result that staff gained an automatic upliftment while the Factory staff is going on with the District office scale which has caused great discontentment amongst the staff ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what was the criterion for selecting the staff for the Electrical Department ?

(e) Will the Labour Minister be pleased to state why the staff of the Chief Inspector of Plantation Labour Act has been given the status of and pay scale of a Head of the Department even though the whole office is in fact a subordinate office of the Labour Commissioner ?

(f) Do Government propose to upgrade the scales of pay of the staff of the Factory Inspectorate to the level of the scales of the pay given to the staff of the Head of the Department ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

121. (a) —Yes.

(b) —Yes.

(c) —Yes. The Electricity Department on separation took up Development Projects necessitating expansion of the office to the status of that of a Head of a Department.

(d)—In the combined Electricity and Factory Department, some were doing Factory works and some Electricity. The latter was transferred to Electricity Department.

(e)—The Chief Inspector of Plantations has no separate and independent office. The staff appointed for implementation of the Plantations Labour Act is a part of the office of the Labour Commissioner.

(f)—The question will be considered by the Pay Committee.

Re: Employees of Tea Gardens in Assam

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked:

122. (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of—

- (i) European ;
- (ii) Anglo-Indian ;
- (iii) Residents of Assam, and
- (iv) Non-residents of Assam now employed in the

tea gardens of Assam separately as Superintendents, Medical Officers, Managers, Assistant Managers and Welfare Officers?

(b) Whether Government are aware that Indian Tea Association has a five-year plan of Indianisation of executive personnel in tea gardens?

(c) Whether Government propose to take steps to the effect that opportunities will be offered firstly to members of staff already in service in Tea Gardens and secondly to educated youngmen of the State to fill up the vacancies by due advertisements in leading newspapers of Assam?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister) replied :

122. (a)—The information is being collected.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The whole question of Indianisation of executive posts in tea gardens has already been taken up with the Government of India and the Indian Tea Association. Government will impress on them the wishes of the hon. Member.

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR : এই 'ইনফৰমেচন' খিনি কলেক্ট কৰিবলৈ কিমান সময় লাগিব ?

Shri OMEMO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : সময় লাগিব, কাৰন যি বিলাক figure বিচাৰিছে সেইবিলাক এহেজাবৰ অধিক চাহ বাগিচাৰ পৰা বিচাৰি আনিব লাগিব, ক'ত কিমান ভাৰতীয় অথবা এংলোইণ্ডিয়ান আছে।

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR : আমাৰ চৰকাৰ ভাৰত চৰকাৰ আৰু Tea Association ৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰিছেনে নাই ? যদি নাই কৰা আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কি action লৈছে বা এই সম্বন্ধে কিবা গীমাংসাত উপনীত হৈছে নে ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): এই সম্বন্ধে কোনো Statutory আইন নাই যাব বললে Private Industry বিলাকক এই দৰে মানহ লবলৈ বল কৰিব পাৰি। তেওঁলোকক বুজাই আনিবলৈ ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ 'কমাৰ্চ' বিভাগক আলোচনা কৰিছে। কেনেকৈ এইটো কৰিব পৰা যায়।

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR: এই আলোচনা ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ লগত কিমান দিনৰ পৰা হৈছে?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): কেইবা বছৰৰ পৰা হৈছে।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: এই দুবছৰৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়া কৰ্মচাৰী কেইজন লোৱা হৈছে?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): সেইটো প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰ হঠাতে দিয়াটো টান।

Supply position of Corrugated Iron Sheets and Cement in Assam

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the supply position of C. I. Sheets and Cement are far below the demand in the State?
- (b) If so, why?
- (c) What quantities of C. I. Sheets and Cement are being supplied now to the different subdivisions of the State?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that much black-marketing in these two commodities is being resorted to because of control?
- (e) Whether Government propose to lift the control?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied:

123. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In view of increased demands for C. I. Sheets and Cement throughout the country owing to various development activities taken up by the Central Government and the State Governments, the over-all supply position is below the actual requirements. The State Government is required to depend on the periodical allocations made by the Central Government in respect of Cement and C. I. Sheets. Besides, due to the incapacity of producers to cope with the orders placed on them, occasional break-down in factories, labour strikes, transport difficulties—which are beyond the control of the State Government—the quotas allotted by the Central Government also do not always move regularly.

(c)—The present quotas of C. I. Sheets and Cement allotted for the year 1955 by the Government of India and allocated to different subdivisions of the State are as follows:—

Name of Subdivision	Quantity allotted in 1955	
	C. I. Sheets in tons.	Cement in tons
1. Silchar	340	1500
2. Karimganj	200	1010
3. Hailakandi	Tagged to Silchar	180
4. Shillong	405	1000
5. Gauhati	635	4460
6. Barpeta	220	800
7. Dhubri	420	2690
8. Goalpara	200	720
9. Garo Hills	100	320
10. Nowgong	560	4984
11. Mikir Hills	80	180
12. Haflong	80	100
13. Naga Hills	100	329
14. Tezpur	280	1840
15. Mangaldai	120	1330
16. Jorhat	280	3240
17. Golaghat	220	1670
18. Sibsagar	340	3220
19. Dibrugarh	516	5550
20. North Lakhimpur	120	564
21. Aijal	80	Quota tagged to Silchar.
22. Lungleh	20	Quota tagged to Silchar.

(d)—Government have no information about much black-marketing in these commodities—there might be sporadic cases.

(e)—It is not within the competence of the State Government to lift the control which has been imposed by the Central Government in order to ensure proper distribution. Whenever any essential commodities are in short supply, control over price and distribution is essential.

Grants of Agricultural Loan in the Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

124. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many people have been granted Agricultural Loans in the Sibsagar Subdivision since 1947 to date ?
- (b) Who were the recipients of Agricultural Loans in the Sibsagar Subdivision in the year 1954-55 showing the amount received by each of them ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : replied.

124. (a) & (b)—Information has been called for.

Free Permit for felling Sal trees in the Mechpara Wards' Estate, Jhars in the district of Goalpara

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

125. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

- (a) Total number of Sal trees sanctioned by the Government for free permit from the Mechpara Wards' Estate, Jhars in district of Goalpara from the year 1951 to up-to-date (to be shown year by year) ?
- (b) Names and addresses of persons, to whom and the institution to which the free permit were issued (to be shown year by year) ?
- (c) Whether it is fact that some Sal trees were issued on free permits in the name of some contractors for bridge construction from the quota of said sanctioned free permit timbers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : replied.

125. (a) to (c)—The information has been called for.

**Rehabilitation of flood-affected families of Dakhin Saru
Bongshar Mouza under Kamrup District.**

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

126. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The number of families of "Dakhin Saru Bongshar Mouza" under Kamrup district who were affected by the flood and erosion in the last two years ?

(b) Whether any of these families got lands elsewhere for their rehabilitation ?

(c) If not, why there is delay in the matter ?

(d) How long it will take to give the affected families lands for their rehabilitation ?

(e) Whether any of these families got cattle loans in the last year and in this current year ?

(f) If so, the number of families who have been granted such loans.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : replied.

126. (a)—One hundred and eighteen families were affected by erosion and 830 families by floods.

(b)—Seventy-six eroded families have already been rehabilitated in Barua Khas land and Hatipara V. G. G. in Chaygaon Circle.

(c) & (d)—Proposal for dereservation of 200 bighas of land in Naitar P. G. R. for rehabilitation of the remaining families is under consideration.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—An amount of Rs.2,450 was issued to 74 families during the last financial year and Rs.10,000 to 100 families during the current financial year.

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHODHURY: In regard to (f) the answer is: "An amount of Rs.2,450 was issued to 74 families during the last financial year and Rs. 10,000 to 100 families during the current financial year."

May I know, Sir, whether the amounts stated here were given to the people of Dakhin Saru Bongshar Mouza alone or not ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I cannot say whether these amounts were given to this Mauza or to any other Mauza.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: These amounts have not been given alone to Dakhin Saru Bongshar Mauza. I know it.

Mr. SPEAKER: In that case the hon. Member can write and get the detailed information.

Re: Applicants for Agricultural Loan from the district of Goalpara since 1950

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

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

- (a) the number of applicants for agricultural loan from the District of Goalpara since 1950 ;
- (b) the names of the applicants whose petitions are still pending ;
- (c) the names and addresses of applicants from Sidli Police Station outside the National Extension Service Block whose petitions were enquired into ;
- (d) the names of applicants as above in whose case no action was taken ;
- (e) the amount of money allotted for issuing agricultural loan during 1955-56 ; and
- (f) the amount already issued during the said year in Goalpara District ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister): replied.

127. (a)—39,151.

(b)—The names are not readily available.

(c) & (d)—The petition of Kumar S. N. Deb of Sidli for a Land Improvement Loan of Rs.20,000 was enquired into. It was found that the land which the applicant wanted to improve was Annual Patta Land leased to him by the Questioner, Raja Ajit Narayan Deb of Sidli—who took over the management of the Sidli Duar Estate from 1945 to 1951. It appeared from record that the Raja was not authorised to issue lease in respect of any land. So the said leases were not in order. The applicant has kept the land in question, unutilised, so non-renewal notice has been issued to him. Moreover, the applicant has not paid land revenue and local rate

thereof since he received the lease for 1951-52, and an approximate amount of Rs.1,600 is lying outstanding against him. In view of all these facts no loan was sanctioned to him.

(e)—Rupees 5,76,100.

(f)—Rupees 5,71,760.

Labour Officers and Labour Investigators appointed since the year 1948 up till now

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

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

(a) How many Labour Officers and Labour Investigators were appointed since 1948 till now (figures are to be given year by year and post by post) ?

(b) How many of them are Muslims (figures are to be given year by year and post by post) ?

Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister):
replied.

128. (a)—

	Labour Officers		Labour Investigators
	3 in 1948		3 in 1948
	2 in 1951		2 in 1950
	1 in 1954		1 in 1951
	<hr/>		1 in 1955
Total ...	6	Total ...	7

(b)—

	Labour Officers		Labour Investigators
	1 in 1948		1 in 1951

**Price of common variety of rice at Jorhat in December
1955 and January 1956**

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

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

- (a) What was the price of rice of the common variety at Jorhat in December, 1955 and January 1956 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that on 18th December, 1955 Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar certified to D. S. T., N. E. F. A., that the price of rice was Rs. 22 ?
- (c) What was the variety of rice ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : replied.

129.(a),(b) & (c)—Information has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar.

Working hours of State Government Employees

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

130. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the State Government employees who work overtime in Shillong are paid overtime allowance for doing extra hours of work ?
- (b) If not, why not ?
- (c) Whether there is any rule prescribing working hours of State employees as in the case of employees coming under the purview of Labour Act ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : replied.

130.(a)—Only the workers engaged in the Industrial side in the Government Press and in the State Transport Organisation get overtime allowance under the provisions of the Indian Factories Act.

(b)—Does not arise as the whole-time of a Government servant is at the disposal of Government under Fundamental Rule 11.

(c)—The working hours of the State Government Offices are regulated by Executive Orders issued from time to time for the convenience of the general public. The orders fixing office hours from 10 a. m. to 4-30 p. m. on week days and from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. on Saturdays which are now in force came into effect from 16th January 1951.

Lower Primary School Teachers of Silchar Municipal Board.

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

131. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.163 asked by the Questioner in the Assembly on the 27th June, 1955 on the subject of Lower Primary School teachers of Silchar Municipal Board and state whether Government could arrive at any decision on the long pending claim of some ten Lower Primary School teachers now under the Silchar School Board?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : replied.

131.—The matter is under correspondence with Silchar Municipal Board, and final orders will be issued on receipt of their reply.

Area of different types of lands in Tinkhong Mauza, Dibrugarh.

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA asked :

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

- (a) Total area of Tinkhong Mauza, Dibrugarh ;
- (b) Area of tea garden land ;
- (c) Area of Village Grazing Reserve ;
- (d) Area settled for ordinary cultivation under Periodic Patta ;
- (e) Area settled for ordinary cultivation under Annual Patta ;
- (f) Area of waste land and unclassed forest land, and
- (g) Area that can be settled with landless people ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

132. (a)—153 square miles approximately.

(b)—About 66,649 bighas which includes grant land, tea periodic patta lands, ordinary kheraj periodic patta land and annual kheraj patta land.

(c)—About 5,419 bighas.

(d)—About 43,244 bighas.

(e)—About 62,993 bighas.

(f)—1,17,903 bighas including N. C. areas (not in compact block).

(g)—About $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the area of waste land as shown in 132 (f) is fit for cultivation which can be settled with landless people. The exact area cannot be given as the area has not been surveyed as yet.

Medical Dispensaries in the Southern Portion of Barpeta Subdivision

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that there is neither a medical dispensary nor a hospital within the area of about 1,000 square miles inhabited by 75,000 people on the southern portion of Barpeta Subdivision, *e.g.*, in Mauza Bagisan Mandir, Baghsan and Titapain ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that this is a flood affected and a backward area ?

(c) Whether Government propose to establish some medical dispensaries within this area ?

(d) If so, where and when ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

133. (a) & (b)—Information is being collected.

(c)—There is no proposal at present.

(d)—Does not arise.

Flood Damage Grants to Schools

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

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

- (a) What is the total amount sanctioned for Flood Damage grants to the Schools of the different categories ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the original list of grantees was amended ?
- (c) How the grants has been distributed in each Subdivision of the State ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

134. (a)—Rupees 24,40,100.

(b)—Yes, certain corrections in names of schools as found necessary were made together with readjustment of amounts as found on scrutiny.

(c)—The grant has been distributed Subdivision-wise as follows :—

Name of Subdivision	Total amount
	Rs.
1. Goalpara	1,93,500
2. Dhubri	2,27,400
3. Barpeta	1,81,000
4. Gauhati	2,95,500
5. Nowgong	3,55,000
6. Mangaldoi	1,40,000
7. Tezpur	2,28,600

Name of Subdivision	Total amount
	Rs.
8. Golaghat	1,03,500
9. Jorhat... ..	1,76,500
10. Sibsagar	1,82,000
11. North Lakhimpur	1,64,100
12. Dibrugarh	1,36,000
13. Karimganj	57,000
Grand Total ...	24,40,100

Free studentship to Ahom students

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the students of other communities in the State such as the Caste Hindus, the Muslims, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, etc., other than the Ahom students have been enjoying free studentships on the basis of the total rolls of the students of the Government Schools particularly in Sibsagar ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that on this account the students of the Ahom community do not get the benefit of free studentships like fellow students of other backward communities ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Ahom students enjoy the benefits of free studentships on the total strength of the Ahom students only and not on the total rolls of the Schools in general ?
- (d) If so, what are the reasons for this discrimination and whether Government propose to remove it early ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

135. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—Necessary informations are being collected.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: The answer to this Question is:—“Necessary informations are being collected”. Will the Minister-in-charge please state when the informations are likely to be received as the machinery of the Government is very slow to move ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): At least two to three months will be required.

**Number of Mura-buffaloes purchased during the year
1955-56**

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

136. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Mura-buffaloes purchased during the year 1955-56 ?
- (b) Where these Mura-buffaloes are kept now ?
- (c) The amount spent in purchasing these buffaloes ?
- (d) The quantity of milk yielded from these buffaloes ?
- (e) Whether there was profit or loss in the part of Government in purchasing the Mura-buffaloes ?

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister)
replied :

136. (a)—250.
 (b)—150 at Khanapara and 100 at Barapeta.
 (c)—Information has been called for.
 (d)—About 34 maunds daily.
 (e)—It is too early to determine the position about profit and loss till at least one complete year's working.

Supply of Electricity to Sibsagar Town

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

137. Will the Minister-in-charge of Electricity be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that a public limited company was lately floated in Sibsagar town at the instance of Government that Government would advance loan to the Company if so floated ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that Government refused loan to the Company and the Company went in liquidation ?

(c) Whether Government propose to supply electricity to the said town ?

(d) What are the places where electricity is going to be supplied from Government resources alone ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

137 (a), (b) & (c)—As the Questions make several assumption regarding facts which are incorrect, a little detailed explanation of the position is desirable. On 12th July 1954 the State Government issued a notification calling for applications for electric licenses in different towns including Sibsagar. On 30th July, 1954, Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha and others applied to Government for grant of a license for a Company styled as Sibsagar Electric Supply Co., Ltd., which was to be formed for the purpose. In that application no request was made for Government assistance nor was the license asked for on condition of Government help. While the necessary formalities regarding grant of license were being examined, on assurances received from the Planning Commission regarding availability of funds for expansion of power facilities, in December 1954 a letter was issued to the Chairman of Municipal Boards, including the Sibsagar Municipal Board, asking them to indicate if they were interested in setting up a Municipal Electric Supply undertaking with some measure of Government assistance. The Municipal Board replied in January 1955 supporting grant of a license to the Company which was being formed for the purpose. Accordingly, the license was issued after due completion of formalities on 18th April, 1955 in favour of the Sibsagar Electric Supply Co., Ltd. Thereafter the Company made an application for loans. But a general decision was already taken by Government that the private undertaking should apply to the Assam Financial Corporation for loans. Accordingly the application received from the Sibsagar Company was transferred to the Assam Financial Corporation. The Corporation thereafter started correspondence with the Company and after some correspondences received a formal application for the loan in September, 1955. Government on their part have been making enquiries to ascertain the position regarding grant of loan to the Company. It transpired that the Company did not have enough paid up capital or assets to form adequate security for the loan applied for and the Corporation was unable to give the loan until adequate security was forthcoming from the Company. Thereafter, in November 1955 the Company applied to the Government stating that it was not able to fulfil the conditions of the Assam Financial Corporation and requesting the Government of Assam to give financial assistance to the Company as follows :—

(i)—Subscription for shares—Rs.2.5 lakhs.

(ii)—Loan of Rs.5 lakhs.

The State Government gave anxious consideration to the request of the Company but in view of the very large amount of assistance asked for and in view of the inadequate security forthcoming for repayment, Government felt it would be more appropriate to take up the electrification of Sibsagar on a departmental basis. The Company has been informed accordingly. Government understand that the Company have decided to go into voluntary liquidation. Meanwhile, the town of Sibsagar has been put on the list of departmental undertaking to be taken up by the State Government.

It may be that the Company had expectation of financial assistance from the Government in one form or another, but as indicated, these expectations were based on inadequate realisation of the rules regarding security that would have to be observed in any case, either by the Assam Financial Corporation or by the Government themselves.

(d) It is the intention of Government to supply power departmentally to places like Sualkuchi, Nalbari, Mangaldai, Goalpara, Hojai, Diphu, Golaghat, Dergaon, Titabar, Hailakandi, Kokrajhar, North Lakhimpur, Nazira, Doom Dooma, Sibsagar, Cherrapunji, etc., besides investigating possibilities of extension of power facilities to other places like Aijal, Jowai, Dhekiajuli, Udalguri, Lakhipur, Bhurbandha, Tura, Haflong, Dimapur, Bokaghat, etc. Fuller details are available in the printed Second Five-Year Plan of Assam, copies of which have been circulated to Members of the Assembly and placed on the Library Table.

Number of Multi-purpose High Schools taken up by Government during 1955-56

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked :

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

- (a) How many Multi-purpose High Schools have been taken up by the Government for the year 1955-56 with the names of the Subdivision where such schools have been taken up ?
- (b) Of these which are in the urban areas and which are in the rural areas ?
- (c) Whether any principle was adopted by Government in taking up these High Schools ?
- (d) If so, what is that principle ?

- (e) Whether any of the High Schools established in protest to Cunningham Circular been taken up ?
- (f) If so, which school and when it was started ?
- (g) Whether the Government gave any consideration to Sualkuchi and Palasbari High Schools at the time of taking up the High Schools ?
- (h) If not, why not ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

138. (a)—15. Names of Subdivisions—Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Sibsagar, Goalpara, Kohima, Jowai, Aijal, Garo Hills, Nowgong, Tezpur, Gauhati, Cachar, Barpeta.

(b)—Morigaon, Charali, Lala and Bajali High Schools are in rural areas and the rest are in urban areas.

(c) & (d)—Yes. Principle was to distribute them among Government and Non-Government Boys and Girls Schools. It was also seen that both Urban and Rural Schools were selected. A balance was maintained between schools in Hills and schools in the Plains areas.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—They were considered but could not be selected.

(h)—Palasbari High School buildings are threatened by erosion and it is not advisable to put up new buildings. Sualkuchi High School as reported by the Headmaster has no room for expansion.

Appointment of Senior Auditors and Assistant Auditors since the year 1948

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

139. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Senior Auditors and Junior Auditors of Local Accounts and Audit Reporters were appointed since 1948 (figures are to be given year by year and post by post) ?
- (b) How many of them are Muslims (figures of appointment are to be given year by year and post by post) ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

139. (a) & (b)—A statement furnishing the required information relating to Senior Auditors and Assistant Auditors is placed on the Library Table. There are no posts of Audit Reporters and Junior Auditors.

Settlement of lands covered by Dag No.187 in Village Bor Gorla Chapori Gaon Part II under Morongi Mauza, Golaghat Subdivision

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY asked :

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

- (a) With whom lands covered by Dag No. 187 in village Bor Gorla Chapori Gaon Part II under Mauza Morongi in Golaghat Subdivision has been settled ?
- (b) What is the total area of the lands settled in this Dag ?
- (c) Whether the settlement is on annual or periodic basis ?
- (d) If so, what are the areas under annual and periodic settlements (each to be given separately) ?
- (e) What is the area of land owned by the person or each of the persons with whom this land has or have been settled (area to be given separately) ?
- (f) How these settlement holders are utilising the lands settled with them ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that these lands are being rented out to the cultivators of this village ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that these lands were originally settled on annual Pattas with the cultivators of the aforesaid Bor Gorla Chapori Gaon (Part II) village ?
- (i) If so, how and why their Pattas have been cancelled ?
- (j) Whether Government propose to cancel the settlement with the present Pattadars holding annual Pattas or requisition this land in order to distribute the same to the agriculturists in actual occupation of the same ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

140. (a) to (j)—Information has been called for from the local officer.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: In answer to this Question it is stated:—"Information has been called for from the local officer". May I know, Sir, whether the informations when received will be sent over to me ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I have no objection to send them to him.

Appointment of Agricultural Income-tax Officers and Agricultural Income-tax Inspectors since the year 1948

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

141. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance Department be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Agricultural Income-tax officers and Agricultural Income-tax Inspectors have been appointed since 1948 till now (figures to be given year by year and post by post) ?
- (b) How many of them are Muslims (figures of appointment to be given year by year and post by post) ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

	No. of post	Year
141. (a)—Agricultural Income-tax Officer	1	1949
Agricultural Income-tax Inspector	2	1951
	2	1952
(b) —Agricultural Income-tax Inspector.	1	1952

Appointment of Superintendent of Taxes, Assistant and Additional Superintendent of Taxes, Inspector of Taxes and Sub-Inspector of Taxes since the year 1948

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

142. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance Department be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Superintendent of Taxes, Assistant and Additional Superintendent of Taxes, Inspector of Taxes and Sub-Inspector of Taxes have been appointed since the year 1948 till now (figures to be given year by year and post by post) ?

(b) How many of them are Muslims (figures of appointment to be given year by year and post by post) ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

	No. of post	Year
142. (a)---Superintendent of Taxes—20	5	1948
	3	1949
	6	1951
	1	1952
	3	1953
	2	1954

Inspector of Taxes—15

3	1948
4	1949
1	1950
6	1951
1	1954

Sub-Inspector of Taxes—33

10	1949
6	1950
4	1951
4	1952
8	1953
1	1955

There are no posts of Assistant or Additional Superintendents of Taxes.

(b)---Superintendent of Taxes—

No. of post	Year
1	1948
1	1949
1	1953

Inspector of Taxes—

1	1951
---	------

Sub-Inspector of Taxes—

1	1949
1	1950
1	1953

**Appointments made in the Assam Civil Service since
the year 1948**

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

143. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total number of appointments made in the Assam Civil Service (Senior) from the year 1948 till now (figures to be given year by year)?
- (b) How many of them are Muslims (figures of appointment to be given year by year)?
- (c) What is the total number of appointment made in the Assam Civil Service (Junior) from the year 1948 to up-to-date (figures to be given year by year)?
- (d) How many of them are Muslims (figures of such appointment to be given year by year)?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

		Number of appointments	
		By direct recruitment	By promotion
143. (a)—	1948	10	6
	1949	3	4
	1950	15	5
	1951	...	3
	1952	17	7
	1953-54	20	6
	1955-56	18	7
(b)—	1948	1	2
	1949	1	...
	1950	...	1
	1951	...	...
	1952	1	2
	1953-54	...	2
	1955-56	1	2

	Number of appointments
(c) 1948	2
1949	12
1950	...
1951	19
1952	18
1953-54	29
1955-56	35
(d) 1948	...
1949	4
1950	...
1951	3
1952	...
1953-54	1
1955-56	2

Cases of murder in Barpeta Subdivision during 1953, 1954 and 1955.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked :

144. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
- How many cases of murder were reported in each police station of Barpeta Subdivision in each of the years 1953, 1954 and 1955 ?
 - How many cases were charge-sheeted in each police station and how many cases were committed to session ?
 - How many such cases were dismissed in trial due to the uninterested attitude and fault of investigating officers ?
 - Whether Government propose to enquire into the matter ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

144. (a)—The information is given below :—

Name of Police Stations	1953		1954		1955	
	No. of cases charged-sheeted	No. of cases committed to sessions	No. of cases charged-sheeted	No. of cases committed to sessions	No. of cases charged-sheeted	No. of cases committed to sessions
1. Tarabari	3	Nil	6
2. Patacharkuchi	Nil	3	2
3. Sorbhog	Nil	8	9
4. Barpeta	3	3	2

(b)—

Name of Police Stations	1953		1954		1955	
	No. of cases charged-sheeted	No. of cases committed to sessions	No. of cases charged-sheeted	No. of cases committed to sessions	No. of cases charged-sheeted	No. of cases committed to sessions
(1) Tarabari ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3	2
(2) Patacharkuchi ...	Nil	Nil	1	1	1	Nil
(3) Sorbhog ...	Nil	Nil	4	2	4	2
(4) Barpeta ...	1	1	1	1	2	2

(c)—None.

(d)—Does not arise.

Money spent for construction of the dispensary building and staff quarters at Kulsi in the Kamrup District.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

145. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical and Public Health be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the amount of money spent for construction of the dispensary building and other quarters of the Medical staff at Kulsi in the Kamrup District ?
- (b) Whether the dispensary was constructed as State Dispensary ?
- (c) Whether any staff has been given for this dispensary ?
- (d) If not, why not ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

145. (a)—Rs. 18,200.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Not as yet.
 (d)—For want of qualified Doctors.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY: May I know, Sir, when qualified doctors are expected to be available ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): We have advertised for qualified doctors and as soon as the Public Service Commission send a list of candidates we shall appoint one for Kulsi Dispensary.

Re: The Students, the House Physicians, the House Surgeons and the Nurses of the Assam Medical College.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

146. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the authorities of the Assam Medical College have recently decided that henceforward no honorary House Physicians or House Surgeons will be kept in the Assam Medical College Hospital ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that in case any Medical Student of Assam seeks admission in any foreign Medical Institute or seeks registration in

the General British Medical Council he or she is required to have the qualification of at least six months experience as House Physician and House Surgeon in a Hospital attached to a recognised Medical College ?

147. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) The amount of allowance or honorarium granted per month to the House Physicians and House Surgeons attached to the Assam Medical College Hospital ?
 - (b) Since when they are being paid at this rate ?
 - (c) What was the rate prior to this ?
 - (d) Whether Government contemplate to alter the rate in the near future ?
 - (e) If so, whether the rate will be raised or lowered ?
148. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether the nurses undergoing training in the Assam Medical College Hospital are required to work as whole-time nurses in the Medical College Hospital including performance of night duty by rotation ?
 - (b) If so, what is the monthly allowance granted to each nurse under training in the Assam Medical College ?
 - (c) Do Government propose to enhance the present rate of allowance in the near future ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

146. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

147. (a)—House Physicians and House Surgeons are granted a stipend of Rs.100 per mensem each with free accommodation.

(b)—Since 1st February 1956.

(c)—Rupees 150 per mensem.

(d)—No.

(e)—Does not arise.

148. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The monthly allowance granted to each nurse under training is—

Rupees fifteen per mensem as pocket money for 1st and 2nd years.

Rupees twenty per mensem as pocket money for 3rd year.

Rupees thirty per mensem as messing allowance.

Rupees two per mensem as Dhoby allowance.

Rupees seventy-five per mensem as uniform allowance on joining, and rupees thirty per annum subsequently.

In addition, they are provided with free quarters, light, servant, etc.

(c)—The Pay Committee is considering the matter.

Survey of Mikir Hills District

Shri BARELONG TERANG asked :

149. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government proposes to complete the survey of Mikir Hills District soon?

(b) If so, within what period and when it will be completed?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

149. (a)—Survey for demarcation of boundary of the district is expected to be completed soon.

(b)—The ground demarcation of the portion of the boundary between the United District of Mikir and North Cachar Hills on one side and the Sibsagar and Nowgong Districts on the other side will be completed during the Winter Season of 1956-57 and that of the boundary of the district on the side of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills will be taken up in 1956-57 field season and is likely to be completed by 1957-58 field season.

Shri BARELONG TERANG: প্রশ্নোত্তর No. ১৪৯ৰ (b) ত নই কব খোজে যে, গোলাঘাটৰ মেলাচী, দেলামাৰা আৰু নগাঁৱৰ চালনী আদি ঠাইসমূহৰ লগত আমাৰ মিকিৰ পাহাৰ জিলাৰ সীমা ঠিক নোহোৱাৰ কাৰনে বহুসময়ত পুণ্ডপোল চলি থাকে। সেই কাৰনে আমাৰ মিকিৰ ৰাইজৰ তৰফৰ পৰা নই জানিব খোজে যে এই সীমানা ১৯৫৬ চনতে ঠিক কৰিব নোৱাৰিব নে?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): United Mikir and North Cachar Hills সীমা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিবলৈ Survey of India ক দিয়া হৈছে। তেওঁলোকে আৰম্ভ কৰিছে। এই কাম কৰোতে বহু সময়ৰ আৱশ্যক। আমি আশা কৰো ১৯৫৭-৫৮ চনত এই সীমা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ জৰিপ শেষ হব। জিলাৰ সীমা accurate ভাবে কৰাৰ আৱশ্যক। সেই বাবে জৰিপ খুব সাবধানে কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। শেষ কৰিলেই নহ'ব, কামটো accurate হোৱাও দৰ্কাৰ।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপুনি উল্লেখ কৰা নগাঁও আৰু শিৱসাগৰৰ লগত মিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ সীমা সোনকালে নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিবলৈ কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰক জনোৱা বুলি কৈছে।

Re: Muslim Medical Students

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

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

(a) What is the tota' number of students awarded stipends in completing M. B. or M. B. B. S. Course tenable both inside and outside the State from the year 1949 till now (figures are to be given year by year) ?

(b) How many of them are Muslims (figures are to be given year by year) ?

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

(a) What is the total number of students admitted to Assam Medical College since it has been established (figures to be given year by year) ?

(b) How many of them are Muslims (figures to be given year by year) ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : replied :

150. (a) & (b)
 &
 151. (a) & (b) } —Information is being called for.

Lands given to Shri Tankeswar Baruah of Dibrugarh

Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI asked:

152. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that one Shri Tankeswar Baruah of Dibrugarh was given some eleven hundred acres of land for the purpose of cultivating sugarcane and of manufacturing sugar ?

(b) If so, whether land has been utilised for the said purpose ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to take over the lands from the said Shri T. Baruah and distribute the same land to the flood-affected people of the locality ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): replied :

152. (a)—Shri Tankeswar Baruah of Dibrugarh was given about eleven hundred acres of land of Tipling grant in his individual capacity for the purpose of ordinary cultivation and not especially for growing sugarcane.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The matter is still under consideration of Government.

Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI: আৰু কিমান দিন লাগিব ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): সঠিক উত্তৰ দিয়া নাযায়। কাৰণ বিষয়টো বৰ জটিল।

Shri HARIHAR CHOUDHURY: 152(a) Question এই মাটি Individual Capacity হিচাবে নে লক্ষীচুগাৰ কোম্পানীৰ নামত দিয়া হৈছিল ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): তাত দুঠাইত মাটি আছে, এঠাইত ব্যক্তিগত নামত আৰু ইঠাইত কোম্পানীৰ নামত।

Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI: তেখেতৰ মাৰ্শেৰিটাতো মাটি আছে। এই কথা চৰকাৰে জানে নে ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): থাকিব পাৰে।

Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI: মাৰ্শেৰিতাত তেওঁৰ যি মাটি আছে তেওঁৰ তলতীয়া বায়ত সকলৰ বিবাদৰ বিষয়ে কিবা জানেনে ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): থাকিব পাৰে।

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR: এই কথা চৰকাৰৰ নটিচলৈ কিমান দিনৰ আগতে আহিছে।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): এই বিলাক বৰ জটিল ব্যাপাৰ, আদালতৰ সহায় নহলে নহয়।

Land allotted to Garbhitar Middle English Madrassa under Tihu Circle from Dhamdhama V. G. R.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

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

- (a) Whether some six bighas of land from Dhamdhama V. G. R. was allotted to Garbhitar Middle English Madrassa under Tihu Circle during the year 1953 ?
- (b) Whether a public petition was later received against such allotment ?
- (c) Whether the land was dereserved through proper procedure ?
- (d) If the answer to (b) above is in affirmative, what action was taken by Government on the said petition ?
- (e) Where lies the public petition now ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

153. (a) to (e)—Report has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup.

Rehabilitation of river-eroded families in Barkhetri Mauza in Kamrup District

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked :

154. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that some villages in Mouza Barkhetri in Kamrup District were eroded by the river Brahmaputra within the years 1953-55, and if so, what are those villages and what is the number of the eroded family ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the river-eroded families of Barkhetri Mouza took their temporary shelter in Bhangamari P. G. R. which is just near their villages and without giving them land for rehabilitation they have been evicted and houses were burnt down within this year ?

- (c) Whether plans are made for the rehabilitation of those river-eroded people of Barkhetri Mauza and if so what is that plan and when will they be rehabilitated ?
- (d) What is the actual area of Bhangamari P. G. R. ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that there are some Khas lands near the Bhangamari P. G. R. and if so, what is the area of these Khas lands ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Revenue Minister ordered to settle 10,000 bighas of lands from that P. G. R. or Khas lands near the P. G. R. with the people affected by river erosion and subsequently Government ordered to evict them from there ? If so, why ?
- (g) Whether Government will consider the matter of rehabilitation of the people affected by river erosion of Barkhetri Mauza in that Bhangamari P. G.R. ?
- (h) If not, why ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : replied :

154. (a) to (h) — Information has been called for.

Test Relief Work in Kamrup District

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked :

Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

155. (a) Whether it is a fact that Rs.3,000 was sanctioned as Test Relief Work on Rampur-Mugdi site of the Chonata-Rampur Public Works Department Road for the help of the flood-affected and river-eroded people of Barkhetri Mauza in Kamrup district ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that though the work was completed last year, the money is not yet paid to the people upto this time ?

(c) If so, why and when the money will be paid ?

(d) If not, the reason for non-payment ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): replied :

155. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Earthwork of 1,03,661 c. ft. was executed through one Shri Saber Ali Talukdar and payment of Rs.1,900 was made through Sub-Deputy Collector, Hajo at the rate of Rs.18 per 1,000 c. ft.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise.

Number of Labourers in the Agricultural Farm at Jorhat

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

156. Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) How many labourers work in the Agriculture Farm at Jorhat ?

(b) What is the daily rate of wage of such male and female labourers ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that they are not given paid holiday on 15th August and 26th January ?

(d) Whether they have been provided with houses ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): replied :

156. (a), (b), (c) & (d)—Informations are being called for.

Government Press Note

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

157. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether in a Press Note issued by the Assam Government it was alleged that there was a strike by Railwaymen, Luming on 28th December 1955 ?

(b) What was the source of information of the said Press Note ?

(c) Whether the attention of the Government been drawn to the Press Statement issued by the Railway Administration challenging the contention of the Assam Government Press Note and stating that there was no railway strike at Luming on 28th December, 1955 ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

157. (a)—The Press Note issued by the Government only mentioned that train communication which was suspended from passing through Lumding after the incident on 28th December 1955 was resumed from 1400 hours of 29th December 1955. There was no reference therein to any strike by Railwaymen.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes, to a letter published by the Regional Superintendent, North-East Railway, under the caption "All Quiet in Lumding" in the *Assam Tribune* of 1st January 1956. This letter did not refer to the Assam Government Press Note ; neither could it challenge the note inasmuch as no reference to any strike by Railwaymen was made in the note.

A ten-feet deep Pond for Chowdang Pather Forest Village at Sibsagar

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

158. Will the Forest Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether a ten-feet deep pond was sanctioned by the Forest Department during the year 1954-55 for Chowdang Pather Forest Village in Doyang Reserve of Sibsagar Forest Division ?

(b) Whether the Range Officer, Golaghat recorded the measurement of the pond as ten-feet deep and showed the sanctioned amount as spent in full ?

(c) Whether some local people finding the pond too shallow reported the matter to higher authority and accordingly the Divisional Forest Officer, Jorhat checked the pond and found it only five feet deep ?

(d) What step has been taken against the Range Officer, Golaghat for the above action ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

178. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c) & (d)—Information are not available. These have been called for.

Reserved land under the Mechpara Wards' Estate

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

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

- (a) The area of reserved land in a Gariadhap Dihi on the South of Zinziram River under the Mechpara Wards' Estate in the district of Goalpara ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Government had stopped settlement of land with the immigrants on the South of the Zinziram River under Mechpara Wards' Estate by an executive order ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to withdraw the said order in order to rehabilitate the eroded landless persons of the district of Goalpara ?

160. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) The total area of land dereserved at the Marichbari Reserve under the Mechpara Wards' Estate for settlement to the landless ?
- (b) Whether the land so dereserved has been allotted to the deserving persons by now and if so, what is the area and number of families of the allottees, community by community ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

159.(a)—Information has been called for from the Local Officers.

(b)—The term immigrant is misleading. There was such an order before enforcement of Indian Constitution.

(c)—Already withdrawn, only in favour of landless erosion affected people.

160.(a)—3,000 bighas.

(b)—Allotment lists were prepared but possession could not be delivered due to unauthorised encroachment. Details of allottees have been called for from Local Officers.

Re: Quarters built in the University site at Jalukbari

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI asked :

161. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) The plinth area of the following quarters built and proposed to be built in the University site at Jalukbari and the estimated cost allotted for each—

- (1) Vice-Chancellor's ;
- (2) Registrar's, Deputy Registrar's, Secretary, University Classes, Assistant Registrar and Treasurer ;
- (3) Professors ;
- (4) Readers ;
- (5) Lecturers ;
- (6) Office Assistants ; and
- (7) 4th grade staff.

(b) Whether these quarters have been constructed or proposed to be constructed on the following basis—

- (1) Basic pay of the employee ;
- (2) Number of family members.

(c) Whether the rents have been fixed, as fixed for the Government quarters of the State ?

(d) If not, what rents and the basis on which the same has been fixed ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the construction of these quarters are carried on at a higher schedule of cost than that of the schedule fixed for the construction of the Engineering College quarters at Jalukbari ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): replied :

161.(a)(1)&(2)—No plans have yet been prepared for construction of residential quarters of the University Officers. Secretary, University Classes has been allotted a quarter same as that of a Professor.

(3), (4) & (5)—Only two types of quarters have been constructed for the University teachers with the following plinth areas and cost. The allotment of quarters are made by the University authority.

Smaller Type

			Rs.
Main building	...	1,514 S.ft. at Rs.11-12-0	17,789
Cookshed (A. C. Roof)	...	317 S.ft. at Rs.12	3,804
Covered Passage (A. C. Roof)	...	50 S.ft. at Rs.6	300
		1,881 S.ft.	21,893

Bigger Type

Main building	...	1,778 S.ft. at Rs.11-8-0	20,447
Cookshed (A.C.R.)...	...	384 S.ft. at Rs.12	4,608
Covered Passage	...	50 S.ft. at Rs.6	300
		2,212 S.ft.	25,355

Subsequently revised and raised to 1,803 S.ft.

(6)—Office Assistants—

Main building	...	693 S.ft. at Rs.12-3-0	8,445
Cookshed (A.C.R.)...	...	280 S.ft. at Rs.12	3,360
Covered Passage (A.C.R.)	...	40 S.ft. at Rs.6	240
		1,013 S.ft.	12,045

(7)—4th Grade Quarters—

Main building	...	229 S.ft. at Rs.14-11-0	3,364
Cookshed	...	87 S.ft. at Rs.14-8-0	1,262
Bathing place with enclosures	...	50 S.ft. at Rs.4	200
		366 S.ft.	4,826

(b)—On the basis of basic pay.

(c) & (d)—Rents are fixed by the University Authority according to their adopted principles.

(e)—No. Rates are not higher.

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: May we know, Sir, when the estimates and plan of quarters for the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Deputy Registrar and other officers will be made and construction of the quarters will be undertaken?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I cannot say just now; it will depend on the financial resources of the Gauhati University Development Committee.

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Why estimates of these quarters for the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, etc., were not made?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Construction of these quarters cannot immediately be taken up because, as I have stated, this construction will depend upon the resources of the Development Committee.

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Is it not essential that the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and other officers are provided with quarters?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Certainly. But the construction of these buildings is taken up in phases. The first phase of the programme which had already been taken up, does not include these buildings.

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: May we know where these officers are living, whether in their own houses or in hired houses in other places?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): My Friend knows that the Vice-Chancellor and others are living at Gauhati now.

Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Is it not necessary to give them residence first at University Compound?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I have already replied to that question, Sir. Construction of these buildings will depend upon the financial resources of the University Development Committee.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Whether the quarters of the Registrar will be constructed at the present University site?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Yes, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Is it not a fact that a house has recently been constructed at Gauhati for the Registrar to live in ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): It is a fact that a building has been constructed at the Cotton College Hostel Compound, but this will be utilised for any of the Superintendents of the Hostel.

Distribution of cattle loan amongst the Agriculturists of Majuly N. E. S. Block.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

162. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the total amount of money given as cattle loan (Agriculture Loan) for distribution amongst the agriculturists to the Project Executive Officer, Majuly N. E. S. Block since the beginning of the Project there up-to-date ?
- (b) Who were the recipients of the cattle loans upto 29th May 1955 and what are their addresses ?
- (c) How many of them are Tribal and Scheduled Castes people (to be shown separately and their names and addresses to be given) ?
- (d) Whether the following persons have been given cattle loans—
 1. Shri Maliram Pegu of Borpumua Miri Gaon.
 2. Shri Sonaram Hatimata of Purana Chamuguri.
 3. Bhokotram Kalita of Deodiati.
 4. Krishnaram Borua of Daria.
 5. Ananda Bhuyan of Karhal Gaon.
 6. Tikhor Saikia.
 7. Someswar Bhuyan ?
- (e) If so, what are the reasons of giving them cattle loans ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

162. (a) to (e)—The information has been called for.

Travelling Allowances drawn by the Project Executive Officer, Majuly N. E. S. Block

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

163. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state what is the total amount of money drawn by the Project Executive Officer, Majuly N. E. S. Block, Shri D. Gogoi, as Travelling Allowances upto 31st May 1955 since the time of his posting there ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

163. The information has been called for.

Number of Ring and Tube Wells installed in villages at Majuly since the inauguration of the Project

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

164. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Ring and Tube Wells had been installed in various villages at Majuly since the inauguration of the Project at Majuly up-to-date out of the Project Fund ?
- (b) What are the names of the villages where either R. C. or Tube wells have been sunk and how many of them are within Tribal and Scheduled Caste Villages (names of villages to be shown separately) ?
- (c) Whether one R. C. well after being allotted to the Miri people of Kalia Miri Gaon from Kamalabari was diverted to Sonari Ati Gaon to be sunk there ?
- (d) If so, why ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

164. (a) to (d)—The information has been called for.

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR : Question বিলাকৰ উত্তৰ আহোতে ইমান দেবি হোৱাৰ কোনো কাৰণ নেদেখো, যিহেতু জিলা বিভাগ বিলাকৰ পৰা মাছে মাছে বিপোর্ট আহি থাকে। গতিকে মই সন্ধিব খোজো যে বিপোর্ট বিলাক মাছে মাছে নাহে নেকি ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That has been replied to more than once.

**Number of monkeys shot dead by the Project
Executive Officer, Majuly N. E. S. Block**

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

165. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total number of monkeys shot dead by the Project Executive Officer, Majuly N. E. S. Block upto 31st May 1955 ?
- (b) What are the names of the villages from where he killed the monkeys ?
- (c) What is the total number of monkeys killed by him from Karhal Village alone since the opening of the Block ?
- (d) For how many nights he had to camp at Karhal Village to kill the monkeys and in whose house he had to make camp ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that he once made his camp in the house of Shri Ananda Bhuyan of Karhal Gaon ?
- (f) How many packets of shot cartridges have been given to Shri Ananda Bhuyan, Shri Tikhor Saikia, Someswar Bhuyan and Rojoni Bhuyan for killing monkeys upto date ?
- (g) What are the reasons for giving them cartridge specially ?
- (h) Who are the persons who have been given cartridges for killing monkeys (A list may be laid on the table) ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

165. (a) to (h)—The information has been called for.

**Appointment of Muslims to the Assam
Forest Service.**

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR asked :

166. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forest be pleased to state—

(a) How many appointments have been made to the Assam Forest Service (Class I Deputy and Assistant Conservator of Forests) and Rangers from the year 1948 upto to-day (Figures are to be given year by year and category-wise)?

(b) How many of them are Muslims (Figures to be given year by year and post by post)?

167. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forest be pleased to state—

(a) How many students have been deputed from Assam with stipends to Dehra Dun Forest Institute or to any other Forestry training institute for training in Assistant Forest Conservators Course and Rangers' Course from 1948 upto to-day (Figures to be given year by year and course by course)?

(b) How many of them are Muslims (Figures to be given year by year and course by course)?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minster) replied :

166. (a) & (b)—Three statements are laid on the table.

STATEMENT No. I

(Deputy Conservator of Forests)

Statement showing the number of appointments made to the A. F. S. (Class I) in the cadre of Deputy Conservator of Forests and Assistant conservator of Forests and number of Muslim Officers appointed against the same from the year 1948 to date.

Year	Total number of Officers appointed to the class of Deputy Conservator of Forests in the year	Number of Muslim Officers appointed against the same in the year	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1948	Nil	Nil	Appointments to the class of Deputy Conservator of Forests are made by <i>promotion only</i> from the cadre of Assistant Conservator of Forests according to the seniority and merit of Officers as and when vacancies occur in the cadre of Deputy Conservator of Forests and no direct appointment is made. Officers as shown in this statement are all promoted Officers.
1949	4	2	
1950	Nil	Nil	
1951	1	Nil	
1952	1	Nil	
1953	4	Nil	
1954	1	Nil	
1955	2	Nil	
1956 (to-date)	1	Nil	
Total	14	2	

QUESTIONS
STATEMENT No. II

[2ND APRIL,

(Assistant Conservator of Forests)

Year	Total number of Officers appointed to the class of Assistant Conservator of Forests in the year	Number of Muslim Officers appointed against the same in the year	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1948	6	Nil	All these 6 Officers have been promoted from the Forests Ranger's grade.
1949	3	Nil	These 3 Officers have been appointed as Assistant Conservator of Forests from Forest Ranger's grade.
1950	4	1	Three of them were direct recruits and the Fourth (a Muslim) by promotion.
1951	3	Nil	All direct recruits.
1952	4	Nil	Direct recruits three and promoted one.
1953	2	Nil	All direct recruits.
1954	1	Nil	Do.
1955	3	1	By Promotion.
1956 (to-date)	1	Nil	All appointments whether by direct recruitment or by promotion as mentioned in this statement were made in consultation with the Assam Public Service Commission.
Total	27	2	

STATEMENT No.III

(Forest Rangers)

Statement showing number of appointments made to the class of Forest Ranger (III Grade only) and number of Muslim Officers appointed against the same from 1948 to date.

Year	Total No. of Forest Rangers (III Grade only) appointed in the year	Total No. of Muslim officers appointed against the same in the year	Remarks
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1948	1	Nil	
1949	4	1	
1950	9	1	
1951	6	1	
1952	5	1	
1953	6	1	
1954	6(a)	--	(a) One by promotion and rest direct recruits.
1955	6(b)	..	(b) Do.
1956 (to date)	5(c)	..	(c) All direct recruits.
Total	48	5	

All promotions and recruitment under categories as per this statement are made in consultation with Assam Public Service Commission.

167. (a) & (b)—A statement is laid on the table.

Statement in connection with Questions No.167 (a) & (b)

STATEMENT No.IV

Statement showing total number of students deputed for training in the Superior Forest Service Course (Assistant Conservator of Forests) and Rangers' Course, and the total number of Muslim candidates recruited against the same from the year 1948 up-to-date.

Year	Number of students deputed for training in the superior forest service course in the year			Number of students deputed for training in the Rangers course in the year			
	Muslims	Others	Total	Muslims	Others	Total	
1948							
(1948-50 Course)	3	3	1	8	9
1949							
(1949-51 Course and 2nd year of 1948-50 Course.)	..	1	3	4	1	5	6
1950							
(1950-52 Course)	3	3	1	4	5
1951							
(1951-53 Course)	3	3	1	5	6
1952							
(1952-54 Course)	5	5
1953							
(1953-55 Course)	5	5
1954							
(1954-56 Course)	5	5
1955							
(1955-57 Course)	1	1	..	2	2
1956							
(1956-58 Course)	2	6	8
Total	..	1	13	14	6	45	51

All selections are made on the recommendation of Assam Public Service Commission after due advertisement.

Appointments made in the Assam Agricultural Service**Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR** asked :

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

- (a) What is the total number of appointments made in Assam Agricultural Service Class I, General Section, Fruit Inspector, Agricultural Inspector, Agricultural Inspector (Grow-More-Food), Irrigation Inspector, Assistant Agricultural Chemist, Chemical Assistant, Botanical Assistant, Mycological Assistant from the year 1948 to date (figures to be given year by year, categories-wise.)?
- (b) How many of them are Muslims (figures to be given year by year, category-wise.)?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

168. (a) & (b)—A Statement is placed on the table.

Statement in connection with reply to Question No.168(a) & (b)

168. (a)—

Name of the posts	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	Total
1. Assam Agricultural Service Class I	3	1	2	2	2	Nil	2	2	14
2. Fruit Inspector	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	3
3. Agricultural Inspector	16	5	3	3	2	2	6	7	44
4. Agricultural Inspector (G. M. F.)	9	Nil	1	3	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	14
5. Irrigation Inspector	3	1	Nil	1	1	1	Nil	Nil	7
6. Assistant Agricultural Chemist	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
7. Chemical Assistant	1	1	1	1	Nil	1	1	1	7
8. Botanical Assistant	Nil	Nil	1	2	1	1	4	3	11
9. Mycological Assistant	Nil	1	2	1	Nil	1	3	1	9

168 (b)—

1. Assam Agricultural Service Class I	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1	1	3
2. Fruit Inspector	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
3. Agricultural Inspector	2	Nil	1	1	1	Nil	1	2	8
4. Agricultural Inspector (G. M. F.)	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
5. Irrigation Inspector	1	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	3
6. Assistant Agricultural Chemist	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. Chemical Assistant	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Botanical Assistant	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
9. Mycological Assistant	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1

Meteka Bongaon Village in Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Meteka Bongaon a very backward village in the Sibsagar Subdivision consisting of nearly 150 families of Scheduled Caste people stand on a sharp loop of the river Dikhu and that this village could not be protected by the scheme of Extension of Dikhu Bund which is now under construction ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that this village has a village path there now existing which till now the local people used as their protection from the Dikhu floods ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to improve the existing village path by raising and thus protect the poor villagers from the ravages of the floods before the rains set in ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

169. (a)—Yes. This village could not be protected by extension of the Dikhu Bund as it was not technically feasible to go round the loop due to the peculiar topography of the area.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—It is proposed to raise the village path to serve as a ring bund for protection of the village.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: With regard to No.169 (c) Sir, May we know whether raising of this bund will be completed before May this year ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The reply is there, Sir, "It is proposed to raise the village paths to serve as a ring bund for protection of this village". It is expected that this village path which will serve as a ring bund for protection of the Meteka-Bongaon will be completed before the rains set in.

Sanction of Trees for the Sankar Mandir at Batadraba in Nowgong.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

170. Will the Minister of Forests be pleased to state —

- (a) How many trees were sanctioned for the Sankar Mandir at Batadraba in Nowgong as per application of Shri Bimala Bora ?
- (b) What was the valuation of the trees sanctioned ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that free grant covered only Rs.3,800 ?
- (d) If so, how many trees covered this value and how many trees were actually felled ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that an additional free grant of trees worth Rs.1,800 was made subsequently ?
- (f) How do Government propose to dispose of the rest of the trees felled ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

170. (a)—Three thousand two hundred cubic feet sal sawn timber were sanctioned in two instalments.

(b)—The royalty value of the timber sanctioned as above was at that time Rs. 3,800. The sanction, however, was not in terms of trees.

(c)—Yes. The free grant originally sanctioned was for Rs. 3,800.

(d)—One Hundred and ten trees were necessary to cover the requirement on the basis of quantity and quality by using only the lower portions of the trees and actually 110 trees were felled.

(e)—No. An additional free grant of Rs. 1,800 was given to cover the increased royalty value of the original 3,200 cft. of timber; the royalty per cubic foot of timber having been increased subsequent to the issue of original free grant.

(f)—The top portions of all these trees which would have gone waste resulting in loss of revenue to the Government were also disposed of on realisation of full royalty.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: With regard to Question No.170(d)—may we know what will be the height and girth of these trees ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): It is not possible for me to say just now, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: In answer to my question the Minister said at (d) that one hundred and ten trees were necessary to cover the requirement on the basis of quantity and quality by using only the lower portions of the trees and actually 110 trees were felled—when 110 trees were actually felled, the Minister should be able to give us the correct information regarding the height and girth of those trees.

Mr. SPEAKER: The top portion will not be utilised for the purpose.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes Sir, but what is the girth of the lower portion ? Unless we know the height and girth of these trees it will be difficult to rely on this information of the Minister that only the lower portion will be used for covering the requirement, my question about the height and girth is only consequential to my previous question ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): This is absolutely a new question, Sir. From the questions he has put before no reply to this question is warranted at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is difficult to answer that.

Dikhu Bund

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the public feeling that the raising of the Dikhu Bunds on both the banks will greatly affect the Kowarpur Mouza which is already a flood-affected Mouza unless Taxi Ali be not raised and a Bund is not constructed from Bolia Ghat to the Brahmaputra river this year ?

(b) If so whether Government propose to construct the said Bund and raise the Taxi Ali before the rainy season sets in ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

171. (a)—Government have no such information. Raising and strengthening of the Dikhu Bunds on both the banks are not likely to cause floods in Kowarpur Mouza higher than that in previous years as these works have been taken up with a view to bringing the Bunds to revised specifications as advised by the Central Water and Power Commission. Raising of Taxi Ali is however necessary and the matter is under consideration of the Government. It is not advisable from Engineering point of view to construct a Bund along the right bank of the Dikhu from Baliaghat to Brahmaputra unless another Bund on the opposite bank is simultaneously constructed from Namdang outfall to Dikhumukh, Plans and estimates for which are now under scrutiny.

(b)—Due to shortage of technical staff and implementation of other urgent schemes under First Five Year Plan programme, the schemes referred to at (a) above are not likely to be completed before the next rains.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: In reply to my question No.171 (b) Government have said, "Due to shortage of technical staff and implementation of other urgent schemes under Five Year Plan programme, the schemes referred to at (a) above are not likely to be completed before the next rains"—may we know whether Government is taking up this scheme as it is a very important project ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The reply is already there, Sir. Let me read "(a) Government have no such information. Raising and strengthening of the Dikhu Bunds on both the banks are not likely to cause floods in Kowarpur Mouza higher than that in previous years as these works have been taken up with a view to bringing the bunds to revised specification as advised by the Central Water and Power Commission. Raising of Taxi Ali is however necessary and the matter is under consideration of the Government. It is not advisable from engineering point of view to construct a Bund along the right bank of the Dikhu from Baliaghat to Brahmaputra unless another Bund on the opposite site bank is simultaneously constructed from Namdang outfall to Dikhumukh, Plans and estimates for which are now under scrutiny.

(b) Due to shortage of technical staff and implementation of other urgent schemes under First Five Year Plan programme, the schemes referred to at (a) above are not likely to be completed before the next rains”.

Saw Mills and Veneer Mills in Lakhimpur Forest Division.

Shri HARIHAR CHOUDHURY asked :

172. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

- (a) The total number of Saw Mills and Veneer Mills located under Lakhimpur Forest Division (to be shown separately) ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that on 15th January, 1956 all the Saw Mills and Veneer Mills under Lakhimpur Forest Division were simultaneously raised by Forest Department Officers ?
- (c) If the answer to (b) above be in the affirmative, whether any illegality was detected in any of the mills ?
- (d) If so, the name or names of mills with nature of illegality detected ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied :

172. (a)—The total number of Saw Mills and Veneer Mills in the Lakhimpur Forest Division are 38 and 11 respectively.

(b)—No. The Saw and Veneer Mills under Tinsukia, Makum, Digboi and Lekhapani only were checked simultaneously on 15th January, 1956.

(c)—Yes. Illegalities were detected in the Saw Mills and the Veneer Mills under Makum Range. Reports in respect of other Ranges are not as yet available and are being collected.

(d)—The names of Mills with nature of illegality detected under Makum Range are furnished below :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Durgadutt Saw Mills,
Makum Junction. | Working the Mills without licence. |
| 2. Modern Timber Works,
Makum Junction. | The following unmarked old Nahor logs were found. |

- (i) Nahor 15' × 3'-6" ... 1 Pcs.
- (ii) Nahor 12' × 3'-9" ... 1 Pcs.

3. M/S. U.G.T. Works,
Makum Junction.

The following unmarked
logs were found in the
Mill.

- (i) Nahor 12' × 3'-4" ... 1 Pcs.
- (ii) Nahor 12' × 4'-3" ... 1 Pcs.
- (iii) Nahor 12' × 3'-4" ... 1 Pcs.
- (iv) Nahor 12' × 3'-6" ... 1 Pcs.
- (v) K. Sopa 12' × 3'-10" ... 1 Pcs.

4. M/S. Assam Forest Products :—

The following unmarked were found :—

Hollong Logs				Pcs.
3'8" × 13'4"	...	...	...	1
3'10" × 12'4"	...	...	...	1
4'5" × 13'6"	...	...	...	1
4'3" × 13'4"	...	...	...	1
5'6" × 13'8"	...	...	...	1
6'0" × 13'9"	...	...	...	1
5'0" × 13'4"	...	...	...	1
6'9" × 13'6"	...	...	...	1
4'6" × 13'6"	...	...	...	1
			Total	<hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> 9 <hr style="width: 50px; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>

**Lakhimpur Forest Division and Doom Dooma
Forest Beat Office**

Shri HARIHAR CHOUDHURY asked :

173. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

- (a) The total revenue receipt of the Lakhimpur Forest Division and of Doom Dooma Forest Beat Office, separately, for the year 1951-1955 (to be shown separately year by year) ?

- (b) The number of office Assistants in the Lakhimpur Divisional Forest Office and number of Forest Officers in the Doom Dooma Forest Beat Office during the said period (to be shown year by year) ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) replied:

173. (a)—Figure as follows:—

Lakhimpur Division					Rs.
1951-52	...	...	...	...	13,80,012
1952-53	...	...	...	...	15,48,822
1953-54	...	...	...	...	18,99,623
1954-55	...	...	...	...	23,82,263
Doom Dooma Forest Beat					
1951-52	...	...	...	...	1,71,734
1952-53	...	...	...	...	1,94,421
1953-54	...	...	...	...	2,31,479
1954-55	...	...	...	...	2,53,518

(b) Information as follows:—

The number of Office Assistants in the Lakhimpur Divisional Forest Office:—

1951-52

One Head Assistant.

Two Accountants.

One Upper Division Assistant.

Eight Lower Division Assistants.

1952-53

One Head Assistant.
Two Accountants.
One Upper Division Assistant.
Eight Lower Division Assistants.

1953-54

One Head Assistant.
Two Accountants.
One Upper Division Assistant.
Eight Lower Division Assistants and two more Lower Assistants were allotted.

1954-55

One Head Assistant.
Two Accountants.
One Upper Division Assistant.
Eight Lower Division Assistants and two more Lower Assistants were allotted.

Forest Officers in the Doom Dooma Beat Office:—

1951-52	...	...	...	...	4 (Four numbers)
1952-53	...	...	...	...	3 (Three numbers)
1953-54	...	...	...	...	3 (Three numbers)
1954-55	...	...	...	...	4 (Four numbers)

Shri HARIHAR CHOUDHURY: লক্ষিমপুর ফরেষ্ট ডিভিজন আৰু ডুমডুমা ফরেষ্ট বিট অফিচৰ যোগেদি যি অনুপাতে বেভিনিউ আহিছে সেই অনুপাতে চৰকাৰে অফিচাৰ দিয়া নাই। গতিকে এই স্থানৰ খোজো যে তাত অফিচাৰ বচোৱা হব নে নহয়?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): প্ৰয়োজন হলে বচোৱা হব।

Construction of a Bridge over Nowkhanda River near Barpeta

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED asked:

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

- (a) Since when the construction of the bridge over Nowkhanda river near Barpeta was started and by what time the construction is expected to be completed?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that though the construction of the Bridge is not yet completed, the earth work of the Bridge approach of the road is completed ?
- (c) If so, what is the amount of total cost of the earth work of the Bridge approach ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the earth work of the Bridge approach of the Nowkhanda Bridge was completed in the previous year and that it was washed away by the flood ?
- (e) Why then the earthwork of the bridge approach was completed before the completion of the Bridge construction ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

174. (a)—Construction of the bridge over Nowkhanda River near Barpeta was started in February 1955. It is expected to be completed by December 1956.

(b)—Yes, the earthwork in bridge approaches is nearly complete and its completion in all respects is expected by April 1956.

(c)—Total cost of earthwork when completed will be about Rs.48,000.

(d)—No, it is not a fact.

(e)—The bridge is expected to be completed by the next winter. It is necessary that earthwork in approaches is done in this winter in order to allow it to settle during the next rains so that the approaches are ready for use by the time the bridge is complete.

Pub-Kaliabar Panchayat in the District of Nowgong

Shri LILA KANTA BARAH asked :

175. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) When the Tile Making Demonstrator in Pub-Kaliabar Panchayat in the district of Nowgong was appointed and when he joined his duties ?

(b) Whether he has done any work since the time of his appointment and whether he has been supplied with the necessary tools for his work ?

- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Panchayat in question got another man of the locality trained in Tile Making at its cost ?
- (d) If the answer to (c) above be in the affirmative, will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state what was the reason for not appointing the local man trained at the cost of the Panchayat ?

176. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to state—

- (a) When the Pub-Kaliabar Panchayat in the district of Nowgong was started ?
- (b) What amount of local rate the Panchayat has received each year since its start and whether it has received the full amount of local rate due to it and if not why not ?
- (c) Whether the Panchayat has received its share of the bazar and pound at all since its start and if not, why not ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

175 (a)—The appointment was made as Pottery Demonstrator and not as Tile Making Demonstrator for the Pub-Kaliabar Rural Panchayat. He was appointed by the Cottage Industries Department on 9th September, 1955 and he joined in the post in the forenoon of 21st September, 1955.

(b)—He is doing preliminary works such as searching of good earth and found out suitable earth for making colour for tiles, pottery, etc. Necessary funds for supply of the tools have also been sanctioned.

(c)—May be so. It was not known to the Department concerned when the appointment was made.

(d)—The appointment of the Pottery Demonstrator was made after due advertisement. Government had no information at the time if such a man was trained at the cost of Panchayat.

176. (a)—On 1st February, 1951.

(b)—The Panchayat has received the following compensatory Grants in lieu of the Local rates so far collected by the Mouzadars concerned against the demands as shown against each.

	Year of collection	Year of sanction	Local rate demand	Local rate collected	Amount received by the Panchayat
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.	1951-52	1952-53	2,159-1-0	140	140
2.	1952-53	1953-54	2,163-13-0	1,240	1,240
3.	1953-54	1954-55	4,451-4-0	918	918
4.	1954-55	1955-56	4,460-12-0	700	700

(c)—The information is being collected and will be supplied when received.

Development of Gauhati University

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

177. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Education Minister, Assam, is the *Ex-Officio* Chairman of the Gauhati University Development Committee ?

(b) If so, what is the plinth area of each of the following quarters built and proposed to be built on the University site at Jhalukbari and the estimated cost allotted to each of them :—

(i) Vice-Chancellor's quarters ;

(ii) Quarters of the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Secretary University classes, Assistant Registrar and Treasurer;

- (iii) Quarters of Professors, Readers and Lecturers;
- (iv) Quarters of the Office Assistants; and
- (v) Quarters of the Grade IV Staff ?
- (c) Whether these quarters are constructed or proposed to be constructed on the basis of (I) Basic pay of the Employees and (II) number of family members ?
- (d) Whether the rents are fixed on the basis of Government rates ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the construction of these quarters are carried on at a higher schedule of cost than that of the schedule fixed for the construction of the Engineering College Quarters at Jhalukbari ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied :

177. (a)—Yes.

(b)—(i) & (ii)—No plans have yet been prepared for construction of residential quarters of these officers, Secretary University Classes has been allotted a quarter same as that of a Professor.

(iii)—Only two types of quarters have been constructed for the University teachers with the following plinth area and cost. The allotment of quarters to the teachers are made by the University Authority.

Smaller type—

Plinth Area	Cost		
	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
1514 sft.	17,789	@	11 12 0
317 sft.	3,804	@	12 0 0
50 sft.	300	@	6 0 0
<hr/> 1,881 sft. <hr/>	<hr/> 21,893 <hr/>		

Bigger type—

Plinth Area	Cost		
		Rs.	Rs. a. p.
*Main Building	1,778 sft.	20,447	@ 11 8 0
Cookshed (A. C. Roof)	384 sft.	4,608	@ 12 0 0
Covered Passage	50 sft.	300	@ 6 0 0
	<u>2,212 sft.</u>	<u>25,335</u>	

*Subsequently revised and raised to 1,803 sft.

(iv)—Office Assistants Quarters—

Main Building	693 sft.	8,445	@ 12 3 0
Cookshed (R. C. Roof)	280 sft.	2,360	@ 12 0 0
Covered Passage (do.)	40 sft.	240	@ 6 0 0
	<u>1,013 sft.</u>	<u>12,045</u>	

(v)—Grade IV Staff Quarters—

		Rs.	Rs. a. p.
Main Building	... 229 sft.	3,364	@ 14 11 0
Cookshed	... 87 sft.	1,262	@ 14 8 0
Bathing Place with Pucca enclosures	... 50 sft.	200	@ 4 0 0
	<u>366 sft.</u>	<u>4,862</u>	

(c)—On the basis of basic pay.

(d)—Rents are fixed by the University Authority on adopted principles.

(e)—No. Rates are not higher. Tenders are invited on item basis and lowest tendered rates are accepted by the Committee generally on the recommendations of the Chief Engineer, Assam who is also a member of the Committee. Then flat rates are made according to the lowest tender for distribution of the works to the tenderer-contractors.

Chatamari Reserve under Mechpara Wards' Estate

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

178. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Chatamari Reserve under Mechpara Wards' Estate has been dere-served for settlement of land to the deserving persons and if so, when ?
- (b) Whether it is an established rule to receive applications for settlement of land there through the Nayeb of the Dili concerned ?
- (c) Whether the Manager of the Mechpara Wards' Estate received those applications for settlement of land directly and if so, why ?
- (d) Whether after receipt of application for settlement of land objections are called for and survey is done thereafter and if so, whether this rule has been followed in this case of settlement of land at Chatamari ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

178. (a) to (d)—A report for furnishing the replies has been called for from the local officers.

Gouripur Raj Wards' Estate

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN asked :

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

- (a) If the proprietor of the Gouripur Raj Wards' Estate, represented to the Government to retain the services of all their employees and the lawyers in their interest while handing over the charge of the Estate to the Government ?
- (b) Whether the Court of Wards on the assumption of the charge of the Estate retained the services of the employees and retained the lawyers of the Estate till the scheme of the Court of Wards administration was accepted by the Court of Wards ?

- (c) Whether the scheme of the Court of Wards administration as prepared by the Manager has been accepted by the Court of Wards ?
- (d) Whether the proprietors of the Estate have been consulted in the matter ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that Rai Bahadur A. K. Ghosh, M.A., B.L., and Shri Shyama Prasad Chakravartty, B.L., were permanent Lawyers of the Estate ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the State Government by its order, dated 30th September 1955 terminated their services ?
- (g) If so, why and on what respective grounds their services have been terminated ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that the present Manager of the Estate had recommended the retention of Shri Shyama Prasad Chakravartty, B. L., as Estate's Lawyer in his scheme submitted to the authority ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that the said Manager in his letter No. 5484, dated 21st May 1955 admitted the fact that Shri S. P. Chakravartty deserved higher emoluments for his works ?
- (j) What is the number of rent suits and executive cases filed by Shri Shyama Prasad Chakravartty, B. L. during the year 1362 B. S. ?
- (k) Whether it is a fact that above named gentlemen have been deprived of their due income by this unusual and untimely termination of their appointment in the midst of the current Bengali year ?
- (l) Whether it is a fact that said Court of Wards has been saddled with additional costs in order to engage Shri Bhumidhar Roy, B. L., as the retained lawyer of the said Estate in filing the executive cases and conducting the pending suits with fresh power ?
- (m) If so, what is the amount involved ?
- (n) What are the special grounds, if any, justifying this extra legal expenditure on the Court of Wards ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

179.(a)—The answer is in the negative.

(b)—The services of all the employees including the retained lawyers were retained temporarily. There was no questions or assurance of retaining the employees including the lawyers till the scheme of management was accepted.

(c)—The scheme of management is under consideration of the Court of Wards.

(d)—Not yet.

(e)—No. They were appointed purely on temporary basis.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—The post held by Rai Bahadur A. K. Ghosh, M. A., B. L., was abolished as a measure of economy. The financial position of the Estate did not allow retention of these pleaders nor were three pleaders considered necessary for the Estate.

Services of Shri Shyama Prasad Chakravartty, B. L. had to be terminated for the best interest of the Estate.

(h)—The recommendation made was of a most general character and as in the case of all other employees of the Estate.

(i)—No such letter with the number and date mentioned was issued by the Manager.

(j)—Eight hundred and twenty-six cases were filed during 1362 B. S., but Shri Shyama Prasad Chakravartty, B.L., did not file any suit singly. All the cases were filed by the three retained pleaders of the Estate jointly.

(k)—The question does not arise. A party to a case has always the free hand to change its pleader at any stage of a case.

(l) to (n)—Only limited number of fresh powers have been filed up till now. Consequently additional cost involved is insignificant. The cases are conducted whenever necessary by Shri Dinesh Chandra Borua, B. L., who possesses power from before as a retained pleader of the Estate. The amount involved is Rs. 16 (Sixteen) up till now.

Sub-Registrars in Registration Department

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL asked :

180. Will the Minister-in-charge of Registration Department be pleased to state—

(a) How many 'Sub-Registrars and Sub-Registrar in respect of Commissions' were appointed since 1949 (figures to be given year by year and post by post) ?

(b) How many of them are Muslims (figures of appointment to be given year by year and post by post) ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) replied :

180.(a)—

			Sub-Registrar	S. R on Commission
1949	...	...	3	...
1950	...	...	2	...
1951	...	...	3	...
1952	...	...	...	...
1953	...	...	1	1
1954	...	...	1	3
1955	...	...	...	1

(b)—No. of Muslims.

			Sub-Registrar	S R on Commission
1949	...	...	1	...
1950	...	...	...	...
1951	...	...	1	...
1952	...	...	...	...
1953	...	...	...	...
1954	...	...	...	...
1955	...	...	...	...

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUAH: Are there any figures for general community ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Sir, that has already been given there.

Re: Project Executive Officers of the Demow N.E.S. Block.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI asked :

181. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that for the successful implementation of the N. E. S. and the Community Development Blocks that the Project Executive Officers are to work with the advice of the Advisory Committee and in co-operation with the Communities of the block ?
- (b) If so, whether the Project Executive Officers of the Demow N. E. S. Block of late promoted to C. D. Block have followed the said instruction ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the officer has not convened the sitting of the Advisory Board for the last 6 months ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that most of the contract works of the Block are given to people from outside area ?
- (e) Whether Government was apprised of the same ?
- (f) If so, what action Government are taking in the matter ?
- (g) Whether two Jeeps are being provided to this Block ?
- (h) If so, for what works these two Jeeps are used ?
- (i) Whether Government are aware that the Jeeps are used mainly in carrying people from the town of Sibsagar to attend meetings ?
- (i) Whether Government are aware that in Panidehing about 23 persons mostly children died from dysentery in a village named Dolopa which is situated only at a distance of 14 miles from the headquarters of the block during last October 1955 ?

- (k) Whether it is a fact that Project Executive Officer had no information inspite of a big establishment till 23 persons died and the news of the same being reported in the paper ?
- (l) Whether it is a fact that the inhabitants of the said village are tribal people and the place is a devastated area caused by the Brahmaputra floods ?
- (m) Whether Government propose to take action on this Officer ?

182. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that some open complaints were made against the Project Executive Officer, Dimow for constructing cement concrete rings reinforced with bamboo materials in place of irons on the 19th February last in a public meeting held at Demow ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that lately a man nearly died in a certain village in Kowipur Mauza while sinking ring wells with the rings reinforced with bamboo materials when the rings through pressure were broken ?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to take steps against the person or persons at fault ?

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Deputy Minister) replied:

181. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. The last meeting of the Project Advisory Committee was held on the 28th September 1955, and thereafter four meetings of the Sub-Committee were held as per advice of the Project Advisory Committee.

(d)—Generally contracts are given to the people of the project area according to their capabilities. In some cases works could not be given to the people of the project area for non-receipt of tenders from them. In cases of building construction few Contractors of the project area were tried but found to be incapable of executing the work. Moreover, all types of works cannot be done by the people of the project area.

(e)—In view of reply under (d) above, this question does not arise.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—The Jeeps are used for inspection of work and for facilities of carrying people to various demonstration works to help them to adopt scientific and improved method in Agriculture and Horticulture.

(i)—Occasionally members of the Advisory Committee and those required in connection with the work organised under project programme are taken by Jeeps from Sibsagar or elsewhere.

(j)—The information of occurrences of some deaths in Dolopa village within the project area, reached to Subdivisional Medical Officer of Health, Sibsagar and Civil Surgeon, Jorhat on 17th November 1955. Just on receipt of the information, Subdivisional Medical Officer of Health, Sibsagar along with Subdivisional Officer and Subdivisional Medical Officer and Project Executive Officer visited the place and had a thorough survey of the village. It was detected that 22 children died of various diseases, viz., Dysentery, Influenza, Pneumonia, Measles, Fever, etc., at different times. Prompt arrangement was made for rendering medical relief by the Subdivisional Medical Officer of Health and Project Medical Officer. Subdivisional Officer took necessary action for supply of rice and food stuff. Sufficient prophylactic medicine, medicinal food, etc., were supplied to the sufferers. After this no death occurred.

(k)—No. Information was received by the Project Executive Officer prior to the news being reported in the paper.

(l)—Yes. It is a flood-affected area.

(m)—Enquiry will be made in case any specific instance of dereliction of duties is brought to the notice of Government.

182. (a), (b) & (c).—Detailed information has been called for.

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: How many contracts have been given to the people of the project area and in how many cases the people have failed?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, this is a new question. I want notice for this. Particulars will have to be worked out and then details can be given,

Re: Assam Medical College

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

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

- (a) Who supplies articles of food and other sundry materials to the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh ?
- (b) How are the suppliers appointed, whether by inviting tenders or by other methods ?
- (c) Who was appointed for the supply of above during the year 1955 ?

184. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Dr. Bhupati Banerjee, Professor of Physiology, was sent with the Assam Medical College Students to participate in the University Sports Festival at Gauhati ?
- (b) If so, whether he also attended the University Faculty Meeting for Medicine at the same time ?
- (c) Whether he drew Travelling Allowance from the University ?
- (d) Whether he had drawn Travelling Allowance on College account for accompanying the students ?

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

- (a) Who is the Secretary of the Assam Medical College ?
- (b) What is his scale of pay ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to revise this scale now ?

186. Will the Minister of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any blue print or plan for the development of the Assam Medical College ?

- (b) If not, who allots the sites of the building and under what scheme ?
- (c) What was the sanctioned amount of money for the development of the Medical College under the First Five Year Plan ?
- (d) How much of this amount has been spent up till now ?

187. Will the Minister of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the number of sanctioned beds department-wise in the Assam Medical College ?
- (b) What is the number of extra bed department-wise there ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that very often patients are kept lying in the verandah ?

188. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What arrangements have been made to accommodate patients who do not get admission in the Assam Medical College ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that patients generally have to wait very long at Dibrugarh for not getting admission in the College Hospital ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that patients have to wait even for more than 3 months to get deep X'ray in Cancer cases ?
- (d) If so, what is the reason for such long delay ?

189. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government contemplate to open Post-Graduate Medical Classes in Assam ?
- (b) If so, whether it has been included in the Second Five Year Plan ?
- (c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, where do Government propose to start it ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

183. (a)—(1) Shri Ramdhari Sarma, Dibrugarh.
 (2) M/S. J. N. Sarma and Co., Dibrugarh.
 (3) M/S. Sharma and Co, Dibrugarh.
 (4) Dr. S. C. Barooah, Dibrugarh.
 (5) M/S. Indusco, Dibrugarh.
 (6) M/S. Bora and Co., Dibrugarh.
- (b)—By inviting tenders.
 (c)—Information being collected.
184. (a) }
 (b) } Information being collected.
 (c) }
 (d) }
185. (a)—Shri P. K. Das.
 (b)—Rupees 250—10—350—15—500 per mensem.
 (c)—No.
186. (a)—Yes, there is a blue print.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—Seventy lakhs for construction of buildings.
 (d)—Rupees 38.62 lakhs upto 31st December 1955.
187. (a)—Surgical 107
 Medical 95
 Gynaecological and Obstetric... .. 98
 Ophthalmic 32
 E.N.T. 24
 Children 14
 T.B. 20
 Infectious 40
 Others 26
- | | |
|-------|-----|
| Total | 456 |
|-------|-----|

(b)—There is no fixed number of extra beds. These are laid as and when occasion demands.

(c)—Yes, at times when the wards are full.

188. (a)—No arrangement has so far been made, but steps have been taken to construct waiting rooms.

(b)—Yes, at times for want of beds.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

189. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—In the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Will the Honourable Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to send the information to me with regard to those matters on which information is being collected?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Sir, if the hon. Member so desires the information will be sent in due course.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, what is the reason for not fulfilling the financial target regarding the development schemes of the Medical College at Dibrugarh?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Sir, I cannot reply off-hand.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, Rs.70 lakhs have been sanctioned for construction of buildings. We find that only Rs.38.62 lakhs could be spent out of the total amount sanctioned for the purpose. What is the reason for this big gap? Originally more than Rs.70 lakhs had been provided, and it means that we have not been able to spend the sanctioned amount. We could spend only Rs.38.62 lakhs.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Sir, the hon. Member knows that we had to slow down the work due to the erosion by the Brahmaputra. This is one of the main reasons why we could not spend the entire amount sanctioned for the purpose.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, may I know whether there is any system prevalent in the Medical College at Dibrugarh to have the record of extra beds for each of Departments (or Departmentwise) over and above the sanctioned number of beds ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Sir, this is a new question. I want notice of it.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Will the Government be pleased to see that the record of such extra beds department-wise is kept in the Medical College ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Regarding the records of beds it is already given there in replies, and regarding the increase in the total number of beds, the question is under consideration of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bora, Finance Minister has already stated about the increase in the total number of beds in the Medical College at Dibrugarh.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Yes, Sir.

Central Health Council Conference

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

190. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Central Health Council Conference has decided to open 4 additional Cancer Centres in India ?
- (b) Whether Government have taken steps to have one such Centre in Assam ?
- (c) What is the incidence of Cancer, Malaria and Hookworm in Assam ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

190. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Information is being collected.

Sibsagar Tank

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the three sides of the Sibsagar Tank other than the one protected by revetment walls are being fast eroded ?
- (b) Whether Government propose to protect the same ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

191.(a)—No. It is not a fact. Minor erosion due to wave action however takes place some-times.

(b)—Does not arise. It may be mentioned however that the southern side and south-east and south-west corner of the tank are protected from erosion by pucca breast walls. Temporary measures with bamboo palisading on eastern side are also taken annually to protect the bank from erosion from wave action, as and when necessary.

(The average last three years expenditure for maintenance of the tank is Rs.300.)

Grants under Article 275 for Development of Plains Tribal.

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI asked :

192. Will the Minister-in-charge of Development of Plains Tribal Areas be pleased to state the amount allotted for development of the Plains Tribal in the State of Assam in 1956 in all the Departments from the grants under Article 275 including the names of all projects of all Departments ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

192.—The total allotment under Article 275 grant for development of Plains Tribal Areas during the year 1955-56 is Rs.67,41,978 which has been distributed department-wise as follows :—

	Rs.
(1) Education	13,10,200
(2) Medical	7,37,000
(3) Public Health	7,76,000
(4) Agriculture	97,400
(5) Forests	2,13,000
(6) Cottage Industries	48,900
(7) Sericulture and Weaving	2,11,026
(8) Veterinary	3,89,648
(9) Public Works	22,66,404
(10) Miscellaneous	6,92,400

The various development schemes taken up under the different heads are stated below :—

EDUCATION

	Rs.
1. Accommodation for Plains Tribal Students in the hostels attached to College.	1,50,000
2. Basic Education—	
(1) Establishment of Basic Schools	2,50,000
(2) Training of teachers in Basic Education	48,000
3. Grants-in-aid to non-Government Secondary Schools.	4,50,000
4. Grants to Secondary Schools to compensate the loss of income on account of fee payable by the Plains Tribal Students.	75,000
5. Entertainment of additional staff for preparation of educational schemes under Article 275 of the Constitution.	4,200

	Rs.
6. Scholarships	75,000
7. Establishment of adult education centres	6,000
8. Grants to teachers training schools Hostel accom- modation for Plains Trainees.	35,000
9. Provision for free studentships to poor Plains Tribal Trainees.	10,000
10. Provision for poor Plains Tribal students reading in secondary schools and colleges to purchase text books, etc.	20,000
11. Accommodation for Plains Tribal students (including girls students) in hostels attached to secondary schools.	1,50,000
12. Inspecting staff	7,000
13. Introduction of vocational subjects in secondary schools.	10,000
14. Equipment grants including library grants to secondary schools.	20,000
Total ...	13,10,200

MEDICAL

1. Grants to Local Board and Subsidized dispensaries in the areas predominantly inhabited by Plains Tribal people.	3,00,000
2. Scholarships—	
(a) (1) Medical College	}
(2) Compounders	
(3) Midwives	
(4) Nurses	
(5) Dhais	
(b) Books and equipment grants	5,000
3. Grants to Assam Seva Samiti for treatment of lepers	2,57,000
4. Provision for treatment facilities for T. B. patients from Plains Tribal areas.	1,35,000
Total ...	7,37,000

PUBLIC HEALTH

Rs.

1. Setting up of a Mobile dispensary with propaganda Unit and Van.	14,400
2. Establishment of a <i>Kala-azar</i> ward at Dudnai at Goalpara.	...
(a) Establishment and other charges	13,000
(b) Construction of an indoor <i>Kala-azar</i> ward and staff quarters.	...
(c) Construction of quarters for a compounder, two nursing orderlies and a mortuary.	...
(d) Construction of Medical Officers' quarters ...	4,000
3. Improvement of Public Health Department dispensary in the areas predominantly inhabited by the Plains Tribal People.	1,10,000
4. Rural Water Supply	3,00,000
5. Reconstruction of Public Health Department Dispensaries.	15,000
6. Opening of Health Centres (Maternity and Child Welfare Centres) with Malaria squad attached to each centre.	3,19,600
7. Purchase of microscopes for existing dispensaries ...	...
8. Purchase of Medical Stores, etc., for existing dispensaries.	...
9. Grant for Maternity and Child Welfare Centres ...	...
Total	7,76,000

AGRICULTURE

1. Establishment of Demonstration Farms	52,400
2. Training in Agriculture—	
(a) School Training	20,000
(b) College Training	25,000
Total	97,400

FOREST

						Rs.
1. Communication—						
Roads	...	...	...	...	...	2,00,000
2. Establishment of a dispensary at Basgaon, Goalpara—						
(1) Building	...	...	...	...	}	7,000
(2) Establishment charges	...	...	...	...
3. Establishment of a dispensary at Kuls—						
(1) Buildings	..	...	...	...	}	6,000
(2) Establishment charges	...	...	...	...
Total ..						2,13,000

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

1. Stipends for training in—						
(1) Fruit preservation	...	...	...	...		1,500
(2) Soap manufacture	...	...	...	...		1,800
(3) Pottery Industry	..	...	...	...		1,800
(4) Umbrella handle making, Basketry and Cane work.	...			...		1,800
(5) Bee keeping	...	...	...	...		2,400
(6) Hand made paper	...	...	..	...		3,000
(7) Modern Industrial works	...	..	...	...		600
(8) Black smithy	...	..	...	...	}
(9) Bamboo work	...	...	...	...
(10) Leather work etc.	...	..	...	...
(11) Electroplating	...	..	..	...
(12) Ivory work	...	...	...	...
(13) Bell-metal	...	...	...	...
(14) Wood working	...	...	...	...
(15) Sital Patty making	...	...	...	...
(16) Tailoring ..	...	...	...	...
(17) Travelling allowance of stipendiaries	...	...	...	...
2. Grants-in-aid to private individuals for encouragement of Cottage Industries.						20,000
Total ..						48,900

SERICULTURE AND WEAVING

	Rs.
1. Establishment of Eri seed and grainages	47,076
2. Establishment of Boa-kata (Spinning and Weaving) Societies.	56,080
3. Subsidies to Mulberry growers	5,000
4. Headquarters staff	9,870
5. Stipends for—	
(a) Training in Sericulture	5,000
(b) Training in Weaving	3,000
6. Contribution to individuals for encouragement of Sericulture and Weaving.	10,000
7. Entertainment of a Demonstration party for Sericulture and Weaving.	25,000
8. Re-organisation of Eri and Khadi production centres.	50,000
Total ..	2,11,026

VETERINARY

1. Establishment of Key Village Centres for improvement of cattle.	68,218
2. Establishment of Veterinary Dispensaries ...	3,06,430
3. Stipends for—	
(1) Training of students in Veterinary Field Assistant Course.	5,000
(2) Training of students in Veterinary Assistant Surgeon's course.	10,000
Total ...	3,89,648

PUBLIC WORKS

1. Communications—	
(a) Roads	21,97,404
(b) Bridges	44,000
2. Others Schemes—	
(a) Construction of a Rest House for Tribals at Jorhat, in Sibsagar District.	25,000
Total ...	22,66,404

MISCELLANEOUS

	Rs.
1. Contribution to non-Government institutions for doing welfare works to the plains Tribal people.	2,50,000
2. Self-help schemes	4,02,400
3. Schemes for the encouragement of cultural activities	40,000
Total ...	6,92,400

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKLARI: ১৯২ প্রশ্ন উত্তর কৈছে যে ৬৭,৪১,৯৭৮, টাকা বিভিন্ন বিভাগক দিয়া হৈছে। মই জানিব ষোজো এই টাকা খিনি এই বছরত খবচ কৰিব পাৰিবনে ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): খবচ কৰিব পাৰিব বুলি ধৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু utilisation report এতিয়াও পোৱা নাই।

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKLARI: ডিব্ৰুগড় ভেটেবিনেৰী হাস্পতালৰ কাৰণে যি টাকা ধৰা হৈছে, সেই টাকা খবচ কৰিব পাৰিব বুলি মনে নৰবে।

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): যি টাকা খবচ কৰিব নোৱাৰি বুলি ধৰা হৈছিল সেই টাকা অন্যফালে divert কৰিবৰ চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু এটাইবিলাক বিপৰ্চ নেপালে সঠিক খবচ দিব নোৱাৰি।

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKLARI: আনকালে কত খবচ কৰিব ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Plains Tribal area ৰ এঠাইত খবচ কৰিব নোৱাৰা টাকা অন্য ঠাইত খবচ কৰিব পৰা ঠাইলৈ পঠাবৰ চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছে।

* * * * *

Statement by the Speaker about the number of questions admitted and replied.

Mr. SPEAKER: For the information of the House, I want to make a statement about the position of short-notice, starred and unstarred questions that have been replied to by the Government.

Short Notice (admitted)	5—replied 5.
Starred ...	63—replied 54.
Unstarred ...	221—replied 192.

I find that 86 per cent of the questions have been replied to by the Government.

* * * * *

Khasi National Thanks giving Dance

Mr. A. S. KHONGPHAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of an important national festival *viz*: Shad Suk-Mynsiem Dance Festival for which the Government has declared a local holiday in Shillong, may I request the Hon'ble Speaker to kindly take the opinion of the House so that the House may rise at 3 p. m. to-day.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite sympathise with the hon. Member for the suggestion. If the hon. Members try to finish their speeches quickly that may be possible (*laughter*).

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, the hon. Members have no objection we may sit for an hour or so to-morrow. But I hope my friends in the position would try to finish their speeches quickly (*laughter*).

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, these are very important resolutions. If we only move and accept them, this will not carry much weight.

Mr. SPEAKER: It would carry weight, if they are thoughtful and terse.

Shri SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Sir, according to the programme the Assembly is supposed to continue upto the 6th instant. So what is the harm if we sit tomorrow?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us see. We may however rise at three as requested.

The Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are really glad that at long last we have been able to pass an important measure, namely the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, in this Session and also it must be admitted that the time

*Speech not corrected.

taken to pass this Bill is really very short although it contained so many contentious clauses on which perhaps there were so much disagreements; yet this House has realised the importance of going ahead with land reform in our country so as to usher in a Socialistic pattern of Society. Sir, when we go through the Bill as amended by this House, we are left with the idea that even if this Bill is given effect to, even then it will be difficult to find land for our people, because the Bill has served only one purpose and that is to impress on the society the need for fixing a ceiling on land, so as to bring about an egalitarian society. More than that if we go to the exceptions of the Bill and also the clauses which fix the ceiling at 150 Bighas and if we calculate upto that, then the land that will be available for distribution to the landless people will come to little. Therefore from the point of view of giving relief to the poor people—the landless people who hold land less than the economic holding—this Bill will not be of much usefulness. Even then we give our heartiest welcome to this measure for the fact that at least it is acknowledged by this House and by the Government that it is necessary to put a maximum to land a man is entitled to hold. Sir, even now I would make an appeal to the Government that on many occasions it has become necessary to amend the Bill and to-day also our request to the Government is that they would see their way to amend the Bill very soon so as to make land available to the people. Sir, the important clause is the clause regarding the Agrarian Reform Committee Report of the Congress. It discusses about holdings. It advises three sizes of holdings which are Basic type, Economic type and Optima. But we have not up till now been able to define what we consider the Basic or Economic type of holding for our State. I request that when the Bill provides for a Land Reform Committee, this Committee should go into this important question of what should be the basic or economic holding for a family in Assam. Because that is the crux of the whole problem and here what is more important is that the Planning Commission has itself stated times without number that the optimum holding on which we must put a ceiling to bring about an egalitarian society should not be more than three times the economic holding and it was also discussed several times in various committees here and we came to the conclusion that in a State like Assam where there is not much difficulty about rains, where we have got ample water supply, there the economic holding need not be more than 30 bighas of land, and therefore if it is 30 bighas, then it will not be in consonance with the directive of the Planning Commission to put it at 150 bighas. But to-day I am not

moving an amendment that it should not be 150 bighas. As soon as the Board comes into existence, its main task should be to find out what should be an economic holding for the State and as soon as it comes to the conclusion it would be necessary for the Government to revise the ceiling on the land.

In this connection also it will be necessary for the Board to discuss that in view of the modern method of agriculture and cultivation and in view of the scientific inventions and improvement, whether the old idea of economic holding can continue or not. These are very important things not so much because of putting a ceiling on land but for the fact that by reducing ceiling it will be possible to make land available for distribution amongst the landless people so that this measure will be appreciated by the people more. Sir, I am not going to take much time of the House on these matters. I would like only to say that this Bill is a measure in the right direction which the people will appreciate more when some of its blessings go to the people. Only by fixing a ceiling we cannot enthuse people unless and until by such a measure we can get some more lands for distribution amongst the landless people.

Regarding the compensation, it should be recognised that some people who purchase lands only with the purpose of making some income and not for cultivation. It should be considered whether compensation in such cases can be cut down. Although we do not like to place any hurdle on the way of passing of this Bill, we would request Government to see to this point and, as soon as possible for them, to put in their own amendment so that this Bill may be a landmark in the history of agrarian reforms in our State.

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

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had moved as many as 34 amendments to the Bill with a view to improve upon some of the provisions. The House, however, had thought it proper to reject my amendments. But in spite of the fact that my amendments have been rejected, I hope and believe that the Bill as it stands is also a very important one and if properly implemented, it will do some good to the peasantry. Therefore, in spite of the doubts and misgivings which still remain in my mind to a certain extent, I wish this Bill godspeed. The Deputy Minister had said the other day in connection with the provision of compensation that while Government will pay to the landholders or land-lords to the extent of 25 times of the land revenue for fallow lands and 50 times in other cases at the time of realising money from the peasant, Government will not exact the same amount from them. So far as the poor peasants are concerned, if they are made to pay the

same amount or approximately the same amount, it will be too hard for them. But if from them only a nominal fee is taken, as for example, Rs. 5 per bigha, then it will be bearable for them. We hope that there is scope for such leniency in the Bill itself and Government will see that realisation of compensation from the peasant is not very heavy and severe. If this relief is given to the peasants, they will really heave a sigh of relief, and we shall go, at least some way, in the direction of real agrarian reforms in the country.

With these few words, I hope, the Bill will achieve the purpose for which it has been brought in.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Members for passing this important measure unanimously. Now it is simply natural that in such matters different Members think differently. As far as this figure of ceiling is concerned, opinions differ. Some are of the opinion that 45 bighas should be the ceiling and there are others who think that it should not be less than 200 bighas. We had to consider all these points. Then we have also got to consider the prevailing land system and also the social system obtaining in our State. So, after a careful consideration of all these factors, we have put the ceiling at 150 bighas.

Now, as regards compensation, there also opinions differ. Some hon. Members recommended that no compensation at all should be paid, and my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, tabled an amendment to that effect that while taking revenue free land no compensation should be given. Again there are some who are of the opinion that actual market value should be paid as compensation. We have to take into consideration all these matters, and after doing so, we have put a much reduced rate for compensation so that nobody can complain against it. To implement the Bill we want the sympathy and co-operation of all. So we have taken a *via media*. Now my Friend, Shri Goswami, apprehends that this will be too high. This apprehension is not correct. Because this Bill does not propose to give land at that rate to anybody, it proposes to take away the excess land from anybody possessing more than 150 bighas of land. Now so far as owners of lands are concerned, the conditions for personal resumption have been very much restricted.

The owners who reside in villages and who themselves cultivate the entire area or land, such area or land will of course remain with them. If they actually cultivate their land, they are not intermediaries. There is no sense in taking the land from them. But those owners who do not themselves cultivate the land are intermediaries; there are provisions in the Bill for their liquidation.

The conditions for resumption of land for personal cultivation have been much restricted. For personal cultivation the owner is to reside in the village and agriculture must be his main source of maintenance. If these conditions are satisfied, then he can resume land and then only upto 100 bighas. If he owns 150 bighas, 50 bighas will go immediately to the tiller. Then this right can be exercised only within 5 years after the enforcement of this Act. After 5 years there will be no resumption. The absentee landlords who reside in the town and owns land in the village—they will be liquidated and after 5 years land will remain only with actual cultivators. When this Bill becomes an Act and is implemented along with the Adhiars' Protection and Regulation Act, it will completely revolutionise the present structure of our society. After 5 years from the enforcement of the Act a new order of society is expected to spring up.

As my Friends have said, there are certain defects in the Bill. There may be defects and I do not claim that this is a very ideal Bill. When any defects are found out after implementation of this Bill then we shall have to come before the House with necessary amendments and for that I want co-operation of my Friends, also with their valuable suggestions and through such co-operation and suggestions we shall be able to perfect the Bill.

Now to revolutionise our society, this Act alone is not enough. Co-operation of public is necessary. Merely good law cannot achieve its object. Take for example the Indian Penal Code. It was enacted in 1860. Stealing is an offence for one century. Many people have been convicted, but still the offence is there. Why? Because a section of public is not co-operating. Here law alone could not unroot the evil. So, to achieve the object, the co-operation of the public is indispensably necessary. For the implementation of this Act the co-operation of the public and the hon. Members is necessary. My Friends are leaders of public, I, therefore request them to exert themselves and persuade the people to give their co-operation in the implementation of this Act. If this is done, then after five years hence it will completely revolutionise the society.

In conclusion, I again thank the hon. Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955, as amended, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as there is no amendment, I beg to move that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be passed.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, in this connection I would like to speak a few words only that the Bill makes certain exception because it enables some persons to keep a certain amount of Pachwai and other kind of liquor also for religious and other purposes. This exception has been made for some people when this Bill becomes an Act. But, Sir, there are cases detected in the meantime, that is, between the dates of enforcement of the original Act and the present amending legislation and those cases relate to the use of Pachwai and other kind of liquor for religious and other purposes and prosecution in that connection has already been started against the persons concerned. Now, Sir, this Bill seeks to give protection to such kind of persons against whom such prosecution cases are there. Therefore, Sir, I request the Minister-in-charge to see that such cases which fall within the purview of this Bill are withdrawn and that no prosecution is lodged.

My second point is that this legislation allows some people to keep Pachwai or other liquor to an extent of $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers and owing to this exemption to be made, it may keep some room for corruption. There are blackships in the Department and they may take advantage of this exemption. It would have been better if this exemption is not there, but since this has been allowed, the control must be stricter still so that in allowing this limit of exemption we do not give more and do not allow the blackships in the Department any scope for corruption.

This is my request to the Minister-in-charge.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Goswami has asked me to withdraw the prosecution cases which have taken place during the period of passing of the original Act and this amending legislation. I do not know Sir, whether there are such cases or not. Any way, it is a legal question and it will be examined how far it will be possible to withdraw them as requested by him. Secondly, my friend is against the exemption provided by this Bill. It is a matter of policy which the Government has adopted for the sake of compromise. Some people want exemption and others want complete prohibition. So, this measure is a sort of compromise between these two opinions. So, Sir, under the circumstances Government have to some extent had to give way to the public opinions.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be passed.
(The Motion was adopted.)

The Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as there is no amendment, I beg to move that the Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that the Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956, be passed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, I want to speak a few words in this connection. This Bill which I wholeheartedly support seeks to abolish whipping. So far as legal whipping is concerned, we know that cases of whipping in the past were very few and even then it was not abolished. But what about the whipping that is done in the police lock up? What is the difficulty in the jail is also in the police lock up. In the jail there is something known as third degree and that third degree means thorough grilling.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) : I have never heard of that in jails.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : We have seen it, Sir. The Minister is fortunate in being a Congressman who has never gone to jail (*laughter*). But many of his colleagues had experience of this grilling in 1920-21 movement and, to some extent, in the 1930 movement, even in the 1942 movement there was some grilling in the Jorhat jail.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Not now, since Independence.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : Even in 1942, some of his colleagues had a taste of this third-degree method. Any way, Sir, while giving my whole-hearted support to the Bill, I want to say that there should be some provision for completely abolishing this informal beating and whipping because this is the most dangerous thing in jails and police lock-ups and it degenerates the men including the officers. This is the only observation I want to make in this connection.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not heard about any informal beating in jails. We have always instructed our officers to be very kind to the prisoners, considering how they themselves would like to be treated if they were placed in the same position as the prisoners, they should treat them like brothers.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Prisons (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1956, be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

The Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Extension to Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration, clause by clause.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956, be taken into consideration, clause by clause. But as there is no amendment, the hon'ble Minister may have the next Motion.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956, be passed.

(The Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House, and adopted.)

The Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in the 3rd and 4th lines of proposed sub-section (1) (a) of section 4 sought to be substituted by clause 2, *delete* the words "and in case of an industrial concern other than co-operative societies" and *substitute* the words "concern" by the word, "society" occurring for the second time in the fourth line thereof.

Sir, it is stated in clause 2 "Amendment of Section 4 of Assam Act II of 1956—For sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Principal Act, the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"(1) (a) No loan exceeding Rs. 20,000 shall be issued under this Act provided that nothing in this clause shall debar the Government for granting a loan exceeding such limit to a Co-operative Society and in case of an industrial concern other than Co-operative Societies when such concern is not found eligible for accommodation from the State Financial Corporation upto a limit of Rs. 50,000."

My amendment seeks to delete the words "and in case of an industrial concern other than Co-operative Societies" and substitute the word "concern" by the word "society". That is, I want to restrict the power given under this Bill only with respect to co-operative societies. This is also the purpose of the Bill because in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is stated: "Under the provisions made under Section 4(1) of the State Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) Act, 1955, loans upto Rs. 20,000 only can be sanctioned by the Cottage Industries Department and applications for loans over that amount are required to be passed on to the State Financial Corporation. In cases, however, where the industrial concern is not found eligible for accommodation from the

Corporation, the Cottage Industries Department may consider such applications upto a limit of Rs. 50,000. But the Co-operative being composed of a number of individuals generally require more capital than what an individual requires". This is the main purpose of the Bill, i. e., to render aid to the co-operative societies and I whole-heartedly support this move. The Statement goes on "The industries taken up by the Co-operative Societies are also larger than industries taken up by the individual and as such a Co-operative Society usually requires more than Rs. 20,000 for developing the industries.

The Government of India have offered assistance to State Governments for issuing loans to small Industries at 3 per cent per annum only and State Governments are authorised to issue loans upto Rs. 50,000 in each case and upto 1 lakh in special cases. The Co-operative Societies will be deprived of the benefit offered by the Government of India if they are required to approach the State Financial Corporation for loan exceeding Rs. 20,000."

So, Sir, in consonance with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is necessary that all powers given under this Bill be confined in their application only to the co-operative societies. But, unfortunately, this is not the case. We find that this will also be applicable to industrial concerns. We do not know what are those industrial concerns; they may be small limited companies. If they are small limited companies the benefit of State aid given under this Bill should not be extended to them. If it is the case of an individual, then also it will be risky to invest so much money on him. Rs. 20,000 should be sufficient for running a cottage industry (this Bill is meant for aiding cottage industries) and for cottage industries if we go upto Rs. 50,000 that should be for exceptional cases. I can quite see that with regard to co-operative societies, where the output may be bigger and where the volume of transaction may be bigger because there are more members, it may be necessary to increase the amount from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000. But so far as industrial concerns are concerned, this concession should not be allowed. If it is a limited company, who can raise funds of their own and who are not going in for a co-operative way of life, they should be about out from the benefit of this Bill. Then, if he is an individual, to grant more than Rs. 20,000 will be taking an unnecessary risk, which is not warranted, in the case of cottage industries. My submission, therefore, is that the benefit of this Bill should be restricted only to co-operative societies and the industrial concerns should be eliminated from the purview of this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Amendment moved is :

In the 3rd and 4th lines of proposed sub-section (1) (a) of section 4 sought to be substituted by clause 2 *delete* the words "and in case of an industrial concern other than co-operative Societies," and *substitute* the word, "concern" by the word "society" occurring for the second time in the fourth line thereof.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am sorry, I cannot accept the amendment, moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami. From the Statement Objects and Reasons, it is clear that we are going to make the conditions of granting industrial loans more liberal in the case of co-operative societies. This amendment, if accepted will restrict the grant of loans to co-operative societies. The sub-section (1)(a), reads like this:—"No loan exceeding Rs.20,000 shall be issued under this Act provided that nothing in this clause shall debar the Government for granting a loan exceeding such limit to a Co-operative Society and in case of an industrial concern other than Co-operative Societies when such concern is not found eligible for accommodation from the State Financial Corporation upto a limit of Rs. 50,000." From this it is clear that we do not want to impose a limit on a co-operative society but if we accept the amendment it will not be possible to grant more than Rs. 50,000 to a co-operative society. If we accept his amendment it will read like this:--"(1)(a) No loan exceeding Rs. 20,000 shall be issued under this Act provided that nothing in this clause shall debar the Government for granting a loan exceeding such limit to a Co-operative Society when such society is not found eligible for accommodation from the State Financial Corporation" up to Rs.50,000. Thus, it will put a limit in case of a co-operative society but we do not want to impose this. Therefore, I am sorry, I cannot accept it and hope, Mr. Goswami, will see his way to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you withdrawing ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that in the 3rd and 4th lines of proposed sub-section (1)(a) of section 4 sought to be substituted by clause 2 *delete* the words, "and in case of an industrial concern other than Co-operative Society", and *substitute* the word, "concern" by the word "society" occurring for the second time in the fourth line thereof".

(The Amendment was lost),
(After a pause)

The question is that the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956, be passed.

(The question was adopted.)

Presentation of Report of the Board of Directors of the Assam Financial Corporation

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay out in accordance with sections 37(7) and 38(3) of the State Financial Corporation Act, 1951 the, "Report of the Board of Directors of the Assam Financial Corporation for the period, ended 31st March 1953, and Accounts" and "the Inspection Report on the Audit of the account of the Assam Financial Corporation (1954-55)."

Presentation of Minutes of the Estimates Committee

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the minutes of the first, second and third Sittings of the Estimates Committee.

Presentation of Audit Report (Part I)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Audit Report (Part I) of the Government of Assam, 1955.

Presentation of Finance Accounts of 1953-54 and Audit Report, 1954

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Finance Accounts of 1953-54 and the Audit Report, 1954.

Presentation of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1952-53 and Audit Report, 1954

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Assam for the year 1952-53 and the Audit Report, 1954, and to move that this Assembly do proceed to consider the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Assam for the year 1952-53 and Audit Report, 1954.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Assam for the year 1952-53.

Sir, we have seen that this Public Accounts Committee is a very important Committee because every year we sanction certain amounts to the Government for expenditures to be incurred by them during the year. These are audited by the Accountant General and after that the Public Accounts Committee, consisting of some hon. Members of this House with the Finance Minister as its Chairman, deal with every aspect of the expenditures. So to say, this Report and the Audit Report give the complete picture of the working of the Government so far as the State Finances are concerned.

We have seen that in the year 1952-53, 42 Demands for Grants amounting to Rs.13,85,14,300 was voted by the House without any deduction and besides this two supplementary grants amounting to about two crores of rupees were also voted by this House. If all these are added together we find that we have voted in this House for a total amount of near about Rs.16 crores. We also passed the budget estimates with the deficit of Rs.2 crores, 55 lakhs.

Now, Sir, there was no indication from the budget speech of the Finance Minister at the time of presenting this budget and also even in presenting the Budget for this year also, as to how he wants to meet this deficit. The tactics which have been followed by the Government is that towards the end of the year we shall see that a sum amounting to near about the deficit figure left unspent, over and above the Ministry come before the House for a Supplementary Demand. This is not correct Budgeting. It is rather cheating the Members of this House.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): 'Cheating' is an unparliamentary word.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot use it.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Alright, Sir, we may call it giving the House false hopes and false programmes and like that.

Let us come to the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1952-53. As I have pointed out, the total grants during the year including supplementary grants was about Rs.16 crores. Out of this we find that there was a savings of Rs.2 crores and 15 lakhs, which almost tallies with the deficit figures of the year. So far as financial difficulties of the Government were concerned, these were removed by this savings. My point is that the Government made some savings in certain items. Here we see that the savings accrued in 37 items of the grant. From the Audit Report we find that savings are mainly from grants which are meant for amelioration of the condition of our village people. For instance, from Medical Department's budget there is a saving of Rs.3 lakhs, from Public Health more than Rs.3 lakhs. In Agriculture, the total allotment including the supplementary grant was Rs.66 lakhs and savings out of this is Rs.22 lakhs, which is about 32 per cent. It is a big savings. Explanation about this, I will give later.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): These things ought to have been stated in the course of general discussion of the budget. I think, as the hon. Member was absent then he is telling these things now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Where do you find that?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: In the Appropriation Accounts, 1952-53 and Audit Report, 1954, Sir. Under Police, you will see that there is a savings of about Rs.6 crores and the reason for this is—"non-purchase of launches and non-entertainment of full staff". Now, I want to raise a point here. This House sanctioned some amount for purchase of a launch for the convenience of the Border Police force for Karimganj, but unfortunately this launch could not be purchased. I do not understand the reason why. What are the difficulties for not purchasing this launch, or whether this has been purchased later, we do not know.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you discussing the Public Accounts Committee Report?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Yes, Sir, it comes jointly with the Appropriation Accounts and Audit Report. Sir, if you look to the different heads, for example, under Agriculture, Public Health, Medical, Veterinary, etc., you will see.....

Mr. SPEAKER : You mean that there is short spending ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Yes, Sir, for Government's inability to spend the amount sanctioned because at the time when Government comes forward for these grants, they paint a picture that such and such schemes would be taken up and such and such things would be done, such and such dispensaries would be opened, but now towards the end of the year we find that these commitments are totally false, these dispensaries were not opened. Similarly in the Agriculture Department there is a big savings and the reason is that due to restricted purchase and issue of seeds under Seed Multiplication and Distribution Schemes, less payment of subsidy to cultivators under Compost Scheme and late starting of Kaki Reclamation Scheme. My point Sir, is that in all these things, Government have drawn supplementary grants and even when they have been given these supplementary grants they could not spend the money to our satisfaction according to the promises given on the floor of the House. So from this you will see that these supplementary grants are not necessary and as such Government do not require these supplementary grants that they demanded from the House. In other words, you will see that the Budget was not well prepared.

Again, Sir, if you refer to page 11 of the Audit Report you will see that in some items the total amount of excess comes to the tune of Rs.2,23,97,529—this excess expenditure is in addition to the voted grant which is of course reappropriated. My point is that originally we have voted for 13 crores, there was a savings of 2 crores. If we take the excess expenditure in some other items then we can come to 9 crores 47 thousand and odd or say $9\frac{1}{2}$ crores has to be spent according to the desire of this House, but Government has actually incurred about $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores more without reference to Legislature and come before the House for re-appropriation of the excess amount. This is not fair, Sir.

Now, let me come to the question of control over expenditure—I refer to page 2 of the Public Accounts Committee Report.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Das, you are not to comment on the Public Accounts Committee Report.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : Sir, the Public Accounts Committee Report is based on the Appropriation Accounts and Audit Report—as I said these go jointly. Now, Sir, I am going to prove what I said from the report of the Public Account Committee. Let me refer to the remarks made by the Accountant General which have also been accepted by the Public Accounts Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is your main purpose ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : I am coming to that, Sir. Now, Sir, coming to the control of expenditure, I have seen that the Public Accounts Committee, which dealt with these subjects as quoted by the Accountant General, accepted the fact that control over expenditure is not very good so far as our State is concerned. Now, while dealing with this subject the Public Accounts Committee has issued certain circulars to the various Departments for better control of expenditure in future. But what do we see in actual practice ? When we refer to the previous years' Report, we do not see that proper action has been taken in such matters as desired by the Public Accounts Committee. If we refer to this year's Report, we will find that whatever action was taken, it was taken against a Head clerk, a second clerk, Accountant, Nazir and so on, but where it concerns a Director or a Subdivisional Officer or a Deputy Commissioner or any senior officer of the Government, the Government is silent. Now, what the Accountant General noted in the Report that is placed before the House, is that if these things continue without any drastic action being taken against all concerned then there will be no improvement so far as control over expenditure is concerned. So, in other words it means that Government is following two separate set of rules in these matters—one for senior grade officers and the other for lower grade officers like clerks, Nazirs, etc. Why it should be like that ? If a Nazir is responsible for any omission, mistake or error, there should not be two rules to be dealt with separately for that. There should be one uniform rule for all officers—if a Nazir is suspended for defalcation, the Deputy Commissioner should also be suspended for that defalcation. But, in not a single case a senior officer has been touched by the Government. This is a wrong policy, Sir.

Let us come to Education Department, at page 23 of the Audit Report, 1954.

Waste of public funds and shortage of cash

In this case misappropriation was made in Government colleges and schools in Assam. There have been major irregularities such as unusual expenditure, bogus payments, shortage of cash, etc. It was found that the rules regarding the withdrawal and payment of money and the record of payment had not been observed and the cash book and other subsidiary registers did not exhibit the correct state of affairs.

And then payment for the same claim was sometimes shown twice in the cash book and the amount in the suppliers' bills and in the actual payees' receipts had been altered and the figures bore signs of manipulation. There are innumerable irregularities which have been shown in the Audit Report.

So far as the Head Assistant of the Government College is concerned, who is supposed to have misappropriated a total sum of Rs.17,000, has been placed under suspension. But, Sir, is it possible for the Head Assistant of this Government College to misappropriate such a big amount without the connivance of the higher authorities of the college? The higher authorities of the college seemed to have direct or indirect connection with the misappropriation of this big amount.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, it is not fair unless there is actually connivance from the higher authorities of the college, I mean the Vice-Principal and the Professors.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, I am coming to the Vice-Principal and the Professors.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, how do you justify, they are not present here.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, "apart from the loss indicated above," the Audit Report says, "the following cases of unusual expenditure and utilisation of Government property for private purposes came to notice:—

(i) Expenditure to the extent of Rs.191 was incurred from the contract contingent grant on account of purchase of cigarettes and matches for the Principal. Another sum of

Rs.490 was spent from the same grant on account of conveyance charge of the Principal, Vice-Principal and a Professor from their residence to office and back.

(ii) A sum of Rs.1,441 was spent on tea and sweets for the entertainment of the Principal, Professors and college staff".

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee about this?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, let me explain first and then I will come to that.

Sir, it is rather interesting to note that for the entertainment of the Principal, Professors and college staff, the Department is going to spend public money in the educational institutions.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, what the Public Accounts Committee had recommended on this?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Sir, the Committee has recommended recovery of the amount from the officers concerned so that such things might not recur in future. No action has been taken against the officers, who had clear hands in the misappropriation of public money. So, Sir, as I have already stated, only the small fries are punished and not the higher officers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, we are dealing with the Report of the Public Accounts Committee. Are you not satisfied with their recommendations?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: The Committee has recommended recovery of money in the case of small fries only and in the case of higher officers they are very liberal.

Mr. SPEAKER: You want to say that recovery is not sufficient? You want drastic actions should be taken against the officers concerned?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Yes, Sir. When such nefarious things could happen in the Government college, how could we leave our children in their hands who are considered to be dangerous persons who could even manipulate the Government account in this way?

My submission to the Government is that some exemplary punishment should be inflicted at least on one or two officers who are highly connected with this kind of mal-practices so that the Government may be able to remedy the defects in the administration.

Then, Sir, in the case of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, it is seen in the Report that there is irregular maintenance of cash book and account records.

In this Department it was revealed that the orderly of the Director was paid travelling allowance for journeys which were not actually undertaken. Now it will automatically happen that the Government would be punishing the orderly. The orderly is not responsible for the travelling allowance bill which he has not prepared for the journeys he is alleged to have undertaken. In this particular case alone, the orderly is not responsible; the clerk who prepared the bill and the Director who passed the bill are responsible.

Then in some cases we have seen that there is defalcation of money in the collection of rent from private persons. The amount involved in such case is to the tune of Rs.2,63,999. We have seen that for this sort of grave irregularities even the money cannot be recovered from retired Government servants. So in this case the Public Accounts Committee, particularly the Chairman, expressed grave concern and dissatisfaction over the administration regarding the outstanding amounts on account of arrears of rent. Why should such a big amount remain outstanding when the rules of the Government are there to the effect that no land or houses should be given on hire to persons without taking advance rent? Here there is no question of advance rent, more than two lakhs of rupees are pending realisation for more than two years. Here the stall-keepers in the Court buildings of two districts have not been paying their rent since 1949 and the Deputy Commissioner of one of these districts responsible for the realisation of rent from the stall-keepers has been reminded several times for effecting the recovery. So it appears the stall-keepers used some land or houses of the Government and the Deputy Commissioners are powerless in realising rent from them! Can we believe that the Deputy Commissioner failed to realise the rent? There may be some sort of arrangements between the lower grade staff of the Deputy Commissioner's Office and the stall-keepers, there may be some illegal arrangements between them so that

no steps are taken by the subordinate staff of the Deputy Commissioner to realise the rent. This is sheer corruption and the Chairman of the Committee has given strong orders for realisation of this amount. I hope this money will be realised.

Now coming to the Public Works Department, we have seen that there was prolonged discussion so far as the irregularities of this Department. From the proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee we find that many members including the Chairman expressed dissatisfaction over the works of this Department where very large amount of money is placed by the Assembly year after year. One of the members of the Committee pointed out that in certain cases there was no measurement when payment was made to the contractors. It was pointed out that check measurements were not carried out by the Superior Officers upto the prescribed limit in the ledger as soon as the transactions took place. In many cases measurements taken by the Subordinate Officers, such as Overseers, etc., were found to be incorrect.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Which page, please ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Page 31. The Minister should have seen it before. The Committee also viewed with concern that works not involving one lakh or two lakhs but crores were started without taking approval of the Government.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): There is explanation also.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: You have started work without taking Government approval and Government has not taken any action against the officers concerned. The Accountant General said that the officer who started work without proper financial sanction was responsible for the expenditure also and if he did not take personal responsibility, it meant Government landing in an awkward and embarrassing position.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Action will be taken against the Officers concerned.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: When will it be taken ? Why has it not been taken up till now.

Now coming to page 33, irregular payment of advance to contractor, the Accountant General cited a typical case in which an advance of Rs.19,900 was given for work done to the United Friend and Co., Jorhat without measurement being taken. The measurement was taken after three months and then it was found that the total amount comes to Rs.10,500. After withholding 10 per cent as security, the Company was entitled only to Rs.9,450. I want to know why drastic action has not yet been taken against the person responsible for such irregularity.

These things happened during 1952-53, during the time of the present Minister of Public Works Department. So he cannot take shelter under the plea that this happened before his time which we are also used to hear on many occasions.

Now, coming to the defects in taking recording measurements, it has been stated thus in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee :

“The Accountant General brought to the notice of the Committee many cases in which wrong measurements were recorded, which were subsequently discovered by check measurements by superior officers. Even some Subdivisional Officers were found at fault. The Accountant General also referred to the discrepancies found between a Sectional Officer’s travelling allowance bill and the entries recorded in the measurement book, and he stressed the necessity of imparting punishment in these cases. The Chief Engineer said that action had already been taken against one Subdivisional Officer and he assured the Committee that he always took action on receipt of inspection reports.”

We are glad that action has been taken at least on this occasion against one Subdivisional Officer. We hope that as soon as any such discrepancy comes to the notice of the authority, the officer or officers responsible for such discrepancies should be severely dealt with.

There is another serious charge against the Public Works Department that due to absence of proper record with regard to purchase of controlled commodities, such as C. I. Sheets, cement, iron rods, etc., etc. some of the controlled commodities had their place to the blackmarket. In the report of the Committee it has been admitted by the Chief Engineer that proper registers were not maintained.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Is there any such thing recorded somewhere ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Yes, Sir, at page 31 of the Audit Report it has been stated : Physical verification of stock and tools and plant had not been carried out and the stock and tools and plant returns were not compiled regularly.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Where is the reference about selling in blackmarket ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: There is no reference to blackmarket, but I infer that in the absence of proper records it is quite likely that the contractors or even some officers of the department may sell such commodities in the blackmarket. If proper records are not maintained, there is scope for black-marketing. We have heard various rumours that Public Works Department contractors indulge in blackmarket.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Das, we are dealing with what actually happened.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I am also, Sir, doing exactly the same thing. I am not speaking about anything that is not in actual practice. What I say is that unless we do not keep proper records of our stock, how can it be possible to check if the stock is properly maintained or not ? If there is no account of stock, is there no scope for blackmarketing ? If you do not like to keep record of your stock, then what is the good of keeping any account whatsoever ? Let everything go on its own way.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope you will finish within five minutes.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: How can I finish, Sir, while so many interruptions are going on ?

I am not blaming the Minister personally, Sir. Because Ministers are not expected to keep the records or even to see whether records are maintained by the department or not. It is primarily the duty of the officers concerned. But my intention is to bring these anomalies to the notice of the Minister so that he may approve himself well the way the department under his charge is performing the duties entrusted to it. We are to carry on this *post-mortem* examination because the well or woe of our future generations are inseparably bound up with the omissions and commissions of this generation.

Then coming to another point, *i. e.*, calling for tenders by the various departments such as Education, Relief and Rehabilitation, Home, etc.—all these departments undertake construction work without calling for tender. This has given rise to serious doubts and suspicion. It passes my comprehension as to

how, in spite of there being definite rule that tenders should be called for even for all departmental construction, breach of the rule can go on without any action being taken by the Government. In this way we have seen that an amount involving more than 6 crores 84 lakhs out of the sanction amount of 13 plus 8 crores, *i. e.*, 15 crores or something in the Budget for 1952-53, has not been properly spent as has been rightly objected to by the Auditor General. Fortunately, however, this year's Reports have not disclosed anomalies to such a great extent. But Government should not feel complacent on that account. Because we cannot allow anybody to handle public funds with such leniency. Government should take severe measures not only to bring to book such delinquent officers but to serve as deterrent against such anomalous accounts or records being maintained by officers. If instead of that, Government go on issuing circulars one after another, well then it will be something like '*dal bhat*' with the officers. I therefore urge upon the Government not to treat both these Reports—Report of the Public Accounts Committee as well as that of the Auditor General—in a light hearted manner. They should try their level best to rectify the anomalies pointed out in the Reports.

With these words, Sir, I would like to resume my seat as the time allotted to me has also expired.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must, at the outset, thank the Public Accounts Committee for the hard work that they have done in connection with the Audit Report for the year 1952-53. Sir, I would also like to impress upon the House the necessity of making this Committee a very vigilant one and see that it may work always as an independent committee and the Minister-in-charge is not the Chairman of this Committee, and the Deputy Speaker of the House is the Chairman. I am not casting any reflection on the Minister-in-charge because in the Report I find that the Minister-in-charge discharged his duty very efficiently. But even then he himself has said in the course of the Public Accounts Committee meeting that Caesar's wife must also be above suspicion and it is all the more necessary to have confidence on such a Committee and that it must be a Committee of this House and the Deputy Speaker should actually preside over the Committee. Secondly, Sir, regarding the composition of the Committee also I quite agree. The House elected members to this Committee and if this Committee is to

function efficiently, it must be very strict and must not show any favour to anybody. What I find from the Report of the Public Accounts Committee is that very serious offences were dealt with very lightly and no action was taken on them though they came up before the Committee after two or three years of their occurrence. I think in such matters where public accounts are concerned and which also in a way involve the confidence of the people.....

Adjournment

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

After lunch.

Statement about Situation in the Naga Hills

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I proceed with my speech on the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, may I draw the attention of the Chief Minister, through you, that we have been reading alarming reports about the Naga Hills in the papers? In to-day's *Santidoot* we read that there was an attack on Kohima itself and some soldiers were killed; even a man sending message was killed. I do not know how far these reports are true. Also we have read that the Army has taken over control of the whole situation. In view of all these, it would be better if the Chief Minister makes a statement tomorrow about the latest situation in the Naga Hills before we depart from Shillong.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the news appearing in *Santidoot* has got no basis. In these days it appears that even some responsible persons, taking advantage of the situation, are giving out sensational stories and so-called news which is not news at all.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** It will, therefore, be better for the Chief Minister to make a statement.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): No statement is necessary. We have had enough of statements and nothing has happened since then to make a further statement. This news in *Santidoot* has no basis. Of course a Naga was arrested, but on the basis of that correct news fictitious stories are being invented and given out by different persons thinking that in these days people would swallow them. They will succeed

in creating sensation by publishing. This is a dangerous thing to do. I hope responsible persons and the press will realise their responsibilities and refrain from publishing such unfounded news. I expect that in the best interests of the country they will restrain themselves and not publish stories which have no foundation whatsoever.

The report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Appropriation Accounts for 1952-53 and Audit Report, 1954

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I was speaking about budgeting, Sir. What is very important in budgeting is accuracy. The preparation of the budget takes a long time, from September onwards to March, *i. e.*, about six months. Every department has to send its estimates and they are scrutinised in the Finance Department. Even after that if we find that there is a big difference between the estimates and the actual expenditure, we must say that the budgeting is not accurate. We also find that the departments come forward with Supplementary Demands which are actually not wanted.

Sir, coming to 1952-53, you will find in the Audit Report at page 3 that savings on voted grants in certain cases have gone upto 98·6 per cent. The important savings are in the case of Agriculture the original grant of which was Rs.54,09,500. The expenditure was Rs.45,47,970 ; there the savings was to the tune of 32·6 per cent. Then, in the case of Industries and Supplies (Sericulture and Weaving), where the original amount was Rs.8,77,000 the expenditure was Rs.7,54,754 and there was also a Supplementary Demand for Rs.1,02,864 ; yet there was savings of Rs.2,25,110, *i. e.*, 23 per cent. Then, with regard to the Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes, we find that the savings was to the tune of 98·6 per cent. Then, in Community Development Projects, we find the savings was 41·2 per cent. Of course, these savings have been explained in the notes but not at all satisfactorily. Take for instance, item No.9 Agriculture, it is stated that the savings is due to "restricted purchase and issue of seeds under seed Multiplication and Distribution Schemes, less payment of subsidy to cultivators under Compost Scheme and late starting of Kaki Reclamation Scheme". Though all these things were known, the Department came forward with a Supplementary Demand for Rs.13,41,264 and ultimately

a savings of Rs.22,02,794 was effected ! Then, in the case of Electricity Schemes where the savings, is to the tune of 98·6 per cent, we find the explanation given is "due to non-receipt of administrative approval for incurring expenditure on the project of Umtru Hydro Electric Scheme". Thus we see that without obtaining prior approval, money was allotted and after that this had to be surrendered.

Then, at page 12 of the Audit Report it is stated "An examination of the grants individually will show that budgeting was fairly close only in 13 out of 45 grants, the variations between the final grants and the actual expenditure in these cases being below five per cent. In eleven cases the variation was between five and ten per cent ; in twelve cases between eleven and thirty per cent ; in five cases between thirty-one and sixty per cent in one case between sixty-one and eighty per cent. In two cases the variations were as high as 96·4 per cent and 98·6 per cent while in one case it exceeded 100 per cent". Sir, I do not take account of the variations below 30 per cent, but cases above that deserve notice of the House. We want the Finance Minister to see that budgeting is made more accurate in years to come.

Then, there is another side of this question. There are certain departments who have less money and cannot carry on with their work for want of money ; on the other hand, we find that there are departments who cannot spend the money allotted to them. Not only they cannot spend the money allotted to them, they also come forward with Supplementary Demands over and above the money left with them. Thus a deficit budget ultimately turns out not to be deficit. Although it may go to the credit of the Finance Minister that we have been able to wipe out deficits, it does not go to the credit of the Finance Minister to find that at the beginning of the budget year we are faced with a deficit budget. These deficits, we find, are mostly the results of preparing the budget inaccurately. We find that large sums of money are allotted for the departments who cannot spend even half of that and the result is that a deficit budget is presented to us.

Then we find about unnecessary or excessive Supplementary Grant. At page 13, item Nos. 7—27, Civil Works—A (a) 10.—Education, we find that though there was Supplementary Grant of Rs.30,600 ultimately there was a savings to the tune of Rs.1,05,224. Similarly we find in the case of item No. 13.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural

Improvement and Research that there was a Supplementary Grant of Rs.15,300 and the whole amount was shown as a savings Again in item No. 14.---Capital Account of other State works, we find that there was a Supplementary Grant of Rs.14,000 but the savings was to the tune of Rs.19,000.

My whole purpose in saying these things is to impress the House that when at the end of the year we find so many savings and surrenders, it does not go to our credit to say that we have been able to save so much. As a matter of fact these savings are very natural and in preparing the budget these savings should have been taken into account.

Then I come, Sir, to certain items in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee which need the attention of the House. In page 2 of the Report we find that "the Committee also recommends that the excess expenditure of Rs.2,23,97,529 under voted grants as revealed in para 8 at page 9 of the Appropriation Accounts 1952-53 and Audit Report, 1954 be regularised by taking the approval of the Legislative Assembly".

"The Committee would, however, draw attention to Article 204 (3) of the Constitution whereby no money shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of the State except under appropriation made....."

This is a serious matter. Without having appropriated the money, without taking the approval of the House, money was spent in that manner and this is not in accordance with the principles laid down in the Financial Rules.

Then we find there are many instances where there have been cases of defalcation, where accounts should have been kept in a particular manner and where money has been spent without authorisation. The Public Accounts Committee has taken note of it. At page 4 of the Report it is stated, "The Committee also felt that Administrative Department and Government should not content themselves merely with passing strictures against the officers concerned but should take some positive action against them for waste of public funds caused through their wilful actions or contributory negligence. In order to tone up administrative integrity and efficiency, it is absolutely essential that officials

found guilty of such acts are dealt with promptly and severely". On the other hand we find from the Report of the Public Accounts Committee that there are many cases still pending against many officers. There are cases which have not been promptly dealt with and where exemplary punishment which such officers deserve has not been meted out. My Friend, Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, has stated before the House how small fries have been taken to task while the big people who are heads of departments, who are actually responsible for these things have been left untouched. As for instance, there is one case of Tezpur in page 31. It reads:—

"Theft.—The Chief Engineer narrated the case of loss of a blank leaf from the Cheque Book in the Tezpur Public Works Department Subdivision and said that departmental proceedings were drawn up against Shri Keshab Chandra Sharma, the Head Assistant of the office and he was dismissed from office for non-submission of his explanation. He further said that no action was taken against the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department concerned". Sir, this is deliberate carelessness of the Subdivisional Officer, who is responsible for keeping this blank cheque book in his safe custody, but, what do we find is that a small fry and the Head Assistant have been punished instead of taking to task the Subdivisional Officer, who is a big officer.

In the cases cited by Mr. Das in the morning, we find people who are in the helm of affairs, who are actually responsible according to the provisions of the rules, are not taken to task but small fries are taken to task instead.

Then when we go into the Report of the Public Accounts Committee, we find that certain things were recommended by this Committee but no action as yet on those have been taken. For instance at page 18 it is stated:—

"Purchase of stores without calling for tenders: The Senior Conservator of Forests admitted that purchase of small articles was made without calling for tenders. The officer-in-charge of a particular work purchased small articles like bolts, nails, barbed wire, etc., keeping in view of the requirements."

Here, we find that these things were purchased without calling for tenders.

Then, if we read the second paragraph, it reads as follows :—

“On a question by the Chairman as to how the Conservator knows whether the articles are utilised in the work, the Conservator indicated that a certain amount is allotted for a work and when the work is completed within the allotted amount, he comes to the conclusion that the articles are utilised in the work. He, however, informed the Committee that for bigger items tender is called for.” This is a very strange way of coming into conclusion regarding public property.

Then, coming to page 27, the Report says :—

“The Chairman remarked that the Public Works Department had not taken any action to set up a Stores Purchase Board. The Chief Engineer replied that the Department had submitted their opinion in Annexure at page 17 of the Statement showing the action taken on the recommendation of the last Public Accounts Committee by their unofficial note dated the 25th August, 1955. Then the Chairman indicated that the Department was not prepared to carry out the direction of the Public Accounts Committee. The Chief Engineer then replied that if a Stores Purchase Board was constituted that would delay matters and that was why the Department had come forward with their suggestions given in their unofficial note as referred to in the Annexure.”

This is very serious allegation and I am glad that the Chairman himself was bold enough to make the charge. Then it states :—“The Chief Engineer then replied that if a Stores Purchase Board was constituted that would delay matters and that was why the Department had come forward with their suggestion given in their unofficial note as referred to in the Annexure.”

If the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee which have been made after matured discussion and deliberation are thrown overboard, then what is the use of having this Committee and making unnecessary recommendations ?

About the Stores Purchase Board we find here "The Chairman then stressed the view that the Department could have constituted a Board with the two Chief Engineers and one or two Members from Shillong. The Accountant General then added that the formation of a Stores Purchase Board was a good idea as the Board would be in a position to guide the Department in the matter of purchase of stores and in the spending of public money, the Department would act according to their advice. The Chief Engineer then replied that if such a Board was constituted it would have to be convened from time to time and that it would delay matters". Even then he would not agree.

Mr. SPEAKER : In the Estimates Committee also that was recommended. Have you got a copy of that report ?

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** That is a different matter Sir. I was showing that this is not a recommendation of this year—that was recommended two years back also and yet the Department was dogmatic and obstinate and it would not give way to the recommendation. Sir, my whole point is that if the recommendations of such an important body which after prolonged discussions and matured deliberations come to certain decision and recommended certain line of action it is highly improper on the Department to throw overboard all those suggestions and recommendations. Then in the same Public Accounts Committee Report we find that Financial Rules were also drawn up—I refer to page 28 where it says—"The Chairman and other members of the Committee after going through the statement remarked that the Department did not carry out the directions as provided under the Financial Rules in force. The Chairman pointed out that in the matter of payment and measurements of works, the Department entirely depended on the Sectional Officers and no check-measurements by the Subdivisional Officers and the Executive Engineers had been effected although it was clearly provided under the rules in force. The result had been that 99 per cent of measurements carried out by the Overseers and the Sectional Officers had not been check-measured by the Executive Engineers and Subdivisional Officers and also by the Superintending Engineers although rules in force clearly provided for such check-measurements and payment of public money had been entirely, made on the basis of bills, etc., prepared by the lower subordinate officers of the Public Works Department, namely Overseers and Sectional Officers....." As a result we find that there is

one case of irregular payment of advances to contractor. That is at page 33. We find here, "The Accountant General cited a typical case in which an advance of Rs.19,900 was given for work done to the United Friend & Co., Jorhat without measurement being taken. The measurement was taken after three months and then it was found that the total amount comes to Rs.10,500. After withholding of 10 per cent as security, the Company was entitled only to Rs.9,450. The Chief Engineer assured the Committee that he would look into this case and he would inform the Committee about the action taken". Now, Sir, these are matters of 1952-53 and in the year 1956 the Chief Engineer comes and says that he would look into the matter. We know that delay also very often demolishes a case, delay destroys the necessary evidence and, therefore, these things are to be looked into promptly. And what is more important is that when the Financial Rules and other rules are prescribed for observance by the Department, they should be scrupulously followed.

Then, in this connection we find also instances which we do not want to repeat every time here, but we have been compelled to repeat. These are instances of heavy loss of public money. Sir, in page 36 we find that the Secretary of the Supply Department stated that the Eastern Bengal and Assam Commercial Syndicate was a partnership concern and that the Syndicate was no longer in existence. Two partners left for Pakistan and one of the Muslim partners died and it was difficult to carry on correspondence to find out who were the legal heirs. The Chairman then asked to clarify as to what was this Government's claim and what was theirs.

Now due to delay in taking action against this concern, the Government has lost a sum to the tune of about Rs.29 lakhs. This is, as I have stated in the beginning, due to the Financial Rules which the Department did not follow also. The Head of the Department is responsible for certain irregularities in maintenance of proper accounts, cash books, etc.

We find in another case at page 44 of the Report the Secretary, Supply stated that "this was a case regarding the forged cheque of Rs.25,000 cashed at the Imperial Bank at Calcutta. There was a criminal case against one Superintendent but he was acquitted. The case was tried at Shillong".

Now these are matters which are very important. Action should have been taken against the Secretary. It is difficult to understand as to why no action was taken against the Secretary in allowing scope for committing such an offence.

I would like to point out another case wherein the Public Accounts Committee has also expressed its dissatisfaction which is reported in page 23. These things are very important. In public life we have to see that the moral standard as well as the rules are scrupulously observed. Here we find about the appointment of Shri Girish Chandra Sarma as Under-Secretary in the Transport Department. The Chairman observed that Shri Sarma entered in the Secretariat as an Assistant and rose up to Under-Secretary. After his retirement, he was re-employed on a higher pay of Rs.575 as Special Officer, Planning and Industrial Development. On his relief on 1st March, 1949, he was re-appointed on that very day as Deputy Director, Major Industries on a pay of Rs.650 with a special pay of Rs.100 and on relief on 29th February 1952, he was re-appointed as Under-Secretary with a pay of Rs.850,—a jump of Rs. 200.

Sir, these are not my words.

Here at the end of the page at 23 of the report it is stated that after some discussion, the Committee felt that in any way the case was not a happy one and as the Secretary, Transport had noted the observations of the last Public Accounts Committee and the matter might be dropped. So these are the things which greatly affect the moral of our officers, because when so very often after retirement the officer has been given higher than the amount of pay which he could not have earned even during his life time. So I would request the Government to see that the recommendations and directions of the Public Accounts Committee should be followed more scrupulously.

Sir, I will not take much time of the House. This year, we find that the Public Accounts Committee Report has been prepared more elaborately than before. Previously a small book containing only a summary report was circulated to us. This time I am glad to find that the Assembly Secretary and his staff have taken great pains in presenting us with a comprehensive report which has helped us immensely to participate in this debate. For this I offer my thanks to them.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Shri Goswami, has stated that the Deputy Speaker of the Assembly should be the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Sir, as a matter of fact the Public Accounts Committee is a creation of this House. It is constituted under the rules framed by this House and I have been put in there by virtue of my office as Finance Minister of the State. The House in its wisdom has decided that I should be the *Ex-officio* Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and now if it again decides that I should not be there, I shall feel greatly happy to be relieved of the burden thrust on me against my wish, and it is for this House to do what it thinks best.

My Friend, Shri Das has paid a compliment to the Government this time that the accounts and control over expenditure by the Government are more satisfactory than what it was in the past. He feels that there has been remarkable improvement so far as the control over accounts and expenditure in the respective departments of the Government are concerned. He paid a compliment to the Government and as it has come from an unexpected quarter. I feel happy and for this I thank my Friend from the core of my heart. Both my Friends, Shri Goswami and Shri Das, have laid emphasis on one thing and that is this. According to them the budget of our State is not as accurate as it should be. Sir, absolute accuracy of a budget in a period like this when we are embarking on dynamic plan of development is not quite possible. As a matter of fact, budgeting cannot be expected to be absolutely accurate. It can be only approximately accurate. For this reason, Sir, the law has provided for original estimate, revised estimate, supplementary grants, surrender appropriation, re-appropriation, etc. If the Budget could be accurate, all these things should not have been necessary. The law-makers anticipated all these things. For intervention of various factors, the budgeting of estimates cannot be quite accurate and anticipating difficulties, on this score, the law-makers themselves provided for these things. My Friend, Shri Goswami, and my Friend, Shri Das, contend that because we are having large savings or making large surrenders every year, that shows, according to them, that the budgeting is not accurate. A little reflection will show that the contention of my Friends, both Shri Goswami and Shri Das, is not correct and is not borne out by facts.

I will explain how surrender and savings occur. Surrender and savings occur for reasons over which the department concerned has no control. Suppose, we are estimating an

expenditure of seven crores in the next year by the Public Works Department. But this expenditure is dependent on various factors other than estimating of money alone, *i. e.*, availability of tools and implements, materials such as C. I. sheets, cement, iron rods and also availability of requisite technical personnel and so on. Provided these contingent factors are available to the required extent, the money allotted for expenditure can be spent. If these things are not available in time in our State, then it is only natural and also reasonable to expect that Public Works Department will not be able to spend the total amount budgeted for the purpose, and they will be required to make surrender. This does not mean that budgeting is not accurate. It is accurate ; but for the fact that certain contingent factors which are outside their control, the expenditure could not be made for the intervention of a variety of factors as estimated by me. We have discussed several times on the floor of this House the causes that restrict the capacity for expenditure.

Now my Friends, Shri Ranendra Mohon Das and Shri Goswami, also have stated that we are dealing with guilty officers with a bit of leniency. I would have been glad if my Friends would have pointed out a concrete instance. Now, Sir, what do we do in cases where we find our officers are involved in misappropriation or defalcation of public fund? We suspend them and prosecute them in courts of law. If the Court finds them guilty, they are punished. The function of the department concerned is to bring them to book and put them up for trial. If a certain person is sentenced to imprisonment for period shorter than we expect, the fault does not lie with the Government. It is up to the trying magistrate to give somebody the benefit of doubt or to award a punishment which according to him is justified in the eye of law. The House should be interested only in seeing whether or not we have tried our level best to bring the wrong doers to book and put them to trial. Therefore the allegation that some amount of leniency was shown to certain officers is not borne by facts. As a matter of fact, both my Friends were not present in the deliberations of the Public Accounts Committee and they have satisfied themselves with the facts that have been mostly found in the Audit Report of 1954. That is, Sir, only one side of the picture. The Public Accounts Committee had the benefit of seeing the other side of the picture as well, as they had the benefit of hearing the heads of departments as witnesses before the Committee. All the Heads of the various departments

appeared before the Public Accounts Committee, they were subjected to searching examinations and cross-examinations by all the members present in the Committee and after appreciating both sides of the picture, the Public Accounts Committee passed their opinion in the form of certain recommendation. My Friend, Mr. Goswami and my Friend, Mr. Das, had not the opportunity of hearing the other side of the picture as to why some leniency was shown in some particular cases and that is the reason why they have made this assertion so loudly. An unhappy episode of misappropriation of money took place in the Gauhati Cotton College some years ago, and when the matter was brought to light through audit, Government took immediate action and since then such offence had not occurred any more in that College. When the misappropriation case was detected, Government immediately put the Head Assistant, who was responsible for this, under suspension and was sent up for trial in the Court. This shows that Government do take action immediately when such cases of misappropriation is detected. The two Principals of the College, during whose time most of these things took place, are no longer living in this world, to enable us to take action against them also. Therefore, Sir, my Friends' allegation that Government has not been so much strict on some of the officers or that Government has shown some amount of leniency to some of the officers, has not been borne out by facts and circumstances.

My Friends referred to certain things which happened in the Public Works Department and some other Departments. It was also stated from the Opposition side that the Public Works Department has not carried out certain instruction or recommendations given by the Committee. This is true. The Chief Engineer himself admits that for prompt execution of works, it will not be possible to constitute a Committee like that. This matter also came up before the last sitting of the Estimates Committee which, after considering the matter recommended that there should be a Central Purchase Committee for all the Departments. To this view of the Public Accounts Committee the Chief Engineer said that the prompt execution of Public Works Department works would be hampered. The Estimates Committee had to give due consideration to this view of the Chief Engineer and made the definite recommendation with regard to the formation of a Central Purchasing Committee. As a matter of fact, no Department has ever defied the findings of the Committee though such findings are in the nature of recommendations only. As far as I have found, all the Departments have agreed to act according to the directions of the

Committee and have, as a matter of fact, acted accordingly and for this reason, Sir, there has been definite improvement in the maintenance and control over the accounts and expenditure. Things in all respects are really improving, though not to our full satisfaction. If the same amount of vigilance is maintained over accounts and expenditure, I am quite sure in course of a year or two things will take proper shape to our full satisfaction.

Mr. SPEAKER: Shri Bhagavati can now speak.

**Short Notice Resolution re: Location of Oil Refinery
in Assam**

Shri BIJOY CHANDRA BHAGAVATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:—

“Whereas large resources of crude oil sufficient for annual production of one million tons of finished products have been estimated in Hoogrijan, Moran, Naharkatiya and other areas of the State of Assam; and

Whereas crude oil is a natural wealth of the State and in all fairness the benefit of employment and industrial development arising out of this find should be available to the people of the State particularly in view of the comparatively less developed economy of the State and limited possibilities of its industrial development and in view of depletion of the mineral wealth of the State; and

Whereas the reported move to set up the proposed refinery outside Assam for processing crude oil extracted in the State of Assam, if given effect to, will deprive the people of Assam of the full economic benefit of this industrial project and whereas the people of Assam feel much concerned and deeply aggrieved at the reported move for location of the refinery outside Assam; and

Whereas export of crude oil extracted from these mines, if exported outside the State before processing will deprive the State of higher revenues and additional employment facilities; and

Whereas Assam has long been claiming her rightful share of the Excise Revenue derived from petroleum produced at Digboi as the said tax is but a form of royalty which belong to the State suffering depletion of its natural capital wealth

through the working of the mines and as such the location of the new refinery outside the State of Assam will add to this injustice ; and

Whereas up till now not a single Central sector large scale industrial project has been allotted to Assam to stop the growth of regional disparity in economy between Assam and the industrially advanced units of the Indian Union which will be further widened by the location of the new refinery outside the State ;

This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do urge upon the Government of India to take necessary steps for location of the proposed oil refinery at a suitable place in Assam".

Sir, the subject with which we deal in this Resolution is of paramount importance for Assam. If I am allowed to make a little digression, I may say that the subject of petroleum is a fascinating study. It is produced in a commercial scale in some twenty-five countries, beginning in Rumania in 1857 and in U. S. A. in 1859. Before that also it was used in the building of Babilone and Pyramids of Egypt. About the time of Christ, the Chinese were drilling wells as deep as 2,000 feet with primitive equipments to tap deposits of natural gas and they used it for heating and illumination. In America also the indigenous people used it for religious and medicinal purposes before the fifteenth century. But it is a far cry from the methods of production and use of those days to that of the modern age. In no field of science has more progress been made than in that of petroleum.

Most of the tremendous social and economic changes that have taken place in the modern world can be said to be a direct result of supplies of cheap energy and the growth and progress of transportation. And petroleum is now the principal factor in providing energy and transportation for the mankind. It is the source of energy which drives tractors, trucks, buses, automobiles and air-crafts. Petroleum is employed as a source of light, of heat, of power and of machines lubrication. Its other uses are countless.

Now, from the records upto 1938, we find that the earth has been tapped for this liquid mineral to the extent of over 33,000,000,000 bbl. (thirty-three thousand million) of which U. S. A's. production was 64 per cent. More than five thousand pounds of petroleum are consumed there per person annually in the average. U. S. S. R's. production was 12 per cent

of the total by volume during 1857-1938. From the International Petroleum Trade, Vol.8, it will be seen that in 1938 India, *i.e.*, Assam produced 8,992 thousand of barrels of 42 gallons of petroleum. This means only 40 per cent of the total by volume. During the period covered from 1858 to 1938, some 281,501 thousand barrels of 41 gallons were produced in India and this was 85 per cent of the total by volume.

So, India is lagging far behind in tapping the earth for this liquid mineral. That Assam is blessed with vast reserves of petroleum is indicated by recent exploitation. It is gratifying that the Government of India has moved in the matter of formation of a Rupee Company with majority of Government shares for prospecting and exploitation of oil in the whole region of Assam and a regional research laboratory is going to be established in Assam to deal with scientific research on this subject.

The crude oil now produced in Hoogrijan, Moran and Naharkatiya in Assam has made it necessary to establish a new refinery. The prospect of new exploitation in Assam may necessitate further expansion in the future. For the present it is proposed to install one new refinery for the crude oil produced in Assam. Now, the question arises where the refinery should be located. That such a question should arise, is something unnatural. It should have been decided to locate the refinery in Assam as a matter of course. But powerful forces seem to be working against it. The Assam Oil Company is reported to have pressed for its location in Calcutta.

We do not exactly know what are the precise reasons for which the Assam Oil Company wants to locate the refinery outside the State from which the crude oil is extracted. The main consideration with the Company may be maximum profit. That is only natural with them. But the Government has certainly to take into consideration some other important aspects.

One of the basic principles of Gandhian Economy is that, as far as practicable, manufacturing and processing should be in that region where the raw material is produced. These are very sound economic and moral reasons for such contention. Nature endows certain States with some natural advantages. But very often such natural advantages are counter-balanced by natural disadvantages. Now, if a State is to suffer the natural disadvantages and is deprived of the natural advantages or benefits, she will be certainly doomed to eternal backwardness.

Whatever may be the reason, it has not been possible so far to develop any other industry in Assam except Oil and Tea. These two industries have flourished in Assam, as nature favours them. The private industrialists have not so far come to Assam for other industries. The reason may be that the conditions are not so favourable for the growth of other industries. If now Assam is deprived of the full benefits of the Oil Industry, what remains to her? We cannot very much count upon the Tea Industry, because the future of the Tea Industry is not so very certain as its markets depend mostly outside the country. Then again, how the regional disparity in advancement is going to be removed, between this and other States? We have not been given any major industry under the Central Sector during the First Five Year Plan period. It will be a tragedy, if in the face of it, we are denied the benefits which we may derive as a result of exploitation of the most important natural resources of the State. Assam should not be made to suffer the natural calamities and disadvantages and denied the benefits conferred by nature.

From what I have said, it must not be construed to mean that we claim mineral resources to be the exclusive property of the State which produces them. We recognise that mineral resources are national wealth. The whole country has the right of share in them. What I submit is that the State which produces the raw material, should have all the advantages that may accrue from the fullest development of the industry that may grow from or out of the said raw material. From the point of view of balanced development and equal opportunity to the constituent units in the country, this logic has added force in the case of the Petroleum Industry in Assam. In fact, the mining lease has a condition which lays down that no licensee can export crude oil from India until it has been converted into refined products. The object behind this condition is that the economic benefit of the manufacturing process should accrue fully to the State to which the crude oil belongs.

Crude oil as taken from the ground is almost useless. It is a mixture of many substances and must be taken out and worked upon before it can power a locomotive or lubricate a car. There comes in the refinery. It has been rightly said that the modern petroleum refinery works daily miracle when the hydrocarbon molecule are split into pieces, when their fragments are sorted and re-arranged by complex process devised by petroleum technologists and when new and wonderful compounds are evolved to power and lubricate complex mechanism and to supply a host of other needs.

In the process of refining this crude oil, a wide range of products from special paints to drugs and pesticides are produced. Most familiar of the ordinary products synthesised from crude oil and natural gas are alcohols, synthetic rubber, high explosives and road materials as asphalts.

A large refinery costs crores of rupees to build ; yet its construction is never finished. Improvement in refining techniques comes so swiftly that alteration and addition to the plant are constantly under way. A refinery is thus a tremendous industrial activity. So to deny Assam the advantage of the refinery which has come to her in a natural course is to deny her the possibility of industrial development.

A deputation of the Assam M.Ps. waited upon the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru on 19th March and submitted a memorandum on the question of setting up the new Oil Refinery within the boundaries of Assam as against a rumour that the proposed Refinery was being located in Calcutta. The Prime Minister is believed to have said to the deputation that they may count on his support for having the proposed Refinery in Assam, provided technical obstructions do not stand on the way. He is reported to have said that the snag in the matter seemed to be its technical aspect. We feel very much assured by the sympathetic words of the Prime Minister, Shri Nehru, knows Assam very intimately. He knows her needs. We hope he will not allow what may be said to be the technical grounds to stand on the way of establishing the Refinery in Assam.

One refinery is running here at Digboi, Assam. There was nothing technically wrong in establishing it in Assam. If technically one refinery may work satisfactorily for so many years in Assam, we do not see what technical reason there may be in establishing another. This is how we see things as laymen. And I do not think that the layman's point of view is to be entirely ruled out.

We, of course, do not deny that there are transport difficulties. They are obvious. But these difficulties should not always be allowed to obstruct the progress of Assam. It appears that we cannot have industries, because we have transport difficulty. And we cannot have better transport facilities, because we have no industry. This is a vicious circle. Somebody somewhere is to break it. Nature has provided in crude oil a magic liquid. If this magic liquid also fails to break this vicious circle, we are simply undone. We are confident that given the will the mighty Government of this great country

can solve this problem. After the partition of the country the Assam Link was constructed with greatest speed and in a record time. That proved the ability of our engineers.

Mr. SPEAKER : I think it is the sense of the House that we should sit to-morrow again.

(Voices : Yes, yes.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Tuesday the, 3rd April 1956.

SHILLONG :

R. N. BARUA,

The 15th March 1957.

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly,
Assam.*

A.G.P. (L.A.) No.1/57-126-19-3-1957.

AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283 Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta-16.
19. Messrs Mokshada Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Book-sellers, Publishers, etc., Lamington Road, Bombay-7.