

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE SECOND
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE SOVEREIGN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION
OF INDIA:

BUDGET SESSION

VOL. I

No. 24

The 6th April, 1959



सत्यमेव जयते

1962

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(continued)

TABLE VIII

CONTINUED

For the year 1913

Item	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Land Acquired by the Government
Land Acquired by Private Parties
Land Acquired by the Government and Private Parties
Land Acquired by the Government (Exclusive of the Results of the Auctions)
Land Acquired by Private Parties (Exclusive of the Results of the Auctions)
Land Acquired by the Government and Private Parties (Exclusive of the Results of the Auctions)
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**Proceedings of the Fifth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled after the Second General Election under
the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution
of India.**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M. on Monday, the 6th April, 1959.

P R E S E N T

Shri Deva Kanta Borooah, B. A., LL. B., Speaker in the Chair, Four Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and seventy-two Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Procurement position of Corrugated Iron Sheets centre
by centre in Assam during 1958**

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked:

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

- (a) What was the procurement position of Corrugated Iron Sheets centre by centre, in Assam during 1958 ?
- (b) What effective measures have been taken to improve the supply of Corrugated Iron Sheets during the current year ?
- (c) Whether M/s. Pheros and Company, Tinsukia was granted permit for import of Assam quota of rice to this State ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the firm disposed of the Assam quota of rice outside Assam particularly in Calcutta ?
- (e) If so, what steps Government propose to take to set things right and to punish the offender ?

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

128. (a)—A Statement is placed on the Library Table.

(b)—Requirements of the States in respect of Iron and Steel including Corrugated Iron Sheets are met by the Government of India according to the availability of stocks out of the indigenous production. Repeated endeavours have been made by the State Government for larger allocation of Corrugated Iron Sheets but owing to the limited availability of Corrugated Iron Sheets, the Government of India could not give our full requirements.

(c)—No.

(d) & (e)—Does not arise.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi): ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমার Procurement agent কোন ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): I want notice for that question.

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mangaldai): চৰকাৰেই যদি adequate quota নেপায়, তেনেহলে বেপাৰী সকলে black market কৰিবলৈ কৰপৰা টান পায় ?

Regarding Agriculture Inspector's Office at Nalbari

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is an office of the Agriculture Inspector at Nalbari for a very long time ?

(b) If so, since when the Inspector's office is functioning there ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the office is sitting in a rented house ?

(d) If so, how much has been paid as rent up till now ?

(e) Whether Government has any plan to construct a permanent office building there ?

(f) Whether Government are aware that the people have been demanding to raise the status of Inspector's office to the status of District Agricultural office ?

(g) If so, whether Government is going to consider the matter ?

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

129. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The office is functioning since 1945.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Rs. 4,200 at Rs. 25 per month.

(e)—Attempts are being made to secure suitable land for construction of the permanent building at Nalbari.

(f)—No.

(g)—Does not arise.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Sir; May I know whether attempts will be made this year ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): No assurance can be given.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dengaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes): May I know, Sir, whether Government are trying to secure Government land or private land ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We are trying to secure any available land be it of Government or of private parties.

Shri RAMNATH DAS: Since when Government are trying ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I cannot give the exact date.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj North): Sir, is it a fact that all the Agriculture Inspector's Offices are in rented houses?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes, most of them are in hired houses.

Proposal to convert the Chamata Local Board Dispensary into a Primary Health Unit

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government propose to convert the Chamata Local Board Dispensary (Under Gauhati Local Board) into a Primary Health Unit ?
- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether Government has lately received public representation for conversion of the said Dispensary into a Primary Health Unit ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied:

130. (a)—Yes. Government is considering the proposal.

(b)—The question of converting the Chamata Local Board Dispensary into a Primary Health Unit will be considered when Pachim Nalbari Block starts functioning.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—No.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA: Sir, why not earlier ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: It will depend on the decision to give a start to a National Extension Block in that area.

Scarcity of water supply in Ward Nos. 3, 8 and 9 in Dhubri

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware of the scarcity of water supply in Ward Nos. 3, 8 and 9 of Dhubri town ?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Municipality is not in a position to give proper supply of water without Government help in matter ?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to help the Dhubri Municipality financially to improve its water supply to those wards ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, Local Self-Government) replied :

131. (a)—Yes, there is acute scarcity of water supply in Ward Nos.3 and 9 and partial scarcity in Ward No.8.

(b)—The Municipal Board have intimated their inability to give proper supply without Government help.

(c)—The proposal for grant of a loan to the Municipal Board for augmentation of the water supply is now under consideration of Government.

MAULAVI JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Sir, Government have said that the proposal is now under consideration of Government. May I know when they will finish consideration ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : That assurance cannot be given because the proposal has come to Government only lately. However, the matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Book relating to Lands Acts and Rules, etc.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

- (a) Whether all the Land Acts, Rules, Orders, Manuals and Regulations (relating to lands) are available for purchase in the Government Book Depôt, Shillong ?
- (b) If so, whether Government are aware that many intending purchasers who wrote letters to the Officer-in-charge, Book Depôt, could not get the same ?
- (c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, whether inability to supply is due to want of stock ?
- (d) If so, what steps are being taken to reprint the same ?

Pu LALMAWIA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

132. (a)—No. Some Acts and Rules, etc., are not at present available in the Book Depot.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Mainly due to the publications being out of print.

(d)—Necessary steps are being taken by Government to reprint the Acts, etc., which are out of print and to make available such Acts, etc., which are out of stock in the Book Depot.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Sir, may I know what Acts and Rules are not to be found in the Government Book Depot ?

Pu LALMAWIA (Parliamentary Secretary) : I am reading out those that are available and those that are not available.

Mr. SPEAKER : Which list is shorter ?

Pu LALMAWIA : Those that are available is shorter (*laughter*).

Mr. SPEAKER : He may place the list on the Library Table.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Are Government aware that the Assam Land Revenue Manual is out of print for the last 7 or 8 years ?

Pu LALMAWIA : That may be.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : Sir, are Government taking steps to make those available to the public ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : It is going to be printed.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Sir, is it a fact that there is only one copy of Land Revenue Manual and that is with the Revenue Minister ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That is so.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : Sir, in view of the fact that the Land Revenue Manual is an important Manual will the Government be pleased to see that this is printed again with all the correction slips as early as possible ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Many of the provisions have become out of date because this is an Act of 1886 and therefore it does not apply to the present condition of the country. So, the Law Commission is making a thorough enquiry and with the changes they recommend, the book will be printed.

Mr. SPEAKER: His question is at present there is the law and how that law will be applicable if there is no copy of the Manual.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The lawyers have got copies but it is difficult for other people to purchase it as it is not available.

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDER (Hailakandi): How long the minister will enjoy this monopoly ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Till a revised copy is printed :

Mr. SPEAKER: Approximately when ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: I cannot give exact time. As soon as the Law Commission finishes its work on it, it will be printed.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Do Government propose to publish this Manual in local languages of the State?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: There is no such proposal but there are some small Acts, such as, Adhar Act which are printed in Assamese.

Shri RAMNATH DAS Dergoan (Reserved for Scheduled Castes): When the Law Commission has been appointed ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: It was appointed last year. They have already commenced work.

Mr. SPEAKER: I myself have extreme difficulty to find a copy of Basic Education Act and in fact this fact cropped up in the House and there was half an hour discussion but unfortunately I had no copy and with great difficulty I got a copy from the Secretary of the Department and no other copy could be available. I don't know how the other Minister carry on work; but I cannot.

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDER: May I know who are the Members of the Law Commission ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The Advocate General is the Chairman, a Retired District and Session Judge, Shri Sushil Das, is the Secretary Legal Remembrancer and two Members recruited from Bar, one from Gauhati Bar but I cannot now supply the names of the other.

Shri RAMNATH DAS: May I know whether any period is fixed within which the work entrusted to the Law Commission will be finished ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): No period has been fixed.

Regarding Offices and Residences of the Assistant Political Officer and staff at Abor Hills

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Offices and Residences of the Assistant Political Officer for Abor Hills (Murkangsellek) Transferred area have not yet been constructed ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the Assistant Political Officer and the staff there have been experiencing great difficulties for non-availability of accommodation in that transferred area ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that these difficulties were brought to the notice of this House during question hours in last few Sessions of this Assembly and the Minister-in-charge expressed his sympathy in the matter ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that no financial sanction was given for this purpose during the year 1957-58 ?
- (e) When the construction of these buildings may be expected ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

133. (a)—The work of residence of the Assistant Political Officer and the staff quarters are in progress. Provision has been made for office in the next year's Budget.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Assistant Political Officer's residence and staff quarters are expected to be completed by 1959-60.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether it is a fact that the office is at present being continued in a Lower Primary School building ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (R. and B.): I have no information, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Why provision could not be made when the Minister-in-charge gave assurance on the floor of the House that it would be taken up during 1957-58.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: The Minister-in-charge expressed his sympathy.

Mr. SPEAKER: And the sympathy continues. (Laughter).

Regarding Girls' High School, Nalbari

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

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

- (a) The up-to-date enrolment of Government aided Nalbari Girls' High School ?
- (b) What is the limit of enrolment fixed for sanction of revised pay scale grant to Girls' High School ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware of the immediate necessity of sanction of revised pay scale grant to Nalbari Girls' High School for its maintenance ?
- (d) Whether Government has lately received a loan application of the said Girls' High School for construction of much needed School Hostel and School building ?
- (e) If so, what amount of loan and grants are likely to be sanctioned ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

*Speech not corrected

134. (a)—Up-to-date information is being collected.

(b)—150.

(c)—Yes. Revised pay-scale grant would be given to the School as soon as it fulfils the conditions of grant-in-aid.

(d)—Yes, in 1957.

(e)—The application was forwarded to the Government of India which give loans to Educational Institutions under the Five-Year Plan. The Government of India have rejected the application of the said School.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-West): Regarding (a), when the question was put one month ago why information could not be made available in the meantime ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education): We sent a telegram and subsequently a reminder to Nalbari but we have not received any reply as yet.

Mr. SPEAKER: This information can be had from the Inspector's Office at Gauhati.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Such information is not in the Inspector's Office as this is a venture school.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: What are the conditions required for receiving grant-in-aid by this School ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: These are the following conditions—

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Number of students. | 2. Number of qualified teachers. |
| 3. Type of building and | 4. Whether affiliation or recognition has been given by the University |

When these conditions are fulfilled then only it is entitled to get the grant-in-aid.

Medical diet for the tea garden hospitals of Assam

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

- (a) What is the prescribed medical diet for the tea garden hospitals of Assam ?

- (b) Whether there is any rate fixed per meal and per day for a patients ?
- (c) What is the recommendation of the 'Medical Board' formed in this State under the Tea Plantation Labour Act in respect of diets for the indoor patients of the tea garden hospitals ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour) replied:

135. (a)—There is no prescribed medical diet for tea garden hospitals.

(b)—No. Practice varies from garden to garden.

(c)—The matter was discussed at a meeting of the Medical Advisory Board. It was agreed that the Chief Inspector of Plantations would obtain information from Government hospitals and issue necessary instruction after consulting the parties.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): Whether Government will decide to prescribe a medical diet for tea garden hospitals ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour): Yes, Sir, I propose to take this matter for consideration in the next meeting of the Medical Advisory Board.

Mrs. LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal): বোডৰ recommendation থকা সত্ত্বেও management ৰ ইচ্ছাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে বাগানৰ ডাক্তৰ সকলে impartially চিকিৎসা কৰিব পাৰেনে ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I know they should be.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI: Whether there is any prescribed medical diet for Charitable Hospitals of the Government ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think, he should reply to this question.

Dr. SHRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): May I know whether there is any difference between the diet of Civil Hospital and Hospitals of the tea gardens when the question of patients are there ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I do not think there is.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): এইটো কথা সচানে বাগানী সকলৰ diet বাগানৰ ডাক্তৰ সকলে নিজেও ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে।

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I don't think so.

Bringing of "C" Class Tea Garden Lower Primary School under management of the State Basic Education Board

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

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

(a) What steps Government have taken so far in respect of bringing the "C" class tea garden Lower Primary School under management of the State Basic Education Board for proper primary education of labour children in the State ?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the negative, what are the reasons for not taking any steps in that respect ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour) replied :

136. (a) & (b).—The question of taking over of the Tea garden Lower Primary Schools is still under consideration of Government. Government have, however, decided to enforce the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act and Rules framed thereunder regarding educational facilities to workers' children immediately with the help of an Advisory Board.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : চাহ বাগিছা প্লাইমেৰী স্কুল বিলাক Primary Education Board ৰ তললৈ অনাৰ চৰকাৰে কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে ? মই কৈছো Plantation Act নতে সেই স্কুলবিলাকৰ বাবে বনুৱা বিভাগে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে, কিন্তু অনাৰ নগৰে এখন Government Gazette Notification ও হৈছে। কিন্তু Primary Basic Board লৈ এই স্কুলবিলাক আনিবলৈ কিমান টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হব ?

Mr. SPEAKER : এটা এটাকৈ প্ৰশ্ন কৰক !

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : মই জানিব বিচাৰো যে Plantation Act ৰ নিৰ্দেশ নতে চৰকাৰে এই চাহ-বাগিছাৰ স্কুলবিলাক লোৱাৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে আৰু Basic Board লৈ আনিবলৈ কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে।

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLAI (Titabar) : Is it a fact that the I.T.A. has lately refused to pay the cost of tools and thereby the schools are suffering ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour): No, that is not so. This matter was discussed in the Standing Labour Committee and it was agreed that tea gardens would bear the cost of tools.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): এই স্কুলৰ ছাত্ৰ-সকলে বৃত্তি পৰীক্ষাত বৃত্তি দিব পৰা স্কুলৰ status, নিয়মীয়া শিক্ষক, পৰিদৰ্শন, কৰি-কুলান আদিৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব জানো ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I would refer to the Gazette Notification No. GLR. 78/54/61, dated 10th March 1959, by which the State Government was empowered to constitute an Advisory Board to advise the State Education Department on matters relating to provision of educational facilities to the workers' children. Accordingly an Advisory Board was formed with the representatives of the Government employer and labour to suggest ways and means of dealing with the matter.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar): When the process will be concluded and tea garden schools will be actually taken over ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: That is difficult for me to say, but as I have said the matter is under consideration of the Government.

Shri KHOGENDRANATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): What is the number of such "C" class tea garden L.P. schools ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I would require notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: His question is whether the terms of the Advisory Board include all this ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): এই Advisory Board ৰ Member কোন কোন উপসম্বন্ধী মহোদয়ে কৰনে ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I am not in a position to give the names now. If the hon. member desires I can give him later.

Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI: What is the legal backing of the Government to enforce upon the garden managers to increase the teachers when the number of students increases ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I have already replied that Government have decided to enforce the provisions of the Plantation Labour Act and Rules with the help of the Advisory Board.

Serious damage caused by Aie River to areas in the eastern part of north bank of Goalpara

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North-Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked:

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

(a). Whether Government are aware that almost every year the Aie River causes serious and great damage to vast areas in the eastern part of north bank of Goalpara ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that several thousands of cultivable lands were eaten away and damaged last year by this river ?

(c) Whether Government got notes from the Revenue Minister, some other Minister, Local M. L. As. and the Public in this regard to take immediate protection measure thereof ?

(d) What measures Government propose to take to prevent further damages and protect the villages ?

(e) Whether proper survey of the area has been done with the idea of constructing permanent bund ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that the Local Executive Engineer (Embankment and Drainage) submitted an estimate for a bund ?

(g) If so, when he submitted a report and estimate ?

(h) Whether Government will take up the work of the construction of bund this year ?

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

137. (a)—Some places near the Aie River particularly down of the Railway line in the eastern part of north bank of Goalpara have been affected by flood and erosion for some years since 1954.

(b)—Yes, there were some loss of land due to erosion

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The following temporary protection works on the Aie River costing approximately Rs.50,000 are being carried out—

(i) Closing of spill channel on right bank of the river Aie near Jaraguri with leet's fencing, 'A' type bamboo spurs, etc.

(ii) Closing of 4 Nos. of spill channels of the Aie River near Barghola with leet's fencing, bamboo spurs, etc.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Two estimates amounting to R.8,20,500 and Rs.9,09,500, one for dyke on the left bank and the other for the right bank were submitted by the Executive Engineer, Embankment and Drainage, Goalpara on 6th June 1958 to the Superintending Engineer, Western Embankment and Drainage Circle.

(h)—Due to paucity of funds under central loan assistance for flood control works the proposals could not be taken up and there is no possibility of taking them up in this current year also.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North-Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Does the Deputy Minister-in-charge know that people have been trying to take up the construction of that bund ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, P. W. D., F. C. and I. W.): Yes, the people had taken up some such construction under self-help basis and a sum of Rs.5,000 has been sanctioned by the Government in the Revenue Department to help them in that work.

Toll realised from people who pass over the Pagladia Bridge near Nalbari

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that the people are very much dissatisfied for realisation of Toll from the persons who pass over the Pagladia Bridge near Nalbari, on the N. T. Road ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that repeated representations have been given by the people against realisation of this Toll ?

(c) If so, whether Government will consider the matter immediately and favourably ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied:

138. (a) Government have not received any such complaints or representations from the public.

(b)—No.

(c)—As per standing orders of the Government all bridges on State highways, which cost more than Rs.1.5 lakhs should be treated as Toll bridges till the capital costs of construction together with the recurring costs of maintenance are fully realised. The Pagladia bridge near Nalbari falls into this category.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Whether Government propose to make relaxation in the realisation of toll on the Pagladia ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings Wing)]: There is no such proposal before Government.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): In reply to (a) it has been said: "Government have not received any such complaint". Whether this question itself is a complaint ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: So far Government is concerned we have not received any complaint.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur): How long will this practice of realising toll continue in case of the rivers in the North-Trunk Road ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: As per present policy of the Government it will take a very long time e.g. The capital cost of construction of the Pagladia bridge was Rs.3,50,000, cost of maintenance Rs.18,890 and toll realised from 1955-56 to 1958-59 is Rs.29,825. According to the Engineers it would take 69 years to realise the full amount.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): There was already a complaint made here in the Assembly a few days ago. If some complaints are necessary, complaint are already there, so will Government make some relaxation ?

Mr. SPEAKER: What he said is that if any complaint is received, it will be considered.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Will Government exempt pedestrians from the toll ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. and B.): The decision of the Government is that there will be no exemption till the cost of construction is realised. So the question of pedestrians will not come.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes): In view of the reply to (c), may I know whether any time limit for maintenance of a bridge is fixed ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not been able to understand the implication of the hon. Member's question.

Shri RAMNATH DAS : Sir, if there is no time limit for realising the expenditure incurred for construction of the bridge, then is there any possibility of making this bridge toll-free ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: As I have already stated, Sir, it will take 60 years or 70 in many cases of toll-bridges when I or many of the hon. Member will no longer be here on this earth to see the bridges being made toll-free.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): May I know whether the cost of the bridge includes also the repair and maintenance charges during the interim period ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: All these things are included.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): 'লেচি' বিলাকে 'টোল' বিয়েলাইজ কৰি বহুত টকা ইন্কম্ কৰে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰ লেচী বিলাকক নিদি চৰকাৰে নিজে বিয়েলাইজ কৰিব নোৱাৰেনে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: চৰকাৰে কৰিলে খৰচ বেচি হব আৰু সময়ো বেচি হৈ যাব। এতিয়া ৬০ বছৰ ঠাইত ৭০ বছৰ হব।

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): I want to know, Sir, whether.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I am now coming to the next question 139.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): On a point of information Sir, regarding replies to certain starred questions we have heard the hon. Deputy Minister saying that certain figures have been placed on the Library Table, but unless these replies are given previously, we cannot have these answers to go in and without having the opportunity to see them, it becomes difficult for us to examine them and put any supplementaries in regard to those questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite understand the difficulties. One difficulty is that it is not possible to read out a long list and then with regard to Starred questions it is difficult to anticipate what the reply would be. But it cannot be helped.

Procedure followed by Public Works Department in registering Contractors for easy distribution of Contracts

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Public Works Department is following the procedure of registering Contractors for easy distribution of Contracts ?
- (b) If so, whether such registration is complete and what is the number of 1st, 2nd and 3rd class contractors Division-wise ?
- (c) If not, what are the reasons ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that non-registered contractors are also given contracts ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied:

139. (a)—Yes, for facilitating selection of suitable contractors.

(b)—Registration of contractors is being done in all Divisions. The registration is still going on. A statement showing the numbers of contractors who have applied for registration under each category and the numbers actually registered under each category is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No.S84.

(c)—The main reasons for delay are—

- (1) Non-receipt of police reports regarding verification of antecedents and character.
- (2) Failure to affix necessary court-fee stamps on the application.
- (3) Failure to deposit the prescribed earnest money.

(d)—Registration of contractors under classes IV and V, the limits of which are Rs.10,000 and Rs.5,000 respectively is not compulsory and hence contract work up to Rs.10,000 may be given to both registered and unregistered contractors. Contract work exceeding Rs.10,000 may also be given to unregistered contractors for special reasons with the prior approval of the Chief Engineer.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : Contractor বিলাকৰ Registration সম্পৰ্কত মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যোৱা বছৰ যি কৈছিল— এতিয়াও তাকেই কৈছে। যোৱা বছৰৰ পৰা এতিয়ালৈকে পুলিচ ভেৰিফিকেশ্বনত পলম হোৱাৰ কাৰণ কি ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings)]: এই process টোৱেই দীঘলীয়া।

Shrimati PADMA KUMARI GOHAIN (Moran) : পুলিচ বিপৰ্ণত পাবলগীয়া মানুহক দিয়া হৈছেনে নাই ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : দিয়া নাই হোৱা বুলিয়েই জানো।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : ঠিকা আদি বিতৰণ কৰাত বেজিষ্টাৰ হোৱা আৰু বেজিষ্টাৰ নোহোৱা বুলি চৰকাৰে দুটা নীতি লোৱাৰ কাৰণ কি ? আকৌ 'special reasons' টো কি ? ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই চৰকাৰে favouritism দেখুওৱা হোৱা নাইনে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : নহয়, অনেক সময়ত ঠিকা দিয়া হয় to expedite matters কাৰণ সময়ত Contractor পোৱা নহয়— সেই কাৰণে এই কামৰ ভাৰ Chief Engineer ৰ হাতত দিয়া হৈছে।

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : যিবিলাক মানুহ নতুনকৈ ঠিকাদাৰ হব তেওঁবিলাকৰ কাৰণে কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : নতুন মানুহে বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰিব পাৰে নেকি ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : হব পাৰে। ৪র্থ আৰু ৫ম শ্ৰেণীটোৱে বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰিবও পাৰে নকৰিবও পাৰে। সেইটো তেখেত সকলৰ ইচ্ছা।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : কিছুমান ঠিকাদাৰে Register কৰা নাই আৰু সদায় ঠিকা পায়ৈ আছে— তাৰ কাৰণ কি ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : নাটচ নহলে উত্তৰ দিয়া টান।

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : May I know whether a person registered as first-class contractor can be given also second class contract ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Not to speak of second-class, third, fourth or even fifth class contract can also be given.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Do Government think that by this system of registration of contractors the standard of P. W. D. work will improve ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R & B.): Yes, Sir, it is expected to be so.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether there is any provision for preferential treatment to local contractors ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : That provision exists in respect of members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, what is the basic objective of registration ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Facility of work so that we may not have to go in search of contractors.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): अगर 1st class Contractor हर किरमका Contract कर सकता हैं तो इस तरह के Classification कस्नेकी क्या जरूरत हैं ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : I do not follow his question in Hindi Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : What the Hon. Member wants to know is that if First-Class contractors are given all kinds of contracts, what is the necessity of this classification of contractors into several groups ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Those who are big contractors they generally do not go for works involving five or six thousand rupees, and our instructions are not to distribute petty contracts to big contractors.

Shri MAHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: এই registration বিভিন্ন মহকুমাত করা হয়। কিন্তু ঠিকাদার সকলক যে অন্য মহকুমাত কাম দিয়া নহয় এই কথা সচানে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : মই আগেয়ে কৈছো যে প্রথম শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদারে গোটেই প্রদেশতে ঠিকা পাব পাৰে। দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদারে Superintending Engineerৰ এলেকাত পাব আৰু বাকীবোৰে Executive Engineer ৰ এলেকাত পাব।

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : In introducing registration was it not the intention of Government that one contractor could take up three or four works by offering one security only ? Suppose a Class I contractor submits tenders for three works; under the present rules he is to deposit a separate security for each work. But is it not a fact that by this system of registration he is to deposit only one security ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Yes, Sir.

Taken over of a portion of the Digboi-Pengaree Road in Dibrugarh Subdivision by Government

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Digboi town portion of the Digboi-Pengaree Road in Dibrugarh Subdivision was taken over by the Government from the Assam Oil Company Limited, Digboi ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the condition of this portion of the road is growing bad to worse day by day for want of proper maintenance ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that on rainy days the road becomes muddy ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that the road is the busiest one at Digboi and is to bear heaviest pressure of heavy traffic day and night ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that the major portion of the total revenue of about 10 lakhs of rupees a year collected by the Digboi Forest Range Office is dependent on this road only ?
- (f) Whether Government is aware that the minor repairing works do not bring any fruit where there is heavy pressure of traffic ?
- (g) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a letter published in the *Natun Assamiya*, dated 25th February, 1959 under the caption Digboi Charkari-Alibat ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to consider this matter to be an urgent one and do the needful ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

140. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The gravelled portion of the road is being maintained as best as possible as a gravelled road.

(c)—Yes. It becomes muddy due to very heavy traffic over gravelled surface.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Government in Public Works Department have no information.

(f)—Such repairs do help to maintain the road, but hard crust of higher specification (say Metalling and Surfacing) will be better to meet the heavy pressure of traffic.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—The proposal was placed before the 6th Meeting of the Assam Road Communication Board held in October, 1958. The Board did not consider any new proposal for taking up. According to their recommendation the proposal will be sent in due course to the Subdivisional Development Board for initial consideration and allocation of priority when any road development programme is drawn up.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMA (Digboi) : নতুন অসমীয়া কাগজত এই ডিগবই আলীটোৰ বিষয়ে যি বিৱৰণী ওলাইছে সেই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে ? আৰু সেই কথাটো সঁচানে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D., (Roads and Buildings)] : নতুন অসমীয়াত বিৱৰণী এটা ওলাইছে হয়, কিন্তু কথাটোৰ সত্যতাৰ কথা মই বিশেষ কৰ নোৱাৰো ।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : এই Public Works Department টো Public Wonderful Department কিয় কয় ?
(বিপুল হৰ্ষধ্বনী)

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMA : (d) আৰু (e) উত্তৰত মোৰ প্ৰশ্নটো চৰকাৰে পৰ্যবেক্ষণ কৰিবলৈ কৰিছে । ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰে এই বাস্তাৱটোৰ গুৰুত্ব উপলব্ধি কৰিছে । এই আলিটো A.O.C. ৰ পৰা উপযুক্ত লৈছে

Mr. SPEAKER : No information is permitted under our rules, so far as questions and replies are concerned.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMA (Digboi): এই বাগাচৌৰ উন্নতিৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে বিহীত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ চিন্তা কৰিছেনে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R&B)]: এই বাগাচৌৰ উন্নতিৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে যে চেষ্টা কৰিছে এই কথাটো উত্তৰ (h) ত কোৱা হৈছে।

Number of tea garden labour recruited from outside Assam during the last two years

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware of the number of tea garden labour recruited from outside Assam during the last two years ?

(b) If so, what is that number ?

(c) What is the number of surplus labour in the State as it stands at present ?

(d) What action Government has taken to solve unemployment problem with the surplus labour ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour) replied :

141. (a)—Yes.

(b)—1956-57	...	3,809 adult workers.
1957-58	...	5,427 adult workers.

(c)—66.37 thousands.

(d)—Government issued instructions to the employers to employ the local labourers as far as possible. Recently a Central Committee has been set up to deal with the problem. Local Committees are also being set up to see that the surplus labour is mobilised to the deficit area by persuasion and also with the help of the Employment Exchange.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): স্থানীয় বনুৱা নিয়োগ কৰিবৰ বাবে ১৯৫৩-৫৪ চনতে চৰকাৰে যি মেচিনেৰী কৰিছিল সেইমতে কিমান বনুৱা পাইছিল ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour): How can I reply to this off hand? He wants information about 1953, but the question relates to 1956-57 and 1957-58. I require notice for that.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): With regard to (c), may I know when there was much surplus labour in the State what were the reasons for recruiting labour from outside?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: The main reason is that local labour does not want to move from one place to another. That is why the Industry had to recruit from outside. But as there is a large number of surplus labour in our State, we have set up a Committee to go into the whole question and persuade the labourers to go from one place to another.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: কিছুমান বাগিছাত Emigrant labour Act মতে recruit নকৰাকৈ বাহিবৰ বনুৱা আনি খটাইছে— এই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে? যদি জানে কি ব্যৱস্থা অবলম্বন কৰিছে?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, Sir, there is some spurious recruitment locally by the employers, and we have already addressed a letter on the 4th December 1958 to the Government of India suggesting amendment of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, as without amending the Act such things cannot be stopped.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: মই কৈছো যে ২ বছৰ কাৰণে নিয়োগ কৰিব লগা নিয়ম থকা স্বত্বেও নকৰি বাহিবৰ বনুৱা অনাৰ কাৰণ কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰলৈ লিখিছে এই Tea District Emigrant Labour Act সংশোধন কৰিবৰ বাবে।

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): Are these surplus labourers permanent settlers?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, Sir, mostly so.

Dr. RAM PROSAD CHOUBEY (Lakhipur): May I know whether the locally recruited labourers get all the facilities which are enjoyed by those recruited from outside?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, Sir, if the local labourers are appointed permanently. But for casual labourers, they do not get certain facilities like annual leave, etc.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Why many tea garden managers do not employ surplus labourers of the nearest places but recruit labourers from outside?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that question.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Is it a fact that local labourers was available in these gardens which recruit new ones from outside ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour) : I want notice of that question Sir.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : When that committee was formed and what are its recommendations regarding this employing of surplus labour?

Shri Biswadev Sarma : I could not hear Sir).

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is whether the committee has submitted its report ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : No Sir.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]
In answer to question(d) the Government stated that instructions were issued to the employers. May I know when these instructions were issued ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : These instructions were issued as long as 1953 and recently also another instruction was issued.

Shri RAM NATH DAS : May I know whether the employers had acted to these instructions ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is quite clear from the answer that they have not acted to the instructions.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Yes Sir, in some cases they did.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Whether there is any provision for repatriation of these newly recruited labourers when their terms expired ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Yes Sir.

Election of two representative by the tea garden labourers for every Primary Committee under Plantation Provident Fund Scheme

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)

asked :

*142. Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour be pleased to

state—

- (a) Whether according to the Plantation Provident Fund Scheme the labourers of every constituent garden are to elect two representative for every primary committee ?
- (b) Whether in the gardens of Tezpur Circle including Barjuli, Kacharigoan, Hasara, etc., instead of following the principle of election, a discriminatory principle of nomination has lately been followed ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour) replied :

142. (a)—Under provision of paragraph 21(a)(ii) of the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme 1955, two nominees of the members of the Fund are to be appointed to a Primary Committee by the Board of Trustees.

(b)—The principle of nomination to Primary Committee by the members concerned is still followed by all Plantations in the State inclusive of those in Tezpur Circle.

Government are not aware of any discriminatory principle being practised in the gardens in Tezpur Circle. As regards Primary Committees in Barjuli, Kacharigoan, Hasara, etc., reports are however being called for.

Regarding lands of the Public Works Department Rest House at Sorbhog

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

- (a) To whom the lands for the P. W. D. Rest House, Sorbhog, formerly belonged?
- (b) When this plot was required?
- (c) Why no compensation has been paid upto now for acquiring the plot of land?
- (d) What is the amount of compensation?
- (e) When it will be paid?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

143. (a)—The lands for the rest house at Sorbhog formerly belonged to Shri Umesh Chandra Das of Amguri village, Sorbhog.

(b)—The plot of land was required when it was decided to construct a rest house at Sorbhog. The work of construction of the Rest House was started in February 1957.

(c)—As the formal land acquisition proceedings are not yet completed by the Civil authorities, so compensation for the plot of land could not yet be paid to the land-owner.

(d)—The value of land stands at Rs.700 as per assessment made by the Civil authorities.

(e)—The compensation will be paid by the Civil Authorities as soon as all formalities are completed.

Shri GHANSHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) : When the Rest House was constructed ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings)] : It was constructed in 1957.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYA (Patharkandi) : Whether it is a fact that the furniture from this Rest House was taken away to Pathsala ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : I cannot say off hand Sir, I want notice of that question.

Regarding five discharged labourers of Thakurbari tea estate in Darrang

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that 5 labourers of Thakurbari tea estate in Darrang who were discharged on the allegation that they were accused in a criminal case have not yet been reinstated in service inspite of their being honourably acquitted by the appellate Court ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that it was over two months back that the Labour Inspector-cum-Conciliation Officer of Darrang submitted his report to the Labour Department of the Government recommending that the case should be sent to the Industrial Tribunal or Labour Court ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Labour Department according to law, is to come to a decision on the conciliation offering report within 15 days of the receipt of the report ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour) replied :

144. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The report of the Conciliation Officer was received in the Labour Commissioner's office on 12th March 1959.

(c)—No.

Regarding Principal, Sericulture Training Institute at Titabar

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the post of Principal, Sericulture Training Institute at Titabar was filled in by a person from South India on contract basis for about three years?
- (b) What is his qualification and the amount of pay given to him?
- (c) What is the scale of pay for this post?
- (d) When the contract of this person will expire?
- (e) Whether anybody from this State has been deputed for training to enable him to take up this post on the termination of the term of contract of the present incumbent?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving) replied:

(a) হয়, তেওঁক তিনি বছৰ কাৰণে লোৱা হৈছিল।

(b) এওঁ এজন বি. এচ. চি। মহীশূৰ চৰকাৰৰ বেশম বিভাগৰ অৱগৰ প্ৰাপ্ত ডিবেল্ডৰ আছিল। ইয়াৰ ওপৰিও এওঁ জাপানত বেশম শিল্পৰ বিষয়ে আধুনিক ধৰণৰ সকলো বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতা লাভ কৰি আহিছিল।

এওঁ মহীশূৰ চৰকাৰৰ পৰা পেঞ্চন পাই থকাৰ উপৰিও আমি এওঁক ৫০০-২৫-৮০০ নিৰিখৰ বেতন মাহিলী ৭০০ টকাৰ লগতে দৰাচলতে বৃদ্ধিত হোৱা টকা আৰু মৰগীয়া বানচ আদি দিয়া হয়।

(e) পুৰণি নিৰূপিত বেতনৰ নিৰিখত এই পদৰ কাৰণে মাহিলী ৫০০-৩০-৬৫০ ই,বি-৩৫-৭২০-৪০-৮০০ টকাত ধাৰ্য কৰা হয়।

(d) ১৯৫৯ চনৰ মেই মাহৰ ১৮ তাৰিখে এওঁৰ কাল শেষ হব।

(e) ৰাজ্যিক চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা আৱশ্যকীয় ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰা হৈছে। কিন্তু সম্পূৰ্ণ নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে কেন্দ্ৰীয় বেশম বোৰ্ডৰ ওপৰত।

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :** বাজ্যিক চৰকাৰে কি কি আৱশ্যকীয় ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহন কৰিছে ?

***Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving) :** কলম্বো প্লেন অনুযায়ী বিদেশত শিক্ষা দিয়া হয়—যিহেতু বিনিময় ব্যৱস্থা কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ হাতত, সেই কাৰণে বাজ্যিক চৰকাৰেও এই বিষয়ে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিব লাগে।

***Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katanigaon) :** অসমৰ পৰা এই নিয়মৰ শিক্ষা লবলৈ কাৰবাক পথোৱা হৈছেনে ?

***Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA :** এতিয়াও পঠোৱা হোৱা নাই।

***Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) :** এই কৰ্মচাৰী জনৰ অসমৰ এৰি মুগাৰ বিষয়ে আগতে কোনো শিক্ষা আছিলনে ?

***Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA :** তেখেতে অসমত এ বছৰ কাম কৰিছে গতিকে এতিয়া বহুত অভিজ্ঞতা হৈছে তদুপৰি পাট সম্পৰ্কীয় অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিলে এৰি মুগাৰ বিষয়ক অভিজ্ঞতাত বিশেষ সময় নালাগে।

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA :** তেখেতে ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ লগত কাম কৰিছিল গতিকে অসমৰ এৰি মুগাৰ অভিজ্ঞতা কেনেকৈ থাকিব পাৰে, সেই অভিজ্ঞতা নথকা স্বত্তেও তেওঁক কিয় কোৱা হল ?

***Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister) :** তেখেতে Central Silk Board ত ভাল কাম কৰিছিল।

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) :** এই কামটোৰ বাবে বিজ্ঞাপন দিয়া হৈছিল নে ?

***Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA :** হয়, দিয়া হৈছিল।

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) :** In regard to (b) from the qualifications and experiences narrated by the Minister it seems that the amount of pay given to him is much less,

(A Voice from the Treasury Bench—In addition to his pension).

***Mr. SPEAKER :** If the officer himself is satisfied with the salary he was given why should we worry at all....[laughter]....

***Mr. SPEAKER :** The Question Hour is over, so this question No. 146 may be held over to tomorrow.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Appointment of Gazetted Officers in the Education Department since January, 1958

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

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

(a) How many new Gazetted Officers have been appointed in the Education Department since January, 1958?

(b) Who are they and what are their designations and pay scale?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

346.(a)—22.

(b)—A list is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No.S. 85).

Regarding the annual average market price, cost of production and yield of tea per acre in the Tea Gardens of Cachar

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) asked :

347. Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving details as to the following in respect of the tea gardens in the district of Cachar?

(i) The annual average yield of tea per acre since 1953-1957?

(ii) The annual cost of production per pound of tea since 1953 to 1957?

(iii) The annual average market price of tea per pound since 1953 to 1957?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

347. (i), (ii) & (iii)—The information is placed on the Library Table. (Please see Library Register No.S. 86).

Proposal to Asphalt the Gara-Ali Road from Cinnamara to Titabar

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the Gara-Ali of Jorhat, specially the kaccha portions from Cinnamara to Titabar and Golaghat is the only main thoroughfare of more than 400 (four hundred) villages passing through several mauzas and connecting two head quarters of Sibsagar District ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the kaccha portion is still in a most unmanageable and bad condition causing much distress and hardship to the public in both the reason ?
- (c) Whether Government will be pleased to asphalt this portion and remove a long standing Public grievance ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B.)] replied :

348.(a)—Yes, this is an important road.

(b)—Portion of the road from Cinnamara to Titabar and Golaghat is a gravelled road and may not be as good as a surfaced one, but the condition cannot be described as unmanageable and bad.

(c)—The proposal to Asphalt the road from Cinnamara to Titabar was put up in the last meeting of the Assam Road Communication Board for consideration. But the Board has not selected a single project for taking up in the near future. The proposal will, however, be sent to the Subdivisional Development Board for initial consideration and allocation of priority and works will be taken up when funds are made available for the purpose.

Members of the Governing Body of the D. H. S. K. College

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom-Dooma) asked :

349. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—
- (a) Who are the Members of the Governing Body of the D. H. S. K. College nominated by Government ?
- (b) What are their educational qualifications and professions ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister of Education) replied :

349. (a) & (b)—1. Shri Govinda Chandra Sarma, B.A., B.T. Chairman, Dibrugarh Municipal Board.
2. Shri Dinesh Chandra Dowarah, Businessman, read upto Matric standard.

Regarding gravelling of Patacharkuchi-Anchali Road

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

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the local leading public of Jalah in Barpeta Subdivision had lately complained to the Chief Minister, Public Works Department Minister, Executive Engineer, Barpeta, Superintending Engineer, Gauhati and Chief Executive Engineer, Assam, regarding gravelling of Patacharkuchi-Anchali Road in between 11, 12, 13, 14 mile.

- (b) If so, what steps have been taken to remove their complaint regarding the gravelling of the said portion of the road by the Government ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied :

350. (a)—Not about gravelling but about supply of gravel by the contractor.

(b) Immediate orders were issued to the Executive Engineer by the Superintending Engineer to check measure the collection of gravels and to stop spreading pending check measurement.

Non-availability of Treasury Chalan Forms in Jorhat Court

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) asked :

351. Will the Minister-in-charge of Printing and Stationery be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that Government forms meant for the use of the public are not available in any Government offices and Court of Jorhat ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that few outsider taking advantage of this position use to sell typed copies to the public and make huge profit ?
- (c) Why Government is allowing this thing to continue ?
- (d) When the printed forms in the Government offices and Court of Jorhat will be available ?

Pu LALMAWIA (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

351. (a)—While other forms are regularly issued to the public on demand, only the Treasury Chalan form was not available in sufficient quantity.

(b)—It is learnt that some typists are selling typed copies of Chalan forms at a nominal price to the public on demand.

(c)—The matter is under enquiry.

(d)—Necessary steps are being taken to supply adequate quantity of Chalan forms immediately.

Completion of the approach roads of Dikrong Bridge

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur) asked:

352. Will the Minister, P. W. D. (R. and B.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the approach road from both sides to the Dikrong bridge will be opened for vehicular traffic during winter ?

(b) Whether the Department will be able to open the roads by March, 1959 ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the works of the approach roads are progressing very slowly ?

(d) Whether Government propose to take steps to complete the approach roads and the bridge so that people are saved from the trouble of crossing the river during rainy season ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D., (R.&B.) Wing] replied:

352. (a)—Yes. It is presumed that the hon. Member means "next winter."

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

(d)—Steps are being taken to complete the approaches and the bridge before the next winter, if not earlier.

Billeswar Temple's land area of Belsor in Gauhati Subdivision

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

(i) The total area of land (in bighas) held by Billeswar Temple of Belsor in Gauhati Sub-division ?

- (ii) Total revenue to be received by the Government till date for these lands ?
- (iii) Since when, and for how many years Government took over responsibility of collecting revenue for the said Temple land ?
- (iv) What share of the revenue is due to Government per year, and what share is deposited for the Temple ?
- (v) What is the total amount so deposited for the Temple up till now and since the responsibility of collection was taken over by Government ?
- (vi) Whether the deposited amount can be spent for the improvement and repairing of the Temple building, Mathas and the Compound ?
- (vii) If so, why Government have not formulated any plan to that effect ?
- (viii) Whether Government propose to utilize the deposited amount according to the advice of a Public Committee of which the Local M.L.A. may be the Chairman and equal number of members may be selected from both Paiks and Baraeuries ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

353. (i) to (viii)—A report for furnishing the replies has been called for from the local officers.

Shifting of Executive Engineer's Office, Barpeta

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

- (a) Whether the Executive Engineer's Office at Barpeta is situated in a hired house ?
- (b) If so, who is owner of that house ?
- (c) How much rent is given for that office per month ?

(d) Whether or separate office building meant for Executive Engineer has been constructed ?

(e) If so, why the office is not shifted there ?

(f) For how long the office is situated in the hired building ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B. Wing)] replied :

354. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury, B. L.

Rs.140 per mensem.

(d)—Yes. The building is expected to be completed by March, 1959 and the office will be shifted by the middle of April, 1959.

(e)—The office will be shifted as soon as the building is completed.

(f)—The office is situated in the hired building since 20th July 1955.

Dismantling of Kalo Bridge in the Subdivision of Dhubri

Maulvi KOBAD HUSSAIN AHMED(Udarband) asked :

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

(a) Whether the construction of the Kalo Bridge in the Subdivision of Dhubri was completed and when it was dismantled ?

(b) What was the total amount spent for its construction ?

(c) Why it was dismantled ?

(d) Whether Government have received any representation from the public of Mankachar to replace it ?

- (e) If so, whether Government will be pleased to take immediate action to do so ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

355. (a)—Construction of the bridge was completed during March, 1957 and orders were issued on 11th January 1958 to dismantle it.

(b)—The total cost of construction of the bridge was Rs.1,04,000.

(c)—The bridge was heavily damaged by the flood waters of the Brahmaputra spilling over its bank on the upstream of the bridge and the mischief was done. As it was found unsafe, owing to heavy scour in the river bed the bridge was ordered to be dismantled.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The matter is under active consideration of Government.

Improvement of Road Communication in the Border Areas

Maulvi KOBAD HUSSAIN AHMED (Udarband) asked :

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

- (a) Whether in view of the present relation of the country with Pakistan, Government propose to give priority for improvement of road communication in the border areas in the interest of Security ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that the Fakirganj-Mankachar Public Works Department Road, which is on the Pakistan border is in a very unserviceable condition and unfit for any traffic ?
- (c) If so, whether Government will be pleased to take immediate action for improvement of this road ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

356. (a)—Yes, in case of roads of strategic importance.

(b)—This is a fair weather road and is inundated every year by the floods, depth of water being 4' to 5' above the road. The surface is dressed every year in November/December and made fit for wheeled traffic as such the condition may not be as good as metalled or gravelled road.

(c)—The proposal will be sent to the Subdivisional Development Board for initial consideration and allocation of priority or inclusion in the 3rd Five Year Plan. The work will be taken up when funds are available for the purpose.

Construction of Public Works Department Subdivisional Office at Pathsala in Barpeta Subdivision

Shri MAHADEV DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is a Public Works Department Subdivision at Pathsala in Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) Whether the Public Works Department Subdivisional Office has been constructed there at present ?

(c) If not, what is the reason for not constructing the said office buildings where the amount for the purpose was passed since two years back ?

(d) Whether the Minister will be pleased to enquire into matter and take necessary steps ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B. Wing)] replied :

357. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—The office building of the Public Works Department Subdivision at Patsala could not be constructed for not getting possession of the land, selected for the purpose.

(d)—Does not arise.

Refusal of entrance to Tea Gardens to the Trade Union Workers

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom-Dooma) asked :

358. Will the Minister, Labour be pleased to state whether Government are aware or received reports to the effect that the Management of Tea Gardens did not allow in the past or general refuse to allow into the I. N. T. U. C. workers to enter and hold meeting in the Tea Gardens ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

358. Government received two reports of refusal of entrance to Tea Gardens to the Trade Union Workers.

Demands of the Labourers of Karangani Tea Estate

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom-Dooma) asked :

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

(a) Whether labourers of the Karangani Tea Estate went into strike for more than one month in the last part of 1958 ?

(b) If so, what was the dispute with the Management of the Company ?

(c) Whether the Deputy Minister, Labour along with the General Secretary of the I. N. T. U. C. Assam Branch went to the Tea Estate during pendency of the strike for discussion with the proprietor of the Estate as to how to settle the dispute ?

- (d) Whether it is a fact that the proprietor of the said Tea Estate rudely behaved with the Deputy Minister and the General Secretary at his bungalow ?
- (e) Whether the demands of the Labourers have been conceded so by the Management ?
- (f) If not, what steps the Government is going to take for realisation of the demands from the Management ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

359. (a)—No. A strike notice was served by the Naharkatiya Circle Cha Mazdoor Sangha to go on strike with effect from 15th September, 1958, but the strike was not actually resorted to.

(b)—The strike notice was served on the following dispute.

- (1) non-supply of rice at Rs.20 a maund ;
- (2) non-payment of rice cut compensation as per Supreme Court Award ;
- (3) non-payment of bonus to non-resident workers for the year 1953-54 ;
- (4) non-payment of bonus to the worker for 1956.

(c)—The Deputy Minister, Labour and the General Secretary, I.N.T.U.C., Assam Branch, Shri M. N. Sarma, visited the garden on 13th November, 1958.

(d)—Yes, the behaviour of the proprietor was not congenial.

(e) & (f)—So far as the demands of the labourers are concerned, an understanding has been reached between the parties. Government have also decided to set up a Board of conciliation to go into the dispute relating to the Karangani Tea Estate.

**Night halts made by the Staff of Dhemaji
N.E.S. Block and Joypore Development Block**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

360. (a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Project be pleased to furnish the following informations in respect of Joypore, Tengakhat Dhemaji N. E. S. Block and Murkong-selek-Sadiya M.P.C.D. Block in Dibrugarh Subdivision ;

- (i) the number of night halts done by Assistant Project Executive Officers or Project Executive Officers, month by month since the month of October, 1957 ;
- (ii) the number of night halts done by the different Extension Officers, such as Agriculture, Veterinary, Medical, Co-operative and others, month by month, since the month of October, 1957 ;
- (iii) the number of night halts done of Social Education Organisers month by month since the month of October, 1957 ; and
- (iv) the number of night halts done by different Gram Sevaks month by month since the month of October, 1957 ; ?

(b) Why most of the officers have not done their night halts according to the standing order of Government ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

360. (a)—(i) to (iv) Reply in respect of Joypore and Dhemaji Blocks are put in the Library table. (Please see Library Register No.S 87). Informations in respect of other blocks are being collected.

(b)—Government has lately prescribed a new standard of period of night halts after due consideration, and it is being strictly imposed. In the past the days fixed were rather a bit high.

**Expenditure incurred in the different Mouza under
Tengakhath N.E.S. Block For 1953 to March 1959**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

361. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Project be pleased to lay on the table a Mauza-wise list of expenditures incurred in 5 different mauzas under the head—(i) Communication, (ii) Education, (iii) Social Education, (iv) Agriculture, (v) Rural Health and Sanitation, (vi) Irrigation and Reclamation and (vii) Rural Arts and Crafts by the Tengakhath N.E.S. and C.D.] Blocks since its inception in 1952 ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

361.—A list of expenditure is placed in the Library Table. No break up Mauza-wise can be given for Agriculture and Social Education as the expenditure was incurred for different Institutions, for the benefit of the whole Block area. This block was taken up in 1953 and not during 1952.

**Establishment of Assistant Registrar's Office in all
Subdivisional Headquarters of the State**

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

362. Will the Minister, Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that for registration of Co-operatives in Sibsagar Subdivision one is to go to Dibrugarh ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that Registration Office at Dibrugarh delays matters ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the people of Sibsagar Subdivision are becoming co-operative minded and hence a separate arrangement for registration of Co-operatives locally is urgently felt by the people ?
- (d) If so, whether Government will be pleased to open a Co-operative registration office at Sibsagar ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation) replied:

362. (a)—Yes.
(b)—No.

(c) & (d)—People everywhere are increasingly co-operative minded now. The Government are examining the question of establishing Assistant Registrar's Office in all Subdivisional headquarters of the State.

Demarcation of line of P.G.R. Forests at Nonkaborgaon, Latnos and Bijni State

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

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

- (a) Whether demarcation of line of P.G.R. Forests at Nonkaborgaon, Latnos, Bijni State and other lands to be settled with people there has been made ?
(b) If not, why ?
(c) When the demarcation of line will be made ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

363. (a), (b) & (c)—Information has been called for from the local Officer and will be furnished to the hon. Member as soon as received.

Construction of an embankment on either side of Nakhanda River of Barpeta

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government propose to construct an embankment on either side of Nakhanda River of Barpeta from R. E. C. bridge over the same river to Patbausi Ghat ?
(b) Whether Government lately received any petition about this from the public ?
(c) If so, when the works will be started ?

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

364. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—There is no possibility of implementing the scheme during the Second Plan period due to paucity of funds even if the proposal is found to be economically and technically sound on investigation. The proposal will be fully investigated along with other such proposals for taking into consideration for inclusion in the third Plan on the basis of its relative priority.

Memorandum for Electrification of Moranhat

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government is aware of the Memorandum lately submitted by the Moran Development Committee for electrification of Moranhat ?

(b) If so, whether any action is being taken in this behalf ?

(c) Whether Government consider Moranhat fit for electrification ?

(d) If so, when this work will be taken up ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) replied:

365. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The State Electricity Board will take up the detailed investigations and load survey of Moranhat along with other towns and villages for inclusion in the electrification programme during the Third Five Year Plan.

(c) Does not arise, till the completion of the detailed investigations and load survey.

(d)—Does not arise.

**Educational Concession to the Children of
Ex-servicemen**

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that some *ex-servicemen*, have repeatedly prayed for granting educational concession to the children of some disabled *ex-servicemen* and this was recommended by Inspector of Schools, Central Assam Circle, Nowgong (*vide* No. G.17/46/55/3169, dated 26th February, 1957) but to no effect ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Government of India also issued circular to the States, that such concession be granted at least to the children of the families of disabled *ex-servicemen* ?
- (c) Whether Government will be pleased to grant such concession at the earliest ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

366. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The matter is being taken up by the Government.

Sonari-Bhojo Road of Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government are aware that the Sonari-Bhojo Road of Sibsagar Subdivision is one of the important roads of the Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether it is a Public Works Department Road ?
- (c) If so, why its condition is not improved ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

367. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Only one mile out of 3·13 miles is under Public Works Department and it is of Black-topped standard. The remaining length of 2·13 miles has been sanctioned in the month of November, 1958 and taken up for improvement by Public Works Department.

Number of Students deputed to the Public School during the last 5 years

Shri PAKHI RAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

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

- (a) What is the total number of students deputed to the Public School during this year and during the last 5 years ?
- (b) How many of them are tribals ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Government depute students to Soldiers' School also ?
- (d) If so, what is the number of tribal students selected for the School this year and during the last five years ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

368. (a)—No student is deputed by Government to the Public Schools.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Regarding Kulapathar Venture L. P. School

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Kulapathar Venture Lower Primary School is situated within the compulsory primary education area in Saikhowa Mauza ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that a large number of students of this institution belong to backward classes ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Dibrugarh School Board have not yet considered this number as sufficient to take over the school ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied:

369. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The School has been taken over from 1st December 1958.

Bahoni Venture L. P. School, Saikhowa

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that Bahoni Venture Lower Primary School is situated within compulsory primary education area in Saikhowa Mauza ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that there is no other Lower Primary School with a radius of more than two miles ?

- (c) Whether Government is aware that communication to the other nearest Lower Primary School there is very difficult ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the number of students in the said school is over 50 and almost all students belong to Moran Tribe which is one of the most backward classes of the State ?
- (e) Whether Government propose to sanction any grant to this school and direct the Dibrugarh School Board to take it over with retrospective effect from the 1st April 1958 ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied:

370. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The school has been taken over from 1st December 1958 and so the question of asking School Board to take over from 1st April 1958 can not be considered now.

Construction of Kamalpur Sub-Deputy Collector's Office and Quarters and Mundals Barrack

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

371. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What report has been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup which had been called for as stated by the Minister on 12th November, 1957 in the Assembly in reply to unstarred Question No.68 asked by the Questioner on the 12th November, 1958 regarding the construction of Kamalpur Sub-Deputy Collector's Office, Quarters and Mandal's Barrack which require immediate reconstruction ?

- (b) Whether the plans and estimates of the project have been received from the Executive Engineer, North Kamrup Division who was reminded to expedite the work as stated by the Minister in the Assembly on 13th March, 1958 in reply to Unstarred Question No.155 asked by the Questioner ?
- (c) What amount has been sanctioned for the purpose ?
- (d) When Government propose to start the work ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

371. (a)—Deputy Commissioner's report is to the following effect—

After reminders by the Deputy Commissioner to the Executive Engineer, North Kamrup Division, the plans and estimates were submitted by the Executive Engineer to the Superintending Engineer, Gauhati on 5th November 1958. Deputy Commissioner received them from the Superintending Engineer on 21st February 1959.

(b)—Government have since received the plans and estimates on 28th February 1959 as follows :—

- (1) Construction of circle office.
- (2) Mandals barracks.
- (3) Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters.

Total cost is Rs.1,24,800.

(c)—The plans and estimates received for Rs.1,24,800 are under consideration. In the meantime, the resettlement works in the District was proposed to be decentralised and for this purpose, plans and estimates for an extension of the circle office buildings and construction of mandals barracks were urgently called for. These plans and estimates were received on 16th September 1958 and sanction issued on 3rd December 1958 for—

	Rs.
(1) Extension of Circle office	12,000
(2) Construction of Mandals barracks	14,700

(d)—Executive Engineer, North Kamrup Division has already issued work-orders to the contractor for starting the work of extension of Circle office and construction of Mandal's Barrack. The reconstruction work of these projects will be taken up as soon as possible.

Regarding U. D. and L. D. Asstts. in the office of D.I. and Addl. D. I. of Schools, Dibrugarh

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that it is the principle followed by Government to sanction post of one Upper Division Assistant for every 4 Lower Division Assistants ?
- (b) What is the total number of Assistants in the amalgamated Office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools and Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Dibrugarh ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that one post of Lower Division Assistant was upgraded each at Jorhat and Sibsagar while the case of Dibrugarh was dropped ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Inspector and Additional Deputy Inspector posted at Dibrugarh cover an area and population more than double the population or area covered in each of Jorhat or Sibsagar ?
- (e) What were the difficulties in upgrading a Lower Division post at Dibrugarh ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied:

372. (a)—Yes, generally so.

(b)—5.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Office staff is sanctioned or upgraded if work so justifies. The guiding factor here is the number of schools and not population or area.

(e)—Under consideration of Government.

Wastage of Public money in constructing "Narihaga" and "Pahumara" bridges, Pathsala

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) asked :

373. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads & Buildings) be pleased to state whether Government is aware that public money have been wasted in the construction of 'Narihaga' Bridge and also in the 'Pahumara' bridge in the Pathsala Public Works Department (Roads & Buildings) Subdivisions ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B.)] replied :

373.—There was no wastage. Narihaga bridge was damaged due to lateral pressure of earth, which depends on the nature of soil, and hydrostatic condition and the like which cannot be foreseen or predicted. However the matter is being investigated. Pahumara Bridge was eroded during last flood. Vagaries of River of Northern Hill Stream are the acts of God.

Measures to be taken either for protection of the approach by providing spurs or by extension of the bridge is under examination.

Taxis carrying more passengers

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

374. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Government are aware that taxis in many places carry more passengers than the maximum limit?
- (b) What effective measures have been taken to check such overloading?
- (c) Whether Government are aware or received reports to the effect that in Bongaigaon and Jogighopa line the taxi drivers very often refuse to carry fat and educated persons?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

374 (a)&(b)—Government have no such information. The Police, District Transport Officer and their Enforcement Inspectors are there to detect such offences and offenders are brought to book. Moreover Mobile Court are set up for surprise checks.

(c)—Government have no such information, nor received any complaint to that effect.

Unauthorised plying of Private Buses and Taxies in Sibsagar District

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMAH (Dergaon) asked:

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

(a) Whether he is aware that a large number of private taxies and trucks are running through out the Subdivision of Sibsagar District without paying the requisite taxes, etc. ?

(b) What steps are being taken to detect these evader of taxes ?

(c) Whether Government are aware or have received complaints to the effect that the owners of those taxies and trucks charge a heavy rate from the public ?

(d) Whether Government are aware that these unauthorised taxies can be had at Motor Stands of Golaghat, Jorhat and Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(e) Whether Government will be pleased to take drastic steps to stop such unauthorised practice ?

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

375. (a)—Government have no such information.

(b)—Checking by District Transport Officer, Police, Enforcement Inspector of Transport Department. Besides, Mobile Courts are inducted.

(c)—Government have no such information nor have received any such complaints.

(d)—Government have no such information.

(e)—Yes. Deterrent action such as suspension of registration and institution of cases are taken against such offenders.

Regarding Over-loading of public Buses and Trucks in various parts of the State

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMAH (Dergaon) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government are aware that public buses running on various routes on permits issued by the Transport Authorities generally run by over-loading the vehicles ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that Police Officers, even the S. D. P. O. pay no heed to such over-loading and Bus owners are carrying passengers in excess over their capacity from the Bus Stand ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that on account of such overloading these passenger buses do not reach their destination in time and thereby causing immense difficulties to passengers ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that due to such overloading there has lately been some accidents and the bus owners do not care even to carry women passengers in standing throughout the route ?

- (e) Whether there is any provision for checking these overloading ?
- (f) How many cases of overloading were detected throughout the State during 1957-58 ?
- (g) Whether Government will be pleased to take early action to stop overloading in public buses and see that these buses arrive at their destination in time ?
- (h) Whether Government will be pleased to state as to who are the members of the Sibsagar District Transport Authority ?
- (i) What are the basis of selecting these members ?
- (j) How many buses of State Transport ply in Golaghat-Jorhat and Golaghat-Kamargaon-Bokhakhat routes ?
- (k) Whether Government are aware that majority of these buses are not in a fit condition of running and thereby causing great inconvenience to the passengers who are suffering immensely ?
- (l) Whether there is any Mechanic at Golaghat State Transport Station ?
- (m) Whether Government will be pleased to take early steps for removal of such inconveniences to public in State Transport buses ?

Capt. Transport WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) replied:

376. (a)—No. Specific cases if brought to notice, will be looked into.

(b)—Government have no such information

(c)—Government have no information. There is scheduled table for each route and the buses run according to the prescribed timings. Specific complaints if stated, will be looked into.

(d)—Government have no such information.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Information is being collected.

(g)—Specific cases may be cited. If an enquiry, the complaint is found to be genuine, appropriate action will be taken.

(h)—The Jorhat Regional Transport Authority has the following composition:—

- (1) Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar (*Ex-officio*)—Chairman.
- (2) Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar (*Ex-officio*).
- (3) Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) (*Ex-officio*).
- (4) District Transport Officer, Sibsagar (*Ex-officio*)—Secretary.
- (5) Shri Abdul Rezzaque, M.A., Sibsagar.
- (6) Shri Tarun Ch. Pamohgam Borogoya, Mirigaon, P.O. Kamalabari, Garmur.
- (7) Dr. Promodabhiram Das, Golaghat.
- (8) Shri Thanuram Gogoi, Golaghat.
- (9) Shri Nilmoni Phukan, *Ex-M.L.A.*, Jorhat.
- (10) Shri Nandalal Saikia, Merchant, Jorhat.

(i)—Person having no financial interest whether as proprietor employee or otherwise in any transport undertaking is eligible to be a non-official member of the Transport Authority.

(j)—Twelve buses.

(k)—No. The oldest vehicle dates back to 25th July 1955 and the latest acquisition dates 10th January 1958.

(l)—There are five Mechanics at Golaghat.

(m)—Appropriate action on specific cases of inconveniences if brought to notice will be taken.

Regarding N. E. S. Block or C. D. Block of Panitola

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

377. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Development Block be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of Project Advisory Committee meeting or Block Development Committee meeting held in Panitola N. E. S. or C. D. Block, year by year, since its inauguration in April, 1957 ?
- (b) The percentage of attendance of official and non-official members separately in each meeting ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact the meeting could get no scope to discuss subjects other than the agenda fixed by the Secretary ?
- (d) Whether the Secretary invited any item for inclusion in the agenda for discussion from non-official members ?
- (e) Whether public co-operation is forthcoming as expected ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Block Development Committee could not have a sitting during the first 8 months of the financial year 1958-59 ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

377. (a) to (f)—Informations are being collected from local officials and will be furnished as soon as available.

**Regarding night halts of A. P. O. Extension Officers,
etc., of Panitola N. E. S. Block**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked :

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

- (a) The number of night halts done by the present Assistant Project Executive Officer, Panitola National Extension Service Block, month by month, since his posting at Panitola ?
- (b) The number of night halts done by the present Extension Officers of different categories, month by month, such as Veterinary, Agriculture, Co-operative, etc., posted in Panitola National Extension Service Block since the date of their posting their -?
- (c) The number of night halts done by the present Social Education Organisers posted at Panitola National Extension Service Block since the date of their joining ?
- (d) The number of night halts done by the present different Gram Sevaks, month by month, posted to Panitola National Extension Service Block since the day of their joining ?
- (e) Why night halts are not done by the different officers of Panitola National Extension Service Block as per standing order given by Government ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

378. (a) to (e)—Information is being collected.

Regarding "Rupaisiding-Kakapathar" Road

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that 1,43,219 cubic feet of gravels and boulders were used in the road from Rupaisiding to Kakapathar during a period of last 6 years within Doom Dooma, Public Works Department Subdivision the length of which was 7 miles ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that from outward appearance of the road it is difficult to believe that this huge amount of gravels were used there ?

(c) Whether Government propose to examine this road properly to ascertain whether this huge amount of gravels were actually used ?

(d) Whether Government propose to take one or two non-officials also to make physical verification ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R.&B.)] replied :

379.(a)—Yes.

(b)—As the materials have been spread during the course of the last 6 years, it is not possible to ascertain physically with any degree of accuracy, the quantity used on the road. It is added here that the road being raised one with earthwork under traffic, considerable quantity get buried below the road surface.

(c) & (d)—The question does not arise in view of reply above.

Implementation of Rani-Mairang Road

U JOR MANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

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

(a) How far the work on the Rani-Mairang Road has been done ?

- (b) Whether any order has been passed for suspending the work on this road and if not why contractors have left the road without any worker ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that no proper classification has been made and therefore the contractors' bill were held up and if not, why witness-pillars are still standing ?
- (d) What action Government propose to take against those contractors who left the work without any cause ?
- (e) Whether Government is serious with the proper implementation of this road ?
- (f) When can we expect the road to be jeepable and upto what distance ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R.&B. Wing)] replied :

380.(a)—Forty-two per cent of works have been done and an expenditure amounting to Rs.1,30,939 out of the total estimated cost of Rs.2,44,000 has been incurred upto end of January, 1959.

(b)—No. The contractors to whom works were originally allotted could not complete their works and as such after finalising their works, works have been re-allotted.

(c)—No. Proper classification has been made. Payment to all contractors have been made and witness-pillars removed except for three contractors, measurement of whose works could not yet be finalised, for some other reasons.

(d)—Their works have been finalised. The work have been re-allotted after inviting fresh tenders. No further actions can be taken against contractors as the tenders were in K-2 Form.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—By 31st March, 1960 to a distance of 10 miles 4 furlongs 190 feet from the Rani end.

Regarding outstanding arrears of Umananda Temple

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

381. Will the Revenue Minster be pleased to state—

- (a) The year in which the Estate of Umananda Temple of Kamrup District was attached by the Government for non-payment of Government dues and the year in which the Revenue Agent was appointed ?
- (b) What was the outstanding arrear of the Temple in that year ?
- (c) Whether both the Dolais of the two groups made default in payment of arrears ?
- (d) Whether only the estate of the defaulting Dolai was attached or the estate of the other Dolai who cleared his dues was also attached ?
- (e) Whether the Dolais can be removed from their offices by the Government or by the Bardeuries (or trustees) only ?
- (f) Who is the recognised Head of the Temple for conducting worship of the Deity and other religious ceremonies and observances ?
- (g) What is the outstanding arrears of the Revenue Agent of the Temple in the year 1958-59 ?
- (h) What was the outstanding arrear of Government dues when the present Dolai of Chepti Group was elected by the Bardeuries ?

- (i) Whether it is a fact that the Revenue Agent has defaulted from the very year he was appointed and only the Government dues was paid and the remaining portion of the collected amount was not accounted for ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that Backijai proceedings and subsequently distress warrants and warrants of arrest were issued against the Agent for non-payment of the collected sum ?
- (k) When the Bekijai proceedings were started first ?
- (l) Whether it is a fact that all proceedings were ineffective and no step was taken to execute them ?
- (m) Whether it is fact that Bakijai proceedings for realisation of a sum of about Rs.70,000 is still pending against the Revenue Agent ?
- (n) If so, what steps have been taken by the Government to realise it ?
- (o) Whether it is a fact that regular daily worship and other connected ceremonies and observances have ceased as the Dolai and the Bardeuries are not paid the required amount to conduct them ?
- (p) Whether Government interfere with the religious rights of the temples and the prevailing customs of managing them under the present system of laws ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

381. (a) to (p)—Materials are being collected and replies will be furnished as soon as those are received.

**Scheme for the development of road and other matters
in the border areas of Naga Hills**

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked:

382. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have collected necessary data for preparing a scheme for the development of road communications and other matters in the border areas of Naga Hills as authorised by the Union Home Minister (State) in his recent visit to Assam to inaugurate the All Assam Tribal Conference at Madhapur ?
- (b) If so, whether Government is insisting upon the Central Government, Home Ministry, to sanction the scheme for early execution for the security of the border people of the Naga Hills ?
- (c) If not, whether Government propose to collect the same without further delay and submit it to the Central Government for sanction ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, T.A.D.)
replied:

382.(a)—There were some informal discussions between Shri B. N. Datar, Minister in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and some representatives of the people, in the course of Shri Datarji's last visit to Assam in November 1958, during which the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas Department and Medical as also the hon. Member who has put this question, were present. The discussions related to the construction of certain roads in the areas bordering the Naga Hills and some other matters.

(b) & (c)—The matter is under examination by the State Government.

Regarding increments of pay of Deputy Co-operative Officers

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

383. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Co-operative officers of the Co-operative Department are not allowed to draw their annual increments of pay since 1955 ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that there are grave discontentment amongst the officers of this department regarding their pay scales and that the Government are not giving due attention to the grievances of these officers put forth through their Association ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation) replied :

383. (a)—Deputy Co-operative Officers are drawing annual increments excepting some who are drawing fixed pay of Rs.150 per month.

(b)—Government are aware of the grievance put forth by the officers through their Association and these grievances are under the consideration of the Government.

Prayed for T. B. Clinic Hospital at Nalbari

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that due to incidence of a large number of T. B. cases at Nalbari which is a thickly populated area, the public have applied to the Government for a T. B. Clinic there ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the Government of India in reply have advised the applicants to approach the State Government ?
- (c) What steps the State Government has taken for starting a much needed T. B. Clinic at Nalbari ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied:

384. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Government are not aware if the applicants were advised by the Government of India to approach the State Government. The Nalbari Hospital which was under the Local Board was taken over by Government and converted into a Primary Health Unit under the 2nd Five Year Plan. The question of opening a T.B. Clinic in the Primary Health Unit will receive consideration by Government.

Regarding staff of Hospital, Nalbari

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there were one Assistant Grade I (M.B. B.S.), one Lady Assistant Surgeon Grade II (L.M.P.) and one Supernumerary Assistant Surgeon Grade II in the staff of Nalbari Hospital before it was converted to a Primary Health Unit ?
- (b) What is the reason for reducing of the staff by transfer of the Lady Assistant Grade II which post continued for nine years together before starting of Primary Health Unit at Nalbari and thereby disturbing the Maternity Hospital attached to the Primary Health Unit ?
- (c) When a Lady Assistant Surgeon is going to be reposted to Nalbari Hospital ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Minister-in-charge himself visited the Primary Health Unit in November, 1958 and asked Public Works Department to submit estimates for provision and overhead tank, installation of electricity and some other very urgent works of improvement ?
- (e) Whether these works are going to be executed during financial year ending 31st March, 1959 ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied :

385. (a)—The staff position before conversion was—

Assistant Surgeon Grade I 1 (one).

Assistant Surgeon Grade II 1 (one).

The Assistant Surgeon II on supernumerary duty is not a sanctioned post. The Lady Assistant Surgeon II having gone for Condensed course, a male Assistant Surgeon II was posted there to work in place of a Lady Assistant Surgeon II. At no time there were three doctors.

(b)—The question of reducing the staff by transfer of a Lady Assistant Surgeon II does not, therefore, arise. When a Lady Doctor will be available one will be posted. For the present it can't be helped and the Maternity Hospital will have to be managed by the present staff.

(c)—As soon as one is available.

(d)—The estimates for provision of Water Supply, electric installation, raising of the compound, drainage and sanitation have not yet been received from the Civil Surgeon who has already been reminded to send them immediately.

(e)—As the current financial year is coming to a close very soon the work can't be executed before 31st March, 1959. The work will, however, be taken up early next year, *i.e.*, 1959-60.

Discrepancies in respect of shortage supply of metals on the N.T. Road in Gohpur and Kalangpur Mauzas

Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHYAYA (Gohpur) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the broken metals supplied by a big contractor had run short on the N.T. Road in Gohpur and Kalangpur Mauzas while remeasurement was taken of late ?

- (b) What led the authorities to take the measurement of the metals after the bills were passed in full for the whole amount of contract ?
- (c) What was the percentage of shortage of the metals ?
- (d) What excess amount was paid to the contractor ?
- (e) Whether it will be possible to recover the excess money from the contractor ?
- (f) What is the total cost of remeasurement ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the contractor attempted to supply metals shortage while enquiry was going on and was caught red-handed ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that the contractor has been black-listed ?
- (i) Who were the persons found guilty of it and what steps are taken against them ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B.)] replied:

386. (a) to (i)—Yes some discrepancies have been found after check and remeasurement. After detailed Departmental enquiry, the case has been reported to the police for necessary action. As such, it will not be possible to give any further details before the police investigations are completed.

Regarding X-Ray Plant of Barpeta Chest Clinic Hospital

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked:

387. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to refer to reply to unstarred question No. 94 (e) and (f) asked by the questioner during the 30th August, 1958 on the subject of X-Ray Plant of Barpeta Chest Clinic and state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the low capacity of the X-Ray Plant of Barpeta Chest Clinic which cannot cater to all the needs of the people ?

(b) Whether Government has finally decided to exchange the entire Plant ?

(c) If so, what is the approximate time within which this is going to be fulfilled ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied:

387. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The question of exchange of the X-Ray Plant of the Barpeta Chest Clinic is being considered along with the question of interchange of X-Ray Plants of other institutions.

(c)—Government will arrive at the decision as early as possible.

Enquiry of Hospital land

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked:

388. Will the Minister, Medical be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question No.108 (c), (d), (e) and (f) asked by the questioner on the 30th August, 1958 on the subject of Barpeta Hospital and state—

(a) Whether Government has enquired that Private Buses No. ASK 3302 } are still being kept in the
ASK 2562 } hospital land in front of the quarters of Assistant Surgeon I Junior thereby making it a permanent garage ?

(b) If so, what measures have been or being taken against such state of affairs ?

(c) Whether any permission from the Hospital Authority was obtained in this respect ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied:

388. (a) to (c)—An enquiry is being made into this matter and proper action will be taken accordingly.

Regarding temporary Bridge over Bhalukadoba River of Barpeta Subdivision

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

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

- (a) What was the total amount spent for cold weather Bridge at Bhalukadoba of Barpeta Subdivision in 1957-58 and 1958-59?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that rate per Rft. was higher in 1958-59 than in the previous year?
- (c) If so, why?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that there were only few tenders for construction of cold weather bridge of Bhalukadoba?
- (e) If so, what were the reasons for not calling for fresh tenders?
- (f) Whether the works were done according to Public Works Department specification?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that during the time of final payment of bills the Executive Engineer did not make the check measurement?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that during their tour in January, 1959, the Health Minister and Public Works Department Minister (Roads and Buildings) pointed out to the Additional Chief Engineer that works were not done as per Public Works Department Specification?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B.)] replied :

389. (a)—Rs.4,451 in 1957-58, and Rs.9,464 in 1958-59.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The rates quoted by the contractor depend on the prices of bamboo and jungle wood the prices of which have gone up due to increased demand from other sources.

(d)—Three tenders were received.

(e)—Calling for fresh tenders was not considered necessary as the lowest rate offered was found reasonable being the estimated rate.

(f)—Yes, but some constructional defects were noticed and the matter is under investigation.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—As the bridge was damaged, the matter was asked to be investigated.

Moran Development Committee's Memorandum regarding various Public grievances

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

390. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that a Memorandum was lately submitted by the Moran Development Committee in regard to various public grievances ?
- (b) If so, whether the Memorandum contained the following demands:—
 - (i) establishment of Moran Town Committee ?
 - (ii) conversion of the Moranhat Charitable Dispensary (L. B.) to a Primary Health Unit ?

(iii) establishment of a Government Emporium at Moranhat, and

(iv) establishment of a Public Works Department (R. and B.) Subdivisional quarters at Moranhat.

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, whether Government has taken any action in that behalf ?

(d) If so, whether the Chief Minister will be pleased state the action so far taken ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, Local Self-Government) replied :

390. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i)—Yes. Commissioner of Plains Division has been asked to examine the feasibility of constituting a Town Committee at Moran with areas falling in Sibsagar Subdivision only.

(ii)—There is no such proposal under consideration of Government for conversion of Moranhat Local Board Dispensary into Primary Health Unit.

(iii)—Yes. Materials are being collected to see if it will be economically feasible to start at an Emporium at Moranhat.

(iv)—Yes. The work load did not justify a Public Works Department Subdivision at Moranhat. The question will be taken up if and when work load justifies.

(c) & (d)—As at (b) above.

Teaching Staff of Engineering College, Gauhati

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

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

- (a) What is the sanctioned strength of staff subject by subject, in the Engineering College at Gauhati ?
- (b) Against sanctioned staff mentioned in question above how many of them were regularly working during the last year as Professors and Lecturers of the Engineering College stating names and qualification of each incumbent ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the students of upper classes are suffering for want of teachers ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the students are suffering for lack of arrangement of practical training including Laboratory arrangement?
- (e) Whether Government are also aware that students are suffering for want of suitable accommodation in Hostel ?
- (f) What steps Government have taken to establish the Engineering College at Gauhati before starting a new College at Jorhat ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education) replied :

391. (a)—Civil Engineering—

Professor	...	...	...	1
Assistant Professors	...	...	...	2
Lecturers	...	...	...	8

Mechanical Engineering—				
Professor .. ..	...	...	1
Assistant Professors	...	...	2
Lecturers ..	...	...	6
Electrical Engineering—				
Professor .. ..	...	..	1
Assistant Professors	...	..	2
Lecturers .. ..	...	...	5
Applied Mechanics—				
Professor .. ..	...	...	1
Assistant Professor	...	...	1
Mathematics—				
Assistant Professor	...	..	1
Lecturers .. ..	...	...	2
Physics—				
Assistant Professor	...	...	1
Lecturers .. ..	...	...	2
Demonstrator .. ..	...	...	1
Chemistry—				
Assistant Professor	...	...	1
Lecturers .. ..	...	...	2
Demonstrator .. ..	...	...	1
Geology—				
Lecturer	1	
Demonstrator	1	

Economics and Accountancy—

Lecturer	1
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Civics and Sociology and Industrial Relations—

Lecturer	1
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English —

Lecturer (Part-time)	1
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Total	46
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(b)—Civil Engineering—

Professor :—Shri K. C. Asthana, Ph. D.
(C. E.), (U. S. A.). Experience—18 years.

Assistant Professor:—Shri S. D. Gogoi, B. E.
(Cal.) Experience—6 years.

Shri B. N. Bhaduri, B. Sc. (London).
Experience—23 years.

Lecturers:—Shri S. D. Phukon, B. Tech.,
Experience—1 year.

Shri P. Lahiri, B. Sc., B. E. (Cal.). Expe-
rience—2 years.

Shri A. Das-Gupta, B. Tech. Experience—1
year.

Mechanical Engineering—

Professor:—Shri R. J. Thaker, M.Sc. (London).
Experience—20 years.

Assistant Professor:—Shri D. Goswami, B.Sc.
Engineering (B. H.). Experience—6 years.

Lecturers :—Shri A. Sinha, B. Tech. Experi-
ence—1 year.

Shri A. Padmapati, B. Tech. Experience—1
year.

Electric Engineering—

Professor:—Shri N. N. Sen-Gupta, M. Sc.
(Tech.) (Manchester). Experience—22
years.

Assistant Professor:—Shri D. Chaliha, M. S.
(E. E.) (U. S. A.). Experience—6 years.

Lecturer:—Shri J. R. Choudhury, M. S.
(E. E.) (U. S. A.). Experience—5 years.

Shri S. Bhattacharjee, B. Tech. Expe-
rience—1 year.

Mathematics—

Assistant Professor:—Shri B. B. Sarma, M. Sc.
(Cal). Experience—7 years.

Lecturer:—Shri R. M. Dutta-Choudhury,
M. Sc. (Cal). Experience—3 years.

Shri R. M. Barua, M. Sc. (Cal). Expe-
rience—8 years.

Physics—

Assistant Professor:—Shri S. K. Dey Pur-
kayastha, M. Sc. (Cal). S. M. (Harvard)
Experience—7 years.

Lecturer:—Shri H. Rahman, M. Sc. (Cal).
Experience—7 years.

Shri M. Ahmed Mazumdar, M. Sc. (Cal).
Experience—1 year.

Chemistry—

Assistant Professor:—Shri G. N. Borpujari,
M. Sc. (Cal.) M. S. (U.S.A). Experience
—2 years.

Lecturer:—Shri R. P. Patra, M. Sc. (Tech.)
B. H. U. Experience—6 years.

(b) Geology—

Lecturer:—Shri J. Rajkumar, H. Tech.
Experience—1 year.

Economics and Accountancy—

Lecturer:—Shri C. B. Mahabita, M. Com.
Experience—2 years.

Civics Sociology and Industrial relation—

Lecturer :—Shri S. K. Phookan, M. A. Ex-
perience—3 years.

English—

Lecturer :—Shri G. V. L. N. Sharma, M. A.,
(Pt-time) Lecturer, Gauhati University.
Experience—8 years.

(c)—Yes. In Civil Engineering Department the College was getting some difficulties as some of the Lecturers in Civil Engineering did not join even though the pay scales have been revised. The Assam Public Service Commission has taken further step for recruitment of Lecturer in Civil Engineering and it is expected that these posts will be filled up shortly.

(d)—Five Laboratories required for practical work by the students of the 1st year and 2nd year classes, namely, Physics, Chemistry, Applied Mechanics, Heat Engine, and Elect. Technology are not properly equipped. Hydraulics Laboratory for the 3rd year students will be ready within a month. Considerable difficulty has been felt in obtaining equipment for strength of Materials, Soil-Mechanics Sanitary Engineering and Geology Laboratories as most of the equipment are not manufactured in India, and it takes considerable time to obtain Import Licence because of Import restriction and the formalities to be followed. However all possible steps are being taken to remove difficulties arising out of lack of equipment.

(e)—Yes. Government is aware of the fact. The problem has been solved after completion of a new Hostel for 144 students. Construction of another Hostel for 120 at the cost of Rs.4.58 lakhs has been administratively approved.

(f)—The Engineering College, Gauhati is already on a stabilised footing.

**Indian Assistants Employees under Jorehaut
the Assam and M/s. Williamson
Tea Co., Ltd.**

Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND (Bogdung) asked:

392. Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour, be pleased to enquire and state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that three Indian Assistants employed under the Jorehaut Tea Co., Ltd., the Assam Tea Co., Ltd., and under another tea garden managed by the Agents M/S. Williamson Magor have lately been dismissed and one of them was forced to resign?
- (b) If so, what are their names for how long they were in their respective services?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the two Indian Assistants employed under the Jorehaut and the Assam Tea Co., were dismissed without assigning any reason or without drawing up any proceedings against them?
- (d) Whether Government is aware of any instance of such dismissal of any other Indian Assistant from tea garden services?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied:

392. (a)—One Indian Assistant under Assam Tea Co., and two Indian Assistants under Williamson Magor Company have been dismissed from their services.

1. (b)—

Name of Tea Companies	Name of officers	Period of service
(1)	(2)	(3)
(i) Assam Tea Company.	Amal Hazarika	Five years.
(ii) Messrs. Williamson Magor.	(a) Rajkumar L.N. Deo ..	54 months.
	(b) Bharat Inder Sing, Jorehaut.	47 months.
(iii) Jorehaut Tea Company.	Shri N. C. Khound ...	Resigned after 7 years ser vice.

(c)—The services of the Indian Assistant under the Assam Tea Co., were terminated by previous warning and assigning reasons. No proceedings are drawn up against the covenanted staff and under terms of agreement the services are terminable within three months' notice on either side. Government have no information of dismissal of any Indian Assistant under the Jorehaut Tea Company.

(d)—No.

Implementation of the Industrial Tribunal Awards

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

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

- (a) What steps Government have taken against the Management who have not implemented the Industrial Tribunal Awards ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that three awards have been left unimplemented ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that this non-implementation constituted an offence ?
- (d) Whether Government find any loop hole in the Industrial Disputes Act itself by which such non-implementation has been possible ?
- (e) If so, what steps the Government are taking to amend the Act so as to make the awards effective ?
- (f) What are the steps taken against each case of non-implementation ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

393. (a)—The managements which do not implement awards are prosecuted under Section 29 of the Industrial Disputes Act and on application of the parties, steps are also taken to realise the awarded amount as arrear of land revenue under Section 33(c) of the Industrial Disputes Act. Steps taken against

the cases brought to the notice of Government are in the reply to Question (f).

(b)—A list of cases where non-implementation has been reported is placed on the Library Table (Annexure I). (Please see Library Register No. S. 88.)

(c) —Yes.

(d) & (e)—For non-implementation of awards there is penalty under the Industrial Disputes Act, Government of India have however been requested to examine an amendment to make the offence a continuous one.

(f)—Steps taken against the management in the cases where non-implementation have been reported are placed on the Library Table.

Completion of the Work of Sluice Gate at Mainarjan in the Pahumara Embankment

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that money has been wasted in the construction of the sluice gate at Mainarjan in the Pahumara Embankment and the works are still at part done stage?

(b) If not, whether Government will be pleased to make necessary enquiries in the work as mentioned above?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, P.W.D. Flood Control Wing) replied :

394. (a) & (b)—The sluice gate at Mainarjan has been partly constructed during the last working season and the remaining works are being completed during this working season. A portion of a wing wall already constructed was damaged by floods while it was in the custody of the contractor and the damage is now being made good by him at his cost. The matter was enquired into which revealed no wastage of Government money.

Proposal to form a separate Block with Tirap Transferred Area and Makum Mouza

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)
asked:

295. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects, be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that certain inaccuracies crept in the list of proposed blocks submitted by Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur in 1953 for Dibrugarh Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the three transferred areas such as Sadiya Transferred areas Tirap Transferred Areas and Abor Hills (Murkong-selek) Transferred Areas were not included in any of the proposal ?
- (c) What is the number of population and the area in square miles of each of this Transferred Areas ?
- (d) Whether this Tirap Transferred Areas has been proposed to be included in any of the blocks under proposal ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that a portion of Mukum Mauza under a Mergherita Thana with a rural population of over 20,000 was also omitted to be included in the proposal ?
- (f) What are the actual inaccuracies in Population and area of Makum Mauza as shown in the proposals under reference ?
- (g) Whether Government is aware that these rural areas are very under-developed and needs close attention of the Government for improvement ?
- (h) Whether Government propose to form a separate N. E. S. or C. D. Block Tirap Transferred Area and Makum Mauza ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

395. (a) —Yes. The figures reported were inaccurate in certain cases as they were based on 1941 census.

(b) —Yes.

(c) —

Transferred area	Population	Area (Square miles)
(i) Murkongselek	5,530	437
(ii) Sadiya	25,636	784
(iii) Tirap... ..	15,000	150

(d) —In the original proposals of 1950, the Tirap Transferred Area was not included in any Block, but, thereafter, it was included in Kakapathar Block.

(e) —No.

(f) —The specific inaccuracies cannot be ascertained. Makum Mauza was included in the Kakapathar Block comprising of Makum, Saikhowa and Buri Dihing Mauzas according to the proposals of 1953. The total area and population of the Kakapathar Block thus constituted was shown as 577.18 square miles and 44,690 respectively, but it was not broken down mauza-wise. Hence the inaccuracies in respect of population of Makum Mauza cannot be ascertained.

(g) —Yes.

(h) —A proposal made by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur is under consideration.

**Regarding Population in the Doom Dooma-Tinsukia
N.E.S. Block**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)

asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the population figure in the proposal of Doom Dooma-Tinsukia N. E. S. Block with Rangagora, Tinsukia, Hapjan, Tingrai and Doom Dooma Mauzas as given by Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur in 1953 is shown incorrectly?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the population of Hapjan Mauza is shown as 7,626 whereas the total population of this Mauza (spread over Tinsukia and Doom Dooma Thana) is about 53,000 according to 1951 census?
- (c) If not, what is the correct population and area of Hapjan Mauza?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the population of Tingrai Mauza has also been shown incorrectly as 10,496?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that the population of Tingrai mauza which forms part of each Tinsukia, Doom Dooma and Digboi Thanas is about 36,000?
- (f) What is the correct population and area in squar miles of this Mauza?
- (g) Whether Government is aware that the villages in these Mauzas (*i. e.*, Tingrai, Hapjan) are in primitive condition and need close attention of the authorities for their improvement?
- (h) Whether Government propose to alter the areas of the proposal submitted by the Deputy Commissioner to make the Block more practicable?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary): replied:

396. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The total population of the block was shown as 36,903. No separate figure for Hapjan Mauza was given. This figure based on the census figure of 1941. According to 1951 census, the population of Hapjan Mauza is 16,267 excluding the Tea garden population and with it, is 52,993.

Population	Area
(c)—16,267 (excluding Tea Estate population) 52,993 (Total).	88.93 square miles (excluding 0.1 square miles of Doom Dooma Town).

(d)—No. The population of Tingrai Mauza was not shown separately in the proposals.

(e)—Yes, it is 36,382 according to 1951 census.

(f)—The area is 65.02 square miles with population of 36,382.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—The matter is under consideration.

Regarding amendment of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution

Shri HENRY COTTON [Nongstoin (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

397. Will the Minister for Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

(a) If it is a fact that proposals have been submitted by the District Council of the autonomous districts of Assam to the State Government for amending the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution for transmission to the Union Government for the drafting of a Bill to be placed before Parliament for amending the Sixth Schedule ?

- (b) If so, whether Government have transmitted the proposals ?
- (c) Whether the State Government have offered their comments to the Union Government on the said proposals ?
- (d) If so, whether Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the said comments on the table of the House ?

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

397. (a)—The proposed amendments were received from the Eastern India Tribal Union and the Khasi-Jaintia Hills District Congress Committee. These proposed amendments were forwarded to the Autonomous District Councils and the Pawi-Lakher Regional Councils for their comments. Comments are still awaited from two District Councils.

(b) & (c)—The Government is now examining the amendments proposed by the Eastern India Tribal Union and the Khasi-Jaintia Hills District Congress Committee, simultaneously with the comments received so far from the District Councils. Government will forward its comments to the Government of India as soon as it has formed its views in the light of the study of both the proposals and the comments of the District Councils.

(d)—Does not arise.

Converting "Maduri Ali" P. W. D. Road, Sibsagar

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government have lately received petitions from the public of Joktali Mauza and other Maanzas of Sibsagar Subdivision to the effect that the 'Maduri Ali' be taken over by P. W. D., at the earliest ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that this road is very essential from various angles of importance ?

(c) If so, whether Government propose to take over this road at an early date ?

Shri G. N. GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B. Wings)] replied :

398. (a)—Petitions were received from the public of Messagar, Maduri, Bortal villages and also from the hon. Member.

(b)—The road has been stated to be important in the petitions.

(c)—No. this is not possible now but will be duly considered if Subdivisional Board gives priority at the time of drawing up of future programme and funds permitting.

Regarding inclusion of Tirap Transferred area to Kakapathar National Extension Service Block

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

399. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Development Project be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that Kakapathar National Extension Service Block was proposed with an area of 577 sq. miles by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the population of Makum Mauza has been shown as 13,496 in the proposal of Kakapathar National Extension Service Block whereas the total population according to 1951 census was about 50,000 ?

(c) If not, what is the actual population and area in sq. mile of the Makum Mauza ?

(d) Whether Government is aware that this Makum Mauza spreads up to Ledo in Margherita Thana ?

(e) Whether Government is aware that a man from one part of the proposed Block will have to cross 3 Mauzas (*i.e.*, Doom Dooma, Hapjan and Tingrai) outside the Block to keep in touch with the other part of the Block ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that instead of pointing out this difficulty and vastness of the area of the proposed Kakapathar National Extension Service Block the district authorities suggested inclusion of Tirap Transferred area with it which is at a distance of over 50 miles by road from Kakapathar ?

(g) What is the number of population and area in sq. mile of Tirap Transferred area ?

(h) Whether it is a fact that the Secretary, Sub-divisional Development Board suggested increase of the area of Kakapathar National Extension Service Block by inclusion of Tirap Transferred area without consulting the Board, or the local members of this Assembly ?

(i) Whether Government proposed to reject such suggestion, if any, and arrange to form Kakapathar National Extension Service Block with Saikhowa, Doom Dooma and Buridihing Mauza and a separate National Extension Service Block with Makum Mauza and Tirap Transferred area ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

399. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It cannot be ascertained as no separate figure for each mouza has been shown. The figures were based on 1941 census, and the population of Makum Mauza was 11,197 excluding the Tea garden population. The total population excluding Tea garden population is 42,056 according to 1951 census.

(c)—Population is 42,056 (excluding Tea Garden population) area is 247.32 sq. miles.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes. The area is compact, but for want of good road communications, it is easier to go from one part of the block to another through Doom Dooma Tingrai and Hapjan Mauzas, which are outside the block area?

(f)—Government suggested to attach the Tirap Transferred area to the nearest delimited block, as it was not included in the original proposal.

(g)—Total population is 15,000, and area 150 sq. miles.

(h)—No. Deputy Commissioner did so according to instructions of Government to tag this area to the nearest block delimited.

(i)—The matter is under consideration.

Facilities to the Backward people of the State

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA (Sonai) asked:

400. Will the Minister-in-charge of the Welfare of Backward people, be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he has lately received representations from a few members of the Legislature belonging to the Backward Communities in the matter of providing facilities to the Backward people residing in this State specially in respect to free education upto the Matriculation, appointments, etc.?

(b) If so, what action has so far been taken in this respect?

(c) If not, whether Government will be pleased to take an immediate decision in this respect?

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

400. (a)—Yes. A representation, dated the 30th April, 1958 on the subject was received. Subsequently a note of new suggestions in addition to those made in the original representation of 30th April, 1958 was also received on the 25th August, 1958 from Shri Mahi Kanta Das, M. L. A.

(b)—The existing number of various Special Scholarships reserved for students of the other Backward Classes, *viz.*, 54 Lower Primary, 35 Middle English 12 Middle Vernacular and 14 Post-Matric (Junior) Scholarships have since been increased by 100 per cent with effect from the 1st April, 1958.

A State Advisory Board for the Welfare of other Backward Classes has already been constituted to advise Government on all matters pertaining to the welfare of the said Classes.

The other suggestions made in the representation regarding educational facilities, reservation of posts in services, etc., have already been taken up with the Administrative Departments concerned. These matters are also being placed before the State Advisory Board for other Backward Classes for its considered views and advice to enable the Government to come to a decision thereon.

(c)—In view of reply in (b), every effort will be made to come to a decision in the pending matters, as early as possible.

Parking of Buses at North Gauhati Ferry Ghat

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

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

(a) Whether he is aware of the difficulties experienced by the people and buses plying on different routes from North Gauhati for want of Parking of Buses at North Gauhati Ferry Ghat ?

(b) Whether there is any proposal to acquire a site for the purpose ?

(c) What steps have been taken so far to construct the parking ?

(d) Whether Government will also take steps to construct a shed for passengers as protection from sun and rain ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R.&B.)] replied :

401. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, a site has already been acquired for the purpose.

(c)—Works for construction of Parking area have been taken up at a cost of Rs.44,100 an amount of Rs.11,127 has been spent so far and works are in progress.

(d)—There is no provision for passengers' shed in the sanctioned estimate, however, the proposal will be examined.

Regarding the sanction of Travelling Allowance to non-official members travelling outside the Murkongselek-Sadiya M.P.C.D. Block to attend meetings

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

402. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Development Project be pleased to state—

(a) The number of P. A. C. or B. D. C. meetings of Murkongselek Sadiya Multi-purpose Community Development Block held, year by year, since opening of the Block in 1957 ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that the Block is composed of two areas physically separated by mighty river and a member of one part is to travel more than 50 miles outside the Block by available road and water communication ?

(c) Whether the P. A. C. or B. D. C. requested the Government to sanction Travelling Allowance or actual expenditure to non-official members who are required to travel certain distance outside the Block to attend meetings ?

(d) If so, what decision has been arrived at by Government on this ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

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

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The matter is under consideration.

Presiding over the Meeting of Project Advisory Board

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

403. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects, be pleased to state—

(a) Who is required to preside over the meetings of the Project Advisory Board ?

(b) Whether non-members are entitled to preside over those meetings ?

(c) If not, why the Senior E. A. C., Mr. Hazarika presided in one of the meetings of the Jalah Project Advisory Board in absence of the President of the meeting ?

(d) Who is responsible for this ?

(e) Whether the first budget of the Gobardhana National Extension Service Block was passed in the absence of the President ?

(f) Why the President or the Vice-Presidents were absent from that meeting ?

(g) Whether the proceedings of that meeting will be made null and void ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

403. (a)—The Chairman.

(b)—Yes.

(c) to (f)—Information is being collected, and will be furnished as soon as available.

(g)—Government will consider after receipt of the information.

Regarding loan to the Bhutpukhuri Goalia Bank in Mangaldai Subdivision

Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Dalgaon) asked:

404. Will the Minister, Co-operative Department, be pleased to state—

(a) How many Co-operative Marketing Societies are there in the Mangaldai Subdivision and what are they ?

(b) What amount of Co-operative loans that has been advanced during 1958 in the Mangaldai Subdivision ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Bhutpukhuri Gaolia Bank has not given any loan ?

(d) If not ; why not ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that several petitions for loan have been submitted by the above bank to the Registrar of Co-operative Department and no reply has yet been given to the Bank concerned?

(f) If so, whether Government propose to take steps for such negligence ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation) replied :

404. (a)—There are 4 Marketing Co-operative Societies in Mangaldai Subdivision, viz.—

1. Udalguri Co-operative Byabasi Samabay Samity, Ltd.
2. Kharupetia Agriculturists Marketing Co-operative Society.
3. Kaligaon Marketing Co-operative, Ltd.

4. Chinakona Co-operative Marketing Society, Ltd.

(b)—Rs. 7,72,755 as short term loan.

Rs. 99,140 as medium term loan.

Rs.5,200 as long term loan.

(c)—No. This bank was given loans on two occasions. Rs.7,500 in 1955-56 and Rs.9,225 in 1956-57.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Two petitions complaining against refusal to issue of loan by the Central Bank were received and were sent to local officers for report. The reports have not been received.

(f)—Unless the reports come no responsibility for non-issue of loans can be fixed. The Central Banks are autonomous bodies. Government cannot force a decision on them.

Proposal for raising the Sipon-Sunpura Road in Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that due to not raising the Sepon-Sunpura Road in Sibsagar Subdivision, the whole of Bokota Mouza was affected by the floods of the Desang?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the local public as well as the questioner have been moving for raising of the said road against flood level?

(c) Why the works of raising the road were not taken in hand even after several representations both from local public as well from the questioner during the last two years?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B.)] replied:

405. (a)—The road is inundated every year by the flood from 5th to 14th mile. But Government are not aware that the whole of Bokota Mouza was affected by the floods of Desang due to non-raising of Sepon-Sunpura Road.

(b)—A proposal to raise the road was received from the questioner himself.

(c)—The proposal for raising the Sepon-Sunpura Road was put up to the last meeting of the Assam Road Communications Board held on 11th October 1958 for consideration. But the Board did not select a single project for taking up in near future.

Speaker's announcement of the result, of the election to various Committees

Mr. SPEAKER: I have an announcement to make.

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

Committee on Public Accounts

1. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala
2. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma
3. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika
4. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika
5. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua
- 6 Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya
7. Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar

Committee on Estimates

1. Shri Mohananda Bora
2. Shri Lila Kanta Borah
3. Shri Ram Nath Sarma
4. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani
5. Shri Mohi Kanta Das
6. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta
7. Shri Mahadev Das
8. Shri Hareswar Goswami
9. Shri Gopesh Namasudra
10. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya

I have to announce the results of the election to the State Advisory Board for Basic Education. The number of candidate being equal to the number of seat vacant the following has been elected unanimously.

Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar.

I have to announce the results of the election to the Assam Text Book Committee. The number of candidate being equal to the number of seat vacant, the following has been elected unanimously.

Srimati Jyotsna Chanda.

The Assam Local Rates (Amendment) Bill, 1959

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minster, Parliamentary Affairs): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Local Rates (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that leave be granted to introduce the Bill ?

(After a pause)
Leave is granted.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister. Parliamentary Affairs): Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Local Rates (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved: That the Assam Local Rate (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The Motion was put as question and adopted)

(Secretary, Legislative Assembly read the title of the Bill),.

The Assam Aid to Industries (small and cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1959

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House that leave be granted to introduce the Bill ?

(After a pause)

Leave is granted.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved: That the Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1959, be introduced.

(After a pause)

(The Motion was put as question and adopted)

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly read the title of the Bill).

**THE ASSAM TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING BILL, 1959
AND ASSAM SLUM AREAS (IMPROVEMENT AND
CLEARANCE) BILL, 1959.**

Mr. SPEAKER: Shri Nilmoney Borthakur.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee of the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: Nilmoney Barthakur.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly agrees to extend the time for submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959, till the 31st May, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion is that time be extended for submission for the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959, till 31st May, 1951.

(The Motion was then put by the chair before the House in the form of a question and was adopted).

Further discussion on the Motion re: Government policy of the State Trading in wholesale Trade in food grains.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই যোৱা শনিবাৰে এই সদনত এই কথাটোকেই কৈছিলো, যে State Trading ৰ নামত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি ধান চাউল সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব খুজিছে সেইটো registration কৰাৰ নামত বা আন কোনো কাৰণত যদি ব্যৱসায়ী সকলৰ হাতত এৰি দিয়ে তেন্তে আমাৰ আচল উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধি নহব। কাৰণ মধ্যবৰ্তী ব্যৱসায়ী সকল থাকিয়েই যাব। ইয়াৰ ফলত উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধিৰ পৰিবৰ্তে ব্যৱসায়ীসকলৰ হাততেই খাদ্য শস্যৰ ব্যৱসায়তো থাকি যাব। State Trading ৰ দ্বাৰা যাতে খাদ্য-শস্যৰ মধ্যবৰ্তী ব্যৱসায়ী সকলক নাইকিয়া কৰিব পাৰি তালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি আমি কাম কৰিব লাগিব।

মধ্যবৰ্তী ব্যৱসায়ীসকলৰ কাৰণে জনসাধাৰণে প্ৰয়োজন মতে আৱশ্যকীয় সামগ্ৰী পাব নোৱাৰে আৰু এই শ্ৰেণীৰ লোকে লাভ খোৱাৰ কাৰণে সামগ্ৰীৰ দাম অস্বজিকৰ ভাবে বৃদ্ধি হয়। এওলোকে খাদ্য শস্যৰ বজাৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰাৰ পৰা জনসাধাৰণক মুক্ত কৰিবলৈ State Trading ৰ ব্যৱস্থাত কৰা হৈছে। বৰ্তমান আমি চাব লাগিব যাতে চৰকাৰে State Trading ৰ জৰিয়তে খেতিয়কসকলৰ পৰা প্ৰত্যক্ষ ভাবে খাদ্য শস্যাদি সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব পাৰি। তেতিয়াহে খেতিয়কে উপযুক্ত মূল্য পাব আৰু কিনোতায়ে উপযুক্ত দামত খাদ্য পাব।

যেতিয়াটালৈকে খাদ্য শস্য খেতিয়কৰ হাতৰ পৰা পোনপতীয়াকৈ লোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা নহয় তেতিয়াটালৈকে আমাৰ বৰ্তমান যি বিলাক সমবায় সমিতি আছে সেই বিলাকৰ জৰিয়তে এই খাদ্য শস্য বিলাক সংগ্ৰহ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

তাকে নকৰি যদি ব্যৱসায়ী দলকেই সেই ভাৱ দিয়া হয় তেন্তে মই জোৰ কৰি কও যে আমাৰ মূল উদ্দেশ্য ব্যৰ্থ কৰা হব।

১৯৪৩ চনৰ বঙ্গদেশৰ দুৰ্ভিক্ষ তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ মূলতো এই মধ্যস্থ মূনাফাখোৰ সকল। সেই দিনৰে পৰা আজিৰ তাৰিখলৈ খাদ্য শস্য এই ব্যৱসায়ী সকলে নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰি আহিছে। তাৰ ফলত আমাৰ সমগ্ৰ ৰাইজে অশেষ দুৰ্দ্ধশা ভোগ কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে। এই কাৰণেই চৰকাৰে State Trading ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি এই খাদ্য শস্যৰ সংগ্ৰহ আৰু যোগানৰ ভাৱ নিজৰ হাতলৈ আনি এই নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ তেওলোকৰ হাতৰ পৰা কাঢ়ি আনিব খোজে। যদি সেয়ে নহয় তেন্তে State Trading ৰ কোনো সাৰ্থকতা নাই। গতিকে এই মূল নীতিলৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি State Trading ত আগবাঢ়ি যাবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক বিশেষ ভাবে অনুৰোধ জনাও।

যদি এতিয়াও খাদ্য শস্যৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ ব্যৱসায়ীৰ হাতত ৰাখি থৈ খাদ্য শস্য সংগ্ৰহ কৰা হয় তেন্তে আকৌ আগৰ সমস্যাই দেখা দিব। লাভ একো নহব।

যোৰহাটত খাদ্য শস্য সংগ্ৰহ কৰিবলৈ সমবায় সমিতিৰ নিদি ব্যৱসায়ী সকলক দিবলৈ এখন সভাত ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰে থিক কৰিলে। সেই মিটিঙৰ সিদ্ধান্তৰ কথা শুনি মই D. C. বা চাৰ্ভাই উপদেষ্টা কমিটিৰ এখন সভা পাতি এই বিষয়টো আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনালো। D. C. য়ে সেইমতে Supply Advisory Board ৰ মিটিঙত ধান সংগ্ৰহ আৰু যোগানৰ ভাৱ সমবায়কো দিব লাগে বুলি সিদ্ধান্তও কৰিলে। কিন্তু ব্যৱসায়ী সকলে সমবায় এখন বেগতে গঠন কৰি বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিলে। কিন্তু যেতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ সমবায় বিভাগে সেই কমিটি বেজিষ্টাৰ নকৰিলে তেতিয়া যোৰহাট আৰু গোলাঘাটৰ ৰাইচমিলৰ মালিক সকলে আৰু বেজিষ্টাৰ্ড ধান-ব্যৱসায়ী সকলে নিজেই এটা ধানৰ দাম বান্ধি যোগে ৯।।০ বেচি দাম দি ধান নিকিনিবলৈ সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিলে। মই গাঁৱলৈ যাওতে খেতিয়ক সকলৰ পৰা সেই কথা বিলাক শু নিলো।

ইয়াৰ ফলত খেতিয়ক সকলক কম দাম দি ধান কিনি আনি চৰকাৰক 5000 টকাত বিক্ৰি কৰিছে ফলত মাজৰ মানুহে মোখে এক টকাকৈ লাভ কৰিছে। মাজৰ ব্যবসায়ী সকলক এই দৰে এটকা লগত দিয়োঁটা বৰ বেচি হৈছে বুলি মই ভাবো। তদুপৰি ব্যবসায়ী সকলে কিমান ধান কিনে তাৰ কোনো 'কোটা' (quota) বা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ নাই আৰু হিচাব লব খঞ্জিলেও ঠিক হিচাব লোৱা টান। ইয়াৰ ফলত মিলচ আৰু ব্যবসায়ী সকলৰ হাতত ধানৰ দামৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা শক্তিতেও বৈ গৈছে। এই কথা আনি সকলোৱে জানো—চৰকাৰেও জানে। এনেদৰে চৰকাৰে State Trading কৰি ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰাৰ ভাব লব লাগে আৰু মিল বিলাকক ধান সংগ্ৰহ বন্ধ কৰি দিব লাগে। যদি মিল বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ জনসাধাৰণে আন্দোলন কৰে আৰু সেই আন্দোলন মতে যদি চৰকাৰে ধান কল বোৰ বন্ধ কৰি দিয়ে তেন্তে মিল মালিক আৰু ব্যবসায়ী সকলে—গুণ্ডাগোলৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিব—আৰু শেষত হাইক'ৰ্ট বা চুপ্ৰিম ক'ৰ্টৰ হুকুম কি হয় সেই কথা কব নোৱাৰি কিন্তু সম্পূৰ্ণ ষ্টেট ট্ৰেডিং প্ৰবৰ্ত্তণ কৰি খাদ্য শস্য সংগ্ৰহৰ ভাব তেওলোকৰ হাতৰ পৰা লৈ আহিলে মিল বিলাক বন্ধ হৈ মিলৰ মালিক সকলে আইনৰ সহায় লবও নোৱাৰিব। এনেদৰে মাজতে খাদ্য শস্য বিলাকৰ দাম নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা শ্ৰেণীটোও উঠি যাব আৰু ইয়াৰ ফলত এহাতে খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীটো যো উঠি যাব আৰু আন হাতে চেকী সমৰ্থায় সমিটি বিলাকৰ উন্নতি হব। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে সন্দেহ কৰিব লগীয়া নাই কাৰণ অসমত বাইচমিল বিলাক ওলোৱাৰ আগতে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ সেই সময়ৰ প্ৰায় ৭০ লাখ মানুহে চেকীৰ চাউলেই খাই আহিছিল আৰু এতিয়াও যদিও জন সংখ্যা প্ৰায় এক কোটি হৈছে তথাপি সেই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব অৰ্থাৎ বাইজক চেকীত খুন্দা চাউলেৰে অসমৰ বাইজক খুন্দাৰ পৰা হব বুলি মই ভাবো। এই মিলৰ আৰু মধ্যস্থকাৰী ব্যবসায়ী দলটোৰ হাতৰ পৰা যদি খাদ্য শস্য নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা শক্তিতে চৰকাৰে কাঢ়ি আনিব নোৱাৰে তেন্তে State Trading হোৱা সন্দেহও খাদ্য শস্যৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ ব্যবসায়ী সকলেই হৈ কৰিব। এই দুটা মূল কথাটো লক্ষ্য কৰি যেন চৰকাৰে State Trading ৰ কাৰ্য্যকাৰী আচনি গ্ৰহণ কৰি অগুঁসৰ হয় তাকে অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ। আজি সমাজতান্ত্ৰিক সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ আদৰ্শ গ্ৰহণ কৰি চৰকাৰ দেশবাসীৰ উন্নতি কৰিবৰ অৰ্থে State Trading অৰ নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰি কাৰ্য্যকাৰী কৰাৰ কাৰণে বহুবান হোৱাটো প্ৰশংসনীয় হৈ উঠিছে আৰু এই বাবে অসম চৰকাৰ আৰু ভাৰত চৰকাৰ, দুয়ো চৰকাৰ ধন্যবাদৰ পাত্ৰ। মই আগতে উল্লেখ কৰা প্ৰধান লক্ষ্য দুটালৈ চকু দি চৰকাৰে, দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলক পোষণৰ পৰা মুক্ত কৰি তেওলোকৰ শস্যৰ বাবে উপযুক্ত মূল্য পোৱাত সহায় কৰিব আৰু খাদ্য শস্যৰ ব্যৱসায়টো চৰকাৰে নিজৰ হাতলৈ নিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। মোৰ বক্তব্য ইয়াতেই সামৰিলো।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: (Pointing to the Minister, Food) How long will you take to reply? We have only 15 minutes more and then the Minister will give his reply. So each Member will get 5 minutes each.

***M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** I will take about an hour Sir. It is a full dress debate. One full day we have debated on this, I will take about an hour and it may be more.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Borthakur.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Sir, I am very glad that my Friend Shri Hazarika has moved this motion which affords a chance to place our views on this most important issue. After a lot of flabbergastings, the National Development Council has accepted the principle of State Trading in food grains. Now still this scheme is in an embryonic stage and it is told that the details are being worked out, and in the next

meeting of the National Development Council, a full fledged scheme is expected to be discussed, if it has not already been discussed in the recently held meeting of the National Development Council. It will not be an exaggeration to state that the National Development Council came to this decision after the bitter experience of the last ten years. The experience of the last 10 years was that the food price, particularly the wholesale price of food grains were gradually shooting up. There is already an upward trend with occasional fluctuations. From study of the price tables of the last ten years three things can be stated statistically. First that the wholesale price of food grains cast a reflection. Secondly the wholesale price also affected the rise in the price level. Thirdly, it is the price factor of the food grains which accounts for the rise in the cost of living index. We find that the cost of living index for the last five years have been constantly rising and also during last part of the half year. The Second and Third Five Year Plans envisage the raising of the standard of living. Now the rise in the cost of living index for the fixed income group lowers the standard of living. Although the Five Year Plans aim at raising the standard of living the price scheme tends to hold back the country. It is working backward. Unless steps are taken to stop this process, the Plans are not going to succeed. Therefore, the National Development Council has come to the decision to nationalise food grain trades. Now, to stabilise the food prices, it is necessary that a control over price and also over the stock should be undertaken by the Government. In the past Government tried to stabilise the price by a system of control which in most cases was ineffective. That system of control left a bad taste in the mouths of the people. It is not for the reason that control was bad, but the methods adopted for that purpose were defective. If the Government controls the price without controlling the stock then the foods will disappear and go to the black marketeers and price will rise up. Therefore for the total control on foodgrains it is necessary to control the stock. Now at this stage it is very difficult to suggest ways and means, because the scheme has not been placed before us up till now. Nevertheless it is very important to bear in mind certain aspects of the scheme whatever might be its details. We must know the present position of the monopolist who carry on the food-grain trade. During the last war period, that is, from 1930-1942, the overall foodgrain position was 5.4 lakhs tons annually and there was an export to the tune of 10 lakhs tons per year. So there was an overall import during the war. When Burma fell into the hands of Japanese then there arose shipping difficulties and so there became exacting demand of rice and other foreign goods which were then in the hands of the monopolists who became rich overnight. Now if those foodgrain dealers become monopolists overnight then they will utilise their experience during the war period and carry on with the foodgrain trade. Foodgrain trade is almost profitable trade in our country. At present these monopolists in collusion with the landlords and the rich business people and money lenders have complete control over the economy of our country. They control majority of the commercial banks and private banks.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What are your suggestions ?

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :** I am coming to that. Very recently the Reserve Bank has undertaken to finance the rural credit societies in the rural areas and the co-operative banks. But in this connection the help rendered is to a very small extent. Therefore this particular group of monopolists is still very powerful and at present they

are trying their best to defeat the Government scheme. The federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce convened a special session where they opposed this Government scheme tooth and nail and termed this scheme as 'wild goose chase'. This shows that the capitalists of India are out to defeat this Government scheme. They say that they will resort to more powerful methods to defeat the entire scheme. We find that though the life insurance companies have been nationalised this group of people is now monopolising the Life Insurance Board. So it is very likely that this powerful organisation backed by finance may try to get into this Government body. Therefore, special attention must be paid to this aspect of the question so that their game is defeated. Secondly, Sir, the most important aspect of this whole question is procurement. I think it is a very difficult and complicated one. In this connection several factors are to be borne in mind. The target of procurement in our State is 22 lakhs maunds of paddy and so far they have procured about 11 lakhs 50 thousand maunds of paddy. I think it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the Government to procure now another 5 lakhs maunds because at present the rate of the entire marketable produce is lower than the declared rate of the Government and for other reasons. Now, when the rate has gone up Government will find it impossible to procure further amount of paddy. Therefore, to procure further amount it is necessary to purchase paddy direct from the villagers or producers and for that purpose the producers' co-operatives should be encouraged. Liberal advances should be made to those societies and they should be given the option to direct purchase, but at the same time caution must be taken to see that spurious co-operative societies are discouraged and for that purpose certain amendments to the co-operative rules are necessary. At present we find that the Government is laying emphasis on the development of co-operative movement. That is to say, the rich section of the people who are coming forward.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have taken more time. I hope you will take your seat. I call upon Mr. Deka to speak.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the present State trading policy taken by the State Government is really not to safeguard the interest of the real producers. Nowgong is the example where big marketing societies were given license to procure about six lakhs maunds of paddy. We find that the real producers were denied to have actual price of their produce and thus big marketing societies were allowed to get a good amount of money out of this monopoly business. The first example which this Government has shown at Nowgong is a total failure. We, from both sides of the House, support the State trading on principle and so it should be done in such a way so that basic principle is not violated. But here though the Government has said that the work on this line is in progress, but at the time of implementation they have proved failure. Sir, to make the State trading a success three things are necessary. One is, there should be efficient procurement of surplus foodgrains of the State in time, I should like to give stress on the words "in time", because this year we have seen that Government entered into procurement at a very later period during which major portion of the surplus paddy was sold out to the individual millers and traders. Second is, the price should be reasonable, because we have seen that the price fixed to purchase from the producers is below than the price that is now prevailing. So, I should say that the price should

be reasonable. Third is, the stock so procured by the State Trading should be distributed on reasonable price, through people's organisations, such as, co-operative organisations, fair price shops, etc. Sir, in the Governor's address it has been stated that except in border areas there is no need for fair price shops in other areas of the State, but I should say that when there is no scope or Government machinery to check the rising trend of price of rice as a result at present poor consumers are hard hit, especially in all towns, in order to render relief to them the system of fair price shops should be introduced at in town areas.

Further, Sir, along with it, I submit that to have success of State trading co-operation of growers should be taken fully and the present policy of the State trading of the Government should be radically changed. I feel, when the policy of State trading is accepted on principle the licences of individual millers should be cancelled immediately and foodgrains should be procured through producers' co-operatives. A major portion of food grains at present is at the disposal of individual millers and traders. They are creating such a situation at the time of need and at the time of scarcity every year the result is that the price of food grains become exorbitant and price is fixed according to the sweet will of big traders and millers. So not only procurement should be made but distribution should also be taken up by State trading so that consumers can get food grains at proper price.

Sir, I like also to suggest that in Subdivisional level there should be a Board consisting of all political parties which can help in making State trading successful and to help the people from big millers and traders who are now sucking the blood of the people.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)** : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Minister what safeguard has been made for implementation of the principles underlying the State trading policy of the Government? What I mean to say and what other hon. Members said is that the growers should get proper price for the crops they grow. At present they are not getting it. We have started the grow-more-food campaign. We have passed the Nagpur resolution. But these will be of no use, if the agriculturists who labour very hard and who put all their money and effort for growing more food they are crying hoarse, to save them from the clutches of Mahajans, middle men and traders, who just at the time of harvest take away all their surplus stock without giving them the proper price. They want protection against the exploitation of millowners and the heartless Mahajans. Simply taking up State trading and giving to middlemen or co-operatives is not the end. The real aim is to give price which will compensate with their labour, costs, etc., of production and to give them encouragement so that the profit which they derive can give them incentive to grow more and more.

Secondly, supposing, we give State trading business either to co-operatives or middlemen, is there any guarantee that the middlemen or co-operatives will give the price fixed by Government to the grower? Or whether Government will leave the growers on the mercy of the traders, middlemen or co-operatives? If the Government hesitates to see that really sound co-operatives are formed for the purpose then the welfare of

the growers will be overlooked or denied. The co-operatives should be such that they give a suitable, reasonable and good price to growers, the grow-more-food campaign will continue to be a failure as it is now. Therefore, I suggest that we should eliminate middlemen's influence from this State trading altogether as they are now sucking the last drop of blood from the helpless growers, regarding which we are discussing and arguing very often. These are hard facts, which the Government should keep in view so that the policies and principles of State trading could be enforced in a manner which will really give benefit to the growers. If not enforced rightly means criminal neglect. Unless, we can stop the drainage of exploitation which is in motion, it is useless to expect the success of the State trading and in the long run it will end in failure. Unless we make proper provisions, to save our growers from the clutches of middlemen, cruel traders and blackmarketeers and can enforce them in the proper manner, this State trading will end in criminal breach of trust. We have made many measures but in them we have so far failed to ameliorate the condition of the peasants, agriculturists and growers. Therefore, the main object of State trading should be to give relief to the growers who are groaning for their failure to get proper price for their produce. Unless, we give guarantee that the Government will see that they get the price fixed by them, what useful purpose will be done by State trading?

That is the question I pose before the Government for an answer. It is a very difficult and complicated policy which the Government of Assam and the Government of India are adopting and therefore we all should co-operate with the Government in this matter so that these things may be worked out for the benefit of the actual growers so that there may not be any more blood sucking or exploitation of our people whom we have not been able to help so far.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to my friend, Shri Dandeswar Hazarika for bringing before the House a very lively but at the same time an extremely controversial issue. Sir this State Trading is a very complex issue. Before we go into the merits and the details of the scheme, it would be in the fitness of things that we just recapitulate its history. It is true, Sir, ever since the last great war, there has been a terrific fluctuation of prices of food-grains in this country. Although these fluctuations were due mostly to the manipulations of the selfish elements who were having the monopoly of this trade in the country, yet in recent years there had been some other factors which also contributed to the rise in food prices. Sir, in course of a debate last year in this House I enumerated these causes. The principle of these causes is the increased tempo of investment in this country. Coupled with it are the expansion of bank credit, the adverse balance of trade and the deficit financing. The steady increase of purchasing power of a section of the population also added to it. When the price of food-grains went very high, the Government of India decided on 24th January 1957 to set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Asok Mehta to go into this question. That Committee was called the Food-grain Enquiry Committee. That Committee after detailed investigation submitted a report to the Government of India on 4th November, 1957. Sir, the broad themes of that report are that the Government of India should follow a policy between complete control and complete decontrol. This Committee did not recommend that the Government should follow a policy of complete control

because they were quite alive to the difficulties of control which our people had experienced during the war time. So their view was that the Government should follow a middle path one between complete control and complete decontrol. The Government should procure sufficient stock of paddy and other food-grains, keep the same with them so that they might be in a position of strategic control over the market, being the biggest individual buyer and that the Government would, thus, be in a position to issue food-grains in a month when the price would go up so as to check the rising prices. This Committee further suggested that the Government of India should reorganise the Agriculture Department in such a manner that they would be in a position to set up food stabilization board under a separate branch of the Food and Agriculture Ministry. Their view was that this Board having lot of finance and powers in its hand should be able either by purchase or by giving price supports, whatever be the method, the details of which would be found out by them, to stabilise the price of food-grains. The Government of India accepted all the recommendations except this of the Mehta Committee and the same policy was followed throughout the year 1957. But it was found by experience that the recommendations were not sufficient to tide over the problem. Hence, Sir, the National Development Council in its meeting on 8th and 9th November, 1959 passed the following resolution: "The National Development Council considered the question of resources for implementing the plan in relation to wider question of affecting the economy as a whole. In view of the decision mentioned below, to socialise wholesale trade in food-grains, to formulate a new expanded programme of co-operatives, to ensure that both at Centre and in the State determined efforts were made for achieving economies in constructing costs and finally, decisions relating to the raising of a further resources to meet the gap at the Centre and in the States, the National Development Council agreed that the conclusion reached in May 1958 to work up to a level of outlay of Rs.4,500 crores over the period of the Second-Five Year Plan should be maintained.

The Council decided that the State should take over wholesale trade in food-grains and a committee including the Chief Ministers of certain States be set up to decide upon measures for the coming Kharif harvest. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Planning Commission should work out a scheme for State Trading in food-grains which would be sent to the State Government. The wholesale traders in every State should be licensed and should undertake operations on behalf of the State Government who would take from them such proportion of their purchases as might be considered necessary."

The resolution further says, "The National Development Council emphasised that the programme for setting up 1,900 primary marketing societies serving mandi areas should be completed during the present Plan. Marketing Societies should be linked with village co-operatives which should serve as agencies for collection and sale at assured prices at the village level. This would make it possible not only to get larger supplies of food-grains for meeting the needs of urban areas but also to expand greatly the credit facilities for rural areas."

Sir, in this resolution very broadly it was indicated that the State should take over the wholesale trade in food-grains.

Now, what is the State Trading in food-grains? As I have stated, this is a very complex issue particularly in view of the fact that the data at the disposal of the Government both at the Centre and the States on the question of marketable surplus, their distribution areawise and the profit margins at various stages are very inadequate. Therefore Sir, although a resolution was taken by the National Development Council put for want of data it was and is very difficult for any one here or at the Centre to jump at once to the conclusion as to what the shape of this State Trading would be or what would be its consequence. Sir, the broad aim of a price policy should be to ensure a fair deal to the producers and a fair deal to the consumers. I entirely agree with the House so far as that. But there may be such specific aims behind a price policy, such as influencing the pattern of production or raising of additional resources.

My friend, Shri Nilmoney Barthakur has very rightly hinted at that direction. Sir, what was the aim of the Second five Year Plan? The aim was that by this increased expenditure we should be able to increase our production and thus the standard of living of our people. But, Sir, if the prices of food-grains and other commodities continue to fluctuate, if they show a continuous rising trend, the Plan is bound to fail substantially. For example, if we decided that the size of the Plan in Assam would be of the order of, say ten crores, but if the prices go on increasing it may not be possible for us to do the Plan at ten crores, it may require 15 crores. Therefore, the Plan as a whole is likely to be jeopardised alone if the prices go up. At the same time if the intention of the Plan is to ensure a higher standard of living to the people and if the prices go on rising, then whatever little additional income we shall be able to give to our people will be consumed by the inflation itself with the result that the standard of living will not really go up. India is faced with such a situation today. Due to the increased tempo of investment, because of the deficit financing and increased circulation of money in the country, there is some amount of inflation today, as a result of which it has become very difficult for us to keep down our expenditure within the limits which we fixed for the Second Five Year Plan. The whole Plan is falling a difficult situation. Therefore, the National Development Council started thinking as to what should be the total outlay of the Second Five Year Plan and in course of their resolution on State Trading, they decided that the total outlay for the Second Five Year Plan should remain at Rs.4,500 crores. This decision at once enjoined a duty on Government as to how to ensure successful implementation of that Plan within that limit. Sir, apart from the broad principle of giving a fair deal to the producers and a fair deal to the consumers, there are such specific reasons which are behind this resolution, viz., influencing the pattern of production and raising additional resources for the Plan itself. The primary object of the National Development Council in passing that resolution was that they wanted to maintain price levels which were fair to the producers as well as to the consumers and to reduce to the minimum the spread between the prices received by the farmers and the prices paid by the consumers throughout the season and over an agricultural cycle.

In State Trading the first thing which is necessary is to fix a price at which cultivators will sell their produce. Now, Sir, there are great difficulties in fixing the price at which the cultivators should sell their produce.

First of all, there are the questions of quantity and the quality and the distance. Some of the farms are situated at a distance or in a corner of the country, while some farms are situated nearer to the market. So, if we want to fix a price it will have to be decided what price will ensure a fair deal to every one of them. Then, there is the question of quality. These are some of the factors which would naturally govern the question of fixation of prices. In normal course prices are fixed by normal forces operating in the market. What are the normal forces of the market? They are principally the forces of demand and supply. There are some buyers and sellers and there is higgling between the two and ultimately prices are fixed by the operation of the economic theory of supply and demand. But as soon as the State enters the field of trading, these forces of demand and supply cease to operate in the market, as Government or its agent become the monopolist purchaser. The prices then cannot be fixed by the forces of supply and demand, they must be fixed by considering other factors, such as the cost of production, facilities for bringing the produce to the market, etc. When Government is the only buyer, the other purchasers having been eliminated from the market, the question arises what price should be the fair price. Although in this State Rs.9 has been fixed as the minimum price for paddy, you have heard, Sir, how so many members complained that this price was not adequate. But, Sir, if you look to the prices given in other States, *viz.*, West Bengal and Bihar, they are less. Some of my friends will say that the cost of production is higher in Assam and so more should be given. I agree that something extra should be given for Assam, but, at the same time, you cannot give a price which is not competitive with the rest of India. You cannot fix a very high price for your food-grains which would result in rise of prices with regard to other commodities very much. Here comes a very salient point. Now, some of my friends said "you have fixed Rs.9 as the price of paddy per maund. but have you been able to ensure a similarly low price for other essential commodities? If I go to an Industrialist and ask him "why your prices are so high?" He will tell that it is because that the prices of foodgrains are high, the cost of labour is high. Now, if you ask a labourer "why you want so much money?" He will reply "because the price of foodgrains is high". If you go to an agriculturist and ask him why he wants high prices for his produce he will similarly reply that other articles are dear. This is just arguing in a circle. Therefore, in order to reduce the prices of commodities you must start somewhere. In order to bring stabilisation of prices in a country, the theory is to touch the biggest consumable article, that which is consumed by everybody. If we really want to have stabilisation of prices, if we really want to save the Second Five Year Plan by arresting the rise in prices. We must start somewhere and the Government of India and the State Governments have decided to touch the biggest consumable article, *viz.*, foodgrains. They want to stabilise the prices of foodgrains first. That is why we in this State have started by fixing the minimum price of paddy at Rs.9. Other States are also fixing price of foodgrains similarly. Once this is strictly enforced, the prices of other commodities are bound to come down. Now, if we simply argue without realising the economics behind it, we will not be helping the cause. I want to be clear on that point. It may be true to-day that Rs.9 is not a sufficiently remunerative price for paddy, considering the prices of many other things, in order to make a beginning to tackle this problem of rise in prices we must start somewhere. As I have said, we have to start with a commodity which is consumed by everybody the price of which touches every factor in the life of a country.

Sir, the next question which comes for consideration in the State trading is the question of the whole sale Price. As I have said the other day in the course of the debate on co-operation and the co operative farming that the whole society had been trained in capitalistic atmosphere. The whole trade and business is in the hands of private capitalists. We ourselves are born in a society where considerations of private and personal property is of supreme importance. We are used to think of earning for ourselves and leaving something for our family members, the society as a whole was of secondary importance. The pattern of production and the industries are such that the same are in the hands of a few. These wholesale traders have lots of agents directly and indirectly—they are not necessarily all business men. The saleable produces of the cultivators are collected from large number of scattered houses situated all over the agricultural areas. For example, in a village everybody has not got excess paddy. The surplus paddy of for sale are collected by someone, either one who wants to sell it in that village or who wants to sell it some wholesaler. The agent or agents of a Merchant or a businessman would go to a particular village, collect the excess paddy and send it to a bigger market. From there it would possibly again go to another still bigger market. In this way that paddy would pass through various stages controlled by merchants and agents before it reaches the consumers. Then again, there is another factor. Not only at the village level the paddy is collected, the same is graded simultaneously according to bad or good quality of paddy and also according to their various kinds and grades. All these are done as a matter of course, for example we have 'Joha' paddy and ordinary paddy of various types, grades and qualities. This grading business is used to be done by the wholesale traders and their agents. But now under this socialised system all these intermediaries at all stages will be eliminated. In other words, under this socialised system of state trading the traders' agent who used to collect paddy at the village level would not be there, the carrying of the paddy or rice to smaller or bigger markets would not be there, the man who would collect and then grade the paddy would not be there: the result would be that the produce of the cultivators would be there in their granaries unless all these arrangements are made because, as soon as complete state trading would be introduced there would be none to purchase them. Now, Sir, I am elaborating all these difficulties because I want the hon. Members of this House to appreciate the difficulties and the implications of the state trading. Now Sir, all these questions arose in Nowgong where the State cooperative became the monopoly buyer of paddy on behalf of the State. The Government fixed the maximum and minimum prices of paddy at which they would purchase. The difficulties of collecting and grading of paddy did arise there. It is not possible for the Government Officer to go to each village, collect paddy and sort out or grade paddy. He will naturally expect the producers to do all these. The producers being unaccustomed to do all these there would be some amount of dislocation and difficulties till the matters were properly adjusted. But if we decide to take to monopoly state trading we will have to put up with all these difficulties initially.

Now, another difficulty is the question of financing a colossal scheme like trading by the state on foodgrain. It has been estimated that there would be about 18 to 23 million tons of marketable surplus in India. Now Sir, to handle about 18 to 20 million tons of foodgrains by Government all over the country, an expenditure to the tune of Rs.700 to Rs.800 crores of rupees would be necessary. Are we in a position to find out that amount of

money? In Assam itself it is said that our marketable surplus would be 2.5 lakh tons the value of which comes to something like 2½ crores of rupees. The State of Assam must be in a position to find out that amount to finance the state trading scheme successfully. I asked my friend Shri Bhattacharyya whether he meant that the whole trade should be in the hand of the Government? He replied "yes". The answer implies that somehow or other this State Government must find out 2½ crores of rupees. Similarly taking the overall situation it was calculated that India would be required to deal 18 to 20 million tons of marketable surplus, the cost of which would come to Rs 700 or Rs.800 crores of rupees. That is a big investment particularly, if it is to be done in a year, although at a particular time the peak investment would be to the tune of 300 to 400 crores. Is India in a position to invest that? The total bank finances over food grains in India in the peak period in 1957 was only 42 crores of rupees. After tightening up the bank finances against food-grains, as a result of the Ashok Mehta Committee recommendations, the bank finances came down to Rs.26 crores only in 1958. My Friends will therefore realise how colossal is the problem. All the Banks in India in their peak period could advance only 42 crores of rupees for dealing in food-grains and that when the Bank finances were tightened up, it went down to Rs.26 crores. That means the private sources financed almost 90 per cent of the Capital. Thus out of the 7 or 8 hundred crores of rupees required for the purpose we may get say only Rs 42 crores, from the banks; the rest of the money should either come from the coffer of private merchants or the Government. To be clear, the private merchants were in a position to invest about Rs.650 to 700 crores in all. If to-day suddenly we stop that amount of money from being utilised in trade on food grains supposing, we being in a position to find out 700 or 800 crores of rupees, to finance this business then what would be the immediate implications. The implication is this that Rs.650 to 750 crores which were so long engaged in trade on food-grains will not remain idle in the hands of the merchants but utilised in some other way. Instead, this money will be replaced by the money from the Treasury or from Reserve Bank to the tune of Rs.700 crores. The result will be an addition in the inflationary tendencies by about 700 crores of rupees i.e., the amount of money in circulation in the market will be added to by another 600 to 700 crores of rupees of both the Central and the State Governments taken together. This means going back to the same problem. We want socialisation of the trade on foodgrains because there were raising prices and non-stabilisation for various causes including inflation as a result of too much money in circulation. Again by our own conduct, when on the one hand we socialise trade, on the other hand, we circulate another 700 crores of rupees in the market. The result is again immediate inflation which means we will not achieve the desired result, at least till the period by which this idle money of the traders are absorbed in productive employment which is necessarily a long process. This is another side of the problem which we must consider.

The next problem that arises is the problem of storage accommodation. Sir, as soon as Government is to purchase all the marketable surplus they must also be in a position to store all of them. Now Sir, there are 9 to 10 million tons of food-grains in India which are marketable surplus and if they are to be stored, that will give rise to a colossal problem to be dealt with by Central and state Government. During the peak period

of control during war time, the total storage capacity of all the State Governments including the Government of India was only to the tune of $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. I repeat Sir, that the maximum storage capacity during War period when we had the maximum control and when our procurement was the highest in the States, at least 3 or 4 times more than what it is to-day, was only $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. Since then, a large number of the Army godowns have been diverted to other purposes. Many have become houses and offices to-day. The present storage capacity of the Central and the State Governments is said to be only 1.3 million tons. Now if we want to have the State trading entirely by the State to-day, we should have a storage accommodation for 9 to 10 million tons of food-grains. How can we do that when we have now a total capacity of only 1.3 million tons of storage accommodation? How can we raise it to the capacity of 9 to 10 million tons within a day or within a month or even within a year. Therefore, when this question of storage comes in there is some amount of difficulty. The other day some hon. Friends complained in the floor of the House that when the people of Nowgong came with their paddy to the Government godowns, Government godowns could not keep pace intaking delivery of all the paddy brought speedily. I do not deny that charge because we have not got sufficient storage space. That's why I say that when we talk about socialisation of trade, we must also realise its implications and I am now placing before the House all such implications. Socialisation of trade means that we in India should be in a position to spend at least 30 crores of rupees for construction of godowns. Construction of godowns is naturally a slow process. There is scarcity of C.I., sheets and other consumer goods. It will take a bit of time. We cannot do a miracle to-day. In the circumstances, in view of these major difficulties on the way of a complete State Trading when the hon. Members talk of complete State Trading by the Government Officers—directly by the Government itself, I consider it as an impossibility to-day. State Trading must therefore be a gradual process. We have accepted the principle. Sir, the other day in the Lok Sabha, the Union Food and Agriculture Minister had given a broad outline of the scheme. It appears from newspaper reports that he had divided it into 2 parts: interim and ultimate. The interim measures are as follows: that the wholesale traders will be permitted to function as licensed dealers who will make purchases on their own behalf and shall pay at least the specified minimum prices to the farmers. Secondly, while Government will have the right to acquire the whole or a portion of their stock from the licensed dealers at controlled price the wholesale traders will be at liberty to sell the remaining portion of their stock to the retailers at a price not exceeding the controlled price. Thirdly, they will be required to maintain proper accounts of their purchase and sale transactions and of their stock and submit periodical returns to the Government. Fourthly, in the initial stage the State Trading will be confined to two major cereals, viz: rice and wheat. In the fifth place during the operation of the interim scheme, the Government will not immediately undertake the purchase of the entire marketed surplus for freeing the consumers in the urban and semi-urban areas. Sixthly, it will progressively acquire larger proportion of such surpluses to control the market more and more effectively until fullfledged State trading is established.

Now, if we consider the difficulties which I have said, then we will realise why this very modest scheme has been taken in the name of State Trading. Some of the Newspapers and some speakers have criticised these interim measures of the Government. They have said that this would not touch the problem at all. I agree that it will not be able to solve the

problem wholly. These have been accepted as interim measures. No interim measures can solve a problem wholly. Sir, all these are in practice, in Assam for some time past. I can tell that Assam is much ahead of what is being now decided as the steps, as interim measures to State trading by the Government of India. Hon. Members know that, even last year, we had some Acts by which we procured, through licensed dealers, paddy and rice we had the right to acquire whole or a portion of the stock of the traders at the controlled price giving them the liberty to sell their balance stock at the same price. They were bound to maintain proper accounts which were liable to be inspected. All these things were there. Only new thing introduced by us this year is the fixation of the minimum price—the minimum price which must be paid to the cultivators. The Government of India have announced it this week but we did so in December last. Therefore, Sir, it is evident that what procedure and practice had or has been followed by the Government of Assam is in line with the present interim scheme of the Government of India. In fact, what we did or are doing is the scheme now Government of India is thinking. Why they have taken such a modest scheme? They realise their difficulties about the godowns. They realise their difficulties about the finances. In fact, they want to utilise the private Capital and also their storage accommodation. As I have said, Sir, if this private capital was not utilised, it would have created inflation in the market; this surplus money would have created difficulties. Therefore, Government of India wanted to utilise this money as well and at the same time they want to control and improve the wholesale trade on food grains. They want to utilise the godowns of the wholesale traders. They want the maximum control over them and at the same time they want to ensure a reasonable price to be given to the farmers. The success of such interim measures largely depend on the co-operation of the Government of India and the State Governments would receive from the trading community. It is true we are not getting the requisite or the necessary help and co-operation from all the merchants in many places. Many merchants I do not say all, are not given us this co-operation. If they do not do so, we will possibly have to switch on to the ultimate scheme of State trading, which I will be narrate some time after much earlier than contemplated. It is true there has been some amount of non co-operation even at Nowgong by the traders. I can make it very clear that these difficulties cannot stop the country to go for complete State trading. It is for the business men to choose whether they would co-operate with the society, with the Government and avoid the complete socialisation of the trade by their conduct or they want to compel the people of India to go in for it much sooner than they want, because the people of India do not contemplate, the National Development Council and the Government of India do not contemplate State trading all at once in view of the various difficulties and hardships it entails. If the requisite co-operation is not forthcoming, the problem will have to be taken in hand and will have to be solved. Therefore the question will take us to the next stage. The next stage according to the Government of India, *viz.*, the ultimate pattern of State trading in foodgrains would provide for the collection of farm surpluses through Service Co-operatives at the village level and the channelling of the surpluses through Marketing Co-operatives and Apex Marketing Co-operatives and distribution through retailers and through consumers co-operatives. Here also we are much a head of the Government of India. Such a thing, at least partially, is in operation in two districts of Assam. What is being announced only three days ago by the Government of India had already been put into operation by the Assam Government since December

last at least in two districts, *viz.*, Nowgong and Mikir Hills districts. We had taken the policy of collecting the surplus produces of the farmers through the Co-operatives including the Marketing Co-operatives by appointing the Assam Apex Co-operative Marketing Society as the monopolist. We have done that, Sir, in this State. It is true this is the beginning. As I said on the floor of the House on the other day that Assam took up a novel experiment unique of its kind any where in India. What we are doing for months together had been announced the other day by Shri Jain on the floor of the Parliament as their ultimate scheme to come in future. Our scheme is in operation even today at least in two districts of our State. We had given monopoly to the Apex Marketing Society and the Apex Marketing Society is collecting the produces from different Co operative Marketing Societies. But there is one missing link in the chain. Sir, we have not got the Co operatives in every village. We cannot claim there are co-operatives in every village of Nowgong. If there would have been Co-operatives in every village in Nowgong much of the difficulties could have been eliminated. A cultivator in a remote village is ready with his paddy to sell to some one but to whom he would sell it? He must have a ready buyer. But since there are no businessmen or their agents, nobody is going to his house to purchase it. He must come to purchasing centre with his paddy which would cause hardships to him particularly if there is a refusal take for instance the cause of Hojai, an area covering five square miles of it. If there is a net-work of Co-operatives in each village no difficulty will arise, as each cultivator can sell his paddy to his village co-operative.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): How many Marketing Societies are there in Nowgong?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): At this moment I cannot give him the figure, Sir. If necessary, I can give it afterwards.

Now, as I said the difficulties are there. As soon as we decide that there should be complete State trading, we will have to restore this missing link, we should be able to set up service co-operatives in all villages in order to meet the problem. We have taken advantage of all the Co-operatives in Nowgong yet we cannot say that there are Co-operative Purchasing centre in every village.

According to the resolution of the Nagpur Session of the Congress and the decision of the National Development Council, if we want to have Socialistic pattern of society, we must have these service Co-operatives in every village. They will help us not only to increase production but at the same time they will collect the surplus agricultural goods in the village and market the same. We cannot delay that. It is an impossibility to have complete State trading unless and until we set up that missing link: *viz.*, every village must have a co-operative.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: How long will it take?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The Congress resolution said—three years. If during these three years we succeed in setting up Service Co-operatives in every village it will pave the way for complete State trading. The Nagpur resolution enjoined upon all of us—officials and non-officials to work in that line. That is also the decision of the National Development Council. Now the success of it will depend on

our genius to create village leadership. We cannot expect the Co-operative Department do this job alone. It requires village leadership, as I had said. Unfortunately in every village today somehow or other that leadership is not available at its best. Most of them reside—most of us reside in towns have very little connection with the villages. There must be men in the villages with strong character who can take the initiative to form such Co-operatives and manage them properly. These Co-operatives would deal with various types of goods including consumer goods and such other things. If we have not men with strong character and good leadership who will not misuse the power and the money, to manage them the Officers of the Co-operative Department alone will not be able to help the matter. The entire responsibility to form and manage the Co-operatives cannot be thrown upon the Government alone. Sir, nowhere in any country in the world Government do this job—Government guides Co-operatives. Organisation and management of co-operatives are essentially the jobs of the non-official or political parties. If you solely rely on the Officers of co-operative Department, then co-operative movement will be a movement of the Government—there cannot be independent Co-operatives. They would not be Co-operatives of the people taking up the welfare activities for members. If we can form Service Co-operatives in every village, we shall be able to purchase the marketable surpluses of every agricultural producers easily which will be handed over to the Marketing Co-operatives which in their turn will be able to give them to the Apex Marketing Co-operatives. From Apex Marketing Co-operatives the Government will take it for distribution wherever and whenever it is necessary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will have about 10 minutes more. Let us rise for lunch.

Adjournment

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

After Lunch

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): Sir, before the break of the House I was discussing about the importance of co-operatives in the State trading scheme. It has been rightly pointed out by some of the friends in course of the discussion that since co-operatives will have to play a very important role in the whole scheme of State trading, therefore, we must guard against undesirable elements coming into these co-operatives. I entirely agree with the suggestion. There is an increasingly heavier duty cast on us to see that undesirable elements do not enter into these co-operatives and capture State trading because if they can capture these co-operatives ultimately they will be able to capture the State trading itself.

Sir, some of the hon. Members brought to our notice about mal-practices prevalent in Co-operative Department. These are receiving our attention.

Shri Manik Chandra Das referred to certain allegations against the Dibrugarh Co-operative Marketing Society. We will look to the allegations made by him and see that there is no occasion for such allegations in future.

Now, I revert back to what I was telling. State trading we must do. We have already accepted the principle but what I was trying to impress on this House is this that at the present moment it is not possible to manage the State trading through Government officers in all its stages from the beginning to the end. It is also not practicable. As such the scheme has been divided into two parts. The interim measures, consists of what actually we are doing. We shall licence traders, they will procure paddy, give a part to Government and the rest they will be allowed to sell by themselves and if necessary, Government can requisition the whole or any part of stock. They will have to maintain accounts and their accounts will be checked regularly by Government officers. The reasons why this type of State trading through these interim measures which are by no means perfect is being done are because of the difficulties of godowns, because of the difficulties of finance and because of the difficulties of the absence of a net work of co-operatives all over the State and officers in sufficient numbers at all levels.

Now, one may say that if the Government has not got necessary organisation and if co-operatives have not been organised at all levels then why the Government do not appoint traders as its agents. If traders are appointed as agents they will work with the money provided by the Government and they will not be called upon to take any risks. They will simply carry out the business with the money provided for the purpose by Government. They being in the capacity of agents of the Government will not be required to be on any loss or risks. If there is any loss in the business the loss will have to be borne by Government. In view of these, this idea has been rejected. That is the present stage of State trading.

The pattern of ultimate State trading, as I have already said will be that the Government will have to take the whole trading in their hand either through a Corporation or through Apex Co-operatives. If we do not want to run it through co-operatives then we will have to do it through a corporation. Even to run it through corporation we will have to take the help of service co-operatives or multi-purpose co-operatives at the village level and of the Apex Marketing Co-operatives at the State level. How the co-operatives will work will depend on the experience and capacity of these co-operatives. The reports in the newspapers indicate that the Government of India is thinking to take the help of the Apex Co-operative Marketing Societies, in the ultimate pattern of State Trading. This is a new matter. This may be referred to the National Development Council for a decision. Probably it has already gone to the National Development Council for consideration which is in session now.

Now, the question remains what should be the wholesale price fixed by the Government. In Assam we have decided that a trader cannot pay less than Rs. 9 per maund of paddy to the cultivator. The maximum he can pay is upto Rs. 10.75 nP. Some of the hon. Members are complaining that as a result of this scheme some cultivators are cheated. One Member went to the length of saying that whereas growers in Kamrup are getting Rs. 10.25 nP. but in Nowgong they are getting Rs. 9.00 only. The actual position is this that in both the districts the cultivators must not get less than Rs. 9.00 but the maximum they can get is Rs. 10.25 nP. in Nowgong and Rs. 10.25 nP. and 10.50 nP. to the north of Brahmaputra and to the south of Brahmaputra respectively in the district of Kamrup. Actually Rs. 9 is the minimum prices and the maximum a trader can get is from Rs. 10.25 nP. to

Rs.10.75 nP. which varies from district to district. This margin has been kept to cover various incidental charges including profit and risks. This also includes the trade variations. Government cannot fix the exact price or one price for the whole State. It is not possible to do so. The price of paddy at places away from Nowgong are certainly different from what it is in Nowgong Town. This is due to demand and supply and also the costs of transport. The price of the Nowgong Town will undoubtedly be more than the price say at Howraghat. In fact prices vary from area to area. The Government can fix only the minimum and the maximum prices. The Government can not equalise the prices. No doubt Government has granted monopoly license in Nowgong District. But it does not necessarily mean that growers should get less than Rs.9. In the Kamrup district the maximum prices fixed are at Rs 10.25 nP. to Rs. 10.50 nP. There is no price which is less than Rs.9 and there is no price which is more than Rs.10.75 nP. As I have already said, we must maintain this position, otherwise it would result in complete dislocation of the normal economic faces. The price will not be static and it would not be possible to control the price of Howraghat sitting at Shillong. The price would normally vary from place to place according to demand and supply. The Government has therefore fixed the prices between the two poles—minimum and maximum. The maximum price allowed is slightly higher in the deficit areas, but in no case the price can exceed Rs. 10.75 in such areas. My friends are pointing out that unless the retail prices are fixed, the difficulties cannot be overcome. I agree with my friends to some extent. Again I agree with my friends that unless the retail prices are fixed by the Government it will not be possible to attain complete success in State Trading. Sir I would like to say that when we submitted our scheme we proposed to the Government of India to fix the minimum and the maximum retail prices as well. The Government of India did not agree to this. The Government of India pointed out the experience in Calcutta. In Calcutta when the retail prices of the food grains were fixed, the position became very different. It could not be enforced and black marketing was done in large scale. The West Bengal Government had to bring rice and aita from outside to tide over the situation. Even then people suffered tremendously. Sir, we shall have to proceed to carry out our policy stage by stage. We should proceed to fix the retail prices only after gaining sufficient strength and experience in State Trading. My friend Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya possibly realised the difficulties when he said that he would appreciate if Government could attain success within 3 years. Shri Patwary also said that we should proceed to fix the retail prices immediately. But Sir, it would not be possible to fix the prices as desired by Sri Patwary. As I have already said we will have to proceed stage by stage.

Sir, I am taking drastic steps for the complete elimination of the unscrupulous traders. I have given warning to the wholesale dealers not to violate the instructions of the Government. Those who would not follow the instructions of the Government their licences would be cancelled. I have taken this very bold step in the district of Cachar the district from which I will have to return to this House on the strength of the votes given by the people of this district. The license of all the dealers were suspended and the Government took up the work of procurement in their own hand. There is no suitable Apex Co-operative Society in the district of Cachar to take up the work. Hence the procurement is being done at the Government level. It is the Government Officer who are directly procuring paddy with

the Government money in Cachar. The Government of Assam will not hesitate to use similar powers in the district of Nowgong or in any other district if necessary. Sir, my Friend, Shri Hiralal Patwary said that in the order there was no provision as to whom the application should be made for licences. In this connection I would like to refer to Section 4 of the Act which reads "Application for licences : Every application for license under this order shall be made in Form No.1 to the Deputy Commissioner having jurisdiction." Here again I am to point out what the words "Deputy Commissioner", includes "Additional Deputy Commissioner and "District Magistrate" includes the Additional District Magistrate, the Subdivisional Officer and the Subdivisional Magistrate within their respective jurisdiction." This is under Section 2(a) of the order.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is said that application for licenses should be made to the Deputy Commissioner ; but who is the licencing authority?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): The Deputy Commissioner is the licencing authority. Sir, I shall not take any more valuable time of this House and I shall conclude my speech with few more observations. Sir, it has been complained that although in the last year the merchants took delivery of whatever paddy tendered to them they are not doing so this year and refusing paddy with high admixture of foreign materials. It appears, as regards refractions the position is the same in both the years and there has been no change. Only during this year, deductions have been statutorily fixed for moisture contents to the extent of $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent 5 per cent, and 3 per cent respectively during the months of December, January and February respectively. I had explained this matter. The traders used to pay less price for bad paddy and then grade it themselves before sale because they had certain advantage in this regard. But now they can not pay less than the minimum prices. Hence they might have been insisting on paddy with less admixture. In spite of the clear provision in the law we are trying to adjust ourselves. Even in Nowgong, considering the difficulties of the people we allowed lot of latitude in this matter. This my Friend Shri Patwary was referring as that the Act said one thing and the Minister said another thing while he was at Nowgong. It is true that in a business proposition like this lot of relaxation, lot of concession and adjustments have got to be made and we are passing through that adjustment stage.

Shri Hareswar Goswami said that the millers and traders of Gauhati had organized a co-operative of their own in Kamrup. We do not know about this. It may be that these millers and traders who have got an association of theirs, have possibly bound themselves that they would not compete unnecessarily with one another and thus raise the prices. We have not the details with us, we do not know whether any effort has been made by these people to form a co-operative of their own. I would make it absolutely clear before the House that co-operative stands for social justice. As such co-operative even if formed, by such intervals cannot be encouraged. Recently in Jorhat some business interests joined together and formed a cartel and called it a co-operative in order to get monopoly procurement of paddy. Deputy Commissioner of Jorhat wanted the local co-operative officer to register it. But as soon as it came to our notice we did not allow that. That was not allowed because that is not the principle for which the co-operative movement stands for. The intention of the co-operative movement is to secure social justice,

Then my Friends wanted to know the procurement position. The total procurement of paddy till the end of March 1959 is 14,35,167 maunds. Compared with last year it was more than double. This is not a mean achievement. I have reason to believe that we will be able to reach at least near about the target. It may not be possible for us to reach completely the target in a new experiment like this which started in Nowgong virtually without a network of village collection centres. We encountered lot of difficulty in the beginning and we had to build up the organisation day by day. My Friend, Shri Mohi Kanta Das wanted to know from me the number of marketing societies in Nowgong. The number of marketing societies in Nowgong are 6, as far as I remember, but we are not confining ourselves alone to the marketing societies. As I have said we are taking help of the Co-operative Credit Societies and other types of co-operatives. In order to facilitate procurement, 14 Assembling Centres and 115 village collection centres covering all the 53 mouzas of the entire district of Nowgong have been opened, and they are operating. Since this report came some days back, this number might have increased further by this day.

Now, Sir, in this connection I would only like to bring one thing to the notice of the hon. Members. They know that the business in this country is very much linked up with the question of credit. The merchants give advances to the people and at the end of the year the cultivators repay the advances either through goods or by cash. For example, in Majuli you will find that the merchants sell goods to the ordinary cultivators all through the year without taking any money on credit. The merchants give the advance in kind so that at the end of the year the total agricultural produce of the cultivator might be given to him in lieu of the same at a low price. In other areas also the merchants go on giving advances like this whenever the people are in difficulty. So if we can link up the Co-operative Credit with the marketing and processing I do not think there will be any difficulty in making this experiment a success. We are issuing nearly 150 lakhs as credit to the cultivators through our credit co-operatives. Now if this can be linked up with the State Trading; namely if this money can be given as advance well ahead of the cultivation season to the cultivators in order to enable them to increase their cultivation and thereby increase the production and instead of taking back that money, if we take the produce from them that will be a very great achievement for us. That way the credit movement can be linked with marketing and State traders. This is a problem which needs a greater amount of thought and a good amount of organization. I am quite alive to the short comings of the Co-operative Department. I do not say that the present Co-operative Department is quite able to take such a burden of setting up co-operatives in every village within 3 years. Therefore I would only draw the attention of the country through this House to the necessity of all out co-operation from every body including traders, social and non-official workers in this gigantic effort. Unless and until non-officials come forward we cannot expect to achieve full success in our effort. I would therefore request for that co-operation from every section of the House. I can tell the hon. Members that it is not the intention of the Government to make the Co-operative Movement purely a Government concern. This is a movement of the people for the people and by the people. The Government want it to be as such. There will not be too much interference from the Government in this matter.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): I would like the Hon'ble Minister to make this clear. Section 4 says that applications will be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner and Section 2 says that the designation of Deputy Commissioner includes the Subdivisional Officer, Magistrates, etc., but there is no mention of the licensing authority. So this is not clear to me. My point is there should a licensing authority for the purpose of issuing the licenses.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): As I have said the Deputy Commissioner includes Subdivisional Officer, also Deputy Commissioner should receive the petitions and issue the licenses. Formerly Government used to issue these licences. But in my time we have decentralised the powers to the Deputy Commissioners to issue licenses. That is not creating any difficulties, the law is there.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: In the Act Government has not delegated the power to the Deputy Commissioner. So there is no licensing authority. Government has not empowered any body to issue the licenses.

Resolution regarding exemption of Baluchar Tax realised from the passengers using the Ferry at Guahati and North Gauhati Ferry Ghat with immediate effect

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do exempt the Baluchar Tax realised from the passengers using the Ferry at Gauhati and North Gauhati Ferry Ghat with immediate effect.

Hon. Members are surely aware that whenever they have crossed the Brahmaputra by the Ferry at Gauhati and North Gauhati Ghat the passengers are made to pay for the luggage carried by each of them at the rate of one anna or two annas for each luggage. This is done on both sides of the river. On Gauhati side it is realised by the lessee of the Gauhati Municipality and on the other bank by the lessee of the North Gauhati Town Committee. This tax is absolutely illegal, the Baluchar tax is illegal under present circumstances. I shall come to the question of tax on passengers, which is also very illegal and outrageous. But even this Baluchar tax itself is illegal as I have stated before. Under Section 140 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923 Sir, first of all, there must be a declaration that for such and such place is vested in the Municipality concerned; secondly, there must be a declaration that the particular place has been converted to be a Municipal market; and that declaration must be a public declaration. Thirdly, Sir, even though a particular area is under the Municipal Board or under the Town Committee, these prerequisites are essential for levying the tax. Tax can again be realised only when the articles are exposed in that place for sale. But Baluchar tax is realised on articles which are not exposed for sale. These articles are only carried by the road. But this illegal practice has been going on. Further under Section 143 of the Assam Municipal Act of 1956, it has been clearly stated that no tax can be levied on even a municipal market without a prior public declaration. Under Section 148 of the Act such a declaration is essential. But no such declaration was ever made either by the Gauhati Municipality or by the North Gauhati Town Committee to realise any

tax from persons coming over the Baluchar. Now the Baluchar on both sides of the Brahmaputra are vested respectively with the Gauhati Municipality and the North Gauhati Town Committee by the Act itself, but that does not entitle them to realise tax from any person. Here my point is very specific. Whenever a person use the ferry and come to Gauhati or go to North Gauhati and whenever he carries some article with him, then this person—I do not know whether he is an employee of the Gauhati Municipal Board or of the North Gauhati Town Committee—he collects tax from the passenger whenever he carries some articles with him. Sir, the tax may be very little, one anna or six pies per bundle, that is different matter. But he realises tax from poor persons. Sir, one day one person carried with him a bundle of eight or ten slates for use his own children and he told the tax collector so, he had not brought the slates for sale but for the use of his children, but inspite of that tax was collected from him. Now, Sir, the ferry over the Brahmaputra in between North Gauhati and Gauhati is maintained by the Public Works Department. The approach roads on both the sides of the Brahmaputra to the Ferry Ghats are also Public Works Department roads and maintained by P. W. D. Now on the Public Works Department roads no tax can be levied by any person whenever a person comes by the Public Works Department road. So my point is that the Government should make necessary direction or the Municipality or the Town Committee concerned should make such a declaration and imposition of the tax should be stopped for the benefit of the persons using the ferry on the face of the fact that such tax is illegal.

I also request the Government to put up sign boards on both sides of the Brahmaputra stating that realisation of such tax is illegal and that the public should never be put to any harassment.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The resolution moved:

“That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do exempt the Baluchar Tax realised from the passengers using the Ferry at Gauhati and North Gauhati Ferry Ghat with immediate effect”.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): I support the motion moved by my Friend Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to support the resolution moved by my friend Shri Goswami. I fail to understand why this tax is still allowed to go on.—the person who collects tax. I do not know, whether he is the legal lessee or a third person, because he does not carry with him any identification card or anything like that. But somebody in the name of some authority is made entitled to collect tax. I have had occasions to see many passengers being inhumanly harassed. I myself was harassed by some persons on one occasion. Whether these persons were duly authorised persons to collect tax or not I do not know. I do not understand when on both sides of the river there are Public Works Department roads, what is the necessity or the legal force behind subjecting people to payment of taxation to a third person under the name of a so called lease. It is really surprising and painful to see when poor men being inhumanly harassed and his luggages or ‘toplas’ being forcibly taken away from him for the fault

of being unable to pay such tax. So the resolution moved by my friend Goswami is really a good one and is in the interest of the poor passengers. I support it and request Government to exempt the passengers immediately from paying this tax.

Further Sir, I demand that the Baluchars on both sides of the Brahmaputra either near the Sukeswar Ghat or near the North Gauhati Ghat should be kept free from the invasion of those people who generally use these Baluchars as places for satisfying the calls of nature. I brought this matter to the notice of the Government in one of the last Sessions of the Assembly. Then I pointed out that Government should take steps to check the practice of those people who use these Baluchars as places for passing night soils. This not only pollutes the atmosphere of the surrounding areas by the obnoxious smell but sometimes when people pass through these places with their mothers, sisters and presents very dismal sight., I therefore call upon the Government that this state of affairs should not be allowed to continue and I suggest that both sides of the Brahmaputra on these sites should be kept clean and much kind of nuisance should not be allowed.

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্রীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙবীয়াই যিটো, বালিচৰ টেক্সৰ অবসান হব লাগে বুলি প্ৰস্তাব আজিৰ সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে মই তাক সমৰ্থন কৰো। কিয়নো এই ঘাটত সকলো কালৰ পৰা মানুহ আহি প্ৰতিদিনে ৩/৪ হাজাৰতকৈও অধিক জমা হয় পাব হবলৈ। তাৰ ভিতৰত কিছুমান কম দৰ্শহা পোৱা চৰ্কাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীও আছে আৰু তেওঁলোক নিজৰ কাৰণে ঘৰৰ পৰা একমোণ বা আধামোণ চাউল লগত লৈ আহে। এই বিলাকৰ ওপৰত টেক্স দিব লগা হয়। তাৰ পিচত কামাখ্যাখামটল বালিবিধানৰ কাৰণে বহুতে পঠা, ছাগল আনে, হাঁহ আনে এই বিলাকতো বালিচৰ টেক্স দিব লগা হোৱাত ধৰ্মৰ কালৰ পৰাও তেওঁলোকক অস্থবিধাত পেলোৱা হয়। আৰু ই অন্যান্য কথা। তাৰ পিচত নদীৰ সিপাৰৰ পাঠশালা স্কুলবিলাকৰ কাৰণে স্কুলবৰ্ডে দিয়া বেঞ্চ, চৰ্ফী মেজ টিনপাট আদি পাব কৰিবলৈ আনোতে টেক্স দিব লগা হয়। তাৰোপৰি স্কুলবিলাকৰ লৰাছোৱালীৰ কাৰণে সিপাৰলৈ নিয়া কিতাপ বহিৰ ওপৰতো এই টেক্স ধৰা হয়। মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে এই বাটেদি অহা যোৱা কৰোতে নিশ্চয় এই বিলাক দেখা পাইছে বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস। এনেকুৱা টেক্স আদায় যাতে ভবিষ্যতে হব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে টাউন কমিটি (উত্তৰ গুৱাহাটীৰ) আৰু মিউনিসিপালিটিলৈ (গুৱাহাটীৰ) অতি সোনকালে চৰকাৰে নিৰ্দেশ দিব বুলি আশা কৰি শ্রীযুত গোস্বামী দেৱৰ প্ৰস্তাবটো সমৰ্থন কৰিলো।

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজকেৰ সদনে শ্রীযুত গোস্বামী মহাশয় যে প্ৰস্তাব পেশ কৰছেন তা আমি সমৰ্থন কৰছি। এই যে বালুচৰ টেক্সটা এখন আদায় হচেছ সেটা কোন আইন মতে মিউনিসিপ্যালিটি আদায় কৰছে তাহা আমি সরকারের নিকট থেকে জানতে চাই। এমন টেক্সের নাম আমরা কোন দিন শুনিনি। বেআইনি ভাবে এই আজগুবি টেক্স আদায় কৰোতে আমাৰ একটা গল্প মনে পড়েছে এক ৰাজ্যৰ একজন অত্যন্ত খুব দুৰ্নীতি প্ৰয়াণ কৰ্মচাৰী ছিল। ৰাজা তাহাকে তাহাৰ চৰম দুৰ্নীতি জন্য বৰখাস্ত কৰলেন। এখন সেই কৰ্মচাৰী ৰাজ্যৰ কাছে নিয়ে ক্ষমা চাইল এবং অনুরোধ কৰলো যেন তাহাকে যে কোন চাকুৰীতে রাখেন যেখানে যে কোন দুৰ্নীতি কৰতে পাববে না এবং যে কোন বেতনও নিবে না। তখন ৰাজা বিৰক্ত হয়ে বললে আচ্ছা তুমি নদীৰ কিনাৰে নিয়ে চেউ গুণ। সে তার কাজ আরম্ভ কৰল নদীৰ মধ্যে যতগুলি

ব্যবসায়ীদের নৌকা যাতায়াত করছিল সেগুলি আটক করে অনেক টাকা করল। পরে যখন এই কথা রাজার কাছে নালিশ হল তখন সে জবাব দিল যে রাজার হুকুম মত টেট গণিতে তার অস্থবিধা হয়েছিল তাই নৌকা আটক করতে সে বাধ্য হয়েছে। এখনও দেখছি দিনে দুপূরে ডাকাতি চলছে টেট গুণা কারবার চলছে। আমি নিজে ১০।১২ বৎসর মিউনিসিপ্যালিটিতে কাজ করছি এবং আমার অভিজ্ঞতা থেকে আমি বলছি এমন tax এর নাম আমি কখনও শুনি নাই। এটা যদি octroi duty, তাহলে তাহা কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের subject সুতরাং ইহা octroi duty হতে পারে না। তারপর এটা যদি Terminal tax হয় তাহলে মিউনিসিপ্যালিটি উহা চালু করতে সরকারের approval নিতে হবে। সরকার এইভাবে কোন approval দিয়েছেন কি? সরকার বলছেন তাহারা উহার কিছু জানেন না। সুতরাং আমি জানতে চাই এটা কি রকম টেক্স এবং কোন আইন বলে উহা এতদিন থেকে চলে আসছে। এটা যদি জিনিষ পত্রের shortage এর জন্য tax হয় তাহা ইহলে Municipality ৰ থাকে জায়গা থাকলে আদায় করতে পারে। কিন্তু যাত্রীদের নিকট থেকে এটা কেমন করে আদায় করা হয়। সরকার এইবার পরিস্কার ভাবে আমাদের দয়া করে জানাবেন। এই বলেই শ্রীযুত গোস্বামী মহাশয়ের প্রস্তাবটা সমর্থন করি।

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (Roads and Building)]: জয়জয়তে মই শ্রীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙরীয়াৰ এই প্রস্তাব অন্য কাৰণে ধন্যবাদ জনাও। এই বালিচৰ টেক্স আদায় কৰি নৰ্থ গুৱাহাটীৰ টাউন কমিটি আৰু গুৱাহাটী মিউনিসিপেলিটিয়ে অন্যায় কাম কৰিছে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত শ্ৰীযুত বৰ্ণেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই তেখেতৰ ১২ বছৰীয়া অভিজ্ঞতাত নেদেখা এই কৰৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে আনহাতে গুৱাহাটীৰ মিউনিসিপেলিটি অথবা নৰ্থ গুৱাহাটীৰ টাউনকমিটিয়েও তেওলোকৰ অভিজ্ঞতা থকা স্বত্বেত এনে কৰিছে। ১৯৫৬ চনৰ আইনৰ ১৪৭ ধাৰা অনুযায়ী মিউনিসিপেলিটিয়ে নিজৰ মাটিত বা মাটি ভাৰা কৰি এনে হাট কৰিব পাৰে যদিও তাৰ কাৰণে গেজেট নটীফিকেচন লাগিব বাইজৰ। তেনে ঠাইত হাট কৰিবলৈ আপত্তি আছেনে নাই বিচাৰিব লাগে আৰু সেই ঠাইত বস্ত্ৰ পোহাৰ পাতি থব লাগিব তেতিয়াহে Municipality এ হাট বহুৱাব পাৰিব। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত গুৱাহাটী মিউনিসিপেলিটিয়ে অথবা নৰ্থ গুৱাহাটীৰ টাউন কমিটিয়ে কোনো নটীফিকেচন নিদি আৰু বাইজৰ সমৰ্থন নোলোৱাকৈয়ে এই কাম কৰিছে। কাজেই এই টেক্স আদায় কৰাটো বেয়াইনী হৈছে। মই এই কথাই সদনক জনাব খোজো যে এই প্ৰস্তাব আগতে অনাহলে ই আৰু আগতে উঠি গল হেতেন। শ্ৰীযুত ডেকা ডাঙৰীয়াৰে তাকেই কওয়ে এই কথাটো আৰু আগতে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰা হলে এনে হবলৈ নাপালেহেতেন।

অৱশ্যে পুৰণা আইনত Municipality বা Town Committee এ এনে কৰিব পাৰিছিল কিন্তু নতুন আইন বলবৎ হোৱাত তেনে কাম আগত উল্লেখ কৰা দৰে হব নোৱাৰে। বৰ্তমান তেনে কাম বিধি বিৰহিত।

সদস্য সকলে এনে কাম হৈছে বুলি গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দৃষ্টি গোছৰ কৰা হলে আগতে এই কাম প্ৰতিৰোধৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰা হলাহেতেন।

চৰকাৰে এতিয়া এই বিষয়ে ডেপুটি কমিচ্যনাৰলৈ লিখিছে যে দুই জন চেম্বাৰমেনক একেলগে মাতি আনি এই কথাটো মীমাংসা কৰি উঠায় দিব। তেতিয়াও যদি নহয় তেনেহলে চৰকাৰে তাৰ যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব। যোৰ বক্তব্য শুনি বোধকৰে। মাননীয় সদস্যই প্ৰস্তাৱটো উঠাই লব।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): মাননীয় উপ-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে কৈছে যে আপোয়ে নোকোৱা কাৰণে step নললে। এতিয়া এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো পোৱাৰ পৰা আজিলৈকে কি step লৈছে?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. and D.)]: সেইটো কোৱা হৈছেই যে দুইজন চেয়াৰমেন নাতি আনি কথাটো আলোচনা কৰি উঠায় দিব।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): এজন চেয়াৰমেনে যদি financial কথাত বেআইনী কৰে তেওঁৰ ক্ষমতা suppressed কৰাৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ক্ষমতা নাই।

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: ইয়াৰ বিধি ব্যৱস্থা সকলো Municipal তে আছে।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: তেনেহলে তেখেতক অনুৰোধ কৰাৰ কোনো অৰ্থ নাই।

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: পূৰ্বনি আইনত নথকাৰ বাবেহে এনে হৈছিল। এতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ ক্ষমতা হোৱা কাৰণে এই কথাটো হাতত লোৱা হৈছে।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: মাননীয় উপ-মন্ত্রীয়ে দায়িত্ব লোৱাৰ লগে-লগে বোধকৰা নতুন আইন চলিছে।

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: নতুন পুৰনিৰ কথা নহয়। ইয়াৰ বাবে গোটেই সদন দায়ী। এইটো দৃষ্টিগোচৰ কৰা হৈছে যেতিয়া সমাধানও কৰা হব।

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): ইয়াত দুটা কথা আছে এটা হৈছে বালু চৰ টেক্স। এই টেক্স বে আইনী। এই টেক্স বন্ধ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে অৱশ্যে টাউন কমিটিৰ আৰু মিউনিসিপেলিটিৰ লগত লিখা লিখি কৰিছে বুলি কৈছে। দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে যে বালু চৰৰ মাজেদি যিটো চৰকাৰী বাস্তা গৈছে সেইটোতো বে আইনী ভাবে টেক্স লৈ আছে। এই টেক্স তৎক্ষণাত বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে আৰু যাতে সবল হোজা লোকসকলৰ পৰা জোৰ জুলুম কৰি টেক্স লব নোৱাৰে তাৰ বাবে সেই চৰকাৰী বাস্তাৰ ওপৰতে এখন বিজ্ঞপ্তি দিব লাগে যে এই বে আইনী টেক্স কোনোৱে যেন নিদিয়ো। এই চাইনবোৰ্ড দিয়া সম্পৰ্কে চৰকাৰে কি বিবেচনা কৰে মই জানিব খোজো।

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI: মই আগতে কৈছো যে তাত বিজ্ঞপ্তিৰো কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নহব।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): ৰাতিপুৱা কিছুমান মানুহে প্ৰাৰ্থনা কৰিবলৈ তাত সাৰি পাতি বহে। এই কথাৰ চৰকাৰে কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: যদি টাউন কমিটি বা মিউনিসিপেলিটিয়ে একো নকৰে তেন্তে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলে বিহীত ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হব।

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Deputy Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw this resolution ?

(Voices : Yes, Sir, Yes.)

(The Resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House).

Resolution re: Steps to be taken with a view to increase food production in the State'

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move that:

"In view of the fact that the people of this State have been facing acute scarcity in food every year since the great earth quake of 1950 and every year a large number of fair price shops have to be opened to meet the situation, this Assembly recommends to the Government that the following steps be taken with a view to increase food production, so that the State may be self-sufficient in food:—

(i) Every Subdivision may be supplied with adequate number of power pumps Irrigation channels and deep tube-wells may be constructed where necessary;

(ii) Adequate quantity of pesticides and sufficient number of spraying implements may be placed at the disposal of each Districts Agricultural Officer;

(iii) Booklets containing instructions in regard to the use of pesticides chemical manure compost and Japanese method of cultivation should be distributed free of charge among the peasants. Steps should be taken for actual demonstration of these methods. Publicity in this regard should also be given by slides, cinema shows and lantern lectures in the villages, and

(iv) Adequate quantity of fertilisers should be kept in reserve to each subdivision and made available to the Panchayats."

Sir, while commending my resolution for consideration of this House, I would like to make certain observations. Hon. members know that in order to increase food production in our State we have to help our agriculturists with certain facilities without which the cry for grow more food will be a cry in the wilderness. Sir every year since 1950 up till now we find that at the lean period, that is just about Bhadra and Aswin there is scarcity and famine condition in the villages and fair price shops have to be opened in hundreds in our State, though we find from the Statement of Government on the floor of the House that every year our food position is improving and the figures are shown as if we are not deficit in food production. But as a matter of fact, in the lean months of Bhadra and Aswin about 70 or 80 per cent of our population in the villages live on one meal a day and that position is still continuing.

*Speech not corrected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order. I have an announcement to make. There is a motion calling attention to a certain matter of which notice was given by the hon. Member Shri Hareswar Goswami fixed for 3p.m. today, but as the Minister-in-charge has written a letter that he is ill, so it has been arranged that the matter will be taken up tomorrow.

Yes, Mr. Das.

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Last year also, Sir, in our subdivision of course, I do not know of other districts because of the scanty supply of water in the month of Bhadra in which month water was very necessary for the sprouting of seedlings, there was no water either from the skies above in the shape of rains, or by artificial means but the figures we are getting from the local Agriculture office are otherwise. But Sir, I can say that the famine condition will appear earlier in Tezpur whatever the figures supplied by the Agriculture Department from Tezpur may be. Without sufficient supply of water, famine is bound to begin from the month of Bhadra. Sir, though we hear from the Minister about the bumper crops, I myself do not hear anything about this anywhere in Assam. Therefore, Sir, these fundamental things are necessary for growing of more food by our cultivators. But these things have not been supplied to the cultivators though our Assembly Members and Government also desired that our cultivators should grow more food. Our Nagpur Resolution also wants to make the country self-sufficient so that we may not have to purchase our food from abroad and save our foreign exchange for the development of heavy and major industries in the country. Sir, as a matter of fact, our cultivators are not idle people, they are working day and night but with the scanty facilities given to them like inadequate supply of water, etc., Sir, I thank the Bihari people for giving me an opportunity when I went there to see the tube-wells dug by the villagers themselves from which water was drawn by bullocks and taken to the fields for their cultivation. We are also pressing our people to do this as water is very essential for cultivation. Sir, water is really the most essential element for cultivation and I am not so much concerned with manure as I am concerned with water at the time when water is very necessary. But in this regard, we have failed miserably. Coming to our villages, here also no arrangement for sufficient supply of water has been made. If anybody goes there, they will see the condition of our villagers and they will submit a report that our cultivators are very labourious and hard-working and also that they did not get the essential facilities which are necessary for the production of more food. Why our cultivator produces about 30 or 35 mds. of paddy only—of course I am not speaking about the Japanese method of cultivation, it is because he does not get the necessary facilities to enable him to produce more. I am sure, our cultivators will be able to produce more if we give them the necessary facilities. We are speaking about the introduction of Boro cultivation and while travelling in the Gauhati-Shillong road, I have seen some spots under boro cultivation but I do not know what would be

*Speech not corrected.

the outcome of these spots. Has Government been able to supply the necessary number of power pumps in all the places where boro cultivation can be done? In our villages where boro cultivation has been introduced, the necessary power pumps were not available and as a result we had to abandon the idea. I learnt from the Agriculture Department that only 2 power pumps are with us but even then we want the people to grow boro paddy and in areas where paddy cultivation is feasible. This is a fact which can be argued even in the law court. Therefore, Sir, my suggestion is that every subdivision will have to be supplied with adequate number of power pumps. We want to improve our food production. Unless and until adequate number of power pumps are supplied in every subdivision, then our cultivators will go on in their crude and old way of cultivation and they will not be able to produce adequate quantity of food required. Therefore, Government should mean business in this regard, and see that every subdivision is supplied with adequate number of power pumps and arrange to provide irrigation channels also. Sir, in the meetings of the Development Board, I have been pressing for provision of irrigation channels also when irrigation matters were discussed. There were also many applications from persons for irrigation channels but our Agriculture officer could not sanction all due to want of funds. Sir, we have been talking about self-sufficiency and independency in food but at the same time our funds are limited to achieve that end. But if we are really serious in our aim and if we do not have the necessary funds, let Government make an emphatic case to the Government of India to give us the necessary funds so that we can purchase the necessary pumps and other implements of cultivation. People are by themselves ready to construct the irrigation channels out of the rivers the streams lying here and there. But they cannot by themselves complete and whole work because it also involves other official formalities. In that case Government help is necessary. But if the Department pleads their inability to help the people then what is the meaning of telling the people to grow more food. I do not see any meaning to ask the people to grow more food unless and until we can give them the adequate facilities like water, etc. If it happens that there is no possibility for construction of irrigation, why should we not make a provision for tube-wells. But so far as our subdivision is concerned, I have not seen such a provision. If that cannot be done also, our cultivators should be encouraged to dig small ordinary wells in the corner of their fields by giving them some money for the work. Even by that way they will be able to get some water for their fields, But there is no such provision at all. My friends may plead that tube-wells cost very heavily. That kind of pleading will continue and how long will that pleading continue? There is also on the other hand a tube-well in the Baghmara Seed Farm constructed for the last two or three years but upto now it remains unutilised. This Baghmara Seed Farm of the Government is in a miserable condition. If we really mean business in starting that Farm, Government should try to make it look attractive so that it will create a confidence in the minds of the people living in the neighbouring villages. But at the moment people do not have any attraction in the farm and they do not go there. This Farm should be made attractive. Most of our farms are really very distractive so much so that we feel shy to show them to the people. The other day, Mr. Bhagavati and myself went to the Baghmara Seed Farm and we saw its miserable condition. Therefore, in order to improve things, tube-wells should be constructed wherever necessary, adequate quantity of pesticides and sufficient number of spraying implements should also be provided. Our great enemy of our crops is the pest and due to this

aho crop has not been grown by the people in most areas. There may be figures in the record of the Department to the contrary, but I will challenge that record. It is because of the fact the people cannot protect their aho paddy from the pests and that pesticide is not sufficiently available that the people did not grow aho paddy. Moreover, people are also not acquainted with the method of using the pesticide and the scientific mixtures, because the people are not taught about it. As regards spraying, the people have been asked to use piskaris to sprinkle the pesticide. Why are the Government so miser? Why can you not have adequate number of power pump? We have only got some 'Piskaris' (*laughter*). I have seen in my district these Demonstrators have got only some 'Piskaris'. So unless we adopt precautionary measures, what is the use of this fun. How can you protect the crop of the cultivators and if you cannot protect the crop of the cultivators what is the use of asking the people to take go in more production. If their crop is destroyed by crop where will be the incentive to grow more food. On the last occasion we from the side of the Congress had to take part in the campaign against pest which was destroying the crop in our district. We had no other effective appliances. We had to take to beating the drums and to lighting bonfires to drive away the pests. We found, Sir, people were very much afraid to use gammaxine because most of them feared that the grass, which is mixed with gammaxine, are eaten by the bullocks the bullocks will die. There is no arrangement to educate the people, to use gamaxine—as to how they should be mixed with water and be sprayed. So it is the duty of the Agriculture Department to educate the people, otherwise let the Department vanish. Still there will be cultivation in the country. The other day my friend Shri Mohananda Bora said that instead of this huge amount being spent for the Agriculture Department, if the Government could give this money to the cultivators to buy a pair of bullocks, that would be more helpful to the cultivators. That is the impression of the people everywhere. We should not be miserly in such matters. We should give all the facilities to the cultivators. But I am constrained to say that there is only half-hearted attempt on the part of the Government. As regards fighting these pests we have equipped our Demonstrators with some 'Piskaries' only. Therefore my contention is that Government should be very serious about this matter. Why do we not use the Hose Pipes as are used by the Anti-Malarial Squads? I enquired of the District Agricultural Officer of Tezpur about this and he replied that the Department had not got any such Hose Pipes. With the help of these Hose pipes Department Officers can cover a big field and fight the pests effectively. Sir, this time also our people are growing Ahu and this time also if the Ahu paddy is destroyed by the pests, people will give up growing ahu paddy. So I request our young and able Agriculture Minister to realise the situation beforehand. He should not rely on the reports and statements of his Officers who always give incorrect information. He should himself visit the places and see things for himself. (*A voice—On foot?*) Yes, if necessary. Last time in our district about 50 per cent of the crop was destroyed. Now the Agriculture Department will come out with statistics. Will the statistics feed the hungry people? (*Interruptions*) I may be called a fool. But the facts remain. During the months of Bhadra and Aswin the Government must be very alert. They should take precautionary measure beforehand.

Now, with regard to the question of propaganda, we have got our Publicity Department but what are they doing? If we issue some pamphlets we cannot achieve the desired result. All our village cultivators living in the interior are not expected to read all these books and learn how to

fight the pests. (*Voice*.—do you suggest air dropping?) Yes, where or if necessary it may be tried. But not that sort of air dropping as was done last time. It is useless. People have been rather demoralised. (*Interruptions*).

There should be booklets also indicating the methods as to how the chemical manures are to be used. Chemical manure was purchased on the last occasion. Some money was taken from the cultivators but the manure was given when the season was almost over. Therefore people could not make use of the chemical manure and they kept it aside hidden so that the Agriculture Department could not find fault with them. How can they apply when it was supplied when there was rain fall and it will be washed away. Therefore, if you give manure you should give it at a time when it is of no use but at the time when it is necessary.

Sir, regarding Japanese method of cultivation you will see a sign board here and a sign board there with Japanese Method of Cultivation, but that sign board is the beginning and that is the ending. In Tezpur, if you enquire in any area having such a sign board, you will find that how people can take up Japanese method of cultivation while there is no education, no propaganda and no publicity for this purpose. If really the Minister wants that this Japanese method of cultivation should be taken up by our people, the Minister should not rely on the reports of the officers below about the glory of the cultivation, but he should personally go and see whether it is done or not. In order to make this method acceptable by our cultivators pamphlets for growing paddy in Japanese method should be allowed to be distributed free of charge, if our Government have no money for this purpose, they should beg from the Central or they should float a loan for the purpose. We have got propaganda vans of the Publicity Department but they are seen remaining busy with visits of Ministers and other dignitaries. About two months back, I wanted the van for the purpose of propagating grow-more-food campaign but as it was required for the Minister I was not given. Leave aside the Ministers and others for one year and divert these vans for the grow-more-food campaign. (*Voice Well said*). When you have got the van you should utilise it for the right purpose. The Publicity van is meant for showing lantern slides and lecturers but we do not know where these lantern pictures or lecturers take place. The propaganda for the purpose of growing our paddy and other crops in a scientific method, is the main item which should be in the publicity. Such publicity should be widespread and should go to every panchayat.

Regarding gamaxine, the District Agriculture Officer, Tezpur on the last occasion told me why he has not supplied gamaxine although there is heavy demand from the public. He said that the bill for the purchase of gamaxine was not paid as it was not sanctioned. How is this? If the District Agriculture Officer has to face such a situation, I do not understand how the Government can expect to make the grow-more food campaign a success? If the District Agricultural Officers are not given all the facilities and implements to work, how can you expect improvement in the method of agriculture and to increase the output. If the District Officers are neglected in this way, what about others, e. g., I am a president of an organisation, if I have to face such difficulties how can you expect that I can propagate grow-more-food. Therefore, I would request the Minister in-charge to look into these matters personally and ask his officers to go

down to the field instead of remaining in Shillong. There is a grivance that highest officials of the Department do not do Padajatra to the field to see work in the practical manner. They must do Padajatras, not only they but the Ministers should go on foot. Now a days, people say, Ministers are coming and Ministers are going but nothing is being done. Our experts, officers and the Minister should make personal contact with the mass, visit the field in the cultivation season and in the rainy season. Not only they but officers and the Minister should request the M.L.As. to visit the field along with them on foot. Mere forming of boards with Chairman president, secretary and members will not serve the purpose of grow-more food compaign, for the Field Management Committee. Unless you supply them with good seeds, fertilisers, technical advice, etc., the committee can never succeeded in its aim. When a petition made in Baisak is replied in Aswin, can you expect to make this scheme a success.

Sir, the real complain of our agriculturist is the failure of close contact by the officers, not only that they do not keep contact with-even M.L.As. who are the public representatives and who are responsible for various measures which are passed in this House for implementation. For the failure of the contact not only the various masures under 1st Five Year Plan but for these three years of the 2nd Five Year Plan have not been successful. History will repeat itself and we will find that after the 2nd Five Year Plan that we have not been able to implement 1/3 of the traget. Therefore, Sir, I request the Agriculture Minister Shri Choudhury to try to appreciate what I have suggested and implement them. What I have said is not out of emotion but I have stated the real facts which are happening in the rural areas of our State. I hope the Agriculture Minister with his abilities would be able to carry on the work amidst different hardles which I have enumerated before this August House.

With these few observation, Sir, I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DUPUTY SPEAKER : The Resolution moved is : "In view of the fact that the people of the State have been facing acute scarcity in food every year since the great earthquake in 1950 and every year a large number of fair price shops have to be opened to meet the situation, this Assembly recommends to the Government that the following steps be taken with a view to increase food production, so that the State may be self sufficient in food :—

- (i) every subdivision may be supplied with adquate number of power pumps. Irrigation channels and deep tube-wells may be constructed where necessary ;
- (ii) adquate quantity of pesticides and sufficient number of spraying imlements may be placed at the disposal of each District Agricultural officers ;
- (iii) booklets contaning instructions in regard to the use of pasticides chemical manure compost and Japanese method of cultivation should be distributed free of charge among the peasants. Steps should be taken for actual demonstration of these methods. Publicity in this regard should also be given by slides, cinema-shows and lantern lectures in the village ; and.
- (iv) adquate quantity of fertilisers should be kept reserve in each subdivision and made available to the Panchayts."

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my friend Shri Mohikanta Das. The scarcity of food has been felt through out the State for the last several years. Our State was not a deficit State as it is today in the matter of food. This deficit in food grains in our State is very much felt. If we do not take adequate steps to increase our food production I fear we might have to face more difficulties. Therefore, Sir, I welcome this Resolution which suggests to increase more food production in our State. It has been rightly emphasized that in every subdivision adequate number of power pumps should be made available so that the scarcity of water can be removed. He also pointed out the other necessities and different apparatus for spraying different medicines in the agricultural fields. Along with this I would like to suggest that the approach to the cultivators by the Agriculture Department should be practical. Now-a-days we find generally that the approach by different officers in giving agricultural demonstration to the cultivators is academic. The cultivators cannot appreciate their instructions in the real sense. As you know, Sir, the cultivators do not generally have proper education to follow those academic instruction. Therefore I like to suggest that Government should see ways and means so that the agricultural officers, I mean, the inspectors and demonstrators, should give some practical demonstrations to the cultivators who are lacking in academic qualifications. Sir, while we are propagating for increased food production among the cultivators we are not being able to create adequate incentive amongst their mind. The need to create incentive amongst the cultivator is essential. When we propagate the improved method of cultivation including the Japanese method of cultivation the cultivators cannot understand them properly. Therefore, I suggest that there should be proper demonstration of such improved methods of cultivation here and there amongst the real cultivators. Sometimes we find that when demonstrations are given here and there the actual cultivators are not to be found there. It is found that often the people getting such academic instructions have no practical idea. Therefore, my suggestion is that instructions should reach the real cultivators who would be able to appreciate the improved methods of cultivation. I also like to suggest that there should be booklets or some sort of publication materials in very simple language so that our cultivators can understand them easily. Of course all the cultivators are not educated at all, but some of them know how to read and write. So, those booklets should be published in such a way so that they can follow them. Therein instructions should be given in very simple languages how to use different types of fertilizers, different types of apparatus, and so on. Sometimes in such publication materials the methods of instructions are found to be different. Sometimes the pictures of the plough is found to some what different, and unusual. From such pictures nobody will be able to learn anything, and such pictures will create wrong impressions in the minds of the less educated people. Therefore I also request the Government that whenever any publications are made such publications should be made with proper pictures so that they are practical and are not misunderstood by the cultivators and do not give any wrong impression. If thereby any wrong impression is created then the respect for such publication generally diminishes.

Sir, I also like to suggest that when any chemical fertiliser is distributed amongst the cultivator there should be proper guidance to them for their use. Of course, it is not an easy job to give guidance by the departmental officers to all the cultivators using chemical fertiliser. But when chemical fertiliser is supplied to a village or a locality the people who had

had no previous experience of using this type of fertiliser, they should be given proper instruction as to how best the fertiliser, supplied to them can be utilised. If this follow-up is not made, I am afraid our cultivators unused as they are previously to this type of chemical fertiliser, may make wrong use of the same with the resultant loss of crops. If once they lose their confidence on the efficacy and utility of this chemical manure, it will be difficult to restore their confidence on it. We generally find such instances here and there where use of chemical fertiliser has produced adverse effect due to the people not being given prior instruction regarding its proper use. Therefore I request that proper provision for prior instruction regarding the use of chemical fertiliser should be made at least in such areas where it is introduced for the first time.

Sir, we also find that some of the cultivators do not respond favourably to this improved method of cultivation or to the instructions given to them. This is particularly so in respect of backward areas where the bulk of our cultivating people are ignorant. To such areas usually the officers of the Agriculture Department or the Demonstrators do not go but they usually go to such villages which are on the road side. You know, Sir, now-a-days some of the semi-urban areas have become unaccustomed to cultivation. Therefore I suggest that the Demonstrators should go to the villages and freely mix with the cultivators and that they should make the villagers conversant with the improved method of cultivation. Unless we can improve our food production, we will have to face scarcity. Cost of living is on the increase gradually and the import of food is also not becoming regular due to communication difficulties. In order to make our country self-sufficient in food, intensive cultivation with modern methods is becoming an imperative duty. In former days our people had a feeling that if a family is not self-sufficient in food production, that family was not looked upon by others with respect and regard. In the same way Sir, it is high time that that feeling should now be generated not in one family or two but throughout the whole country. The people throughout the whole country should be made to realise that if our country is not self-sufficient in food production, our country will fail to occupy place of honour in the country. We may have some industries in our country, but industrialisation alone will not make us self-sufficient unless we can be self-sufficient in food production. The most essential need of man is the food. Therefore I request Government to give first priority to increase of food production and devise ways and means as to how we can be self-sufficient.

With these few words Sir, I support the motion move by my friend.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the first part of the motion is concerned it is an admitted fact and I can say without any fear of construction that Assam which is an agricultural country has been facing every year food scarcity. It is rather strange that an agricultural country like Assam which is known as the land of gold has now to go on begging the Centre for food and the Centre also in the same way is going to beg from outside the country. So, Sir, I need not go further into first part of this motion. But one thing is certain that this year the whole of Assam is going to face famine specially a vast part of the State in the Upper Assam, although our Government seems to be very complacent this year when they say that have bumper crop. But I can say that that Upper Assam is going to face food scarcity this year. I do not know what steps our Government is taking to ameliorate the condition of the people this year and to relieve them for this impending famine. Towards the later part of the resolution

the mover of the resolution has suggested certain steps to be taken by Government. I quite agree with him that all these steps should be taken and I lay particular emphasis of the supply of power pumps which should be supplied to the people whenever they are wanted by the people particularly in the areas where corps have failed due to drought. It is known to all that last year there was hailstorm in Deoraja-Maidom area in Morabazan Muja, Sibsagar subdivision and as a result of this hailstorm corps in an extensive area was damaged. This year to crop is not satisfactory. Some people of the area met together and formed a small committee. The Chalaha Borro Committee with Sree Robin Gogoi as Secretary, was formed with with 36 families. They approached the Agricultural Department and also the power pump department. Accordingly two inspectors of both these departments visited the place and recommended certain plot for cultivation of 'Boro' paddy. They therefore instructed the local people to approach the Subdivisional Officer which they did. After that they received a letter Memo No. 709/13 dated the 20th August, 1958 from the Agriculture Department. Then again, Sir, our Chief Minister had been to Charing and so the people met the Chief Minister on the 28th of October, 1958 and narrated their demand to the Chief Minister who assured them that all help would be given to the people. But afterwards at the time of the Boro cultivation, the people approached the Agricultural officer and wanted to know as to what had happened their prayer. The office conveyed to them that the scheme was not accepted by the Government, because from the top such recommendations were not received in Subdivisional Officer's office. These people are facing impending famine. My Power Pumps Inspector saw that area, why these people were not looked upon by the Government and no help offered to them. In this respect I want to say one thing that the charge of these power pumps is too high. Government in advance take Rs. 100 and charge later on Rs. 1,200 to water an area of not more than 300 bighas. This charge has to be paid whether the crop becomes satisfactory or whether it fails. I think if any charge is to be taken that should be deducted from the crop raised. Say for example, the value of a certain percentage of crop may be deducted on account of the charge for these pumps.

Then, Sir, when our people face scarcity conditions, Government should be alert in giving them help. They should immediately depute officers to study their condition and offer necessary help immediately. Our Government is very callous. I hope from now on the Government will be more alert in respect. Besides this area, Sir, there are some other areas also which are facing scarcity conditions. Jokaichukh is facing impending danger. Last year the whole area on both sides of the rivulet Kharkhari, about 5 miles in length and 1 mile in breadth, was under water till September or October, and as a result lying barren. This area is also facing famine. I draw the attention of the Government to this area also.

MAULAVI ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDER (Hailakandi): Sir, I feel tempted to speak a few words in support of the resolution moved by Mr. Das because I find from the body of the resolution that Mr. Das's demands are very modest. The various items he has mentioned in the Resolution, *viz*, supply of power pumps, pesticides, booklets and fertilisers—these are being done by the Agriculture Department for a long time. In connection with my submission in the Food Debate I had occasion to say about the impediments in the way of our being self-sufficient in food production. I also clearly

said that if our cultivators were properly enthused and if they were given proper facilities and proper instructions, there was no reason why even at present our State should not be self-sufficient in food. I also submitted that there were certain difficulties which could not be overcome. For instance, we have got big and turbulent rivers. When these rivers are in spate it is beyond the means not only of our people but also the Government to control them. For that, of course, we must wait for some time more. When we will have sufficient means to control our rivers they will be to our benefit. These rivers must have been meant for our benefit but so long we have not been able to control them properly and utilise them for our purpose. Mr. Das has of course not referred to this aspect of the problem in his resolution. He wants power pumps and irrigation channels, on which I also laid emphasis the other day. We know this year in certain areas, especially in the Nowgong district, food production met with a rude check because of drought. People could not get water during the cultivating season and, therefore, could not grow their crops. I was told that there were power pumps here and there, but not in sufficient quantity to meet the situation. Mr. Das has demanded that power pumps should be supplied in sufficient number so that our people may have sufficient water for their cultivation. I have already said that these power pumps are being supplied by the Agriculture Department for some time past. But what Mr. Das wanted, and I also want, is that our efforts should not be half-hearted, they must be thorough. If there are sufficient number of power pumps our cultivators need not stop their cultivation when there is a drought. In other States like U. P. and Bihar, they also depend on artificial water-supply, but here in Assam we mainly depend on Nature. But we have seen that this dependence on Nature has not always served us well because we find when there is need for water; sometimes there is drought and when there is no need for water, the country is sometimes flooded. These are our difficulties. States like U. P. and Bihar are using power pumps, deep tubewells and wells and they water their fields with camels, bullocks and bullock carts. Here also we can find out the areas which are generally affected by drought and we can keep a sufficient number of power pumps there, so that when there is need we can supply sufficient quantity of water to our cultivators. If this is done, there will be no difficulty in cultivation. I suppose, Sir, if this was done in Nowgong last year, the situation would not have been so acute.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is 4.0 Clock. Is it the pleasure of the House to sit longer ?

(Voice, No, Sir).

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 7th April, 1959.

Shillong
The 16th January, 1961.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative
Assembly.