



Assam
Legislative Assembly
Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AFTER THE FIRST GENERAL
ELECTION UNDER THE SOVEREIGN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER SESSION

VOLUME II

No. 31

The 27th October, 1954



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1955

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
SHILLONG

Price 10 annas.

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, the 27th October, 1954.

P R E S E N T

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, three Parliamentary Secretaries and sixty-eight Members.

**Condolence on the death of Jonab Rafi Ahmed Kidwai,
the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture**

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I should like to bring to your notice as well as to the notice of the hon. Members of this House with deep sorrow the sad and sudden death that occurred in New Delhi of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture. In him we have lost a valiant fighter in the struggle for freedom and one of the ablest statesmen and administrators and politician of India. He was a perfect gentleman and he used to tackle all public problems very expeditiously. He used to cut away official routine works sometimes and immediately to attend to representations made to him with regard to any difficulties in any State, particularly in our State arising in connection with distribution of food and other essential commodities. He used to call all the Heads of the Departments as well as the Secretaries responsible for those and after discussion he immediately used to finalise the matters so that measures could immediately be taken to meet the difficulties of the States. Besides that, he was a man without any communal colour. He not only tried to do things without any communal outlook but his action created confidence in those persons who do not belong to that community. He was a man who did things without any communal bias and during the struggle for independence he had to face opposition from men of his own community to a great extent. He dedicated his whole life practically in the cause of the country's Independence and during the course of India's struggle he suffered most along with other fighters for freedom. Besides that, as a Union Minister for Communication, his achievements were great and he started night-mail service bringing mail to different places in shortest possible time. We are feeling his loss and express our grief and

sorrow. As soon as he assumed charge as Minister for Food and Agriculture he tried to tackle the food problem in such a way that he ultimately succeeded in removing the control and producing food more than sufficient for distribution in the country and he was trying to remove the control on other essential commodities like sugar and other such things. He died in harness. He was so keen on attending to public matters that he did not care for his own life and comfort. Immediately after his return from Kanpur he was going to address a public meeting where he felt exhausted in getting into the dais, but somehow he got into the dais and began to speak when he again felt tired. He was then told to make the speech sitting and while addressing the meeting he had to stop suddenly and then he had to be carried to his residence, but before he reached his residence he expired. In this way he died. We express sorrow and sympathy and share the grief of the members of his bereaved family.

With these words, Sir, I have brought to the notice of this House the death of this great statesman.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Members sitting on this side of the House I fully associate myself with the sentiment expressed by the Leader of the House on the sudden and untimely death of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai was a mystery man and his method of doing things and of approaching problems was also very uncommon. He succeeded where many Members of the Cabinet fumbled and failed. He succeeded in solving the most important and burning problem of the country namely, the food problem. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai was a commoner. He was not only a great statesman who kept aside all prejudices of communalism and provincialism but was a commoner who tried to understand the problems of the country with the eyes and feelings of common man. He was very often found in the queues of a post office or in a shop like an ordinary customer and in ordinary shop he was found talking to a shop-keeper and in this manner he tried to understand the problems of the country and succeeded in solving them to a great degree. Sir, we are really very sorry to hear about his death. In his death the country has lost a valiant fighter, a man who was very much wanted at this moment when different prejudices are operating in the country. We today have nothing to express except our deep sense of sorrow for our loss.

With these words, Sir, we pray that his soul may rest in peace.

Mr. SPEAKER: I associate fully with what has been said by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. It is sad to condole the death of a person who stood so high in the political horizon of our country under circumstances which was sudden and unexpected. Jonab Kidwai was one of our greatest statesmen who stood forth for the solidarity of the country and for advancement of a Nation. He championed the cause of the weak, oppressed and down-trodden. His administration of the Department of Communication was very efficient and when the food situation was very grave he was put in charge of the Department and he put it in an even keel and we are proud that the food situation has been solved. In him we lost a great hero and a soldier who fought for the liberty of our country from 1921 onward. A few years ago the mail-service in our side was not regular and as soon as the matter was brought to his notice he took prompt action and thenceforward we are getting our mail quicker than before by air. Then again, you will be surprised to hear, when I told him about one of our humble workers in the Post Office who suffered imprisonment along with me on political grounds and who was neglected by his authorities for years together—when I asked him whether he would like to see this man, he said “Yes, send him on” and at once he heard him for 1½ hours, and he was convinced with his case and ultimately promoted him duly. That sort of a man he was. I had the honour of working with him and had the occasion of meeting him personally. Therefore my sorrow is all the more greater.

With these few words, I would ask you, gentlemen, to stand in one minute's silence.

(All Members stood in their respective seats in silence for one minute).

Panel of Chairmen

Mr. SPEAKER: The following Members will form the Panel of Chairmen for the Autumn Session, 1954:—

1. Shri A. Alley,
2. Shri Ananda Chandra Bezbarua,
3. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty, and
4. Shri A. S Khongphai.

Announcement made by the Speaker regarding resignation of seat in the Assembly by a Member from Lungleh (Reserved for Scheduled tribes) Constituency

Mr. SPEAKER: Under proviso to Assembly Rule 113(1), I hereby inform the House that Pu R. Dengthuama, an elected Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly representing L. A. No.1 Lungleh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) Constituency, has resigned his seat in the said Assembly by writing addressed to the Speaker with effect from the 16th August, 1954 inclusive.

Announcement made by the Speaker regarding authentication of Amendments of certain Assembly Rules

Mr. SPEAKER: Under Assembly Rule 133, I hereby announce that I have signed a copy of the amendments made by the House on the 31st July, 1954 to the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules. A copy of the amendments has been placed on each Member's table. These amendments shall have validity with immediate effect.

Statement regarding course of Private Members' Business for the Autumn Session, 1954

Mr. SPEAKER: In pursuance of Rule 22 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby allot, in consultation with the Leader of the House, the following days for Private Members Business during the present Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly:—

First half of Monday, the 1st November 1954	} Bills, Motions and Re- solutions.
Tuesday, the 2nd November, 1954	
Saturday, the 6th November, 1954 after disposal of Government business, if any on that day.	

Statement regarding course of Government Business for the October-November Session, 1954

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I desire to make a statement about the course of Government business during this Session.

2. The Government business which is to be taken up today and to morrow is shown in the agenda which has been placed on each Member's table. I need not detail them again.

3. On the 29th October, it is proposed provisionally to lay on the table the message from the Governor under proviso to Article 241 of the Constitution in connection with the Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy Bill, 1953 recommending certain amendments by the President to that Bill, and to introduce the following new Bills and then to move the motion for their consideration:—

- (i) the Assam Contingency Fund (Augmentation of Corpus) Bill, 1954 ;
- (ii) the Assam Taxation (On Goods Carried by Roads or Inland Water-Ways) (Amendment) Bill, 1954 ;
- (iii) the Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris (Amendment) Bill, 1954 ;
- (iv) the Assam Deputy Speaker's Salary (Amendment) Bill, 1954 ;
- (v) the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment) Bill, 1954 ;
- (vi) the Assam Excise (Amendment) (Extension to Garo Hills, Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills Districts) Bills 1954 ;
- (vii) the Assam Opium (Amendment) (Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1954 ;
- (viii) the Assam Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1954 ;
- (ix) the Assam Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1954. This is only provisional. I think, this will not be ready in this Session.
- (x) The Assam Employment in Plantation (Continuity of Conditions) Bill, 1954. This is also provisional. This is not likely to be ready in this Session.

If the Motions for consideration of the above Bills are carried by the House on that day, we propose to have these Bills considered clause by clause and then passed on the 4th and 5th November.

4. On the 30th October and in the second half of 1st November we propose to take up—

(1) Discussions, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1954-55 ; and

(2) Voting on Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1954-55.

5. In addition to the Bills mentioned above, we propose to take up the following Government business on the 4th and 5th November :—

- (1) Presentation of the Finance Accounts for 1951-52 and Audit Report, 1952 (Provisional).
- (2) Presentation of the Appropriation Accounts for 1951-52 and Audit Report, 1952 (Provisional).
- (3) Resolutions for appropriation of Grants under the heads i) "50 Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)" (ii) "18-B and 68-B N.E.D. Works ; and (iii) "81 Capital Accounts of Civil Works outside the Revenue Accounts."
- (4) Discussion on the point or points and voting on amendments recommended by the President on the Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy Bill, 1953 (Provisional).

6. Any Government Business which remains unfinished will be taken up on the 6th November.

Committee on Petitions Relating to Bills

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 84 (1) of Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a Committee on Petitions relating to Bills for the current Session of the Assembly :—

1. Shri Ananda Chandra Bezbarua,
2. Shri Baliram Das,
3. Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa,
- and
4. Shri Radhika Ram Das.

Under the Rules, the Deputy Speaker will be the Chairman of the Committee.

House Committee

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 167 of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a House Committee for the current Session of the Assembly :—

1. Shri Girindranath Gogoi,
2. Shri Emerson Momin,
3. Shri Jadab Chandra Khakhlari,
4. Maulavi Faiznur Ali,
5. Shri Hareswar Goswami,
- and
6. Shri Mal Chandra Pegu.

Committee of Privileges

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 139 (1) of the Assembly Rules, I hereby nominate the following Members to constitute Committee of Privileges for the current Session :

1. The Leader of the House,
2. The Leader of the Opposition,
3. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua (Deputy Speaker),
4. Shri Dharanidhar Basumatari,
5. Shri Bijoy Chandra Bhagavati,
6. Shri Joybhadra Hagjer, and
7. Shri A. Alley.

Under the Rule, the Deputy Speaker will be the Chairman of the Committee.

Message from the Governor Regarding Assent to Bills

Mr. SPEAKER: Information has been received from the Secretary, Legislative Department, that under the provisions of Article 200 of the Constitution of India, the Governor has assented to the following Bills which were passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly in its meetings held in July, 1954 :—

1. The Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1954,
2. The Assam Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1954,
3. The Assam Opium Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1954,
4. The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1954,
5. The Assam Basic Education Bill, 1954,
6. The Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1954.

2. Intimation has also been received from the Secretary, Legislative Department, that the President of India has also assented under the provisions of Article 201 of the Constitution of India the following Bills which were passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly in its meetings held in July 1954 :—

1. The Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1954 ;
2. The Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Bill, 1953 ;
3. The Assam State Road Transport Bill, 1954.

Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1954-55

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1954-55. Hon. Members must have got a copy of the statement which has been laid on their table.

**Presentation of Notification under Section 296 of the
Assam Municipal Act, 1923**

Shri ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the following Notification under Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923.

Notification No. LML. 125/52/96, dated 5th July 1954.

Copies of Notification have been supplied to the hon. Members.

**Statement by Revenue Minister on the situation created
by the recent flood in Assam and various relief
measures taken by Government**

Mr. SPEAKER: Shri Motiram Bora to make a Statement on the situation created by the recent flood in the State of Assam and the various relief measures taken by Government and discussion thereon.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I raise a point? I believe Mr. Bora is going to make a written statement. We are all anxious to discuss the flood situation and to know the present situation as well as the relief measures taken by Government. With a view to enable the Members to examine the statement made by Government it would be better if copies of the statement are made available to us immediately after it is made. I think this is also the convention in the Parliament. I remember to have seen a report that copies of a statement which was made by the Union Planning Minister, Mr. Nanda, was placed on the tables of both Houses of Parliament as soon as it was made. I, therefore, think that if there is no difficulty on the part of the Government, it would be better if copies of Mr. Bora's statement are made available immediately after it is made. That would facilitate the debate. We shall also be able to read and examine it very carefully and see what measures Government have taken and what further remains to be done and we shall be able to give our suggestions to Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard with anxiety Mr. Umaruddin's statement requesting copies of Mr. Bora's statement being made available to the Members. I think the Parliamentary practice is to make a statement and discuss it straightaway, even in big international affairs. Of course, there might have been a departure in the case of Mr. Nanda's statement as the Planning Commission's Report covers the entire country. As regards floods, I think almost everybody knows the facts and the various measures taken by Government. I am sure a member like Mr. Umaruddin will be able to tackle the subject more

easily than other Friends. After all, the Government's statement will contain nothing new except what is the damage done by erosion, the extent of the damage done by floods, what loan is required, what relief has been given by Government, what medical aid and veterinary aid have been made available and so on and so forth. Beyond these the Minister may state what amount of agricultural loan and cattle loan is required and how much has been given by Government. I think these are the points which will be touched by the Minister and I think Mr. Umaruddin, as well as other Members, are quite capable of dealing with it straightaway.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me at the outset offer my sincere thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to make a statement about the flood situation in Assam and the various relief measures undertaken by Government to alleviate the suffering of the distressed people. The very fact that you have been pleased to provide for the discussion of this very important matter on the 1st day of the Session shows what importance is given to it by you and you have rightly reflected the feelings of the people of Assam in this respect and I am really very glad for it.

Sir, my Friend, the Deputy Minister of Revenue, had made a statement about the flood situation in the country during the last Session of the Assembly and this statement of mine will only be a complementary to it. His statement covers the early stage of the floods but he had not had the advantage of getting all the materials from different places. Other floods of a mere serious nature have followed during the succeeding period and the present statement will cover the account of damages and devastations caused by the succeeding floods as well, besides summing up the activities of the Government to cope with the problem during the entire period.

Sir, the immensity of the problem caused by the terrible and repeated floods in the State can neither be adequately described in the course of a statement to be placed before the august House, nor I have got the capacity for the same. It will require the wielding of a mighty pen and unfortunately I have not been gifted with such powers.

But as I am to make a statement, I will try my humble best to do justice to the subject as far as possible.

Sir, the severity and the successiveness of the floods in Assam are ascribed generally to the last great earthquake that had changed the riverine system of the State to a very great extent, and also to the very large concentration of rivers in a small area, but some observers have tried to connect this year's floods with those in other places. They have tried to establish a connection of this year's Assam floods with the other floods in U. P., Bihar, North Bengal, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet. Some geologists have expressed their views that there might be a serious subterranean disturbance in the Himalayan regions besides very heavy rains there resulting in furious spating of the rivers coming out of the precipitous Himalayas. We are fortunate that there had been no simultaneous floods from the other rivers flowing out of the southern hill ranges; otherwise, the catastrophe in Assam would have been beyond imagination.

As stated above, the floods in Assam this year were mainly caused by Himalayan rivers but then this year's floods, as compared to floods of previous years, present an unusual and completely baffling picture. Unlike the previous years, there have been successive floods this year and every succeeding flood is mightier than the preceding one in intensity, volume and destructiveness. The devastation caused by the second flood was greater than that of the first and the third flood being the most furious caused the greatest amount of havoc. In between these three great floods within 3 months there were also some minor floods caused by local wild streams like Ai, Beik, Jia Bhoroli, etc.

The patience of the people was strained to the utmost limit. When the first transplanted paddy crop was destroyed, the people in their accustomed way began the second transplantation and when that was destroyed, they did not despair but made the third plantation. The third and the last flood destroyed that also in most places, with the result that for a fourth crop there were no seedlings available at such a late season and there is also a limit to patience and human endeavour. This is with respect to the cultivation of the sali crop. The destruction of the Ahu paddy which was ripening in most places and which is the mainstay of the people in the low-lying areas, baffles description. Unlike previous years the floods of this year commenced their operations very early before the Ahu paddy could be harvested and Bao crops could become stable and this explains the reason of the huge destruction of Ahu and Bao crops.

The jute crop, which is the cash crop of the people in the vast area covered by the floods and with which the prosperity

of the State is intimately connected in so many ways, was also subjected to such a havoc that the loss sustained by the people is really terrible and this huge loss of the people is also due to early floods to a great extent.

At a moderate estimate, it has been calculated that the value of the loss in Ahu paddy, jute and other crops comes to nearabout thirteen crores and 60 lakhs of rupees in round figures. The percentage of loss in Ahu and jute has been fixed at sixty five and fifty three.

Besides the loss stated above, there has been a loss of cattle and destruction and damage of other properties both public and private and the value of this loss has been estimated at five crores and eighty lakhs of rupees in round figures, including damage to roads, bridges, embankments and buildings.

From local officers' reports, Government have been posted with the sad information of loss of human lives numbering about 22, in the State (5 in North Lakhimpur, 12 in Nowgong and 5 in Sibsagar).

I have already stated to the hon. Members of this august House that the floods in this year have been unusual and terrible. At no time, in previous years, the State had experienced such terrific erosion as in this year. Prosperous towns and villages have been subjected to ruin and desolation and the number of families who have been severely victimised by erosion has been placed at over 10,000, in round figures.

The Brahmaputra has eaten up a very big portion of the flourishing and beautiful town of Dibrugarh. The portion of the town in which the important Government office buildings, official residential quarters and other commercial and industrial houses were located is no more. An important part of the flourishing trade centre of Dibrugarh has been eaten up. Some old residential portions of the town like Mohonaghat, Amlapatty, etc., have been devoured and over one thousand families have been made the victims of this unfortunate erosion tragedy. The beautiful revetment works extending to a distance of about 1,500 feet in length and costing several lakhs of rupees, which was meant for the protection of the town, has been washed away, to the greatest dismay of engineers and other people.

The flourishing and important commercial town of Palasbari is also in the grip of the same river and it seems it is only a matter of time when the whole trading centre will vanish in the bowels of this mighty river. Prosperous business concerns have been all on a sudden reduced to abject poverty. Costly buildings have been washed away by the mighty torrents in course of minutes. A large number of cultivating families and petty

traders in Sadilapur and other villages have been literally ruined.

On the opposite side of Palasbari, the river is taking a very threatening and frowning attitude and the historical and flourishing town of Sualkuchi, centre of silk trade and cottage industries, is in the immediate danger of being eaten up by this furious river.

A similar picture of ruin and desolation is starting at the face of another very prosperous town, Tarabari, which is a very important centre of jute trade in Assam. The subdivisional town of Goalpara is also experiencing its fury and an important part of the town is in immediate danger of being swallowed up completely. The process of erosion had also begun there with unabated fury.

The town of Nowgong has also been very badly affected by the Kolong river, which has eaten up a fair slice of this town and Bamundi and Jamuguri have also met with a similar fate.

In the rural areas, the fury of the river is no less. The Ahatguri mouza in Majuli has been so badly hit by erosion of Lohit and Brahmaputra that it beggars description. Almost half of the mouza is badly affected by erosion and huge deposit of sand. It seems at least half of the population has been rendered destitute and they will need rehabilitation in other places.

The other two mouzas in Majuli have also suffered no less. A very large number of people have lost their hearths and homes and sand deposit of a worst kind has rendered a very large tract of cultivable land almost useless.

The two important centres of *Vaishnavism* in Assam, the history of which goes to some four or five centuries back, have been very badly hit. Both Auniati and Bengenaati Satras have almost lost their all. The river has almost completely eroded both the Satras and washed away a vast property in the shape of houses and other valuable belongings. The sites of the Namghars of the two Satras are in the bosom of the river. The sight of the *Bhakats* and the head of these two Satras leading a life of misery and helplessness cannot but evoke the kindest sympathy even from the stony heart.

The Jia Bhoroli river in Darrang district has also wrought erosion havoc in Jamuguri and some other villages.

That the Ai river in Goalpara district could also do such a havoc was not believed by people at first when news of its havoc was first reported. Besides killing a large number of people

and floating down the river the carcasses of a large number of human beings living in the Bhutan area, the mighty torrents of this river even washed away six elephants and got them buried under sand and debris. The number of other animals like bison, tiger, monkey, etc., killed and washed away is considered also to be very large. The drift timber carried by the flood water and either buried or strewn all around is so large that modest estimate puts it as sufficient to last as fuel wood for a couple of years. In a vast area, nice agricultural fields have been rendered useless by copious deposit of sand and timber. A vast area in Nowgong district, situated on the bank of the Brahmaputra, has also been rendered useless by sand deposit and erosion. Beki, Gauranga, Pagladia, Singara, Ranganadi, Jiadhol, Subansiri, Dehing and other rivers of the Himalayas also appeared to vie with one another and completed the havoc begun by Brahmaputra.

The erosion at Panidehing area in Sibsagar has become something like headache to Government. A vast number of tribal people have been uprooted from their hearths and homes, besides destruction of crops, cattle and other properties.

The devastation of crops and other properties in Goalpara, Dhubri, Barpeta and Gauhati subdivisions has been also very heavy. The subdivision of North Lakhimpur has, like the sister subdivision of Dibrugarh, been so badly hit by the successive floods that the problem of relief and rehabilitation there has been assuming something like a complex character, almost difficult of solution. Some tribal areas in Golaghat, including Dhansirimukh and some areas in Mangaldai subdivision have also been ravaged by the floods. For an easy appreciation and clear grasp of the situation, I should like to state that in the six districts of Lakhimpur, Darrang, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Kamrup and Goalpara almost 12,000 square miles of area and over 17 lakhs of people have been affected by the floods. More than ten thousand families consisting of more than 50 thousand people have lost their lands due to erosion or deposit of sand on their lands.

As stated in the earlier part of the statement, the unprecedented floods in this year have also devastated a network of roads and embankments that have come into existence in the State since the last few years. Besides huge loss was caused to Central Government by the devastation caused on Assam Rail Link.

There have been breaches caused to many roads and embankments and the number of bridges that have been washed away is very large. The restoration of damages to the roads and bridges alone will need over a crore and 10 lakhs of rupees in round figures. India has agreed to give half of it by loan. The damage caused to Local Board and Municipal roads, and other properties is also estimated at about 30 lakhs of rupees. The loss sustained by Government in the destruction of Government administrative buildings, school houses, maternity house, Dak Bungalow and residential buildings of the Government, etc., is placed at eighty lakhs of rupees and this vast amount will need immediate provision by the Government.

Such unprecedented loss and distress caused to the people and Government called for large scale relief measures and the entire machinery of Government had to be put into gear to cope with this almost baffling task. I am happy to state, or rather I take this opportunity to make a public declaration, that the people of Assam and the officers of the Government have not been found wanting in this matter. Some of our officers have taken such pains and troubles that their work has evoked admiration from all. This has been considered as a sacred duty by one and all and everyone has tried to contribute his humble mite to ensure successful implementation of relief and rehabilitation schemes in Assam. This work has been given the top most priority by the Government and my Colleagues under the able guidance and leadership of our Chief Minister and under his unflagging zeal, have made it a point to move in affected areas to render succour to the needy and the distressed.

Probably hon. Members are not unaware of the fact that in the current year's budget, we had made a provision of only a lakh of rupees for gratuitous relief and that amount has been exceeded by nine times. I am happy to add that the Government of India have also promised to give 50 per cent. for gratuitous relief, subject to a maximum expenditure of 20 lakhs of rupees.

I have already stated that the main food and cash crops, *viz.*, Ahu and Jute, have been subjected to a very heavy devastation and people in those areas may have to be given some kind of doles or works, till the next rabi crops are gathered. It is therefore estimated that another sum of Rs.32 lakhs may be required for gratuitous relief, including concessional issue of rice and paddy and test relief works.

It is not unknown to the hon. Members of the House that the system of free doles tends generally to have a demoralising effect on the people and gratuitous relief should be continued only so long as this becomes inevitable and it should be replaced by test relief works whenever and wherever possible. In accordance with this wholesome principle, it is decided by Government to start test relief works in areas where it can be done and already an amount of Rs.45,000 has been sanctioned for the purpose and more is likely to follow.

For the information of the hon. Members of the House, I should like to state that the people have eagerly taken to this, indicating thereby a general reluctance on the part of our people to take free doles so long they can avoid it.

This does not mean that free doles will be discontinued altogether. There are widows, children, invalids and sick persons who have no adult members to look after them. For them, this has been continued and necessary orders have been given by Government in this behalf and officers have been cautioned to see that there is no starvation for want of food or assistance.

The destitution of such a large number of people has forced on the Government the adoption of a liberal policy in the shape of distribution of agricultural loan. It is probably not unknown to the House that we had provided a sum of Rs.7 lakhs for agricultural loan in the current year. On previous occasions the amount provided under this head did not exceed five lakhs of rupees at any time. Though we had provided for this subject an amount of seven lakhs in the current year's budget, we have had to exceed it by several times. Already, we had to sanction a sum of Rs.31,00,000 in round figures and it is apprehended that another sum of Rs.19 lakhs may be necessary under this head to enable the distress people to buy cattle, implements and seeds and also to enable them to eke out their subsistence till they can harvest the next crop.

For the information of the House, I should like to state another thing. Out of the sanctioned amount of Rs.31,00,000, fifteen lakhs were distributed before the third flood, to enable the people to purchase seeds and seedlings. The third flood had destroyed them also. Some people have pressed me to treat this amount either as gratuitous relief or to get it written off. I would have been glad beyond measure if I could have agreed to such a suggestion.

Sir, the question of providing land to the landless has already become a very serious problem in the State. Rather it has become a constant headache to the Government. This headache has been intensified still more by the deposit of sand on cultivable land or by the devastating erosion that has made ten thousand families more or less landless.

The rehabilitation of these people has rather become a perpetual anxiety. How to rehabilitate them and wherefrom to find out lands for these people, especially those who are accustomed to live by the side of rivers from time immemorial and in a state of isolation.

Strict orders have been issued by Government directing our officers to make a sifting enquiry and thorough search for lands, so that these distressed people can be rehabilitated without delay. I am glad to inform that this vigilant search for land in some places has borne fruit. Some tea garden lands have been found out for requisition. For this purpose and it is hoped some other lands may also be available in other places.

A scheme of financial assistance by way of loans has been prepared by Government wherewith such people will be provided with funds for rehabilitation, as soon as lands become available for them. Some schemes have already been sanctioned and money provided where it has been possible to secure lands. This will need an amount estimated at about one crore of rupees, including the rehabilitation of people in Dibrugarh, Palasbari and other towns. I am glad to announce that India has promised a loan to us, to this purpose amounting to half a crore of rupees.

While on the subject of rehabilitation, I should like to speak a few words about rehabilitation of people affected by erosion in Dibrugarh town. It is reported that the number of such eroded people in Dibrugarh is over one thousand and most of them belong to a very poor section of the society. They have been pressing for their rehabilitation nearabout Dibrugarh. Almost all those people are to earn their living in Dibrugarh town and as such they cannot be shifted to a place from which it is not possible for them to earn their living in Dibrugarh.

Accordingly, a scheme of rehabilitation of these people in the adjacent Chowkidingi tea garden was considered by Government

and to complete the rehabilitation works before the next year's flood, it was desired to take some land from the tea garden by negotiation through private efforts. As a result of this negotiation in the presence of the proprietor and some leading representative gentlemen of Dibrugarh a price was fixed upon and necessary steps to take possession were decided. But a few days after, some criticism was offered from some quarters that the prices fixed have been high or rather liberal and Government was advised to drop the negotiations. In response to that, the scheme has been abandoned by Government.

According to this scheme any allottee will in course of twelve to fifteen years be the owner of the allotted plot, on payment of a reasonable monthly rent to Government. It was decided that Government would initially buy the land and allot the plots to the eroded people according to a plan, after providing for all necessary civic amenities there.

In response to the public opinion expressed before the Government, this scheme is now abandoned and we have left the matter with individual persons. If he can arrange a plot, Government will then examine and consider the question of a loan to him on reasonable terms.

In the meantime, the Deputy Commissioner has been directed by Government to take steps to start two small satellite towns in or nearabout Mohonbari for rehabilitation of such people as can be shifted to these places.

I have already stated what has been the extent of loss to Government for damage to roads, buildings and embankments. The Public Works Department has already taken necessary steps for restoration of the damage to roads and embankments.

As to Local Boards roads damaged by floods, Government have already moved India to come to the rescue of Local Boards by substantial grants to enable the Boards to restore their disrupted communications, but we have received no reply on this score till now.

It has already been decided by Government to do as much work as is possible by way of test relief measures. This will enable the distressed people to earn a living by doing work. The District Development Boards, the Local Boards and the Panchayats have also been directed likewise along with the Public Works Department.

It is gratifying to note that the distress of our people had evoked sympathy in distant places. The Governments of Burma and Thailand have graciously given 2,700 maunds of rice each as free gift and the Bombay Government have been equally generous to send a gift of 2,266 maunds of beaten rice. The Indore Government have donated 150 maunds of foodgrains, the Bombay Millowners' Association donated 15,000 yards of cloth and Glaxo Laboratories have sent 1,00,000 multi-vitamin tablets. I take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the people of Assam and of the Government, to these donors.

Some relief organisation like the Ramkrishna Mission and the Marwari Relief Society have rendered immense help to the distressed people and I take this opportunity of making a public acknowledgement.

The hon'ble Members are not unaware of the keenest interest evinced by the Government of India in rendering relief. They are equally anxious to help, taking protective measures against floods. As soon as the news of the distress caused to Assam by these floods reached India, the Prime Minister and the Planning Minister accompanied by experts flew to Assam and expressed their deep sympathy and heartening assurance to us. They have also evinced keen interest to grapple with this menace. Distinguished Engineers have come to Assam in batches to examine and study the question and it is hoped, as a result of the visit of these august personages, something tangible will come out to protect our towns and villages from these devastating floods in the future. I think I will be failing in my duty if I do not express our deep debt of gratitude to India for the various assistance rendered or proposed to be rendered to us. The attention of the whole country is now revetted on Assam because of the keen interest displayed by the Prime Minister and the Irrigation Minister, in the works of control of floods.

Because of the importance and priority given by them, various flood control Boards have already been set up both at the Centre as well as in the States, to tackle this problem on a war footing. A river Commission has also been set up under the name of Brahmaputra River Commission. The Central Water and Power Commission has been expanded to cope with the emergent situation and two Chief Engineers have been appointed for the purpose, besides a number of Directorates to deal with different aspects of the problem. A full fledged River Investigation Circle has started functioning in Assam consisting of a Superintending Engineer and a number of divisions. It has also been

decided to have another Chief Engineer exclusively in-charge of flood control works.

The State Government have already two Superintending Engineers and eight divisions for Embankment and Drainage works. The same is proposed to be further extended by addition of another Superintending Engineer and four or five divisions. The River Investigation Circle will survey our rivers including observation of hydrological data and preparation of river control schemes. This circle has also been directed to examine and report on the engineering *cum* economic possibility of some river valley projects in Assam. The investigation will be conducted on most up-to-date lines and for that purpose Government of India have accepted our request to supply two steam launches complete with echo sounding equipment and two helicopters. With the completion of necessary surveys it is hoped that our ambition to have a river valley project in Assam will take shape.

Hon'ble Members of this House are not unaware of the fact that our Chief Minister had in the meantime flown over to New Delhi to apprise India with the situation of Assam caused by floods and to ask for necessary assistance. He is again going to New Delhi after this Assembly Session is over and it is believed that his repeated discussions at higher level will result in liberal financial assistance, as was at the time of the earthquake, to enable us to cope with the unprecedented situation as it is beyond the powers of this State to cope with it unaided and alone. It is also believed that some other long-term measures of protection will result from these conferences at higher level.

Hon'ble Members have probably learnt the contemplated action proposed to be taken by Government for protection of Dibrugarh, Palasbari and Sualkuchi towns. The distinguished top level engineers who have been repeatedly visiting Assam for studying the problems at close quarters have under the able guidance of the Chairman who had visited Assam only a few days back, come to the conclusion and propounded a scheme envisaging the construction of five stone spurs interspersed by timber spurs. This revised scheme has been propounded by the experts after taking into account all factors like movement of stones from long distance, etc. The stone required for the purpose is estimated at about 50 lakh cft. A considerable organisation will have to be set up by the Railways and the State Government. I am glad to state that Railways have promised all

assistance possible. The engineers have also advised that immediate action should be taken by us to protect Palasbari and Sualkuchi towns and necessary steps in this direction have already been ordered. Similar steps are also contemplated to protect Goalpara and other towns. From the general idea given above by me, hon. Members will be pleased to see that the programme of work we have undertaken is a gigantic and colossal one and without the heartiest co-operation of the people this programme cannot reach its fruition. The Prime Minister and Irrigation Minister have rightly stressed on this and have appealed for public co-operation. I hope and believe that this expectation will not be belied by us.

For the information of the House, I should like to give the following figures about distribution of relief before coming to a close.

	Gratuitous relief	Agricultural loans
	Rs.	Rs.
Lakhimpur District	2,20,187	3,57,000
Darrang District	43,000	1,65,000
Sibsagar District "	1,18,000	2,37,000
Nowgong District	72,500	4,57,000
Kamrup District	54,800	6,35,000
Goalpara District	3,92,000	12,10,500
Garo Hills	3,800	35,000

Detailed figures for each subdivision will be had from the copy of the chart placed in the Library table.

Hon'ble Members will probably like to know what I did at Majuli during my recent tour. My esteemed colleague, Shri Ramnath Das, the Commissioner of Assam and the Deputy Commissioner of Jorhat and the Local M. L. A., Sri Nilmani Phookan, were with me. We travelled extensively and went even to Ahotguri and we have been able to appreciate the situation, quite fully, as a result of our personal observations. We held a conference and adopted the following Schemes there.

Most of the eroded people will have to be shifted from Majuli, as there is not enough land for their rehabilitation. About three hundred families of eroded people can probably be settled in different parts of Majuli with utmost endeavour.

The Deputy Commissioner of Jorhat, in consultation with the members of the Land Settlement advisory Committee and Subdivisional Officer of Golaghat has been able to find about 7000 bighas of lands for rehabilitation in both the subdivisions. The lands after proper reclamation may be used for growing Ahu, Baø, and Sali paddy and other rabi crops as well.

Any eroded person who will move out and get settlement of the lands, will get two or three bundles of C. I. sheets and an amount of one hundred rupees on loan plus an amount of Rs.50 as gratuitous relief. Those who will be rehabilitated inside Majuli may get a loan of 2 bundles of C. I. sheets. This Scheme was approved by the people. It now remains for the people to take advantage of this scheme. Similar Schemes with necessary modifications will be accepted by Government in other places. District and Subdivisional Officers have been directed to prepare such schemes and to find out lands for rehabilitation.

While at Majuli, I had the pleasure of seeing the Agricultural Department distributing a huge quantity of potato seeds to affected people and they have appreciated it much. This had gladdened my heart beyond measure.

This Department has also distributed free vegetable seeds, supplied by way of relief, to the affected people valued at about seven thousand rupees and it has also been appreciated by them throughout the State. The same Department has also distributed widely pulses, mustard seeds, wheat etc. to the great appreciation of the people.

The Veterinary Department has also risen equal to the occasion. Though there have been successive floods and though the floods of this year have caused extensive damage, cattle mortality is not marked, as on other occasions though there has been acute scarcity of grass this year. This is probably due to prompt action taken by the Department to prevent spread of epidemic and other diseases. The offers have been successful at the present though it is not yet time to pass any final judgment.

Hon'ble Members may probably be interested to know something about the rehabilitation scheme for the eroded people of Palasbari and I feel that I should speak something about it from here to complete the picture as far as possible. A moderate scheme of rehabilitation has been taken up there and the sum of one lakh and fifty thousand has been sanctioned for the purpose. According to the scheme, poor section of the people who cannot afford to buy land are proposed to be given lands free. The eroded people are being given C. I. sheets at concessional rate and also a loan to enable them to shift to new places and get them rehabilitated in the new surroundings.

I am glad to add that the scheme is working well though for the very nature of things complete satisfaction to these eroded people is not possible. A similar scheme for rehabilitation has been accepted for North Lakhimpur subdivision at a cost of over fifty-five thousand rupees. The eroded people there have been given requisitioned lands and Government waste lands. Every family is being provided with 2 bundles of C. I. sheets and one hundred rupees as loan.

Sir, with these words, I should like to close my speech for the debate.

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে যি বিবৃতি দিলে তাত, শদিয়া আৰু ছৈখোৱাৰ বিষয়ে একো উল্লেখ নকৰিলে।

(A voice in Hindi.—ক'বাত হেৰু সুনাত হী নহী।)

Mr. SPEAKER: আপুনি কি কৈছে শুনাই নাই মাইকৰ ওচৰলৈ আহকছোন।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): সেইটো আগতেই কোৱা হৈছে। Deputy Minister এ গত বাবতেই সেই বিষয়ে বহলাই কৈ গৈছে।

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR: তাতো নতুনকৈ flood হৈছে গতিকে এইটো নতুন কথা।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): আপুনি নিজে কব আৰু মই তাৰ উত্তৰ সামৰণিত দিম।

Mr. SPEAKER: সেই বিষয়ে আপুনি বক্তৃতা দিয়ক। এইটো প্ৰশ্ন কৰা সময় নহয়—গতিকে আপুনি এতিয়া প্ৰশ্ন কৰিব নোৱাৰে।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, it will be better if we begin discussion of the matter to-morrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already stated about the course of business.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Then better no discussion at all if we are not given time to think over this very important question. It is an important matter. In that case the statement be published in paper and this ends the matter.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to the Finance Minister for the statement now made by him on the floor of this House. Sir, this flood has practically ruined the greater parts of Assam Valley. This flood has come not only once, twice or thrice but it has come about 8 or 9 times, and every time this flood has damaged and devastated most parts of Assam.

Sir, I am also grateful to the Chief Minister who has taken extensive tours during the recent floods even at the cost of his own health. We have seen that he has travelled from one part to the other part of Assam, and this has given much consolation to the flood-affected people. Sir, I am also thankful to him because he has taken up the matter with the Centre and I appeal to him that he should make every endeavour to make this question an all-India question.

Sir, I am also thankful to the Union Ministers and the Union Officers who have taken so much interest with the cause of Assam and for giving relief as far as possible to the people of Assam. Now, Sir, I must mention in this connection that unless some effective measure are taken by the Centre for training the Brahmaputra at its mouth it will not be possible to check the flood even in future times.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member means at its source ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Yes, at its source. I appeal to the Chief Minister to take up the matter with the Central Government to come up with the helping hands for training the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. But, Sir, though the flood has caused such a devastation, the help that has been given by our present Government is quite insignificant in comparison with the devastation caused by the flood.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the source falls in Tibet.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: So, it is the duty of the Central Government to take up the matter with the Tibetan Government. Sir, coming to my own Subdivision, that is, Gauhati Subdivision, I must inform this House that about 2,50,000 people have been affected by the flood and that the amount of loans will be about 3 crores of rupees. But if the subsequent floods would not have affected the paddy, in that case the damage would have been reduced. But the third and other successive floods have damaged the entire paddy of the North and South Kamrup and that the help that has been given is quite insignificant for about 2,50,000 people who have been affected by the flood. Now, in Gauhati Subdivision, so far as I have gathered, only an amount of Rs. 75,000 has been given as distress loan and a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been sanctioned as rehabilitation loan and recently a sum of Rs. 35,000 has been sanctioned as seed loan. Is it sufficient for 2,50,000 people who have suffered loss to the extent of Rs.3 crores? This amount is quite insufficient. Then, coming to the question of relief of eroded families, I find that about 1,100 families have suffered loss as their houses and lands have been carried away by the Brahmaputra and other tributaries. Even at Palasbari 609 families have been affected by erosion and the Deputy Commissioner, with the co-operation of local people, has been able to give them land for rehabilitation. I appeal to the Government for taking immediate steps for rehabilitating these people permanently by giving more loans. The amount of loan given at Palasbari to the affected people does not enable the people to meet their shifting expenditure after constructing their sheds. They have to shift at their own cost. Some expenditure have been borne by the Relief Committee. Even now on the road-side there are lots of families who have not been able to shift because they have not been given any shifting expenditure. Every family that has been asked to go to the distance of about three miles should have been given some shifting expenditure by way of gratuitous relief. Sir, these families have been given 2 bundles of C. I. Sheets and Rs.50, by way of rehabilitation loan. This amount is quite insufficient, even for constructing a tin shed. I submit, Sir, that these people have requested Government for more loan for construction of their houses and I appeal to the Government to be pleased enough to grant them at least Rs.500 for each family besides giving them Sal trees free of royalties for construction of their houses.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think these things have been given free of royalties, such as bamboos, timber, thatch, etc.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: At Palasbari, nothing has been given and only bamboos have been given by the Relief Committee there.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): It has been notified in the gazette and the people are to approach through the Deputy Commissioner who would examine the requirements of the particular individuals.

Shri. RADHIKA RAM DAS: I am thankful to the Government for such an action.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): These things have been done in consultation with them.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: We ask for more money. We request the Finance Minister to give us at least 500 rupees so that they may be in a position to construct their houses as the majority of these people are petty traders. Now, it has become difficult for the petty traders to manage their petty business as they have lost their lands and houses and they have lost everything. I submit, besides loan of Rs.500, they should also be given some other kinds of loans so that they may carry on their small business. Lastly, Sir, I must mention in this connection about Palasbari town. Sir, Palasbari is a commercial and industrial town not only in the south bank but also in the north bank. Most of the people carry on their business at Palasbari, but two-thirds of that business-place have been eaten up by the Brahmaputra and the people are now eager of establishing the town and new market. The Palasbari Municipality unanimously passed a resolution for 50 lakhs of rupees for establishing the town and a new market. I submit, Sir, that when Palasbari is the best town and when it is to be established in a new site and when there is such a proposal that the people should manage their affairs, they should be given half of that amount by way of loan and the other half by way of a grant so that Palasbari town people may be in a position to construct a new town near about the present Palasbari town. I am also thankful to the Government for taking steps.

Sir, lastly I am also thankful to the Government for taking steps for having a revetment or embankments or other

works at Palasbari, Sualkuchi and Bamundi which are greatly affected by erosion and unless these measures are taken up immediately, these cannot be finished in one season and as a result next year the entire area of South Kamrup as well as Sualkuchi may be eaten up by the Brahmaputra.

With regard to the test relief measures, I beg to mention one thing that test relief should be taken up as early as possible. Although we have assured the people that test relief measures will be taken up early, but no progress has been made so far in this direction. So, Sir, I appeal to the Government to see that test relief measures are taken up early, specially in the flood-affected areas.

With these words, Sir, I appeal to the Government to take up these measures as early as possible.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are really very grateful to the Hon'ble Revenue Minister for making a statement before us regarding the flood and the situation that has arisen out of it. Sir, we had the opportunity of discussing the flood situation during the adjourned session of the Assembly in July last, and since then another flood came in its wake and has devastated a fair portion of our main crop. It has not only damaged the crop but has caused many difficulties and sufferings to the people. Since then, Sir, the river Brahmaputra has also eaten up a vast tract of land in various parts of the State causing great inconvenience to the people and today we are faced with a gigantic problem of rehabilitating the flood-affected and erosion-affected people. Flood is no new phenomenon to our State. It comes almost every year and as such we are almost accustomed to it, but the damage and inconvenience the last flood has caused to the people is very considerable. The Revenue Minister has himself stated that the amount of the damage caused will be to the tune of about 5 crores 80 lakhs. It may be more if we take the value of jute and crop damage.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I said 13 crores as the total estimate, 5 crores is only for buildings, roads and properties.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Even 13 crores may be exceeded if the proper assessment is made after the flood situation comes to normalcy as it is not possible to take proper estimate at this time.

Sir, the whole problem can be split up into 2 parts, that is, the problem of flood and the problem of erosion. So far as the problem of flood is concerned, it is possible to take some measures and as at one time the Prime Minister said that flood by itself is not a bad thing because it also deposits certain alluvial soil which helps cultivation, but flood, when it comes and damages the entire crop, it is to be taken serious note of. This time also in Goalpara the damage has been extensive. Similarly in North Kamrup, Lakhimpur and some other places the damage has been very extensive.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): In Majuli also.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, in Majuli also in which my Friend, Shri Ram Nath Das, is showing so much interest, extensive damage has been caused to the roads and bunds for the repair of which alone it may require some 5 to 10 lakhs of rupees. But if we take into account the cost of improving the roads and other measures to stop flood in future the cost will go up still further. At Majuli I have personally seen the extensive damage caused. As far as I knew about 80 places on the Bundcum-road were damaged there. It may be more if some other parts of Majuli are also taken into account. The Ahotguri mouza has been washed away. If we take into consideration the cost of repairing the embankments and the roads then we will have to spend a lot of money. This is a very big problem and as I have said, the flood is not a new phenomenon to us. It has been occurring from time immemorial. But what have we done to tackle the problem of flood? Fortunately the flood this year was mainly caused by the Brahmaputra. The hill rivers have not done so much damage as they were not in spate. If all the hill rivers were in spate then there would have been more flood and there would have been more extensive damage perhaps never heard of before in our life time. We have not been able to deal with the hill rivers. Now, we have heard about setting up of a River Valley Commission. During the last few years, Sir, in other parts of India many river valley projects were taken up and those river valley projects not only stopped floods but enabled the people of those sides to harness the water of the flood to produce electricity and to do certain irrigation works and to bring about the best out of a bad situation. In those places today the people are in a flourishing state whereas in our State we have not been able to harness or train up even a single hill river. In this connection, Sir, may refer to an editorial comment of no less important a paper than the Times of India where it was stated that it is really

unfortunate that the Assam Government have not, after 7 years of independence, been able to set up a proper commission to take even the hydrological data that would be necessary for training all these rivers. And I do not know, Sir, how long it will take to collect those hydrological data and when we shall be able to start a proper river valley project, when we shall be able to train up our turbulent rivers and streams and thereby escape these annual devastations.

Sir, in certain areas of our State, flood is not taken very seriously because people are accustomed to it. But the damage caused this time has even made these people to think about their future. I know in certain areas crop has been extensively damaged and unless we rush in gratuitous relief in adequate quantity, there may be starvation. I may say, Sir, about two villages in my constituency, *viz.*, Simna and Foturi, where the people are suffering for several years. They have been applying to Government for land and yet we have not been able to provide them with sufficient land.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Are they eroded people ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, they are erosion as well as flood-affected. They have not got any purchasing power also because they have been the victims of chronic floods; they have not been able to cultivate their lands for the last 3 or 4 years, as a result they have no purchasing power today. Recently, I went to those villages with the Sadar Subdivisional Officer and he has himself seen how many families are without a single granary and unless some paddy is rushed to them immediately, I am sure starvation will set in and many people may die of starvation. I have seen personally that one man Masur and his wife are living without food for the last 3 or 4 days. Even the neighbouring people are not in a position to help them. If gratuitous relief is not rushed to those places immediately, starvation deaths will occur and that will be a bad day for us. When we have plenty of foodstuffs and when our crop is good, if in any part people die of starvation, that will be a bad day for the State—that will be scandalous. That is why I appeal to Government to declare certain areas as scarcity areas, where there is no paddy and no cultivation, and rush food to those areas irrespective of the cost to the Government. Not only these two villages, Sir, but there are other villages where similar conditions prevail. In the Ahotguri Mouza I have heard that the scarcity is so acute that unless food is rushed people will have to face starvation.

In this connection, Sir, I should refer to what I have seen that there is something like an invidious distinction made by Government in the manner of granting relief. Whereas people living on the Trunk Road and in big or small towns are getting all the attention, people living in remote villages are not getting the same treatment. I can substantiate my allegation by referring to the erosion-affected people of the South Bank of Kamrup and Majuli. I visited Majuli in the first week of September and several people told me that nothing was given to them. I heard from them that there was no arrangement for making any land available to them for settlement, they were not shown the same consideration as was shown to other people in other places and even no gratuitous relief was given to them. Whereas we find in my constituency at Palasbari at least Rs.50 and two bundles of C. I. Sheets were given as loan. In Dibrugarh also C. I. Sheets were given. I have visited three or four camps in Dibrugarh. The condition there was horrible and I cannot imagine how people are living there and how a civilised Government can ask people to live in those camps. I have seen a camp where people are living in knee-deep mud and there was no arrangement for shifting them from that camp.

Then, Sir, not only Majuli, there has been erosion in Bortori, Foturi, Simna, Ververi and other places and nothing has been done up till now for rehabilitation of the people. My Friend, Shri Radhika Ram Das, has just said that we have decided in the last meeting of the Land Settlement Advisory Committee to give some land to these people. But that relates only to the people of Simna and Bortori. We have not been able to give land to other people. The people of Simna, Foturi, Ververi were applying for land for the last few years because these villages were eroded, but these people have not received attention, whereas, I should say rightly, attention has been given to Palasbari. What has happened to Palasbari, what has happened to Dibrugarh has also happened to the people of Bortori, Foturi, Simna, Majuli and other remote places. They are equally victims of flood and erosion and the same sympathy and consideration should be extended to them. Sir, we are pledged to the welfare of the villages and we swear by the villages. If we are really pledged to the welfare of the people of the villages, we must not make any invidious distinction between these people and the people living in towns in the matter of granting relief. But unfortunately that invidious distinction has been made. Just now the Revenue Minister said that Rs.1,50,000 has been given to the people of Palasbari for rehabilitation. The people who are getting any relief are people of Kukuria, Sadilapur. But the people of Simna, Foturi,

Borturi, Ververi are not getting a single farthing. I personally requested Deputy Commissioner to see that they get some relief, but nothing has been done for them (Shri Motiram Bora—They are not eroded). They are eroded. I can give the figures of people who are eroded. Nothing has been done for them. If people of Palasbari and Dibrugarh can get some loan and C. I. Sheets why not these people? They deserve the same treatment as they are equally erosion-affected. Just now the Revenue Minister said that he had chalked out a plan for Majuli. Here also we find the same distinction. If I have not heard him wrongly, 3 bundles of C. I. Sheets and Rs.100 will be given to the people of Majuli as loan for their rehabilitation whereas the same amount has not been given to the people of Palasbari and Dibrugarh. Why this distinction? Let there be an uniform standard. Whoever is affected by erosion should get the same treatment. I request the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to consider this point. The plight of all erosion-affected people is the same. They have lost everything. They are the victims of the wrath of River and God. They are worse than the refugee who have come from Pakistan. If we have been able to spend, and rightly so, so much money for the rehabilitation of the refugees who have come to our State from Pakistan, it is also necessary that we should spend the same amount or at least sufficient amount for the rehabilitation of those people who are living in our State, who were born and brought up in our State, people who have lost everything to the river.

Sir, these people have lost everything. If you look into their condition, it will be seen that today they are almost paupers and destitutes and for that, Sir, whatever help is received from outside sources and whatever money is given by the Central Government, the first priority for these should be received by these erosion-affected people. I should like to make distinction between the flood-affected people and erosion-affected people. In the former case they have been left with at least land to stand upon, whereas the erosion-affected people have lost everything and they have nothing to stand upon. Therefore, there should be a greater and better consideration for these unfortunate people.

Sir, we have been told that we are tackling this problem in a war footing. But on what war footing we have been tackling this problem up till now can be judged from a single instance. In Majuli they have not been rehabilitated up till now.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Did my Friend go to Chinatoli in Majuli?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I did go to Majuli but I did not go in car. I walked down from Karatipara to Kamalabari (*Voice*—visited Majuli on elephant).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I also walked down.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: But what I found that the measures taken there in Majuli were not taken in a war footing. As a matter of fact, these people have not been resettled up till now. If they remain unsettled this year there is no likelihood of their getting settled next year also. As people affected last year are not to be taken into consideration this year as has been told by the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup in the Land Advisory Committee, that we are concerned with the people who have been affected this year and not with the people who have been affected last year as they have settled down somewhere somehow in the meantime. And if this is the policy of the Government then unless the erosion affected people of this year are given settlement this year, they will be deprived from getting settlement next year. This is the way of solving the problem and this is a bad way of avoiding a problem. All these people who are affected by erosion should be rehabilitated and the number of their families is not much, it is only about 10,000. The grazing reserves in a State where there is enough, should be settled with the people who are themselves suffering for want of land and when people are turned into destitutes. For this rehabilitation we must dereserve these lands and give settlement to these unfortunate victims, otherwise, it will be doing injustice not only to these people but to the humanity as well.

Coming to the problem of resettlement and rehabilitation in Dibrugarh, I do not know why the Government has abandoned the plan of rehabilitation of the erosion-affected people in the adjoining tea gardens. It is also known to Government that some planters are selling these lands at exorbitant prices. I do not know how the lands granted for some specific purpose, *i. e.*, for cultivation of tea by the Government can be used for other purposes by the planters, such as, for creating new townships and selling them to people at exorbitant prices. How such illegal actions have been allowed to continue by the Government, I do not know. Secondly, we want these lands for a most important purpose of rehabilitating our people and for these lands, if the planters want any amount of money, should we accede to them? I know at Dibrugarh people are clamouring for land in Barbari, Mankata, Chaukingi and other areas and if Government have determination to pursue the matter and if these planters are stopped from

selling lands for high prices and if the Government take immediate steps to get the fallow lands of these tea gardens for rehabilitation purpose, they can easily meet the problem. The lands in these gardens have been given for the purpose of growing tea and if they do not use it for that purpose, the Government should force them to vacate these lands as we should not have any softness for any owners of tea gardens.

Lastly, Sir, as the figures in subdivision-wise are not with me, the money that has been given actually for relief, in consideration of the number of people affected, is a small sum. If we take Kamrup, gratuitous relief for that district is Rs. 45,800 whereas besides Palasbari, etc., in South Kamrup in Sualkuchi and Bamundi, more than 1,500 families have been affected and if we give Rs. 100 per family, this sum is not sufficient and this is not expected from a popular Government.

As my Friend, Mr. Das, has just now requested the Government that if they want to have the town of Palasbari, if they want to keep that commercial centre, it is necessary that they come to the help of the people there and the money that is given to them should be treated as gratuitous relief

Sir, there has been too much talk about revetment and the sense of security that revetment may stop erosion is disappearing. I am a layman and cannot tread into the subject which is not mine. It is a matter for experts to decide. But, although we want to save these towns, the question should be considered in how many places we can provide this revetment. To-day, Dibrugarh and Palasbari are affected, tomorrow, some other towns and villages may be affected; if we make revetment at this rate of huge cost, can we make revetment in all the places affected? It is not for me to give expert opinion, but my view is that unless we can control the river at the source, unless we can do something, these revetments with such huge costs will be too much for a poor State like ours. In Dibrugarh the revetment gave way to the fury of the river, but Engineers could not think of such a devastation.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Then my Friend does not want revetment?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I am a layman, but I am ready to spend much more than this sum if I know that by putting up revetments in some particular places we can save the whole State. I am ready to spend away even the whole 15 crores of rupees. At the same time we have to think of another matter. The revetment alone at Dibrugarh cannot save the whole State. We have seen from our experience that

the course of the river is unpredictable, and if we go on building revetment, it will be a costly thing far beyond the capacity of the Assam Government. What I am asking as a lay man is to train and control the river at its source. If we can do that, that will be far better procedure of stopping erosion and floods.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Don't you want revetment at Palasbari ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I want it, because revetment at Palasbari will not only save the eroded areas at Palasbari town, but also save many other neighbouring villages from erosion and flood.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you read about the training of Howangho and Yangtsekiang ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I have not read the whole book but what I have read from the extracts, it appears to me that there they have been tackling this problem from quite a different angle. What I would suggest even for stopping floods is to take up large scale embankment projects. Really embankments have succeeded to a great extent in stopping floods although due to embankments being constructed in wrong places many of our villages have suffered badly. But then this can be cured. I therefore would like the Government to take up the question of embankment very seriously.

Sir, I have not spoken to-day with a view to criticise the Government but with a view to focus the attention of the Government to certain essential problems arising from wide spread floods that has been repeatedly occurring during the last few years. As we treat this problem of floods above politics, we do not want to play with the victims of the fury of nature. So also we want that the Government should come forward with adequate amount of money to offer substantial aid to the flood and erosion-affected people. We want that this chronic flood should be stopped for ever so that we, the people of Assam, may be able to live in happiness and in prosperity.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the report that has been placed before the House by the Finance Minister and have heard what has been done at the moment by the Government and the anxiety with which the Centre has already taken up the question of training or controlling the Brahmaputra river and revetments to be placed at different towns which have been already eroded. I congratulate both the Governments for the steps that they have taken all along. But one thing that strikes my mind is that the details which have been placed before the House by the Finance Minister to-day are undoubtedly palliative only. Unless the

problems are tackled from a long term view, the same thing may repeat after only a few years in the State. What I feel is this: the problem that faces us today is first the question of eroded people and I have placed this question in our Relief Committee and personally to the Chief Minister and Revenue Minister and also other Ministers who have been on the spot. Frankly speaking the question of eroded people must be taken on the line of the evacuees from Pakistan. Evacuees from Pakistan were victims of man-made difficulties, but here the difficulties of the flood and erosion affected people are nature made. The difficulties with which our Government have been facing to-day as a result of these widespread floods must also be placed on the same footing. I do believe that these eroded people should be rehabilitated on the same term, under the same procedure and with the same help from the Centre as has been the case with the evacuees from Pakistan. I honestly believe that unless this is done, our eroded people whose number is about 10,000 or more families cannot be rehabilitated with the meagre resources at the disposal of the Government of Assam. It must therefore be considered as an All-India problem as the very Members of Parliament who have been accompanying the Prime Minister have expressed this very view in Parliament at Delhi.

It is undoubtedly an All-India question and the Centre must come to the rescue of the eroded people by sufficient grants, and in a scientific way these people must be rehabilitated just in the same way as in those little townships raised for rehabilitation of the evacuees. I find we have got about 6 thousand bighas of land to be requisitioned from the tea planters in my district which have been placed practically for the rehabilitation of some 3 or 4 hundred families of Ahatguri and other mauzas of Majuli. Our Government have been trying their level best to help them with C. I. sheets, with some gratuitous relief and some loan and other things. But in spite of that I must say, it will not be possible for those people to clear the jungles so easily and they will not be in a position—and they are not in the habit of doing these things for generation—to move to their newly constructed dwellings in spite of the best intention of the Government and in spite of the assistance that has been offered to them, as quickly as one would desire them to do. Therefore, I feel that for these eroded people these lands must be reclaimed at the cost of Government. Some more assistance should be forthcoming to them in the shape of laying out the roads, clearing the big jungles and putting

blocks in certain order and putting some temporary huts, etc., for the people to live there temporarily. And in this way laying out the roads, clearing the big jungles and putting the blocks in certain order. Some temporary huts should be erected for the people who live temporarily. In this way, unless these people are induced to go there it will not be for them to muster courage and fight with the element there to rehabilitate themselves properly. The whole question of eroded people must be taken by Government on the line undertaken by the Central Government and that is what I feel.

Another thing is regarding the flood-affected people of Majuli and other people in the other districts. They have been affected, this time to such an extent that their paddy lands have been made useless, if not for all the time, but at least for the next 5 or 6 years, they will not be able to do any cultivation, because the land became sandy. Therefore, there should be some other way out as to how to rehabilitate these people, although they have not been eroded. Equally they have been affected by all sands deposited all round their cultivable lands. Practically these people should also receive consideration on the same lines as was given to the eroded people, and they should not be dealt with by a piece-meal way.

I, myself feel that our forest have not been made scientifically. There are vast tracts of lands laying everywhere. Nobody utilised them, also by the then Government. As a result of that, in addition of the valuable timbers, there were valuable cultivable lands also within those reserves. To my mind, those portions were made very useful by dereservation for the people of the eroded areas and in lieu of that the forests that have been found within the tea gardens in a compact block might be reserved by the Forest Department to be utilised as forest reserve. The scientific forestry, in our country is a beginning just now. When there is afforestation, it will be no harm for deforestation when it is working on a scientific line, and the deforested land working on a scientific line. Because deforested land might be given to the affected people for making a decent village and in a planned manner. On the other hand those tea garden lands might be utilised as a result of afforestation. Recently we have found, possibly this is the biggest problem (as I happen to read in the newspaper) in the North-East Frontier Agency. In North-East Frontier Agency there is a scheme like that. I do not know exactly, what is the fact, but that might be made forest reserve in that State.

After the Earthquake, when we discussed the matter, I remember to have made some sort of suggestions, when the

Abor Hills and other places have become a terrible place for economic habitation. These might be treated as forest reserve and those people might be shifted.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have no right to prop out that as North-East Frontier Agency is not within your jurisdiction.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, if we have no right to suggest then if the Centre do not come to our rescue.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I say, as the North-East Frontier Agency is not within our jurisdiction, we have no right to say regarding their scheme.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: If we have no right to suggest, it is very unfortunate. If Assam goes in this way due to natural calamities, possibly, the whole of India will be affected.

Mr. SPEAKER: They say that they have been fighting with the Brahmaputra for the last 2,000 years.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: In that case, if we are left to Nature, there is no question of discussing scientifically. This is not a question that they have been fighting for the last 2,000 years with Nature, therefore, no scientific progress is necessary. Then our future generation might safely be left to the Nature. Sir, I say this, with all my difference with the Chair.....

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no, this is said by somebody else.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: For this digression I have lost my thread and time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Our time has been extended to 12-30 P.M. You can go on upto 12-30 P.M.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: I do believe that some portion of the forest reserves, and so called grazing reserves should be opened for the purpose of rehabilitation of these people and thus should allow beautiful villages to spring up in those places. It is true, the Forest Department again cannot overlook the needs of the Forest Department also. This can be done scientifically and we have already made a beginning on this line. If we make out scientific forest in all the places that will give good forestry in Assam.

As regards Dibrugarh, I should like to say something. Some of my friends may think otherwise as I might have no right to speak about Dibrugarh. I am hailing from Dibrugarh and I spent most of my time there. My family members are still there.

Mr. SPEAKER: As you are a representative of the State you are allowed to speak.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: When the flood came there, I went to Dibrugarh the very first day. The leaders of Dibrugarh waited on a deputation to meet the Governor. I happened to be there, and in a formal way, we discussed the question of rehabilitation and other things. As far as I remember, we came to the unanimous conclusion that the town affected by erosion might be shifted towards Chowkidinghee and I suggested to him before we had met him in a deputation that all Chowkidinghee tea garden lands which are not necessary for tea cultivation purpose should be acquired for the people of Dibrugarh town, and if necessary, the whole garden may be bought by the Government for 20 or 30 lakhs of rupees and it should be again redistributed amongst the people and the price of the garden so bought by Government may be fetched. All available tea garden lands should be acquired for the rehabilitation of the flood and eroded people of Dibrugarh. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition, though I am not a Lawyer, I don't think that the tea garden authorities in such places should have any right to take advantage of the calamity of the people. The tea industry is making big profit, they may also create townships, but I don't think they have any such right because the tea lands were given for certain special cultivation only and not for any other purpose. Sir, if some of my friends will go to the High Court possibly they may win their cases. The tea industry people have nothing else except their special cultivation, for which they have been given special treatment. I hope our Government and others will put their heads together to find out whether these tea garden people can sell their surplus lands other than the lands actually required for tea cultivation. However, Sir, that was a conclusion arrived at by the leaders of Dibrugarh subsequently. If another policy in this regard was adopted by the Government of course I am not in the know of that policy. Sir, the very first day the Governor was at Dibrugarh he promised or rather assured us that he would put all these things before his Government when he comes back to Shillong.

Sir, I don't know after that how the matter stood with the Government as well as with the leaders of Dibrugarh town. Sir, as regards Majuli, my own constituency, which was affected by flood I have one thing to say. Recently I found a letter from D. C. C., Jorhat that Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi, Secretary, I. N. T. U. C., complained to the Provincial Congress Committee that no relief work was given to the people of Majuli up to the time he went there, but I was surprised to find that the A. P. C. C. has asked explanation from the members concerned in that constituency and what we had done there. I am sorry to say Sir, that the A. P. C. C. was sitting at Gauhati and I think it would be advisable for them to invite those M. L. As. who happened to be in the affected areas also, but they did not do so. Sir, at the instance of the gentleman who made a sweeping remark that no relief work was given to Majuli, A. P. C. C. at once called for a report from the persons concerned.

(Voices—Is there any relevancy, Sir?)

Sir, I can supply all the details of the works done by myself and the Government. The very day I arrived Jorhat. I telephoned the Deputy Commissioner that we should start at once for Majuli.....

Mr. SPEAKER: On what day?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: On the first of August. I started with the Deputy Commissioner with 100/150 maunds of rice. As soon as we arrived at Majuli, I at once asked the Deputy Commissioner to ask the Tahsildar to bring all available officials from the lowest to the highest to form a Relief Committee. Another non-official Relief Committee was also formed. Sir, we started at once with 13/14 centres and every thing possible was done to render relief to the Majuli flood and erosion affected people. Next day I requested the Deputy Commissioner to go back to Jorhat and send 100 maunds of rice to Ahatguri by steamer because it was not possible to carry anything to Majuli except by steamer. The Deputy Commissioner started for Jorhat and made arrangement for sending rice to Ahatguri accordingly and to Salmara by motor lunch. Sir, I stopped at Majuli for one week and was moving from place to place and was doing what little bit I could do to render relief to the affected people. After that I came back and the next day I went to Dibrugarh, came back from Dibrugarh and went again to Majuli and stayed there for 2/3 days at a time for all these months. I have got all the details of the works done at Majuli from the Tahsildar. Sir, I can give all the names of the affected people of Ahatguri

from the adults to the children.....(Laughter)
(*voices*—ইনকী মুটিসে সবকুছ হেঁয়।)

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the number ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: The number of eroded families is more than a thousand at that time, recent figure is more or less 1,200 families. Sir, many cattle also have been treated by the Veterinary Department though mortalities are great. The figures are supplied to me by the Tahsildar—these are official figures and the Deputy Commissioner must also have got these figures. The Government may call for those figures from the Deputy Commissioner. Sir, I am surprised that some irresponsible representatives of our news papers, some of them not all, could get the records of the North Bank while sitting at the South Bank. It is very bad on the part of some irresponsible representatives simply to censure and find fault with the Government and the administration. Sir, I say the departmental records are with me if I am asked to read out.....(*Voices*—Read out please)

Sir, the official records are with me, they have always been sent to me by the Tahsildar. So, if somebody comes from Majuli and without rhyme and reason starts saying something which is not really true it is very bad.....
(Disturbances)—এনেটকৈ 'দিষ্টাৰ্ব কৰাটো' খিক নহয়—*voice*.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has stated just now that nothing has been done for Majuli. The hon. Member is a representative from the Majuli constituency, let us hear him and let him not be disturbed in this way.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: Sir, how I proceeded in a regular way I am giving an idea of that. When I went there, I wrote the official letter to the Assistant Director of Public Health—"Dear Sir, please send me a list of Doctors and Health Assistants, you have placed at Majuli and flood-affected areas on the Southern side of the Brahmaputra with their names and centres so that if any complaints, true or false, that may come to me may be conveniently referred to those officials in connected centres without delay. Please send me a brief report of health work done so far in those flood-affected places as you so kindly assured me to supply". I wrote this on the 13th September to the head office so that "if I get any complaint I may refer the matter immediately to the officials concerned and yourself. If this procedure is adopted it will give an opportunity to sort out cases which are left unattended and they will receive immediate attention. I am sure the suggestion will receive your approval."

Similarly, I wrote to the Veterinary Inspector-in-charge—

“Please send me a list of Veterinary Assistants, and Field Assistants, whom you have placed in Majuli Relief Centres as well as on the Southern side flood-affected riparian areas for my easy reference whenever any complaints come from any centre. Kindly send me a copy of reports that you have received of Cattle diseases and mortality from any centres and whether medicines, etc., have been fully supplied in every centre for immediate treatment if necessary.”

Similarly, I sent another letter to Tahsildar, Majuli in-charge of Relief, Kamalabari, Jorhat—“I should be obliged if you kindly working in each centre, seedlings Centres and names of officials supply me with a list of Relief supplied to each centre where they were in demands, list of families whose home-steads eroded, list of demands for seeds for winter crops from each centre if, any.

Kindly send me also a copy of the Report as regards relief works done up to the date of last official report. This will also help me in disposing of complaints, true and false, coming from different quarters. I may then send you, after shifting, the true cases that may yet remain unattended for your necessary action. A copy of weekly report to Deputy Commissioner may also kindly be sent to me”.

Mr. SPEAKER: You have got satisfactory report from there.

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN: I have sent to the different officials concerned in the Majuli area and they pursued on these lines suggested by me and these reports were sent to the Deputy Commissioner and a copy to me of every report. I think they have done their work in details. I have a feeling that if such and such a family has not been attended to it is possibly individual case. I do say that the Field Assistants, Veterinary and Agricultural Demonstrators have been doing their best this time to give relief to the people as far as possible. But of course there were complaints from certain quarters. Sir, one family wanted 20 seers of rice as gratuitous relief and suspicion arose in the minds of the distributing officers and subsequently it was found that he has got 2 Bhorals full of paddy and rice. If the people themselves wanted to cheat these people by taking the relief, it cannot be humanly possible for the officers to attend to every bit of relief work that has been given whether properly done or improperly done. Unless the people themselves have that moral sense to take one or two seers according to their need, it is not the fault of the officers. It is the fault of our own moral degradation. I am sorry how my Friend like Sarbeswar Bordoloi, a very well able man who is doing tremendous work for the relief of these people from the I. N. T. U. C.

upto this moment could have made such complaints. The day he went to these people with his paddy he found me coming from Majuli doing relief work. How the Congress Committee is so duped by such report, I do not know. At any rate, in Majuli side I honestly say that the officers from Deputy Commissioner downwards and non-official agencies also have done their work satisfactorily. As regards the embankment work, the Leader of the Opposition preferred that there should be some good roads on these embankments. These roads will have to be repaired and recently when I went with the Revenue Minister and also the Forest Minister who is also responsible for the constituency because he is a member of that constituency, I find that Government have already sanctioned some 6 lakhs of rupees or so for full repair of these roads and we have suggested to the Public Works Department Minister and also the other officials, that this time these roads should be made permanent, if not, to save from erosion of the rivers at least half a portion of Majuli area will be encircled. Even the Brahmaputra while eroding other places, cannot erode those places, which are encircled by these roads and will be saved for at least the next ten years.

Mr. SPEAKER : This should be a road *cum* Bund.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : How erosion can be saved ?

Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN : That will save more than half the area of Majuli. If this is done by the time the flood swells up the Majuli area, at least the people will be saved for the next ten years. What you and I have got to do when the places are threatened by the Brahmaputra except to suggest to the Government what you want to do or to leave the people at the mercy of the Brahmaputra by not giving the road. This is not possible and we have in our Relief Committee suggestions made to Government and Government have taken these suggestions in right earnest.

Mr. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned up to 2 P. M.

(Adjournment)

(After lunch)

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

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ, মহোদয়, আজি সদনত আমাৰ মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বানপানী সম্পৰ্কে বিবাত দি আমাক সেই সম্পৰ্কে আলোচনাৰ এটি সুবিধা দিয়া কাৰণে মই তেখেতক আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ দিছো।

মহোদয়, আজি ৫০ বছৰ ধৰি বানপানীৰ যি অভিজ্ঞতা হৈছে তাৰ পৰা মই ইয়াকেই কব পাৰো যে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পানীয়ে ইমান ব্যাপক ভাবে ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত কৰা এয়ে সৰ্ব্বপ্ৰথম বুলি অনুমান হয়। বিশেষকৈ ১৯৫০ চনৰ ভূমিকম্পৰ ফলত বালি পৰি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ গভীৰতা হ্রাস হোৱা কাৰণেই এই বানপানীৰ উদ্ভব হোৱা বুলি অনুমান হয়। যি হওক, ইয়াত যিখিনি ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হৈছে তাক উন্নয়ন কৰিবলৈ আমাৰ আৰু কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কিছুমান উপায় অবলম্বন কৰিছে আৰু কামো হৈছে। এইক্ষেত্ৰত কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীকে আৰম্ভ কৰি অন্যান্য কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে বিশেষকৈ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ অৰ্থে যি কাম হাতত লবলৈ মনস্থ কৰিছে তাৰ কাৰণে মই তেখেতসকলক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বানপানীয়ে বছৰি বছৰি যিভাবে ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত কৰিবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিছে সেইভাবে চলি থাকিলে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকা টিকি থকাই সম্ভৱ নহব। অবশ্যে আমাৰ আৰু কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা উপযুক্ত উপায়েই অবলম্বন কৰিছে। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ উপনদীবিলাক হিমালয়ৰ পৰা আহিছে আৰু বৰঘুণ নোহোৱাকৈয়ে এই নদীবিলাকত বানপানী হয়। এইবিলাকলৈ মন দিব লাগিব। যিহওক এই বানপানী নিৰাৱণ কৰি আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ মঙ্গল সাধন কৰিবলৈ আমাৰ বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যিবিলাক ব্যৱস্থাৰ উল্লেখ কৰিলে সেইটো সচাটকৈ প্ৰসংশনীয়, তেখেতৰ বিবৃতিত বানপানীৰ দুৰ্ঘটনা সম্পৰ্কে বহুতো উল্লেখ কৰিছে। তাত ৰামকৃষ্ণ মিচন আৰু মাৰোৱাৰী বিলিফ ছোচাইটি আদি অনুষ্ঠানেই সহায় সহানুভূতি কৰিছে বুলিও উল্লেখ কৰিছে। সেইসকলক মোৰ আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ।

মহোদয়, অকল মৰাপাট আৰু আহুধানৰ ক্ষতিৰ পৰিমাণেই প্ৰায় ১৩ কোটি টকা হব আৰু অন্যান্য ক্ষতি সমূহৰে সৈতে ১৫ কোটিৰ কম নহব। এনেকৈ প্ৰতিবছৰে আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ যদি এইপৰিমাণে ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হয় তেন্তে দেশৰ কেনে অৱস্থা হব তালৈ আমাৰ সদনৰ সদস্য সকলে লক্ষ্য কৰা উচিত। আজি নদীৰ গৰাখহনীয়াত সদীয়াৰ পৰা ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ মাজুলী, জামুগুৰী, নগাঁও আদি স্থানৰ বহুতো লোক ঘৰ-মাটিহীন হৈ বিধ্বস্ত হৈছে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও পলাশবাৰীত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ গৰাখহনীয়াত কিমান লোক বিধ্বস্ত হৈছে তাক আমাৰ বিপক্ষদলৰ নেতা গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই উল্লেখ কৰি গৈছে এই ধ্বংসলীলা বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ আমাৰ প্ৰথম কৰ্তব্য হল ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নদীক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা। অবশ্যে ইয়াৰ কিছু অংশ চীনত পৰিছে গতিকে আমাৰ ক্ষমতাৰ বহিৰ্ভূত কথা। অবশ্যে তেওলোকৰো সাহায্যৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব লাগিব। মোটৰ ওপৰত যথাবিহিত ব্যৱস্থা সোনকালে হাতত লবলৈ মই আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। ইতিপূৰ্বেই আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা এই বিধ্বস্ত হোৱা লোকসকলৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপনৰ যথেষ্ট ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লৈছে। এতিয়া সোনকালে নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লৈ ভবিষ্যৎ বিপদৰ ওৰ পেলাব লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER: কি কৰিব লাগে? নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: মোটৰ ওপৰত গৰাখহনীয়া বন্ধ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ তিনকোণীয়া, মোহনাঘাট, আমোলাপাট আদি পৰগি ঠাইবিলাক খহাই নিলেই। যাতে পুনৰ খহাব নোৱাৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

তাৰ পিচত, আমাৰ কেইগৰাকীমান সদস্যই বাগানৰ অলাগতীয়াল মাটি সম্পৰ্কে উল্লেখ কৰি গৈছে। মোৰ বোধেৰে সেই মাটি বিলাক আন উদ্দেশ্যত নখটাই সেই বিলাক চৰকাৰেই এই বানপানী ভূমিকম্পত বিধ্বস্ত হোৱা লোকসকলৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপনৰ

কামত খটাৰ লাগে। বৰ্ত্তমানে সেইসকলৰ কিছুমানক সামান্য পৰিমাণেহে মাটি দিয়া হৈছে। মই আশাকৰো চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা সেই লোকসকলক পৰিকল্পনা মতে যথাসাধ্য পুনৰসংস্থাপন কৰি যাতে তেওলোকৰ সংস্থান হয় তাৰ দিহা সোনকালে কৰিব।

তাৰ উপৰিও, মাজুলী আদি অন্যান্য অঞ্চলত যিসকল লোক গৰাখহনীয়াত গ্ৰাসিত পৰিছে, সেইসকল বিশেষকৈ ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু চিডিউল লোক। এইলোকসকলৰ যাতে সংস্থাপনৰ ব্যৱস্থা সোনকালে হয় তালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগে। তেওলোক আমাৰ দেশৰেই এটা অঙ্গ। তেওলোকৰ হানি হলেও আমাৰ দেশ ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হব। গতিকে এটা পৰিকল্পনাৰ জৰীয়তে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে তেওলোকৰ সংস্থাপনৰ সুব্যৱস্থা কৰে তাৰ কাৰণে মই দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। কিয়নো তেওঁলোক দুৰ্বল আৰু সাহস হীন মুখ খুলি আবেদন কৰাৰ সাহস তেওঁলোকৰ নাই।

ইয়াৰ লগতে মই মোৰ জিলাৰ কথাও দুটামান কও। মই আগেয়েও কৈছে যে যোৱা ৫০ বছৰৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কব পাৰো যে এনে ক্ষতি এয়ে প্ৰথম। নগাঁৱৰ ২০ টা মৌজা ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হৈছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই জাগিয়াল, কাছমাৰী হাতিচুং মৌজাৰ কথাই উল্লেখ কৰিব পাৰো। দেখাত এইবিলাক মৌজাত ক্ষতি নোহোৱা যেন দেখি কিন্তু সেইঠাইবিলাকৰ দ অঞ্চল সমূহৰ ক্ষতিৰ পৰিমাণ কম নহয়। অবশ্যে চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা চেষ্টা যথেষ্ট কৰিছে যাতে এইলোকসকলক সাহায্য দিব পাৰি।

মই বুদ্ধপুত্ৰৰ দাতিত থকা কেবাটাও মৌজাৰ বিশেষকৈ লাভখোৱা, আলিটগানি, চিং লাহৰিবাট, মৈবাবাৰি, বোকনি মায়াং ইত্যাদিৰ মৌজাসমূহৰ বুদ্ধপুত্ৰৰ দাতিত থকা কেবাখনো গাওঁ ও পথাৰ বালিয়ে পুতি পেলোৱা মই সিদিনা নিজে দেখি আহিছো। তাতো মানুহে সবহ খেতি কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰি বিফল হৈছে কাৰণ বালিৰ ওপৰত শস্য পেলাইছে হয়, শস্য শুকাই গৈছে। গতিকে সেইবোৰ ঠাইৰ মানুহৰ অবস্থা অতি শোক লগা হৈ পৰিছে। ২।৩ বছৰৰ তিতৰতো যে সেই বিলাক ঠাই খেতিৰ উপযুক্ত হব পাৰিব মোৰ সন্দেহ। গতিকে মই ভাবো সেই বিলাক ঠাই বিশেষজ্ঞৰ দ্বাৰা পৰীক্ষা কৰি সেই বিলাক মানুহক খাজানা বেহাই দিব পাৰিলে বৰ উপকাৰ কৰা হব। বহুত ঠাইত দেখা যায় সাতটামান বানপানী আহি অনিষ্ট কৰি গৈছে। তথাপিও মানুহে চেষ্টা কৰি কৰা নাই। মানুহে ১০০ টকা দিয়ে গছ কঠিয়া খৰিদ কৰি খেতি কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। এই চেষ্টাত যি শস্য উৎপন্ন হব তাৰ দ্বাৰাই হয়তো ২।৩ মাহ মানৰহে খাদ্য যোগাব পাৰিব। বাকী কেইমাহ চলাবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰ সজাগ থাকিব লাগিব। অবশ্যে চৰকাৰী আৰু বেচৰকাৰী সাহায্য তেওঁলোকে পাইছে যদিও তেওঁলোকৰ আঁঠু আছ কাললৈ চাই সেই সাহায্য একেবাৰে নগন্য। চৰকাৰী সাহায্য যিমান খিনি পোৱা সম্ভব হব পাৰে তেওঁলোকে পাইছে। আমাৰ মাত্ৰ ১৫ কোটি ৰাজহ আয়ৰ এখন ৰাজ্যৰ পৰা ইয়াতকৈ আৰু বেচি পোৱা সম্ভবপৰ নহয়। তদুপৰি পীড়িত লোক সকলে চৰকাৰৰ বিভিন্ন বিভাগৰ পৰা যি সাহায্য পাইছে সি সটাকৈয়ে প্ৰসংশনীয়। নানা বেচৰকাৰী অনুষ্ঠানৰ পৰা সাহায্য পোৱাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰি বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে সকলোকে ধন্যবাদ জনাইছে। কিন্তু তেখেতে কংগ্ৰেছ অনুষ্ঠানৰ পৰা পোৱা সাহায্যৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰা নাই। আন অনুষ্ঠানৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰোতে কংগ্ৰেছ অনুষ্ঠান সমূহৰ কথাও উল্লেখ কৰা উচিত আছিল। বিভিন্ন কংগ্ৰেছ অনুষ্ঠানেও সাধ্যানুযায়ী সাহায্য দিছে—বিশেষকৈ প্ৰাদেশিক কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটি আৰু নগাঁও জিলা কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিৰ তৰফৰ পৰা অতি সামান্য হলেও ১০।১৫ হাজাৰ টকা সাহায্য দিছে। অৱশ্যে এই সাহায্য একেবাৰে নগন্য।

বিভিন্ন সাহায্যৰ উল্লেখ প্ৰসংগত বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে প্ৰায় ২৪ হেজাৰ টকা Test Relief সাহায্য কৰাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে। কিন্তু সেই ফালৰ পৰাও বিশেষ কাম এতিয়ালৈকে কৰিব পৰা হোৱা নাই।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Test Relief ব কাম এতিয়ালৈকে আবহুই হোৱা নাই। পানী শুকালেহে কাম হব।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Test Relief মানে বহুতো ভাবে বাস্তা বাট কৰাৰ বাবে সাহায্য.....। কিন্তু এই সাহায্য ঘৰুৱা শিল্প আদিতো দিব পৰা যায়। আমাৰ পীড়িত মানুহ সকলৰ কুচীৰ শিল্পৰ ফালেও লক্ষ্য কৰা উচিত। তেওঁলোকৰ কুচীৰ শিল্পৰ উন্নতি কৰি দিব পাৰিলেও তেওঁলোকৰ ভালেমান সাহায্য হয়। কাৰণ মই ভাবো এই দুৰৱস্থাৰ সময়ত তেওঁলোকে কেৱল সাহায্যলৈ বাট চাই নাথাকি দুপইচা উপাৰ্জন কৰি এমুঠি বুটমাহ খাব পাৰিলেও তেওঁলোকৰ পক্ষে অতি সন্মানৰ কথা। সেই কাৰণে এতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কুচীৰ শিল্পৰ বাবে অনতিপলনে তোৰজোৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলোৱা উচিত। কাৰণ এতিয়া ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ বান্ধ দিয়াৰ যি কথা চলি আছে সেই কাম হয়তো শেষ হওঁতে ১২ বছৰো লাগিব পাৰে। গতিকে যদি বানপানী হৈয়ে থাকে তেনেহলে ধানবান্ধা, সুতা কটা, মৰাপাটৰ জৰি বা চত্বোৱা আদি Test Relief ব কামৰ পৰাই তেওঁলোকে তৰি থাকিব পাৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক কুচীৰ শিল্পৰ প্ৰতি মনোযোগ দিবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনালো।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যদিও মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ৰ বিবৃতি প্ৰসঙ্গত এইটো উল্লেখ কৰিছে যে আমাৰ জিলাত গৰু মহৰ মহানাবী হোৱা নাই, তথাপি, মই কব খুজিছো যে, উপযুক্ত ঘাঁহ পানীৰ অভাৱত বেমাৰ আঁজাৰ হোৱাৰ সম্ভাৱনা আছে গতিকে চৰকাৰে যেন ঔষধ পত্ৰ আদি যোগাৰ ৰাখি প্ৰস্তুত থাকে। এতিয়া কাতি মাহ যদিও এতিয়াৰে পৰা খৰালিৰ ২৩ মাহৰ ভিতৰত হব পৰাকৈ বৰো খেতি কৰিব পৰা যায়। এই খেতি সাধাৰণতঃ দ ঠাইত কৰা হয়। এই উদ্দেশ্যে দুৰ্দ্দ শাখাস্ত বাইজে যেতিয়া এতিয়াও শস্য উৎপাদন কাৰ্য কৰিবলৈ প্ৰয়াস কৰিছে তেনেস্থলত, চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা, আৱশ্যকীয় সজলী আৰু সফল অতি সোনকালে বিতৰণ কৰা নিতান্ত প্ৰয়োজন হৈ উঠিছে আৰু তেনে কৰিব পাৰিলেহে খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব। তাৰ পিচত তাৰ লগে লগে, যিবিলাক মানীক্ৰপচ (Money Crops) যেনে মৰাপাট আদিৰ ঠাইত অন্য কোনো অৰ্থ কাৰ খেতিও যাতে বাইজে কৰিব পাৰে তাৰ সুযোগ সুবিধা যেন চৰকাৰৰ কৃষি বিভাগে গবেষণা আদি কৰি দিয়ে। খেতি পথাৰ কৰিবলৈ বাইজৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যি বিলাক আহিলা পাতিৰ যোগানৰ অনুৰোধ আহিছে সেই বিলাকৰ সবববাহ অতি সোণকালে চৰকাৰে কৰি দিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ইয়াৰ উপৰিও অন্য এটি প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগ পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে আমাৰ জিলাত সেইটো হৈছে খৰাং বতৰ। ইয়াৰ ফলত কাকি লক্ষা আৰু হোজাই এলেকাতৰ বয়ুণ নোহোৱাৰ ফলত শস্যৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যকীয় পানীৰ অভাৱ পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। আমি ভাবিছিলো এই শস্যৰ বাহি অঞ্চল কেইটাত উৎপাদন হোৱা শস্যই নিজৰ জিলাৰ উপৰিও ৰাজ্যৰ অন্যান্য ঠাইত খাদ্য বস্তৰ যোগান ধৰিব কিন্তু বতৰৰ কাৰণে এই এলেকা সমূহত উপযুক্ত পৰিমাণৰ খাদ্য শস্য উৎপাদিত নহব আৰু দেশৰ অন্য ঠাই পৰিবৰ্ত্তে নিজৰ জিলা কেই খন খাদ্য বস্তু যোগাৰ পাবেনে নোৱাৰে সন্দেহ জনক হৈ উঠিছে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গতে মই অন্য এটা বিপৰ্য্যয়ৰ কথা কও সেইটো হৈছে যেতিয়া জিলা খনৰ এটা অংশত পানীৰ অভাৱ তেতিয়া আন এটা বিৰাট অংশত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বানপানীয়ে খাদ্য-শস্য সমূহ নষ্টতো কৰিলে বানপানীৰ প্ৰবল প্ৰকোপত সেনচোৱা মৌবাবাৰী ৰেলৰ লাইন অচল হৈ পৰে। আৰু তাৰে সুযোগ লৈ বহুতো বেপাৰীয়ে, যাৱতীয় বস্তবাহানিৰ দাম বৃদ্ধি কৰি বাইজক অনাহকতজুলুম কৰে।

Mr. SPEAKER : ৰেল লাইন আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ নহয় নহয়।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : হয়, মই কেৱল বানপানীয়ে অনা অচল অৱস্থাটোৰহে কথা কৈছো।

Mr. SPEAKER : এই কামত আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ দায়িত্ব নাই।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : হয়, এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই কব খুজিছো যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ অধীনত যিটো Embankment and Drainage বিভাগ আছে তেওঁলোকে আৱশ্যকীয় মঠাউৰী বান্ধি আৰু খাল-দোং খান্দি পানী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰি বানপানীয়ে পোৱা এলেকা সমূহ বানপানীৰ কবলৰ পৰা মুক্তকৰিব পাৰে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি দিব বুলি মই আশা কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বিলাক খাদ্য অনাটন হোৱা অঞ্চললৈ চৰকাৰী বেচৰকাৰী সহায় গৈছে যদিও সি প্ৰয়োজন অনুসাৰে যথেষ্ট নোহোৱাৰ হেতু ইয়াৰ বাইজে নানা দুখ কষ্টেৰে জীৱন-যাপন কৰিব লগা হৈছে। মই আশা কৰো আৰু অধিক সাহায্য এই অঞ্চলৰ বাইজক চৰকাৰে দি তেওঁবিলাক স্বাৱলম্বী হোৱাৰ পথত সহায় কৰিব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Shri CHANOO KHERIA : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজিৰ এই সদনত মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়, অসমৰ বানপানী প্ৰসঙ্গত যিটো বিবৃতি দাঙি ধৰিছে তাৰবাবে তেখেতক মই ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো আৰু এই বানপানীৰ ফলত উদ্ভৱ হোৱা পৰিস্থিতি সম্পৰ্কেই মই দুই এঘাৰ কথা কাম।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই মোৰ নিজৰ সমাষ্টি মাজুলি অঞ্চলৰ কথাই কওঁ। এই সম্পৰ্কে পূৰ্ববৰ্ত্তী বক্তা সমূহে যথেষ্ট কৈয়েই গৈছে। মই কব খুজিছো যে, এই বাৰৰ বানপানী ইমান প্ৰৱল যে, ইতিপূৰ্বেৰ যোৱা ৫০ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত আৰু এনে পানী হোৱা বুলি মনে নধৰে। ইয়াৰ ফলত বাইজ যিমান ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হৈ বিপদাপন হৈ উঠিছে বোধ কৰো ১৯৫০ চনৰ প্ৰলয়ঙ্কৰী ভূমিকম্পই ও সিমান কৰিব পৰা নাছিল। এই বানপানীয়ে মানুহৰ ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ ভাঙি নিলে; ভোলাৰ ধান তল নিয়ালে গৰু-মহ উটুৱাই নিলে আৰু বহুত গৰু মহ মৰিলে আৰু ঘাইৰ অভাৱত এতিয়াও মৰি আছে। এনেকৈ অনেক অনিষ্ট সাধন কৰিলে। মই বিশেষকৈ মাজুলীৰ আহতগুৰি অঞ্চলৰ কথাই কওঁ। ইয়াত ১৬ হেজাৰবো অধিক মানুহৰ বসতি। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ আৰু লোহিত স্মৃতিৰ বানৰ ফলত.....

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : সেই অঞ্চলৰ পৰিমাণ কিমানবৰ্গ মাইল ?

Shri CHANOO KHERIA : আয়তনৰ পৰিমাণ কিমান মই থিক কৈ কব নোৱাৰো কিন্তু জনসংখ্যা ১৬ হেজাৰেবো অধিক।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই কৈছিলো—ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ আৰু লোহিত স্মৃতিৰ বাবে এই অঞ্চলৰ প্ৰায় অৰ্দ্ধেক মাটি ঘহাই নিলে আৰু বাকী থকা খেতিৰ উপযোগী পথাৰ সমূহৰ ওপৰত ৪।৫ ফুটলৈকে বালি পেলাই তেনেই খেতিৰ অনুপযুক্ত কৰি পেলালে আৰু খেতিৰ পথাৰৰ ওপৰতো বালি পেলাই, তাৰ ওপৰত থকা খেতিৰ শস্য সমূলি নষ্ট কৰি পেলালে। সেই বিলাক খেতি হৈছে ধান আৰু মাহ। ইয়াৰ ফলত এই অঞ্চলৰ বাইজ সকল একেবাৰে নিষ্ঠৰুৱা হল।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বানপানী প্ৰপীড়িত অঞ্চলত প্ৰয়োজন অনুসৰি যিমান বিলিফৰ্ দৰ্কাৰ, সিমান দিয়া হোৱা নাই বুলি কলেও অত্যুক্ত কৰা নহয়। এপাচি কচু শাক্ত এটা জালুক। তথাপি, চৰকাৰৰ এই ক্ষেত্ৰত সহানুভূতিৰ বাবে ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। এতিয়াহে আচল 'বিলিফৰ' সময় আহিছে। বানপানীয়ে ধ্বংস কৰি যোৱাৰ পাছত এতিয়া বাইজৰ পুণৰ সংস্থাপনৰ অৰ্থে, ধান, কঠিয়া আদি বিতৰণ কৰা অত্যন্ত প্ৰয়োজনহে উঠিছে আৰু চৰকাৰে অধিক সহায় দিব বুলি মই আশা ৰাখিলো।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই জানিব পাৰোনে আহতগুৰিৰ বচবেকীয়া খাজনা কিমান ?

(এইটো প্ৰশ্ন ইয়াত কেনেকৈ উঠে ? *Voices*)

Mr. SPEAKER : Say, about, sixteen thousand.

Shri CHANOO KHERIA : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সেই ঠাইত এতিয়াও মানুহ লম্বোনে আছে আৰু থাকিব লগীয়া হৈছে। বাইজৰ অৱস্থা ক্ৰমান্বয়ে বেয়াৰ ফাললৈহে গৈছে আৰু ঠায়ে-ঠায়ে এতিয়াই এনে অৱস্থা হৈছে যে ইজনে সিজনৰ পৰা সাহায্য পোৱাও টানটাই পৰিছে।

এতিয়া প্ৰশ্ন হৈছে যে যিবিলাক মানুহৰ ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ পানীয়ে উটাই নিলে সেই মানুহ বোৰক মাটি বাৰি দি পুনৰ সংস্থাপন কৰিব লাগে। (এটা মাত—কিমান মানুহৰ ঘৰ উটাই নিলে।) প্ৰায় ৩০০ মান পৰিয়ালৰ ঘৰ ইতিমধ্যে উটাই নিলেই আৰু তিনি চাৰি সপ্তাহৰ ভিতৰত আৰু কিছু লোকৰ ঘৰ উটাই নিয়াৰ সম্ভাৱনা। মুঠৰ ওপৰত আহঁতগুৰিৰ মৌজাৰ পৰা প্ৰায় এহেজাৰ পৰিয়াল মানুহক আন ঠাইত সংস্থাপন কৰিব লাগিব। এতিয়া বাম খেতি কৰিবৰ সময়—মাটিমাহ, সব্বিয়হ, আলু, কচু, পিয়াজ আদি খেতি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে মাটি লাগে। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকৰ মাটি নাই। মানুহবোৰ নিকপায়হৈ পৰিছে। কিছুমান মানুহ গোলাঘাটলৈকে আহিছে আৰু আমি প্ৰায় ৪০০ মান পৰিয়ালৰ কাৰণে বিজাৰ্ভৰ মাটি যোগাব কৰিছোঁহক। মাটি যোগাব কৰা ঠাই আহঁতগুৰিৰ পৰা প্ৰায় ৪০ মাইল কিন্তু আঠ মাইল খোজ কাঢ়ি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ পাৰহৈ দেবগাঁও পাওঁতে ষাটত ছৈধ্য অনা মাছুল দিব লাগে আৰু দেবগাঁৱৰ পৰা মাটি যোগাব কৰা ঠাইলৈ যাবলৈ আৰু ১১/ অনা ভাৰা দিব লাগে। গতিকে ইমান কষ্ট আৰু খৰচ কৰি অহাটো তেওঁলোকৰ পক্ষে সহজ নহয়। বিজাৰ্ভৰ মাটি বিলাক হৈছে তৰাণী আৰু গমাৰী গুৰিত। কিন্তু উত্তৰ পাৰৰ বিজাৰ্ভ বিলাক আহঁতগুৰিৰ মানুহে সহজে যাব পাৰে ও ওচৰ হয় গতিকে উত্তৰ পাৰলৈহে যাবৰ মন কৰে।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : বিজাৰ্ভবোৰৰ নাম কবনে ?

Shri CHANOO KHERIA : সোনাৰি কাঠৈমাৰি, বঙালমাৰি, নিদান-চোৱা, ভাতমৌ, পিছলা আৰু গহপুৰৰ ওচৰত থকা Forest Reserve আদি বহুত বিজাৰ্ভ আছে। আটাইবোৰৰ নাম মনত নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : বিজাৰ্ভবিলাক দ নে বাম।

Shri CHANOO KHERIA : প্ৰায় বোৰেই বাম। সেইবোৰ ঠাইত বসতি কৰিবলৈ মানুহবোৰেও মন কৰিছে; কাৰণ মাটিবিলাক খেতিৰ উপযোগী আৰু সেই ঠাইলৈ গৈয়েই খেতি কৰিব পাৰিব। দক্ষিণ পাৰৰ পৰা উত্তৰ পাৰলৈ যোৱা মানুহবোৰক চৰকাৰে পৰাপক্ষত মাটি দি সহায় কৰিব লাগে যাতে তেওঁলোকে যিমান পাৰে সোনকলে সংস্থাপিত হব পাৰে। ভগনীয়া বিলাকক যি দৰে আৰু যি পৰিমাণে সহায় কৰা হৈছে এই প্ৰতীড়িত পৰিয়ালবোৰকো চৰকাৰে সেই দৰে সহায় কৰাটো বাঞ্ছনীয়। সংস্থাপনৰ কাম অতি সোনকালেই কৰিব লাগে যাতে মানুহবোৰ নতুন ঠাইলৈ গৈ অহা আহুখেতিটো কৰিব পাৰে। এই কামত লেহেম কৰিলে মানুহবোৰ যতে ততে বিজাৰ্ভত বহিব পাৰে আৰু তাৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ আহকাল হব পাৰে।

Mr SPEAKER : আপুনি আহঁতগুৰিলৈ কেইবাৰ গৈছে ?

Shri CHANOO KHERIA : তিনিবাব গৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : একেবাবে শেহত কেতিয়া গৈছিল?

Shri CHANOO KHERIA : ৰাজহমন্ত্ৰী যেতিয়া গৈছিল, তেতিয়া মই তাতেই আছিলো। প্ৰপীড়িত মানুহবোৰ দুৰৱস্থা দেখিলে বহু বেজাৰ লাগে। সেই কাৰণেই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যাতে তেওঁলোকক সোনকালে মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। মানুহবোৰক এককালীন সাহায্য (Gratuitous relief) ৰ বাবে যি ৫০ টকা দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হৈছে সেইটোও বহু কম হৈছে। সাহায্য কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চিনপাত দিয়াৰ যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব খুজিছো তাকো যিমান পাৰে সোনকালে দিব লাগে যাতে মানুহবোৰে সোনকালে ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ সাজি লব পাৰে। মানুহবোৰক নতুন ঠাইত বহুৱাওতে এটা plan কৰি বহুৱাব লাগে। ইয়াকে কৈ মই সামৰণী মাৰিলো।

Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to the Revenue Minister for giving this House an opportunity to discuss this important subject of flood and for making a statement regarding that in this House.

Sir, Assam is not unacquainted with floods. But flood of this year is unique on account of and its repeated recurrence within a few months. So the problem of tackling this is not only with the Government but also with the public. Flood by itself is not always to be feared because flood sometimes gives beneficial effects to the soil. So far as Dibrugarh is concerned, I mean Dibrugarh Subdivision, the erosion there has caused havoc and has created the greatest problem. Brahmaputra is eroding the Dibrugarh not for the first time this year, but Dibrugarh people have borne this brunt of erosion for the last three decades, but the severity of this year is unprecedented. The Brahmaputra started erosion this year not only in Dibrugarh but also in Pasighat, Sadia, Majuli, Palasbari and other places, which are also the victims of such erosions. Therefore, this problem should be tackled on a war-footing. In this connection, I would mention that if the previous Governments would have taken timely measures, erosions at least in Dibrugarh could have been checked in time. As I have already stated, people of Dibrugarh has already borne the brunt for the last three decades, so I say that the previous Governments if they would have taken a long view of the matter could have stopped erosions there. In this connection, I would like to mention that in the year 1936 when erosion just started for the first time at Dibrugarh and when it was the victim of severe floods, an Engineer from Calcutta, his name is probably Mr. Curry was deputed to Dibrugarh and he submitted a scheme to the Government for protection of Dibrugarh town which involved a sum of Rs.13 lakhs. But the

then Government was not prepared to accept this scheme. Perusal of the proceedings of the Assam Legislative Council in the year 1937 will bring to your notice the reply given by the then Minister in-charge of Revenue to this question of protection of Dibrugarh town from erosion. He said that 'Government is not prepared to spend tax-payers money for the protection of Dibrugarh town.' This was the attitude assumed by the Government in the year 1937 to the problem which has now almost become a baffling one to the Government of Assam. That is why I say, Sir, if the then Government would have tackled the problem effectively at the cost of Rs.13 lakhs, it would not have assumed the present proportion demanding an expenditure of crores of rupees. Although this problem of erosion has been agitating the minds of the people of Dibrugarh from years past, there are of course, gaps, at times the river becomes more turbulent and heavy erosion takes place, and again at times it becomes calm and less turbulent. Heavy erosion began to take place again in the year 1950 after the great earthquake which was followed by heavy floods. Again in the year 1950 after the floods, an expert committee was sent by the Central Government, and that committee submitted a scheme for revetment for protection of the Dibrugarh town in the year 1952. Had that scheme been pushed through and completed in time I think erosion could have been checked and it would have not assumed the gigantic scale that it has assumed now. Sir, actual danger to revetment comes from outflanking and there is no remedy to this unless revetment is built up to cover the entire area where erosion takes place. Piecemeal revetment will not solve the problem. Had the revetment that was built in 1952 been so made as to cover the entire length of bank eroded in Dibrugarh, the revetment could have been saved and so much of money spent in its construction would not have gone to waste. Sir, in this connection, I would like to mention the exemplary spirit of community work shown by the people of Dibrugarh when erosion of the river threatened the very existence of the Dibrugarh town. Men, women and children of Dibrugarh came out and helped the revetment authority in order to save the revetment from the fury of the Brahmaputra. It is a unique example of community work for which the people of Dibrugarh can be well proud of.

Now another scheme of revetment involving an expenditure of one crore of rupees has been formulated by the Government and experts had come and gone back again after examining

the site. They will shortly submit, it is told, their final recommendations.

It is a matter for the Engineers to say as to which is the best method for protection against erosion. But as a lay man I would request the Government to consider the question of protecting erosion by spurring of banks. I think Government will also do well to suggest to the experts to explore the possibility of piling and also dredging the sand bars formed near the bank as a protective measure against erosion. As regards the revetment, Sir, if it is decided to construct the revetment, it should be constructed in one season. Otherwise there is every likelihood of the revetment being endangered, nay rather demolished by the outflanking tactics of the mighty Brahmaputra. Government is now faced with the problem of rehabilitating the people rendered homeless as a result of the erosion. It is the natural desire of the people to have lands contiguous to the town. Therefore it is the duty of the Government to find lands for rehabilitation of these people in places near about the town. The reported decision of the Government to find land in Mohanbari has caused great resentment in minds of the people of Dibrugarh. Sir, our people are not so enterprising so as to be able to built up satilite townships. The people for whom lands may be allotted at Mohanbari may even refuse to accept. They may even take the extreme step of squatting in public and Government places in an attempt to thwart the Government efforts to allot lands in far away places from the town. Such an attempt on the part of the Government may also create an impression in the minds of the people that the Government is not at all earnest to construct a revetment at Dibrugarh and what they want is to shift the town to some other place. I therefore urge upon the Government not to build Government buildings in distant places but to devise ways and means by which lands can be procured in areas contiguous to the town for construction of Government and public buildings as also to allot to the peoples rendered landless by the erosion.

Lastly, Sir, the Revenue Minister has mentioned in his statement that Government have abandoned the scheme which they formulated to rehabilitate the refugees. The scheme was abandoned on account of the fact that the affected people represented to the Minister that price of the land is too high. But, I think, Sir, for that reason the scheme should not be abandoned. The refugees should be allowed to think over the matter once again, and I think, good sense will prevail upon them. So, Sir, I

would ask the Government not to abandon the scheme totally, so that the people might get time to revise the scheme because through this scheme Government is going to get help from the Centre. If the scheme is abandoned, it will deprive us of the money which we are going to get. With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the flood and erosion affected people of Assam for standing bravely against the erosion and flood caused by the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. My thanks go to our Government, because they are dealing this problem properly within their means. I think, Sir, we should think one thing like that of the Brahmaputra on the one hand in one line, and on the other hand, we should also think its tributaries on a different line. Sir, when we think about the Brahmaputra, the idea of Biswakarma, the Engineer and the architect of the Universe comes to my mind. After all, there is one thing called acts of God or law of nature. So, when we go to deal with the mighty Brahmaputra, that fact should not be altogether overlooked. Sir, my thanks go to the people of Dibrugarh for offering their prayers to the Almighty Father to pacify the mighty Brahmaputra. That example should have been followed by the two Members of Legislative Assembly who are residing near Palasbari. If they have not forgotten that, I think, they will do this.

Sir, I think, the whole of Asia is in the State of a melting pot with regard to politics. The Asiatic States are in the state of a melting pot with regard to the law of Nature also. There are high floods about in all parts of Asia. There are some things which are called axiomatic truths, and they are not to be forgotten and also not to be abandoned. This is not only my opinion, this is the opinion of experts also. The opinion of the expert is that the whole of the Assam Himalayan Range is of recent origin and absolutely unstable. The Assam Valley is still in the process of formation. Further if we pay our attention, we find that in the year 1947, there was a great earthquake which shocked the Assam Hill Range. Again we find there was a great earthquake in the year 1892, which caused general depression in the south bank of the Brahmaputra. There was another great earthquake in the year 1950, which caused further deterioration in the State of Assam. There are the axiomatic truths before us, and that is why we are to deal with the Brahmaputra erosion problem in a different way.

That is why we should think about Biswakarma, the Engineer and the architect of the Universe also. (*Laughter*)

Sir, as we are born we are fated to die after some years say, after 100 years. During this period of our lives we may suffer from various diseases which may be cured by the doctors. So, Sir, during the time given by law of nature, if some thing happens, we should take steps against such happenings. Laws of nature have full play upon us, but still human brain has developed different means to well utilise laws of nature. So we should not sit idle to tackle the Brahmaputra problem. Sir, in my mind, if we are to tackle this question of the Brahmaputra we are to tackle in a different way. It is not to be tackled by the Assam Government alone, but it should be tackled by the Government of India in consultation with neighbouring Asiatic Governments and this must be tackled on the basis of Asia as a whole. So, in my mind, the Government of Assam should not think this as a question of Assam alone, they should think in terms of Asia. (*Hear, Hear*)

Sir, if this is not done, in my humble opinion, we are to think and re-think before we take up any big plan to control the mighty Brahmaputra.

Mr. SPEAKER : Will you come to our territory?

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Sir, I am coming to that. In my humble opinion, the question of control of Brahmaputra should be treated and solved in a different way, and on a different line after having some experience this year. Sir, before we go to take up any big plan to tackle the Brahmaputra erosion problem, the expert opinion, the opinion of the people residing by the side of the Brahmaputra and having practical experience in this matter and the ancient writings about the Brahmaputra, are to be taken into consideration. Then only a practical shape may be given. In my opinion, the expert opinion alone will not help. We must make the honest attempt to solve this problem anyhow.

Now, Sir, I am coming to the tributaries of Assam, which may be easy to be controlled. In this connection, I should like to say that as one of our Ministers has been deputed to Japan and China, he will be able to throw some light how to control the tributaries in Assam. I think, he has seen a lot, and I, on my part, want to offer my full co-operation to him if he so contemplates to implement some of these plans undertaken by the people

of China and Japan in the matter of control of Pahumara River. I submit to him that he will be able to canalise the latent energy of the people in solving this problem. The example that are being followed by the Chinese people will be shown here, and I leave it to the Minister to see that at least he should take up such a plan on an experimental basis in the case of Pahumara River. I assure him that in this matter, I shall offer my help if required, and also try to prevail upon the people of my constituency to co-operate with him, in his attempt.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the length of the river Pahumara?

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Sir, it will be better if we make a mathematical calculation from the map itself. Sir, special attention should also be given by the Minister-in-charge to control the Beki river, probably this river falls under the constituency of Minister, Agriculture too. Sir, the Bagmara side also has been badly affected by the river and it must be controlled. If the river cannot be controlled by human labour, something must be found out to control this river. I hope the Agriculture Minister will pay special attention to this, and with his experience in China and Japan, I hope he will put the experimental work to control the river successfully; and my submission to him is to make the plan successful so that he can show an example to the rest of Assam. I am ready to give my full co-operation. Sir, the people of my locality and subdivision are ready to give their full co-operation to the Agriculture Minister in this matter. Sir, I hope the Chief Minister also will pay special attention in regard to this matter.

Now, Sir, one thing again I beg to submit to the Chief Minister that it is my own knowledge that the Pahumara side has not only been badly affected by flood but by the caterpillars also. Sir, I went to that side and I had seen personally the devastation done by the caterpillars, and so much devastation has been caused by the caterpillars that practically there is no paddy in the field.

(Voices—It is due to the after effect of the flood.)

Yes, Sir, it seems to me, it is the effect of the flood. Sir, with regard to the remission of revenue towards the flood affected and eroded people, I hope the Revenue Minister will pay special attention in granting the remission to such affected people. I have personally seen

the worst plight of the people affected in the flood for Pahumara river. Sir, I again invite the Revenue Minister to see to this damage and devastation done by the flood as well as the caterpillars, and I hope the Revenue Minister will pay special attention to make the necessary remission of land revenue. Sir, if we find that the floods and the tributaries cannot be controlled by human efforts, then some efforts are to be made for the villagers who are residing by the side of the Pahumara river; some provisions will have to be made for them; lands will have to be given to them. Sir, there is a Reserve called Batabari Reserve, if we cannot control the river, I hope the Forest Minister will pay his special attention to open this Reserve or some other reserve for the flood and erosion affected people. These are true agriculturists and loyal to our State. Sir, this is the badly flood affected place from which one student in the whole of Assam, and a tribal cultivator offered lives in 1942 freedom movement by facing bullets. Sir, I am not speaking of this locality for nothing, most of these agriculturists did enough in the 1942 movement.

Sir, I am glad to inform the hon. Members of the House that the people of the locality have started one Middle English School to commemorate the names of those martyrs of 1942 movement. So I hope special attention may be given for this locality.

(Voices—What about the Education Minister?).

There will be a proper time to approach the Education Minister too. So I request the Chief Minister to pay special attention to this problem by way of reminding him. Sir, one Resolution was passed for the construction of a Marginal Bundh along the Pahumara river but that has not been constructed. Sir, I beg to submit to the Public Works Department Minister that if he takes up that matter immediately, the villagers of the locality will put up all their efforts and labours for its successful completion. Sir, I hope the House will not misunderstand me thinking that I am speaking for my constituency alone. I have placed it by way of illustration only.

Mr. SPEAKER: They have misunderstood yet a lot.

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Sir, the Agriculture Minister has come from China, it is now my bounden duty to offer my co-operation and make his plan successful. I hope other Ministers will also be willing to visit other foreign

countries to get more experiences and experiments from those countries and put those experiences and experiments in the State of Assam, to make Assam prosperous.

Sir, I am not going to praise the Cabinet for nothing, but I feel that the Cabinet has done great things for Assam in solving the great and important problems properly with their limited resources. I am bold enough to say that the rest of Assam, nay the rest of India as a whole will be able in no distant time to solve all the problems successfully thus making our country great and prosperous.

With these few words, Sir, I wish success of the whole Cabinet to make our plans successful according to the Congress ideal.

Shri DALBIR SING LOHAR: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজিৰ এই (Voices—মাইক কে পাচ আইয়ে) সদনত মাননীয় বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই অসমৰ বানপানী আৰু গৰা খহনীয়াৰ স্বংসলীলা সম্পৰ্কে যিটো বিবৃতি দাঙি ধৰিছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন নকৰি নোৱাৰো। সঁচাকৈয়ে এই বাবৰ বানপানী আৰু গৰা খহনীয়াই দি যোৱা স্মৃতি অসমৰ ইতিহাসৰ বিষাদ সনা এটা স্মৰণীয় ঘটনা হৈ থাকিব।

মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ বিবৃতিটোৰ আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত ডিব্ৰুগৰৰ বানপানী আৰু গৰা খহনীয়াৰ স্বংসলীলা সম্পৰ্কে মোৰ পূৰ্ববৰ্ত্তী বক্তা সকলে যথেষ্ট ভাবে কৈ গৈছে যদিও, ডিব্ৰুগৰৰ সদস্য হিচাবে, এই সদনত উপস্থিত থাকিও, ইয়াৰ বিষাদ জড়া পৰিস্থিতি সম্পৰ্কে কিছু কথা নকলে আমাৰ অকৰ্মন্যতাৰহে পৰিচয় দিব আৰু আমি ৰাইজৰ ওচৰত দোষী গাৰ্য্যন্ত হব লাগিব। সেই কাৰণে মই, বিশেষকৈ ডিব্ৰুগৰ আৰু ইতিহাস প্ৰসিদ্ধ সদীয়াৰ পৰিস্থিতি সন্মুখত ৰাখি বিপদ গ্ৰস্ত সেই লোক সকলৰ উপকাৰার্থে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কি কৰিছে নকৰিছে, তাৰ কথাই আপনালোকৰ আগত কবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিম। ইয়াতে এটা কথাই মোৰ মনত বিশেষ ভাবে আঘাত কৰিছে আৰু সেইটো হৈছে বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ বিবৃতিত বানপানী বিশ্বস্ত হৈথোৱা আৰু চিৰকালৰ কাৰণে অসমৰ মানচিত্ৰৰ পৰা লোপ পাই যোৱা সদীয়াৰ কোনো উল্লেখই নাই।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় ডিব্ৰুগৰত বানপানী আৰু গৰাখহনীয়াত যি অৱস্থা হৈছিল সেই অৱস্থাত যদি চৰকাৰে আমাক নোচালেহেতেন তেনেহলে, মোৰ বিশ্বাস, খহনীয়াত অন্তত: ৫০।৬০ জন মানুহ মৰিলহেতেনে। আমাৰ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী, বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰী, স্বাস্থ্যমন্ত্ৰী, বনমন্ত্ৰী, খাদ্যমন্ত্ৰী, আৰু গড়কাপ্তানী মন্ত্ৰী গৈ যি উৎসাহ, উদ্দীপনা দিলে তাৰ দ্বাৰা ডিব্ৰুগৰ বাসীয়ে বহুত সকাহ পালে আৰু হাড়ক মাটি কৰি তেজক পানী কৰি দিনে ৰাতিয়ে খাটিবলৈ প্ৰেৰণা পালে। মন্ত্ৰী সকলৰ উপস্থিতিয়ে ৰাইজৰ মনত বল দিলে আৰু ডিব্ৰুগৰৰ অনুস্থানবিলাকে—বিশেষকৈ স্কুল, কলেজ, মেডিকেল কলেজ, পুলিচ, আসাম তেল কোম্পানী, মজদুৰসংঘ, আই, টি, এ, আই, এন, টি, ডি, চি, মাৰোৱাৰী ৰিলিফ চোচাইটি, ৰেলওৱে ওৰ্কচপ, কংগ্ৰেছ, মহিলা সমিতি, মিলিটেৰী আৰু আন আন অনুস্থান সকলেও ভাতৃ ভাৱেৰে মিলিজুলি যি কাম কৰিলে তাক বৰ্ণনা কৰিবৰ মোৰ ভাষা নাই, এই অনুস্থান বিলাকে নদীৰ পাৰৰ ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ ভাঙি নি আন ঠাইত মানুহ বোৰ

থকাৰ বন্দোবস্ত কৰি অনেক পৰিয়ালক বক্ষা কৰিছিল। আনকি স্কুলৰ ছাত্ৰ দুজনে নদীৰ বুকুত উটিযোৱা ৩৪ জন মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ বক্ষা কৰাৰ কথাও উল্লেখযোগ্য। বিশেষকৈ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ডিব্ৰুগৰবাসী বাইজৰ মাজত যি উৎসাহ, উদ্দিপনা আৰু বল দিলে তাৰ ফলতে বাতিয়ে দিনে কাম কৰি বাইজৰ আৰু চৰকাৰৰ সকলো সম্পত্তি বক্ষা কৰিব পৰা গল; মাত্ৰ পুলিচ চাহাবৰ বঙলাৰ চাৰিটা লোহাৰ কোঠা বক্ষা কৰিব পৰা নগল। ইয়াৰ বাবে ডিব্ৰুগৰ বাসী বাইজে মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সলাগ লয় আৰু অভিনন্দন জনায়। আমাৰ বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই বিবৃতিত কৈছে যে প্ৰায় ১০০০ পৰিয়ালক সাহায্য দিয়া হৈছে। আৰু আমাৰ হিচাপ মতে অকল গৰা খহনীয়াই ১০১৭টা পৰিয়ালক স্থানচ্যুত কৰিলে আৰু ১৯৫০ চনতে ডিব্ৰুগৰ টাউনৰ প্ৰায় ৪৫৫ বিঘা মাটি খহাই নিলে। খহনীয়াই সৰ্ব্বশাস্ত কৰা লোক সকলৰ কিছমান ভাৰতীয়া বা লীজত থকা মানুহ, আৰু কিছমান পটাদাৰ। তাৰ এটা হিচাপ দিলে—

	পটাদাৰ	ভাৰতীয়া বা লীজত থকা	মুঠ
১ উত্তৰ আমোলাপটি	৫	৮৯	৯৪
২। দক্ষিণ „	১০	৬৯	৭৯
৩। মাৰোৱাৰী পটি	১৪	১২০	১৩৪
৪। পাঁচ আলি	৫৪	৫৭	১১১
৫। বেহিয়াচেতিয়া	৬	১০২	১০৮
৬। তিন কোনিয়া	৭৯	৭০	১৪৯
৭। অমবাগুৰি	×	৬৭	৬৭
৮। নগাখেলিয়া	২	৮	১০
	১৭০	৫৮২	৭৫২

ইয়াৰ পৰা দেখা যাব যে মুঠ ৭৫২ ঘৰ মানুহ একেবাৰে সৰ্ব্বশাস্ত হৈ গৈছে। এতিয়া এই মানুহ বোৰক মাটি আৰু ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ আদি দি পুনৰ বসতি কৰিবলৈ সকলো সুবিধা দিব লাগিব, নহলে এই সৰ্ব্বশাস্ত হোৱা মানুহবোৰ পথৰ ভিখাৰী হব লাগিব।

তাৰ পিচত ডিব্ৰুগৰত নদীয়ে খহাই নিয়া মাটিৰ এটা হিচাপ দিলে বোধকৰো ভাল হব আৰু মাননীয় সদস্য সকলেও সমস্যাটোৰ বিষয়ে কিছু উপলক্ষি কৰিব পাৰিব। তিনকোনিয়াত ৩৬২ ফুট নৈয়ে খহাই নিলে আৰু নৈৰ পৰা বৰ্তমান চেউনী আলিৰ দূৰত্ব ৬৪১ ফুট; হৰজুতলত ৫৬২ ফুট নৈয়ে খহাই নিলে আৰু নৈৰ পৰা বৰ্তমান চেউনী আলিৰ দূৰত্ব ৪৮২ ফুট; পুৰনি চাবকিট ঘৰৰ ওচৰত ৭০৬ ফুট নৈয়ে খহাই নিলে আৰু নৈৰ পৰা বৰ্তমান চেউনী আলিৰ দূৰত্ব ৪৪০ ফুট; পাৰ্ক বাস্তাত ৭৫২ ফুট খহাই নিলে আৰু নৈৰ পৰা বৰ্তমান চেউনী আলিৰ দূৰত্ব ৩৫৫ ফুটৰ থানাঘাট বাস্তাৰ ৮০০ ফুট খহাই নিলে আৰু নৈৰ পৰা চেউনী আলিৰ দূৰত্ব ৩৩০ ফুট; মাৰোৱাৰী পটিত খহাই নিলে ৭০০ ফুট আৰু নৈৰ পৰা চেউনী আলিৰ

দূৰত্ব ৩৫৩ ফুট ; পাচ আলিত নৈয়ে খহাই নিলে ৭৫ ফুট আৰু নৈৰ পৰা চেউনী আলিব বৰ্তমান দূৰত্ব ৩৪০ ফুট। ইয়াৰ পৰাই ভালকৈ উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰি ডিব্ৰুগৰৰ গৰা খহনীয়া কিমান ভয়াবহ হৈছিল আৰু ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ খহাই নি কিমান মানুহক সৰ্ব-শান্ত কৰিলে। গৰা খহনীয়াই সৰ্বহাৰা কৰা মানুহৰ সমগ্ৰাটো উপলব্ধি কৰি আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী আৰু বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই চাবকিট ঘৰত মীমাংসা কৰি ঠিক কৰিছিল যে এই মানুহবোৰৰ সংস্থাপন কৰিব লাগিব। চৰকাৰে কিছুমান মাটি চৌকিদিংগিত লৈ এই মানুহ-বোৰক দিব আৰু তাৰ দাম ১৫-২০ বছৰত আদায় কৰিব। আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ এই আচনিত মই সম্পূৰ্ণ মত দিছিলো কিয়নো গৰাখহনীয়া প্ৰায়বোৰ মানুহেই অতি দুখীয়া আৰু ভাৰা ঘৰত থকা বা খাজানা ভৰি থকা। এই মানুহবোৰৰ ১৯৩৪ চনৰ গৰাখহনীয়াতে সৰ্ব-হাৰা হোৱা লোক। গতিকে এই সময়তে যদি দুখীয়া পৰিয়ালবোৰৰ এডোখৰ মাটি আৰু এটা ঘৰ কৰি লব পাৰে তেন্তে এটা ডাঙৰ কাম হ'বলৈ ভাবিছিলো। চৰকাৰৰ অনুগ্ৰহতে যদি এইফেৰা কৰি লব পৰা নেযায় তেন্তে সৰ্বহাৰা হোৱা পৰিয়াল সকলৰ আৰু আন উপাই নাই। সেই বাবেই মই এই কথাটো জ্ঞেৰ দিছিলো আৰু সকলো ভাব আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী আৰু বিত্তমন্ত্ৰীৰ ওপৰত অপণ কৰিছিলো কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় কিছুমান লোক চৰকাৰৰ এই আঁচনিত সন্মত নহ'ল কাৰণ মাটিৰ দাম বেচি। সেইসময়ত মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীৰমেশচন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱাই সন্মত হোৱা নাছিল চহৰৰ কিছুমান লোকৰ আপত্তি দেখি। আজি বৰুৱাও চৰকাৰৰ আঁচনিত সন্মত হোৱাৰ বাবে সুখী হৈছে। ডিব্ৰুগৰীয়া ৰাইজক মাটি দিবলৈ চৰকাৰে যি আঁচনি লৈছিল তাক বাদনিদি যেন তাক পুনৰ হাতত লয় তাৰ বাবে মই আকৌ চৰকাৰক টানি অনুৰোধ কৰিছো, মাটিৰ মালিকৰ লগত অপোচ আলোচনা কৰিয়েই হওঁক বা আনকোনো উপায়ে আমাক মাটি দি বন্ধা কৰিব লাগে।

আমাৰ কেইজনমান সদস্যই অভিযোগ কৰিছে যে ডিব্ৰুগৰৰ ওচৰত কিছু মাটি চাহগছ নোবোৱাকৈ পেলাই ৰাখিছে আৰু এই মাটি খিনিকে সৰ্বহাৰা লোকক দিব লাগে। কিন্তু অভিযোগৰ প্ৰকৃত কথাতো নেজানো। চৌকিদিঙ্গী বাগিছাত চাহগছ নোবোৱা ৭৫ বিঘা মাটি আছিল তাৰে ৫০ বিঘা গিৰিহঁতে ডিব্ৰুগৰ কলেজক দান দিছিল দুৰ্ভাগ্যবশতঃ কলেজ অৰ্থাৰ্থিটৰ লগত এক মত হ'ব নোৱাৰাত মাটিখিনি কলেজে নললে। শেষত মালিকে মাটি-খিনি যি কোনো শিক্ষা অনুস্থানক দিবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰক দিছিল। গতিকে গোটেই চৌকিদিঙ্গী বাগিছাত চাহগছ নাইবুলি যেন নেভাবে। যদি গোটেই বাগিছাখন লৈ চৰকাৰে সৰ্বহাৰা লোকক দিব পাৰে সি অতি উত্তম কথা সেই কাৰণেই আমি সকলো দায়ীত্ব চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰতে অপণ কৰিছো। দুখীয়া ৰাইজক মাটি লাগে আৰু মানুহৰ দৰে থাকিবলৈ লাগে আন সম্বল যিমান সোনকালে পাৰে দিলেই হয়।

ডিব্ৰুগৰত যিবিলাক কেম্প কৰা হৈছিল তাৰ বিষয়ে বিপক্ষদলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীহৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামীদেবে নিন্দা কৰিছে। তেখেতে কৈছে যে তাত পানী আৰু বোকা হৈছিল আৰু কোনো সুবিধা নাছিল। সেই সময়ত যি অৱস্থা হৈছিল কৰ্মীসকলে কোনো বকমে প্ৰাণ-ৰক্ষা আৰু সম্পত্তি ৰক্ষা কৰিবৰ বাবে নৈৰ কাষৰ পৰা অলপ দূৰতে মাল-বস্ত্ৰ নি ৰাখিব লগা হৈছিল, দুবলৈ নিবৰ সময় নাছিল। তাৰোপৰি সেই সময়ত ধাৰসাৰে বৰষুণ। বাতিৰ ভিতৰতে কাম শেষ কৰি প্ৰাণ আৰু সম্পত্তি ৰক্ষা কৰা হৈছিল। গতিকে দ-বাম চাবৰ সময় নাছিল। কিছুমান জৰ্জ হাইস্কুলৰ পথাৰত, কিছু মটক গাঁৱৰ বেল আলিব ওপৰত, কিছু হাইস্কুল পথাৰত আৰু কিছু গো-শালাত কৰিব লগা হৈছিল, দুই-এঠাইত অলপ পানী হোৱাটো স্বাভাৱিক। জালান নগৰ বা কদমনিত কৰা কেম্পবোৰ দূৰত হোৱা কাৰণে মানুহ যোৱা নাছিল। তাৰোপৰি আমাৰ মানুহ কেম্পত থাকিবৰ মন নকৰে আৰু একেটা কেম্পতে ৪।৫টা পৰিয়াল থাকিবৰ মন নকৰে, কাৰণ অভ্যাস নাই, বিপদগ্ৰস্ত লোকসকলক কদমনীৰ V. R. G. ও ১৭ বিঘা ৰাজভেটা বাগিছাত ২৮ বিঘা আৰু মাইয়ানত প্ৰায় ৪০ বিঘা মাটিত ঘৰ কৰি থাকিব দিয়া হৈছিল। কেণ্টনমেণ্টত সৰু সৰু ঘৰ

কবি থাকিব দিয়া হৈছিল। সেই কেম্পবোৰত সকলো বকমৰ সুবিধা দিয়া হৈছিল। বেমাৰৰ পৰা বন্ধা পাবৰ কাৰণেও যথেষ্ট ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছিল আৰু যত্ন লোৱা হৈছিল। গতিকে শ্ৰীগোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই এদিন উৰি গৈ উৰনীয়া পদাৰ্পণ কৰি এই সদনত হোৱা-নোহোৱা কিছুমান বিবৃতি দিয়াত বৰ দুখ পাইছে। আশাকৰো ভৱিষ্যতে কোনো সদস্যই সম্পূৰ্ণকৈ নজনাটক সদনত এনে বিবৃতি নিদিয়ে। বৰ্তমান এই দুৰ্ভাগীয়া সকলক কেনেকৈ বন্ধা কৰা যায় সেইটো আমি ভালকৈ চিন্তা কৰিব লগা হৈ পৰিছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই ১৯৫০ চনৰ পৰা এই সদনত চিয়ঁৰি আহিছো যে ভগনীয়া সকলক যি সুবিধা দিয়া হৈছে সেই সুবিধা আমাৰ বান বিধ্বস্ত আৰু গৰা-খহনীয়া সকলকো দিব লাগে। আজি মই নিজেই গোবৰ অনুভৱ কৰিছো যে মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীগোস্বামীয়ে আজি সদনত প্ৰথম উল্লেখ কৰিছে। তাৰ বাবে মই বিপক্ষদলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীগোস্বামীৰ শলাগ লৈছো। মই আজি তাকো কওঁ যে এই প্ৰদেশৰ দুৰ্ভাগীয়া পৰিয়াল সকলক ভগনীয়াক দিয়া সুবিধাতকৈও বেচিহে দিব লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER : অলপ লাহে লাহে কব। বৰ খন হৈছে।

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR : লাহে লাহে কলে সময় নহব মুঠতে মই ইয়াকে কওঁ যে,—

—ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে তাৰ কাৰণে আমি ঋণী। ইয়াৰ আগতে মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত ৰমেশ চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱায়ো কৈছে আৰু ময়ো চৰকাৰক কওঁ যে যিখন আৰ্চনী কৰিছে তাক অতি সোনকালে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব লাগে। আমাক মাটি লাগে আৰু ঘৰ লাগে! মোৰ বোধেৰে মানুহবোৰক টকা নিদি মাটি আৰু ঘৰ কৰি দিলে বেচি ভাল হয়। তাৰ পিচত টকা দি সহায় কৰিব লাগে যাতে সেই টকাৰে তেওঁলোকে কাৰবাৰ আদি কৰিব পাৰে।

ইতিপূৰ্বৰে পৰা মই এই সদনত কৈ আহিছো যে সেই ঠাই বিলাকত Helicopter ৰ ব্যৱস্থা ৰাখিব লাগে। অন্যান্য ঠাইত, উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে ধেমাজিৰ কথাই কওঁ তাত—Helicopter নহলে কোনো কামেই কৰিব নোৱাৰি। আমাৰ মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে গৈ স্বচক্ষে দেখি আহিছে আমি কিমান বিপদৰ সম্মুখীন হৈ নদীৰ মাজত নাৱেৰে জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত সাহায্য বিতৰণ কৰিছিলো। Helicopter ৰ কথা কওঁতে এই সদনৰ বহুত সদস্যই সেই সময়ত উপলুঙা কৰি হাহিছিল কিন্তু আজি শদীয়া আৰু ছৈখোৱাৰ অবস্থা কি? আমাৰ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী আৰু খাদ্য মন্ত্ৰী Helicopter যোগে গৈয়ো ছৈখোৱাত নামিব নোৱাৰিলে। মাত্ৰ চলাব দলং খনৰ ওখ আলিৰ ওপৰত কোনোবাকমে নামিল। তাৰ বাহিৰে আন ঠাইত আৰু নামিব নোৱাৰিলে। শদীয়াৰতো কথাই নকও। তাত সতকাই কোনোলোকৰ যাতায়াত কৰিবৰ শক্তি নাই। আমাৰ বন বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়া স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়া আৰু Chief Whip ডাঙৰীয়াই ছৈখোৱাৰ দৰৱস্থা নিজ চকুৰে চাই আহিছে। বাইজৰ হকে মই এটি গভীৰ আশা পোষণ কৰিছিলো যে ইমান কেইজন মন্ত্ৰী আৰু আমাৰ Chief Whip ডাঙৰীয়াই ঘটনা স্থলত গৈ বিষয়ৰ গুৰুত্ব উপলব্ধি কৰি আহিছে যেতিয়া এই সদনত তেখেত সকলে শদীয়া আৰু ছৈখোৱাৰ প্ৰকৃত দুৰৱস্থাৰ কথা বগাই এটা বিবৃতি দিব। চৰকাৰৰ তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিবলৈ বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ Chip Whip দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই সেই ঠাই বিলাকৰ দুৰৱস্থাৰ কথাৰ এটি প্ৰকৃত বৰ্ণনা দিব, কিন্তু ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা যে সেই বিষয়ে এটি কথাও কাৰো মুখত শুনা নগল। যেই বিষয়ে ময়ো অলপ কওঁ। মোৰ কথাৰ সত্যতা তেখেত সকলে মনে মনেই উপলব্ধি কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

মহোদয়, এইবাৰৰ বানপানীৰ ফলত শদীয়া আৰু ছৈখোৱা অঞ্চলত ৮।১০ ফুট ওৰ হৈ বালি পৰি পৰি গৈছে। মানুহে যি খেতি বাতি কৰিছিল তাৰ কোনো চিনচাবেই নাই আনকি বেল লাইনৰো কোনো কোনো অঞ্চলত চিন নাই। ৪ মাইল জুৰি বেল লাইনৰ ওপৰত বালি পৰিছে। আৰু আজিলৈকে বেলৰ চলাচল একেবাৰে বন্ধ। এই ঠাইত বেলৰ আলিয়েই সকলোতকৈ ওখ ঠাই আৰু তাতে ইমান বালি পৰিছে যে ইমান দিনলৈকে তাক গুচাব পৰা নাই। আপোনালোকে ভাবি চাওক সেই ঠাইত মানুহৰ খেতি বাতিবতো কথাই নাই ঘৰ-বাৰীয়েই বা থাকে কেনেকৈ! এই বানপানীৰ ফলত অকল শদীয়া মৌজাৰ ৩২ খন গাওঁৰ প্ৰায় ৩,০০০ লোকৰ খেতিৰ মাটি নাই। তেওঁলোকৰ কোনো সংস্থান নাই। যোৱা বছৰৰ বানপানী আৰু ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচত এই লোক সকলে সেই ঠাইতে থাকিব পাৰিম বুলি কৈছিল। আৰু সেই মাটি সংস্থান কৰি খেতি বাতি চলাই আছিল। কিন্তু এই বাৰ ৮।১০ ফুটকৈ বালি পৰাত সেই মাটি বিলাক খেতিৰ একেবাৰে অনুপযুক্ত হৈ পৰিল। এইবাৰ বানপানীৰ সময়ত আমাৰ মাননীয় জঙ্গলী বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় গৈ যেতিয়া দেখিলে যে লোক সকলৰ জীৱন বিপন্ন তেতিয়া তেখেতে নিজেই ছৈখোৱাৰ ফৰেষ্ট বাংলাত গৈ এশ ঘৰ পৰিৱালক ফৰেষ্ট ৰায়ত হিচাবে থাকিবলৈ অনুমতি দি আহিছে। আমাৰ মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়া এইবাৰ যেতিয়া যাই মই তেখেতক কোৱাত তেখেতে সেই লোক সকলৰ খৰচ বহন কৰিবলৈ ডেপুটি কমিশনাৰকো পৰামৰ্শ আৰু হুকুম দি আহিছে। তাৰ কাৰণে মই তেখেত সকলক আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ দিছো। সেই ঠাইৰ দুবৰস্থাৰ কথা জনাব কোনে? তাত কোনো বাতৰি কাকতৰ Reporter নাছিল। মই সেই বাবে তেখেতসকলক দোষাৰোপ কৰা নাই কাৰণ ডুয় ডুমাৰ পৰা আৰু সেই ঠাইলৈ অগ্ৰসৰ হোৱা দুঃসাধ্য। কোনো সংবাদ দাতা যাৰ নোৱাৰে। তথাপি যি পাৰে সংবাদ যোগাব কৰি কেইখন মান বাতৰি কাকততে কিছু সংবাদ দিছিল। মই তাৰ কাৰণে তেখেত সকলকো ধন্যবাদ দিছো। আজি শদীয়া আৰু ছৈখোৱাৰ যি অৱস্থা তাক নিজ চকুৰে নেদেখিলে উপলব্ধি কৰিব নোৱাৰি। আন আন ঠাই যেনে মাজুলী আদিলৈ প্ৰত্যেক মন্ত্ৰী, উপমন্ত্ৰী আৰু কিমান যে নগৈছিল কিন্তু শদীয়া ছৈখোৱালৈ কোন গৈছে? কেবল মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় এবাৰ শদীয়ালৈ গৈছিল, মেডিকেল, ফৰেষ্ট মন্ত্ৰী আৰু Chief Whip দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই মাত্ৰ ছৈখোৱাত একোবাৰ পদাৰ্পণ কৰিছিল। এনে কাৰ্য্যই এইটো নুবুজাই যে শদীয়া আৰু ছৈখোৱাৰ অৱস্থাৰ গুৰুত্ব আন ঠাইতকৈ কম, বৰং বহু ক্ষেত্ৰত বেচিহে।

আগৰে পৰা ছৈখোৱা বান্ধব ব্যবস্থা হোৱা হলে হয়তো আজি শদীয়া ছৈখোৱা আনকি ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰো এই অৱস্থা নহল হেতেন যেন লাগে। মই কেইবাবাৰো দিবং, দিহিং আৰু লোহিতৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰি আহিছো। এই নদ নদী কেইখনৰ কিয়া ব্যৱস্থা অতি সোনকালে কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে গোটেই ডিব্ৰুগড় চহৰৰ অৱস্থা শোচনীয় আৰু বিপদজনক হব বুলি মই ভাবো। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে গভীৰ চিন্তা কৰি চাব।

যি হওক আমি সাময়িক সাহায্য যি পাবো দিলো। শদীয়াত আৰু ছৈখোৱাত কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কম্বী সকলৰ জীৱন বিপন্ন কৰি যি পাবে সহায় কৰিলে। ছিলঙৰ বাম কৃষ্ণ মিশ্যন আৰু শদীয়া জিলা কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিয়ে একেলগে মিলি-জুলি ৰাইজৰ মাজত সেই সময়ত যি কাম কৰিলে তাৰ বাবেও মই তেখেত সকলৰ শলাগ লও।

এতিয়া অদূৰ ভবিষ্যতৰ দুৰ্ভিক্ষৰ পৰা সেই লোক সকলক বা খেতিয়ক সকলক খেতি মাটিৰ অভাৱত অকামিলা হব আৰু চৰকাৰৰ এটি ৰোজা হব। বৰ্ত্তমান শদীয়া

ছৈখোৱাৰ মানুহক লাগে খেতিৰ মাটি। চৰকাৰে তেওঁলোকক মাটি দিয়ক। সামান্য চাউল পাতৰ বাহিৰে আন কোনো সাহায্য তেওঁলোকক দিয়া হোৱা নাই। আন বিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চলৰ বাহিৰে চাউল, পইছা আনকি কাপোৰ কানি পাইছে। এই বিলাক কথা বোধ কৰো সদনত কোনোৱে উল্লেখ কৰা নাই। আজি শদীয়াৰ মানুহক সেই বিলাক নালাগে; লাগে মাত্ৰ খেতিৰ মাটি আৰু স্বাভাৱিক হবৰ বাবে লাগে উপযুক্ত কৃষি ঋণ। এই বিলাক কথা জানিলে আমাৰ বিভ্ৰমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে তেখেতৰ বিবৃতিত শদীয়া ছৈখোৱাৰ কথাও উল্লেখ যোগ্য বুলি এটুকুৰা স্থান দিলে হেতেন। তেখেত সকলে কেৱল পলাশবাৰীৰ পৰা আকাশী জাহাজেৰে এক ঘণ্টাৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰত্যাবৰ্ত্তন কৰি সেই ঠাই বিলাকৰ পৰিস্থিতি উপলব্ধি কৰিবলৈ যোৱাটো দুৰ্ভাগ্য। শদীয়াত গৈ ৭৮ দিন থাকি চাওক তেতিয়া ভালকৈ বুজিব। আমাৰ পৰা সকলো কথাই ভালকৈ শুনক তেতিয়াহে আচল পৰিস্থিতিটো বোধগম্য হব। অৱশ্যে সকলো ঘটনাকে তনু তনুকৈ কোৱা হৈছে। যি কেইজন সদাশয় মন্ত্ৰী তাত পদাৰ্পণ কৰিছে তেখেত সকলোকে পূৰ্ণ বিবৰণ দিছে।

আমাৰ শ্ৰদ্ধেয় ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে যেতিয়া মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়া ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ যায় তেতিয়া তেখেত ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ গৈ ডিব্ৰুগড় বাগীৰ মুখপাত্ৰ হিচাবে কথা কৈছিল। অশ্য সেই সময়ত মই তাত নাছিলো। ডিব্ৰুগড় বাগীৰ হৈ কৱলৈ ডিব্ৰুগড়ত কোনো মানুহ নাছিল যে ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই যোৱাটোৰ পৰা গৈ ডিব্ৰুগড় বাগীৰ মুখ পাত্ৰ হৈ কথা কব লগা হল। ই ডিব্ৰুগড় বাগীৰ পক্ষে বৰ লাজৰ বিষয়।

যিহেতু, মই চৰকাৰক মানুহে অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যে প্ৰথমতে চৰকাৰে এইলোক-সকলক খেতিৰ মাটি দিয়ক। দ্বিতীয়তে তেওঁলোকক উপযুক্ত কৃষিঋণ দিয়ক আৰু তৃতীয়তে যদি ব্যৱস্থা হয় তেন্তে এহাল গৰু আৰু খিৰতি গাই এজনীকৈ দিয়ক। বৰ্ত্তমান দেখা গৈছে যে ছৈখোৱাৰ মানুহ বিলাকক ৩০।৪০ টকাকৈ কৃষি ঋণ দিছে। কিন্তু মানুহে সেই টকা প্ৰকৃতকামত খৰচ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। তেওঁলোক ইমান অভাৱ-গ্ৰস্ত যে অন্যান্য ধৰণে মাবোতেই টকা খৰচ হৈ যায়। মই সেই কাৰণেই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰি আহিছো যে তেওঁলোকক এই ঋণ টকাৰে নিদি খেতিৰ সজুলী আদি যোগাৰ দিলেহে কাৰ্য্যকৰী হব। মই আশা কৰো এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰি চাব।

তাৰ পিচত ভূমিবিভাগৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে মাটি সংস্কাৰ কৰি দিয়াৰ এটা আঁচনি ইতিপূৰ্বেই লৈছিল। সেই আঁচনিটো স্থগিত নকৰি সেই আঁচনিৰ ভৱিষ্যতে এইলোক-সকলক সহায় কৰিলে এই সমস্যাবিলাকৰ ওৰ পৰিব। তাকে নকৰি কেইজনমান লোকৰ কথা শুনি যদি সেই আঁচনি বাদ দিয়ে তেন্তে আমাৰ দুখীয়া ৰায়তৰ অশেষ দুখ কষ্ট হোৱাৰ উপৰিও চৰকাৰৰ সন্মুখত বছৰে বছৰে সেই একে সমস্যাৰ উদ্ভব হৈ থাকিব। গতিকে মই চৰকাৰক শেষত ইয়াকেই অনুৰোধ কৰো যে সেই আঁচনিটো সোনকালে কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰি দুখীয়া ৰায়তৰ সুবিধা কৰি দিব লাগে।

শেষত, মই পুনৰ বিভ্ৰমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াক, আজি গৰাখহনীয়া আৰু বানপানীৰ বিষয়ে সদনত বিবৃতি দি আমাক অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়াত তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনালো আৰু চৰকাৰৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰণ শলাগ লৈ মোৰ বিবৃতিৰ সামৰণী মাৰিলো।

“জয় হিন্দ”

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are very much thankful for the statement made by the Minister for Revenue on the flood situation of the State.

Since 1950, that is, from the year of the great earthquake the State of Assam has been a victim of natural calamities and we have seen from that year that flood has been an annual occurrence. The flood of this year has surpassed the floods in the past. This year's flood of the Brahmaputra has extended from Sadiya to Dhubri and as a result, a vast territory has been devastated. The Revenue Minister has vividly described all about these. During the flood times in the pre-independence days we had the occasion to work as Congress relief workers and we had to render relief to the flood-affected people and in the act of doing so we found much difficulty because at that time we had to move from shop to shop and house to house to collect rice and such other things and the Government then did not give so much help to the people. But this year, Sir, we are grateful to the Government that they have been very much active in giving relief to the people. They have taken the flood situation on war footing. In my Subdivision, I should like to say, during the flood period Government granted only Rs.2000, but the Subdivisional Officer, before getting any sanction from the Government, had to spend about Rs.18,000 on relief work. But the Government afterwards has been pleased to sanction the entire amount that had actually been spent.

So Government is to be congratulated on this score. Government has tackled the flood situation on a war footing.

Coming to Golaghat subdivision, I would like to say that the situation created by flood was not taken very seriously at first. At that time Ahatguri Mouza, which is in the Golaghat Subdivision, was inaccessible and we did not get any information from there. Afterwards, when we got information, we learned that the Mouza had suffered very badly. Half of the Ahatguri Mouza was eaten up by the Brahmaputra and the major portion of the other half was spoiled by sand, mud and other waste matters of the Brahmaputra flood. The people of Ahatguri are very conservative in nature. They do not like to move from one place to the other; they like places near the river. After the flood we wanted to rehabilitate them in other parts of the subdivision. We discussed the matter in the Land Settlement Advisory Committee. Gamariguri Forest Reserve was available for re-settlement. But people did not like to go there because there are certain rules for settling people as forest villagers. After settlement, a forest villager has to work for 20 days, 15 days with pay and for 5 days they have to give free labour. [Shri Ramnath Das (Minister) : That is not mandatory.]

These rules are in existence since the days of the British [Shri Bishnuram Medhi (Chief Minister): That has been modified. The option is left to the villager]. Any way, what I want to say is that these rules somehow are repugnant to our people and all sorts of facilities and inducement should be given to the people to go and settle there.

There is another difficulty. In the forest reserves there are very big trees and it is difficult for the people to cut these trees and clear the jungle by their own labour.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : What is your suggestion ?

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA : My suggestion is that forest reserves where people are to be rehabilitated should be reclaimed by Government at their own cost. Otherwise it is no use showing some forest reserves where there are deep jungles and it is impossible for these poor and hard-hit people to go and settle there at such a huge cost to them. We should provide all facilities for them to go if we really want them to be rehabilitated. The relief which Government is giving, Rs.50 or so per family, is very meagre.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Not Rs.50 but Rs.150 and 3 bundles of C. I. Sheets.

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA : Even this is meagre. These people have lost their hearth, home and everything. Then, Sir, I have another point. In the other two Mouzas of Majuli, viz., Kamalabari and Salmara, subsidised grain shops have been given, but no such shop has been given in the Ahatguri mouza [Shri Motiram Bora (Minister): It has been sanctioned]. If it has been sanctioned, it is well and good.

Mr. SPEAKER : Did you go there ?

Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA : No, Sir, I did not go but other people went and we sent our Congress Secretary for rendering relief. I am glad to know that subsidised grain shops have been sanctioned now. Then, Sir, excluding Ahatguri six other Mouzas are affected at Golaghat and practically nothing has been done there, e. g. Rangamatty, Mohura, Kaziranga, Dergaon and Missamara areas. Subsidised grain shops should be given in these areas also. I hope, the Revenue Minister

will very kindly consider this point and see if subsidised shops can be given for the affected areas of the south Bank at Golaghat.

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

Shri HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বানপানী প্রপীড়িত বাইজৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যি সাহায্য দিছে আৰু মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে যি বিবৃতি পঠি কৰিলে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ দিছো। বানপানী নিবাবণ কৰাৰ উপায় ইত্যাদিৰ বিষয়ে আমাৰ বহুতো সদস্যই আগতে কৈ গৈছে। মই তাকে দোহাৰি এই সদনৰ বহুমূলীয়া সময় নষ্ট কৰিলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰো। মই মাত্ৰ উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ চিচি ধেমাজি সহ ১৫।১৬টি মৌজাৰ বাইজৰ বানপানীত প্রপীড়িত দুবৰস্থাৰ সম্পৰ্কে দুমাৰ মান কবলৈ উঠিছো।

যোৱা ১৯৫০ চনৰ ভূমিকম্পই উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ বাইজৰ ককাল ভাঙি দি বাবে বাবে পানী আহি জুকলা কৰি আছে। উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ প্ৰায় ৪৪৪টা পৰিয়াল গৰা খহনীয়াই উটুৱাই লৈ গৈছে। আমাৰ P. W. D. আৰু Supply Minister যেতিয়া উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰলৈ গৈছিল, তেতিয়া মই তেখেত সকলক চকুৱাখানা মৌজাৰ মিৰি গাঁৱৰ লোক সকলৰ দুবৰস্থা দেখুৱাবৰ বাবে লৈ যাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছিলো কিন্তু পৰিতাপৰ কথা যে নদীৰ পানী কমি যোৱাৰ কাৰণে তেখেত সকলক লৈ যাব পৰা নহল। সেই অঞ্চলৰ গাঁৱৰ মিৰি বাইজৰ ঘৰৰ চালৰ ওপৰে ১।। হাত, ২ হাত ওপৰেদি পানী বাগৰি গৈছিল। তেলাহি মৌজাৰ ফালে গৈ দেখিলো যে তাৰ মানুহ বিলাকৰ ভৰালত যি ধান আছিল পানীয়ে নষ্ট কাৰণে তাকেই শুকুৱাই শুকুৱাই খাই আছে।

লক্ষীমপুৰ মহকুমাৰ এঘাৰখন গাওঁ বানপানীয়ে উটুৱাই লৈ গল। বানপানীৰ উপদ্ৰবত এই অঞ্চলবিলাক কি ভাবে বিপদৰ সন্মুখীন হব লাগা হৈছিল—মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় দুজনাই সেই অঞ্চল বিলাকৰ কোনো কোনো অংশত বৰষুণ বাদলৰ মাজত নাৱেৰে ভ্ৰমণ কৰোতে উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰিছিল। মোৰ কথা হৈছে এই ৪৪৪টা গৃহহীন পৰিয়ালক পুনৰ সংস্থাপন কৰি দিয়া হোৱা নাই। যদিও চাউল-পাত দিয়া হৈছে, সেই মানুহ খিনিৰ থাকিবলৈ ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ নাই। ঘৰ সাজিবলৈ টিংপাত দিয়া সম্পৰ্কে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ বিলিফ অফিচাবে চৰকাৰক নিবেদন নকৰাটোত দুখ পাইছো?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): আপুনি বিলিফ কমিটিৰ মেম্বাৰ নহয় জানো?

Shri HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA : হয়। মইও তেখেতক বাইজৰ দুবৰস্থাৰ কথা কৈছিলো।

বঙান্দীৰ পাৰত যিবিলাক গাওঁ আছে সেই বিলাকত, আগেয়ে খোৱা পানীৰ কষ্ট নহৈছিল। কিন্তু ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচৰে পৰা সেই গাওঁ বিলাকত বাইজৰ খোৱা পানীৰ যি হাঁহাঁকাৰ হৈছে সি বৰ্ণনাতীত। এই বিষয়ে মই মহকুমাৰ গৰাকী এচ-ডি-ওক কৈছিলো আৰু লোকেলবৰ্ডকে। কিছু 'টিউব ওৱেল' দিবলৈ ধৰিছিলো। দুখৰ বিষয়, লোকেলবৰ্ডৰ পুঁজিৰ নাটনি সেই কাৰণে, এল, এচ, জি বিভাগৰ ভাৰ প্ৰাপ্ত মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো, যাতে আৱশ্যকীয় পুঁজি দান কৰি বায়তৰ উপকাৰ সাধন কৰে।

চিচি, ধেমাজী আদি ঠাইৰ পৰা আৰু উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰৰ 'গুনাঙ্গুতি মাতমৰা আদি দ ঠাই বিলাকৰ পৰা, দিনে দিনে ৫০।৬০ খন দৰ্শাস্ত আহিছে যে, সেই বিলাক ঠাইৰ কোনো কোনো অংশৰ মানুহৰ ঘৰৰ চোতালৰ পৰা এতিয়াও পানী ওলাই যোৱা নাই আৰু খেতিৰ পথাৰত পানী থকাৰ হেতু খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। এইবিলাক খৰৰ নিশ্চয় চৰকাৰে গুচা বুলি ধৰিব। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও, যোৱা ভূমিকম্পই মানুহৰ খেতিৰ পথাৰ বিলাক খেতিৰ অনুপযোগী কৰি যোৱাই। মানুহৰ খেতিৰ মাটি সমস্যা জটিল কৰি তুলিলে। এই মাটিৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ স্থানীয় চা-বাগান সমূহৰ যি পতিত ভূমি আছে তাক আয়ত্ব কৰিবলৈ স্থানীয় ৰাইজে এচ-ডি, ওক অনেক বাৰ আবেদন নিবেদন কৰা স্বত্বেও কোনো ফল ধৰা নাই। মাটিৰ সমস্যা সমাধানৰ পথত এই কাৰ্য্য অতি সোনকালে হাতত লৈ পোৱা মাটি, ৰাইজক বিতৰণ কৰি দিব লাগে।

মই এই সদনত জনাব খুজিছো যে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ এই বানপানী বিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চল সমূহৰ পৰা ১,৫০০ টা গৰু মহ পানীয়ে উটুৱাই নিছে আৰু পানীৰ পিচত গৰু মহৰ বেমাৰ আৰম্ভ হৈছে—যদিও বিভূমজী মহোদয়ে কৈছে—যে কোনো Cattle epidemics হোৱা নাই। গৰু মহৰ বেমাৰ আজাৰৰ উপৰিও, অৱশিষ্ট বিলাকৰ ঘাৰৰ অভাৱৰ হেতু লেৰেলা চেপেটা হৈ—কামৰ অনুপযোগী হৈছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত, ৰাইজৰ স্বেচ্ছায় হবলৈ চৰকাৰে খেতিৰ গৰু কিনিবলৈ অধিক ঋণ দিয়া একান্ত প্ৰয়োজন। আশাকৰো, চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে ভাল তদন্ত কৰি তাৰ বিহিত বিধান কৰিব। নহলে বিপদগ্ৰস্ত ৰাইজ সকল আৰু বিপন্ন হৈ পৰিব আৰু দুখৰ সীমা নাইকিয়া হব।

ধেমাজী আৰু চিচি অঞ্চলৰ কথা। এই দুই অঞ্চলৰ ঠাই বিলাক ইমান ভিতৰুৱা আৰু যোগাযোগ বিহীন যে, বানপানীৰ সময়ত, অথবা তাৰ পিচত অশেষ চেষ্টা কৰিও যাব পৰা নহল। পানী হওতে অথাই সাগৰ পানীৰ পিচত বাট পথত একোকাল বোকা। নাৰেৰেও নহয় বামেৰেও নহয়। এনেকুৱা অৱস্থা। এই অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰৰ 'বিলিফ' লৈ যোৱা কিমান অসুবিধা তাক সকলোৱে উপলদ্ধি কৰিব পাৰিছে। 'সেই আওহতীয়া ঠাইবিলাকৰ ৰাইজৰ অৱস্থা যে কি শোকলগা হৈছে—সেইটো সকলোৱে বুজিব পাৰিছে। এই ভিতৰুৱা অঞ্চলৰ গাওবিলাকৰ যথেষ্ট ক্ষতি হৈছে আৰু এই বিলাকক চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা সহায় দিয়া একান্ত কৰ্তব্য সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন—এই অসহায় লোক সকলো যেন সহায়ৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত নহয়। চিচি-ধেমাজীৰ অসুবিধাটো ইমান জটিল যো, উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ পৰাও পোৱা নাযায় আৰু আনহাতে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ সিপাৰৰ, ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰাও পোৱা নাযায়। এনেকুৱা এটা সমষ্টিত সোমাই থাকিব লগা হৈছে আমি। এই অঞ্চল সমূহত ৰাইজৰ কাম কৰা কিমান কঠিন সকলোৱেই বুজিছে। আমাৰ কাৰণে 'এবোপ্লেন' অথবা 'হেলিকপটাৰ' নাই যে যেতিয়াই তেতিয়াই যতে ইচ্ছা প্ৰবেশ কৰিব পাৰি।

(হাহিৰ বোল)

এই ঠাইলৈ, মই আৰু বন্ধুবৰ শ্ৰীযুত কাৰ্কেদলৈয়ে অনেক চেষ্টাকৰিও যাব নোৱাৰিলো। বাস্তা নাই—ঘাট নাই—পানী বোকাৰ ওপৰত যাব পাৰি, হাতী লৈ। হাতী ভাৰা কৰিবলৈ বহুতো অৰ্থৰ প্ৰয়োজন। সকলো বিলাক অভাৱ অভিযোগৰ ভিতৰত চলিব লগা হোৱা ৰাইজ সমূহক সৰ্ব্ব প্ৰকাৰৰ যেনে, গৰু মহ কিনা ঋণ, কঠিয়া যোগান, আদিৰ সহায় দি—চৰকাৰে যেন উপকাৰ কৰে। এই অনুৰোধ কৰি মই মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Shri EMON SINGH SANGMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Garo Hills is a hills district, so, I think most of my Friends will be amused when they find me taking my stand here to speak about floods in the Garo Hills. In the last Session of the Assembly I could not participate in the discussions, but in our Party meeting, I had the opportunity to speak something about the floods in the Garo Hills when, of course, there was laughter amongst my Friends. But soon after, our Chief Minister himself had been to our area while he was visiting Goalpara floods. Though he had been up to Rangapani-Khamykhā, he could not visit all the flood affected areas in Garo Hills as Garo Hills could not be included in his original tour programme, and it was only an emergency tour to see with his own eyes the heavily flood affected areas in Goalpara district. So it was not possible for him to realise the gravity of floods in our district as he did in Goalpara.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir, when I take my stand to speak about the floods in Garo Hills, I propose to confine my remarks mainly to my own constituency of which I know better by personal visit and contact with the people only; because for certain reasons I could not avail the occasion to go to other flood affected areas of my district. Therefore it should not be construed that floods in Garo Hills is confined only to the places that find mention in my speech. There were floods in other places too, details about which I am sorry, I cannot give you at the moment.

In Fulbari area from near about Tikrikilla side, we had experience of very heavy floods. All the houses in the area were damaged and in certain places such as Kacharipara and Chorkacharipara some of the houses were swept away by floods. We discussed this matter with the Deputy Commissioner of our district but, Sir, it is unfortunate that he did not see his way to visit all these areas although the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara had himself seen the ravages of the floods wrought in these places. It is also much more unpleasant for me to say that none of the Executive members including the Chief Executive Member of the District Council also could not make it convenient to visit these areas affected by flood even for a single time during flood time which lasted for about three months.

As regards the relief, I would like to say that we could give only 95 maunds of Kaital paddy seeds as gratuitous relief and 450 maunds of Matikalai seeds on loan. The total amount we

had given as agricultural loan is Rs.20 thousand for Mauza No. VI and another sum of Rs.10 thousand for Mauzas. VII and VIII was given as agricultural loan out of which the cost of Matikalai was deducted. Another sum of Rs.5 thousand was given to the people of Tikrikilla area out of which the cost of Matikalai was also deducted. Sir, this amount of Rs. 35 thousand only was not sufficient and we require more help from the Government as gratuity as well as loan. In the last Session of the Assembly, I submitted a report to the Chief Minister regarding this matter. In addition to this we have already submitted another petition to our Deputy Commissioner to request our Government for more grant. But how far the Deputy Commissioner will act up to our request is not known to us.

As regards relief to Garo Hills I would like to give a few suggestions. There should be some Co-operative Credit Banks or Societies at Fulbari area. I am glad that some Co-operative Credit Societies have been sanctioned for Garo Hills and out of these only one is going to be opened at Fulbari. I also requested the Deputy Commissioner to sanction some for the people of Paham and Bhaitbari flood affected areas. I also further like to request the Government that they should supply Garo Hills with some power pumps so that the agriculturists of these areas can have enough time to cultivate their lands before the floods come. This year the floods came earlier in the district and as a result they could not harvest the lands. If these power pumps are supplied to them they will be able to take up agricultural work in proper time. One more request I would like to make to the Forest Department of the Government and that is this: There is one Dibru Forest Reserve in the Garo Hills near about Paham. People of Paham near Fulbari are badly affected by floods every year and these Paham people be allowed to settle and reside in some suitable parts of this Forest Reserve provided Government is kind enough to give away the lands to these suffering people, by reclamation.

Lastly, I would request the Government to make a thorough survey about flood affected people and of the areas in Garo Hills so that when the survey has been done, these people might have some benefit or relief from the Government.

With these words, I beg to resume my seat.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to the Revenue Minister for his statement. Everyone of us has some idea of the flood

and erosion that took place in our State; but these ideas in each of us did not constitute a State-wide connected story so as to get a comprehensive idea of the catastrophe that has overtaken our State and so as to get an idea of the relief measures that the Government have taken up to alleviate the miseries of the people. This statement, therefore, has been very helpful. I express my thanks to the Government for this statement.

Now, Sir, in his statement the Minister has said that so far as the recent floods are concerned these are to a certain extent unprecedented. Unlike previous years, this year's floods were, so to say, a series of floods, not one, but several, and this phenomenon developed beyond our imagination and apprehension. So far as I remember, at the close of the last Session also it was under-estimated.

Mr. SPEAKER: As the time is over, the House stands adjourned till 10 A.M. tomorrow.

Request to allot time to a Minister to speak about his experience of village and medium size industries which he saw at Japan and China.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): With your permission, I would like to say that as one of our Ministers was sent to Japan and China to see the working of the Village Industries, medium size industries, I would request you to fix a suitable time so that he may be able to enlighten the House about his experience.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, it will be better if time is given after the flood debate is over.

Mr. SPEAKER: He will be given time after the flood debate is over. (Looking at Maulavi Umaruddin)—I think, you are the only debator left.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the, 28th October, 1954.

Shillong:

The 13th May, 1955.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,
Legislative Assembly,
Assam.

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