

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY, PENANG

I ST SITTING OF THE
THIRD SESSION WEDNESDAY
9 TH AUGUST, 1961

KPP
328.595123
PEN



PPAPP



1000652510

12669



CONTENTS

- First Sitting Wednesday, 9th and
Thursday, 10th August, 1961.
- Second Sitting Wednesday, 11th October, 1961.
- Third Sitting Wednesday, 13th and
Thursday, 14th December, 1961.
- Fourth Sitting Wednesday, 11th April, 1962.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, PENANG.

FIRST SITTING OF THE THIRD SESSION
WEDNESDAY, 9th AUGUST, 1961.

PRESENT:

- The Hon'ble Mr. Speaker (Tuan Haji Sulaiman bin Haji Ahmad, P.J.K.)
 " the Chief Minister (Dato Wong Pow Nee, P.M.N.)
 " the Acting Legal Adviser (Raja Redzuan bin Raja Yaacob)
 " the Member for Glugor (Enche Aziz Ibrahim, J.P.)
 " the Member for Sungei Bakap (Mr. Kee Yong Chin)
 " the Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan, J.P.)
 " the Member for Dhoby Ghaut (Enche C. D. Ismail, A.M.N.)
 " the Member for Tasek Glugor (Enche Hashim bin Awang, J.P.)
 " the Member for Tanjong Bungah (Mr. Cheah Seng Khim, J.P.)
 " the Member for Kapala Batas (Tuan Haji Ahmad bin Haji Abdullah, A.M.N.)
 " the Member for Permatang Pauh (Enche Ariffin bin Shariff)
 " the Member for Nibong Tebal (Tuan Haji Sahid bin Hassan)
 " the Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang)
 " the Member for Tanjong Tengah (Mr. Wong Choong Woh)
 " the Member for Tanjong Utara (Mr. Yuen Fook Cheong)
 " the Member for Tanjong Barat (Mr. Tan Chong Bee)
 " the Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan, J.P.)
 " the Member for Tanjong Selatan (Mr. C. Y. Choy)
 " the Member for Kelawei (Mr. Tan Khim Hoe)
 " the Member for Ayer Itam (Mr. Chor Sin Kheng, J.P.)
 " the Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew)
 " the Member for Balik Pulau (Tuan Haji Mohamed Hassan bin Haji Kassim)
 " the Member for Bayan Lepas (Tuan Haji Rifaie bin Haji Salleh).
 " the Member for Bagan Ajam (Mr. Phee Joo Teik)

ABSENT:

- The Hon'ble the Member for Muda (Tuan Haji Ismail bin Che Chik, A.M.N.)



THE PRAYER

2. ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the Assembly that His Excellency the Governor will shortly be present in this Assembly to deliver his address to the Assembly. After His Excellency's address the Assembly will adjourn for half an hour.

The Speaker preceded by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly goes to the entrance of the Chamber to meet His Excellency the Governor.

His Excellency accompanied by his Aides-de-Camp enter the Assembly Chamber preceded by the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

All present rise and bow as His Excellency proceeds to his seat.

His Excellency the Governor: Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members,

Please be seated.

It is once again my privilege and pleasure to welcome you and to address you on this occasion of the First Sitting of the Third Session of the First Legislative Assembly of the State of Penang. It will be recalled that when I addressed you at the First Sitting of the Second Session I made reference to the appointment of our beloved Yang di-Pertuan Agong II, Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Banginda Tuanku Hisamuddin Alam Shah Alhaj ibni Almarhum Sultan Alauddin Sulaiman Shah. It was indeed a tragic blow to the nation when he too died after ailing for some time. Our country was bereft of two of its most illustrious sons in one year.

Our new King, Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Tuanku Syed Putra ibni Al-marhum Syed Hassan Jamalullail, D.M.N.. D.K., (Brunei), follows in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessors as one endowed with the qualities of Kingship and possessed of a deep and abiding affection for the country and his people. With his kingly grace and genial personality he has endeared himself to the people in so short a time.

The year 1961 began on a happy note for the State of Penang when we were informed that Their Majesties will make a State Visit to Penang soon after Their installation. Their visit during the period 31st January and 3rd February last, as you all know, was an occasion celebrated with pomp and gaiety befitting our beloved Majesties. This occasion will always be remembered by the people of Penang. We are aware of Their Majesties' love for our beautiful State, and we are deeply grateful to them for honouring us with a State Visit so soon after Their installation. This has given an inspiration to all of us, and the year began on a note of vigour and determination on the part of our people to serve our King and country well.

The year 1960 will always be remembered by Malaysians as the year in which we secured a decisive victory over militant Communism, and likewise the year 1961 will be remembered in our history as the starting point of the great up-surge of agrarian development. The twelve grim years of the Emergency retarded progress in the rural areas, and it was not possible for Government to help the rural people to improve their lot. Although Government recognised the wide disparity in living standards of the people in the rural and urban areas, for various reasons which I shall

touch on later, it could not until fairly recently make a vigorous effort to narrow this gap. In the words of the architect of the Rural Development Plan, Government's policy emphasises rural development merely to correct the imbalance between the rural and urban areas. It is to be emphasised that the offensive launched on rural poverty is not to be done at the expense of falling standards in the urban areas - rural development will be complementary to urban development, and when this objective is attained it is hoped that the whole country will progress even more smoothly and harmoniously than ever before.

Government has already made a beginning in its Rural Development venture, and facilities are being provided for the rural people in the form of roads, bridges and water supplies and electricity. The time has now come for the rural people to rise to the occasion and make their own contribution by devoting their efforts and energies towards enhancing their income and improving their standards of living. They should not look at these facilities and amenities which are being provided for them in the way as one would "look a gift horse in the mouth." A beginning has been made, and both Government and the people must work together towards the realisation of our Rural Development Plan.

The main object of my address is to review the progress made during the first half of this year. I must say that by any standards the progress has been impressive, but this is no reason for Government and the people not to exhort to even greater efforts, lest we lag behind in our programme. It cannot be denied that in Penang almost equal emphasis has been placed on Urban Development, and to this end Government is planning an industrial estate in Pro-

vince Weslesley. A State Committee has been appointed and has been working vigorously with a view to establishing this estate as soon as possible.

The Development of any country must necessarily depend on the maintenance of peace and order. During the Emergency the Communists tried to overthrow the properly constituted Government, but they have miserably failed in this effort. Development was of necessity retarded to the extent that funds for development were used to crush the Communists. The ending of the Emergency marked a turning point in the progress of our nation, for an appreciable portion of the country's annual revenue utilised during the Emergency years to fight militant Communism can now be diverted to peaceful development in all fields. Crime during the period under review, I am happy to say, has been held in check. Our vigilant Police Force continued their efforts in Crime Prevention by endeavouring to make the public more conscious of the need to protect their own property, thereby reducing the incidence of crime. A Police Week was held in May, during which more than 63,000 members of the public visited the main Police Stations in the State in order to see what the Police are doing for the public.

Secret Society activities seemed to have lost their vigour, and it is most encouraging that the general public are at last resisting the efforts of petty extortioners. The fact that more people are coming forward to lodge reports is indeed a happy sign. The Prevention of Crime Ordinance has proved beyond doubt to be an effective weapon in combating secret society activities. Our thanks are due to the Police for the comparatively peaceful state of affairs in our State.

Communist subversion continues to lurk in our midst, but there is every indication that it is gradually becoming a spent force. Lack of industrial unrest in Penang has deprived the Communists of opportunities for exploitation. Nevertheless the vigilance on Communists subversion continues unabated, and no stone will be left unturned until Communism as a creed is wiped out from Penang and the country.

In order to reduce the incidence of juvenile delinquency in our society, youth service is encouraged. There are a total of 28 youth clubs in the State. The expansion of youth service through youth clubs is essential, especially when it is realized that more than 50% of the population is under 21 years of age. Of the numerous activities of youth clubs, the rendering of community service and the practice of self-help are worthy of mention. The success of youth clubs depends on the quality of leadership, sound administration, and the planning of interesting programmes. With this in view, two Youth Leadership Training Courses have been arranged by the Social Welfare Department for about 40 Youth Leaders in Penang during this month.

One of the most significant features in the future planning for the youths of the State is the establishment of a youth centre and hostel in George Town. Hitherto the promotion of youth activities has been somewhat limited for lack of a proper youth centre and hostel, and also equipment. The hostel will be able to accommodate about 30 persons of both sexes at any one time. The youth centre and hostel will be managed and run by the Social Welfare Department. It will be possible to offer the youths of our State more concrete facilities to enable them to map out their programme of activities. The youth centre will

have, among other amenities, recreational equipment and also training facilities. The establishment of this youth centre and hostel is indeed a major step in the planning of youth activities in George Town. We hope that it will be possible for similar centre to be established for the rural areas. The plan is to house this centre and hostel in the Public Works Department building when vacated on completion of the new Government Offices building. The Public Works Department will, of course, be renovated, and certain alterations made for conversion into a Youth Centre and Hostel. The building will also be used to run Civics Courses.

Penang enjoys a reputation for its long-standing tradition of voluntary service in many fields of activity. The many voluntary bodies in Penang are useful allies to Government in its many and varied tasks. To enumerate the work of the voluntary bodies in Penang would be an immense task requiring a lengthy address on this subject alone. Voluntary work fosters the qualities of civic sense, self-help, kindness and compassion towards fellow-beings, and also helps to unite peoples of diverse races and beliefs. While there is no dearth of voluntary workers in our State, there is still plenty of room for others to join this gallant bands of selfless workers.

It is also relevant to mention the generosity of our philanthropists who have from time to time come willingly forward to support many a worthy cause.

The rural development programme presents a challenge in that it calls for an expansion of the activities of voluntary bodies in the rural areas. I am full of hope that our voluntary bodies will not hesitate to accept this challenge in their stride. The Government and the people of Penang are deeply grateful to these voluntary

organisations, voluntary workers, philanthropists for the services rendered to the community and we look forward with confidence to their continued support.

While the provision of educational facilities is a Federal responsibility, the State is vitally interested in this most important aspect of development. It is natural that new school buildings should tend to be completed towards the end of the year, in preparation for the new classes to be opened in January of the following year. Thus it is not possible to report a large number of projects already completed during the first half of 1961, although it can be said that work is in hand for the completion of a number of projects before the end of the year. In fact, 1961 is likely to be remembered as a year during which new school buildings achieved a record for the State. About \$19,000,000 will be spent on Education in the State this year as compared with \$17,000,000 in 1960. The school population this year is 124,699 as compared with 122,297 for 1960.

The completed projects are Sekolah2 Kebangsaan at Permatang Buloh costing \$42,100, at Permatang Damar Laut costing \$15,700, at Bagan Tuan Kechil costing \$12,000, and at Nibong Tebal costing \$12,000.

The projects in hand, many of which are nearing completion, are an extension to George Town Secondary School costing \$130,000, a new secondary school at the Green Lane Convent costing \$130,000, a new secondary school at Jelutong costing \$130,000, a new primary school at Ayer Itam costing \$224,000, a new primary school at Brown Road costing \$136,000 and a new primary school at the Convent, Bukit Mertajam, costing \$109,000. Several Sekolah2 Kebangsaan will be completed this year, and they are at Sungei Bakau costing \$43,000, Sungei Dua,

Province Wellesley, costing \$41,000, and at Alma costing \$68,000. Tenders have been accepted in respect of a Sekolah Bangsaan in Kubang Semang. This school will cost \$31,100. Financial assistance of \$20,000 and \$16,000 is being provided towards the cost of extensions to the Kong Min School and the Phei Shin School.

While discussing extensions and projects in hand, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to those public spirited persons who have contributed money towards such extensions in respect of certain schools. Projects completed with private financial support are the Jit Sin High School and the Penang Chinese Girls' High School. Private funds are also being utilized for further additions to Jit Sin High School and additions to Heng Ee School and the Chung Ling High School.

The projects proposed for commencement this year and financed by Government will provide a secondary school and a post-primary school at Kepala Batas, a primary girls' school and a post-primary school at Butterworth, a new post-primary school at Bukit Mertajam, a similar school at Simpang Ampat, two new primary schools at Nibong Tebal, a new primary school at Tanjong Bungah and another one at Bayan Lepas, and a post-primary school in the Ayer Itam areas. Under the head of special provision, there will be a hostel for girls—the first in the State—at St. George's Girls' School, and a vocational subjects centre at Balik Pulau. Extensions to existing schools will be carried out at various places. Also worthy of note is the intention of the Ministry of Education to build a new secondary technical school in George Town with a considerable provision for residential accommodation.

It will thus be seen that every district in the State will benefit

educationally from the 1961 programme of school buildings. This is in keeping with the progressive policy of our country to expand our education to meet the needs of the people. It is a well-known fact that education is the chief and most effective weapon against ignorance, crime and poverty. The Government, therefore, is making vigorous efforts in not only maintaining high educational standards but also expanding facilities for education for all those who are in need of it.

The Penang State Scholarships Board awarded this year a record number of 25 scholarships for higher education. As far as possible the scholarships were evenly spread over the courses in medicine, science, arts and engineering. The total number of scholarships in existence is 56. While on the subject of scholarships for higher education, the opportunity is taken to express the gratitude of the State Scholarship Board to the Penang branches of United Malayan Banking Corporation Ltd., and the Indian Overseas Bank Ltd., for their generous monetary contributions to the State Scholarship Fund.

A total number of 129 minor scholarships were awarded by the State Minor Scholarships Board.

The national drive for adult education to eliminate illiteracy, especially in the rural areas has begun in earnest. The Ministry of Rural Development took over the adult education classes from voluntary organisations as from 1st April, 1961. An office has been established in Penang, and a State Adult Education Organiser has been appointed with effect from 1st June, 1961. Nine District Adult Education Supervisors who will do part-time work have been appointed for the State. The first course for District Adult Education Supervisors was held in Penang during the month of

July. By providing adult education Government hopes to abolish poverty and social backwardness. Adult education is one of the key weapons in the materialization of our rural development plans. It is for this reason that adult education has been embodied in the second phase of the Rural Development Plan. Government hopes that apart from learning how to read and write the people will apply the knowledge gained to useful purpose. Adult education is aimed at to give the rural people knowledge of modern techniques and methods in cultivation, so as to enable them to enhance their income and to improve their standards of living.

In keeping with its declared intention of making the national language the only official language of the country in 1967, Government has started free National Language classes for non-Malays. Government hopes that non-Malays will become proficient in the National Language in the near future, so that the use of this language as the sole official language of the country will take place as scheduled.

The National Language Month, 1961, was held in two phases of a fortnight each. The stepping up of the use of the National Language through the Language Week in 1960, and the Language Month in 1961 has certainly received good response in Penang. The second phase of the Language Month, which ended recently, was marked by a Pledge-Taking ceremony in which representatives of Government, voluntary organisations, and all secondary school and high school students and others took a pledge to promote and spread the use of our National Language. More and more people are becoming conscious of the significance and use of the National Language as a means to achieve unity and a single nationality.

Talking of modern techniques and methods of cultivation it is perhaps most appropriate that I deal with agriculture first, especially since ours is mainly an agrarian economy. Penang's enterprise in double cropping is well-known and unrivalled elsewhere in the country. In fact our enterprise earned the praise of His Majesty in one of his speeches made during his State Visit. I mentioned this time last year that Government hoped to achieve the target of 25,000 acres in 1961. I am glad to say that this has almost been achieved; 24,358 acres of land is now under double cropping, and in terms of money represents a total cash value of \$3,000,000.

It is a well-known fact that Penang has relatively less land for cultivation and it has therefore been necessary to intensify cultivation. As a result of the efforts of Government and the people, 24,358 acres of cultivated padi land now carries a "double load." This has not only increased padi production of the State by 9,600,000 gantangs but it reveals an important economic fact in that double cropping gives employment to between 8,000 to 12,000 families during the off season. Whereas these families were only employed during the main season and were therefore under-employed during the year, they are now fully employed the whole year round. The average yield per acre in the State for the main season was around 414 gantangs. A total of 25,837,709 gantangs of padi was harvested during the 1960/1961 season. An achievement worthy of mention is that of an average yield of 524 gantangs per acre in Province Wellesley South for 1960/1961 season as compared with 463 gantangs per acre in the 1959/1960 season. Padi planters are now earning more and their standards of living have improved considerably. Government will

continue to increase and improve the padi yield so that padi planting can be even more profitable than it is at present.

Rubber has been the mainstay of our economy for many years and even today is still one of our major products of export. In order that Malayan rubber may compete effectively in world markets, efforts are being made to improve the quality of our rubber and reduce production costs. Replanting of rubber is vital to our economy and in keeping with our national policy, replanting is being done on an extensive scale. As usual, replanting will commence in October this year and it is expected that a further 1,300 acres will be replanted with rubber before the end of the year.

During the first half of the year, the Agricultural Stations at Bukit Mertajam and Ayer Itam supplied a total of 8,360 yards of rubber budwood sufficient for about 83,000 plants or 400 acres of high yielding rubber. Efforts in improving the quality of our rubber will undoubtedly enable our country to maintain its leading position as an exporter of rubber. General maintenance work in respect of smallholdings and estates has been very good.

The Federal Government has also made provision in its Development Estimates for fruit rehabilitation schemes. A bid will be made by the State Agricultural Department for Federal funds to start a fruit rehabilitation scheme with effect from October this year in the State of Penang.

A sum of \$35,000 has been provided for the agricultural extension service the object of which is to educate farmers and to stage demonstrations in the latest techniques in agricultural practices so that farmers can obtain the optimum returns from the land.

The State Agricultural Department will soon be purchasing a van and other necessary equipment to carry out this extension service. Negotiations are under way with the Banking Union for a scheme to provide short term credit facilities to farmers to purchase fertilisers to improve and increase their padi crops. It is hoped to commence this fertiliser scheme during this padi season. The Federal Government plans to acquire 50 acres of land at Bum-bong Lima for the establishment and development of a large padi station to conduct extensive research in off season double cropping. The Federal Government has set aside a very substantial sum of money for this purpose. The fruits of research at this Station will not only help Penang but the whole country.

Negotiations are under way to obtain land for the establishment of a Plant Protection Service to provide facilities for the import and export of plants. The State Agricultural Department has also introduced the padi seed multiplication and distribution scheme in order to provide farmers with high yielding good quality seeds, and for this purpose 10 acres of land is being utilised for the production of "seraup 50" seeds in Province Wellesley South, and a further 10 acres for "radin Kling" seeds in Province Wellesley North.

In the early days of its development, Penang ranked very high among other countries in the production of Cloves. The acreage of cloves dwindled when rubber planting became more profitable. During the Japanese Occupation clove planting became an unprofitable venture and clove holdings were neglected. Although attempts were made to revive the clove industry, it has not met with much success. Our Government is most anxious to establish this industry on a sound and profitable footing

and a Committee has been appointed to make recommendations to Government with a view to restoring this industry to its pristine position. Cloves produced in Penang today are still superior to cloves produced anywhere else, and if this industry is helped and subsidised, Government feels that it could enhance the earnings of farmers smallholders and also provide an avenue for more employment. Also, encouragement of this industry fulfils the national policy of government to diversify agriculture. The Committee's report will soon be presented to Government following which it is hoped measures will be taken to reorganise the subsidy scheme on a more equitable basis.

Systematic action was taken by the Agricultural Department in organising farmers' associations and establishing them on proper lines. These Associations 17 in number are being formed with the object of getting farmers together to enable them to exchange views and experience on agriculture and animal husbandry. The Associations will be the fund of knowledge from which farmers can draw to improve their crops and livestock.

Training in agriculture is an important part of Government's programme towards good husbandry and increased production. The Agricultural Training Centre during the period January to June trained altogether 160 persons, and before the year is out a further 140 persons would also have received training. Government hopes that those who have received training will impart the knowledge gained, to others. The rural people are becoming alive to the need for agricultural education, and many are coming forward to enrol themselves for training at this Centre. Short courses were also held at the Agricultural Stations at Ayer Itam and Bukit Mertajam, and the four padi stations in the

State. 275 boys from 10 Malay schools in padi growing areas received training in padi growing during the off season. It is hoped to train in all about 900 boys before the end of the year. The importance of training school boys in farming communities cannot be over-emphasised. They are our future farmers, and the State is wisely investing in them thereby assuring our future agricultural needs. Training also teaches them the dignity of manual work and the importance of farmers to the community.

While Nature has blessed our State with sufficient rainfall, rivers and good soil, these natural factors must be supplemented with human endeavour. The State Government recognises the need to provide adequate drainage and irrigation schemes in the furtherance of agricultural endeavour. The completion of the Five Year Plan for drainage and irrigation will bring almost all the potential *bendang* land under adequate irrigation. To achieve this, the entire fresh water resources between Sungei Muda in the north and Sungei Krian in the South will be harnessed. The increase in double cropping area has been directly due to the Muda River Irrigation Scheme which is now in the course of completion at a cost of \$2.8 million. The Bendang Lebai Taib Drainage Scheme is also virtually completed. This scheme is intended to drain surplus water from the Bertam land to the east of the Muda Scheme, and will cost the Government \$460,000. The Federal Government is taking active steps to provide irrigation for double cropping the Sungei Acheh division of the Krian Irrigation Scheme. This work is on an immense scale, and involves raising the level of the Bukit Merah Reservoir by 6 feet. The total cost of the scheme will be about \$8 million, and a firm of Consulting Engineers in London

has been retained to design the project. Most of the Drainage and Irrigation Department survey potential has been absorbed in the Sungei Jarak Irrigation Scheme. This project is designed to irrigate the scattered *bendang* land lying on either side of the Sungei Jarak. In addition, provision has also been made to supplement the flow from the Sungei Kulim. This is intended to replace water abstracted from the Sungei Kulim at the Bukit Toh Allang Filtration Plant by the Public Works Department. This will enable the Public Works Department to abstract enough piped water for all foreseeable needs in Province Wellesley North, and also for the proposed industrial estate.

The survey of the Sungei Jarak Scheme is now complete, and design and construction will follow. While major improvements and development are in progress, the smaller schemes are not being forgotten. \$25,000 worth of minor works will be completed this year, and about \$50,000 will be spent on provision of small bridges this year to provide better access in the rural areas. The provision of bridges is supplementary to the Public Works Department road scheme which will materially increase rural prosperity by providing easy access to the markets, for the farmers' produce.

The Nibong Tebal Drainage Scheme which will involve the construction of a 21 mile coastal bund to provide protection from sea water to smallholders settled in about 13,300 acres of coconut, oil palm and rubber land. This scheme will cost \$1.25 million and contractual commitments to the extent of \$250,000 have already been entered into. Five large excavators have been provided by the Federal Government to assist in the work. Work has also commenced on the Water Gate at Parit Tok Mandin costing \$15,000.

This scheme will prevent flooding at Permatang Kling and Permatang Tok Mahat areas and will benefit 120 acres of coconut small-holdings. Anti-flood drains were completed at a cost of \$21,758 to reduce flooding and improve sanitation in the south district. Further drainage schemes will be carried out to improve sanitation and reduce flooding in this district, and about 50% of the work has been completed on 1,300 ft. of main drains in Nibong Tebal town.

As for the livestock industry, because of shortage of land, our livestock breeders have to confine themselves mainly to the breeding of pigs and poultry which do not take up too much space. For the last six years the State has not only been self-sufficient in poultry and pigs but has been exporting in increasing numbers, poultry and pigs to Kedah, Perak and Selangor, and even to such far away States as Malacca and Negri Sembilan. Whereas in 1954 our State imported about 250,000 head of poultry, by 1960/1961 Penang was exporting nearly 1,000,000 birds. The rapid expansion of this industry has also resulted in reduced prices for eggs. Since 1959, the pig population has also been on the increase and between 60,000 to 70,000 pigs are being exported annually. The pig population now stands at about 100,000. In order to improve the breed of our pigs, the Veterinary Department imported 8 pure bred pedigreed pigs costing \$10,000/- from England, in March this year. These pigs were handed over to the Penang and Province Wellesley Farming Co-operative Society for breeding purposes. Some of the progeny have been distributed to Bukit Mertajam, Butterworth and Paya Terubong. The Veterinary Department is now in correspondence with Australian pig breeders with a view to purchasing some pure bred pigs. In addition the Agri-

cultural Department is in the process of obtaining \$5,000/- worth of pure bred pigs from England to replace their existing pig herd at the Bukit Mertajam Agricultural Station.

Not only is the Veterinary Department trying to improve the quality of pigs but also the quality of poultry. \$5,000/- has been provided in this year's Estimates of the Veterinary Department for the purchase and distribution of pure bred cockerels to our poultry rearers. In the first half of 1961, 198 pure bred cockerels were distributed. It is hoped to purchase and distribute a further 800 cockerels to our poultry rearers during the remaining months of the year. This will, however, depend on the availability of pure bred cockerels. With the increase in the area of land for double cropping and rubber replanting, grazing land is correspondingly diminishing in area. Instead of therefore increasing the cattle and goat population the aim now is to improve distribution by localising cattle and goat breeding to areas where grazing land is available and the livestock population is small. It is relevant to mention, however that the demand for buffaloes is declining because of the increased use of machines for ploughing. It is proposed to distribute cattle and goats under the "bagi pawah" system. The "bagi pawah" system of distribution will improve the lot of farmers who are too poor to purchase their own livestock. Farmers, who still use buffaloes, need not have to hire them, for they can obtain the animals under the "bagi pawah" system. Investigations have been completed and lists of likely recipients have been compiled. It is hoped to purchase the livestock from Kedah and distribute them before the end of the year. The plan is to purchase and distribute \$10,000/- worth of cattle and goats

per year during the next five years. The Veterinary Department's efforts will undoubtedly improve the earnings of farmers provided the farmers themselves turn to advantage the assistance given by Government.

The rural development projects undertaken by the Fisheries Department include firstly the provision of basic aid and navigation to help fishermen to steer their way home at night. Navigation lights at Kuala Muda, Kuala Jalan Bahru, and Kuala Sungai Pinang are now being replaced with more efficient electrically operated lights. It is intended to instal an auto electric light at Sungai Krian. It is also proposed to build temporary sheds at Kuala Muda and Telok Kumbar. These temporary structures, each capable of housing 40 persons at a time, will cater for migratory fishermen. An aquarium for fresh water and marine research costing \$200,000 equipped with laboratory, store rooms, aquarium and storage tanks will be constructed in Glugor. A rapid growth of fish, prawn, oyster and cockle culture brings to light new problems in agriculture, and the need for research. The results of investigations made at the fresh water and marine research aquarium will be applied to fish farming practices in the rural areas, and thus contribute to increasing rural prosperity.

A \$20,000 Fishing Gear Workshop, equipped with a room for exhibits of the various new and traditional fishing gears for training purposes, will be set up. This structure will form part of the Marine Fisheries Centre which I had the pleasure to declare open in November, 1960. The Marine Fisheries Centre at present offers two courses lasting 5 months each, with 30 fishermen at a time, on subjects ranging from Navigation, Engine Maintenance and

Repairs, to the latest fishing techniques. This new workshop will serve as a much needed practical Workshop and Demonstration Theatre for the trainees.

Considering that Telok Kumbar is the largest potential area for fishing in Penang Island, a scheme is afoot to construct a 1000 foot long jetty costing \$100,000, to enable fishermen to land their catch quickly and efficiently at low or mean level tide. At present the low gradient of the seabed is a great handicap to the fishermen when going out to sea or returning to base from the sea. They have often to wade a considerable distance in mud with their catch. About 350 fishermen families in this area will benefit from this development.

The progress made by the Rural and Industrial Development Authority, Penang, has been most encouraging. Their plans for the future hold much promise for the welfare of the rural population. RIDA, with assistance from Government, plans to establish Pekan² Sahari in each of the Districts in Province Wellesley, and also in Bayan Lepas, Penang Island. The provision of proper marketing facilities for the rural population cannot be over-emphasized, especially in the context of increased production as a result of the rural development programme. The Pekan² Sahari are being established in order to provide adequate marketing facilities for the rural folk. It is a well-known fact that the rural dweller leans heavily on the middleman to dispose of his goods. Because of his ignorance and lack of business acumen he is susceptible to exploitation by the middleman. By marketing his own produce personally he will not only enhance his earnings, but will also acquire business acumen. RIDA is also sponsoring the establishment of Pekan² Sahari in the remote rural

areas for town merchants to sell their wares to the rural folk with ease. RIDA intends to provide loans to town merchants to establish such centres in the rural areas.

An important development for the rural people will be the plan by RIDA to operate bus services along new routes which will be created as a result of the new roads that have been built or are being built. In the initial stages RIDA will operate bus services either on its own or in conjunction with bodies or groups of people in the areas through which the new routes pass. The ultimate aim, however, is that these bus services will be given over to the people themselves to control and operate.

Also in the offing is the first-ever establishment by RIDA of a hides and skins tanning factory on the main Bukit Mertajam/Kulim Road at Machang Buboh. This will be a new business venture for RIDA. This is in keeping with the policy of our country to teach the rural folks new skills, and also to make them adept in the various arts and crafts.

Worthy of mention is also the fact that land has been acquired at Kepala Batas for the Taman Asohan, the Training Centre for Kampong Women Leaders on Home Economics. This Training Centre will be soon established.

A Blachan Unit will soon be established at Telok Kumbar, Penang. Trainees from Penang and Province Wellesley have been sent to Kuala Kurau in Perak to acquire the necessary skills in the preparation of blachan in the modern way. It is also proposed to establish Blachan Units at Pulau Aman and Juru.

RIDA will also soon establish a Coir Centre at Kampong Padang Bengali for the making of ropes and articles made of rope.

The Federal Mobile Unit of RIDA will be visiting Penang periodically with a view to assisting the rural people in marketing local produce. This Mobile Unit will purchase articles which are up to RIDA standards, and market these articles for the rural folks.

RIDA is also proposing to establish a Rubber Processing Centre on the border of Kedah and South Province Wellesley. This Processing Centre will assist rubber smallholders to derive the economic benefits of large-scale production. Consideration is also being given by RIDA towards the establishment of smokehouses for the benefit of smallholders.

Ten new rural co-operative credit societies and one farming society were registered during the past 6 months, and the total number of co-operative societies now stands at 205. The total membership of all these societies was approximately 25,000 and the total subscribed share capital as at 30th June, 1961, was about \$6,000,000. The gradual expansion of the co-operative movement, especially in the rural areas, augurs well for rural economy.

Through co-operation, the rural dwellers can free themselves from the burden of debt and the clutches of the unscrupulous middlemen. The formation of a co-operative oil mill society, 8 rural co-operative credit societies and 3 co-operative rice milling societies, is under active consideration.

The basis of modern economy and trade is speedy transportation and, recognising this need, Government is in the course of providing a network of roads capable of carrying heavy motor traffic. Our road programme is modest in scale, but we hope that it will more than adequately meet the needs of the State. The main object of the programme is to link

the villages and kampongs to the urban areas. The provision of these roads will facilitate marketing of rural produce and will at the same time bring daily necessities to the rural people in quick time. The rural folks need no longer live in isolation in their kampongs; in fact, there will be more intermingling of the rural and the urban people.

In Province Wellesley North, the Permatang Buloh/Pekan Darat Road was completed in March, 1961, at a cost of \$110,000. Construction is in progress in respect of the Kampong Kerai Besar Road estimated to cost \$52,000. Also to be completed this year is the road linking Ptg. To'Brian and Kota Aur, and it is expected to cost \$91,000. Almost complete is the Kampong Selamat/Chinese School Road which connects the Chinese School at Kampong Selamat to the main Padang Serai Road. This road will cost \$45,000. About 11 roads costing \$1 million will be completed some time during the year. Land acquisition proceedings are now in hand for the construction of further roads in this area. Most of these roads are rural roads and have been built or are being built with a view to improving rural economy. They will provide access for the rural dwellers and enable them to market their produce with ease. Province Wellesley North is what one might call the "rice bowl" of the State and, with the rapid increase in padi production, these roads will prove to be vital to the economy.

In Province Wellesley Central, the Kuala Mengkuang Road was completed in January this year at a cost of \$139,000. Work has been started on the Alma/Pelandok Jatoh/Stowell Road. This road which runs from Stowell Road to Alma almost along the railway

line will link Alma to Bukit Mertajam and will cost the Government \$143,000. The Pelandok Jatoh Road which will run from Kulim Road to the east of the railway bridge just outside Bukit Mertajam is being built and is expected to cost \$25,000. 2.2 miles of road estimated to cost \$220,000 is being constructed in Berapit Village and will provide easy access for the new low cost housing scheme which is nearing completion in this village. Land acquisition is also in hand for the construction of not less than nine roads in Province Wellesley Central.

In Province Wellesley South, the Permatang Ara Road costing \$90,000 was completed in July, 1961. Earlier in the year the Sungei Kechil Village Road costing \$29,000 was completed. Towards the end of last year, the Sungei Udang/River Road was completed at a cost of \$17,000. Fishermen can now bring their boats alongside the jetty built at the end of this new road and unload their catch in a comfortable and easy manner. The Kampong Nanas Road leading to the Malay School costing \$28,000 was completed in January, 1961. It is intended to extend this road to the Kedah border. The roads likely to be completed this year are the Jalan Sebrang/Tassek Road and the Methodist School/Caledonia Road, Val D'or Village Roads and Jawi Village Roads. Land acquisition is in hand for the construction of a further 10 roads in this area.

As for the Island of Penang, work on widening and strengthening of a section of the road from Simpang Tiga to Pulau Betong was carried out at a cost of \$225,000. This is part of the scheme to facilitate the free flow of traffic. Fish and other sea produce obtained at Pulau Betong can now be transported speedily

to the market. For this reason the road from Pulau Betong has been extended to Bakar Kapur for a distance of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile at a cost of \$20,000.

A service road $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in length has been improved and extended at a cost of \$20,000 in Sungei Pinang Village. All service roads in this village will have a bituminous road pavement, and the people will no longer be troubled by dust in dry weather, and mud in wet weather. An access road from the main trunk road to Kampong Permatang Pasir has now been partially completed. It is also proposed to widen the existing road from Sungei Pinang to Pantai Acheh which is narrow and tortuous, and inadequate for traffic plying from Sungei Pinang and the fishing village of Pantai Acheh. About 60% of this road is now complete. Also under construction is an access road from Sungei Nibong to the sea. The road will be $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long, and will provide transport facilities to the people living in the east coast area. Boundary Road at Ayer Itam is being built as a service road to serve the built-up areas, and to link the housing estate to the network of main roads. Work has just been started on this road. Also under construction is an access road to Sungei Dua resettlement area. About half the road has been completed, and will cost about \$40,000. The Gertak Sanggul/Telok Kumbar Road is being widened and improved. When completed, it will considerably improve the transport facilities to the village of Gertak Sanggul. The Bayan Lepas Courthouse to Airfield Road, which will provide an access to the neighbouring kampong, has just been started and is expected to be completed this year. The Titi Tras Road which will provide an access to Kampong Titi Tras from the

network of main roads is now under construction. The cost of this road will be about \$30,000. Work on the above roads is likely to be completed this year.

It is perhaps relevant to mention the work of the Telecommunications Department when considering the subject of road communication. The Rural Development Projects for this year will cost Government some \$16,000. One telephone kiosk has been put in service at Permatang Buloh in Province Wellesley, while work is proceeding on the construction of kiosks and connecting lines at Sungei Udang and Sungei Acheh. These will be completed this month. Another kiosk will be set up in Pantai Acheh when the road is completed. The advantages of rapid communication in trade and commerce and in the event of sickness or other emergency, cannot be overstressed.

The underground cable project for George Town involves expenditure of \$935,000 this year, and of this \$470,000 has already been expended. This will enable waiting and future applicants in Beach Street, Chulia Street, Pitt Street, Carnarvon Street, Green Lane and Ayer Itam areas to be connected. The principal beneficiary from adequate telephone facilities is the commercial world, and it is without doubt that efficient communication will keep the wheels of trade turning. The third major project is the conversion of the Butterworth Exchange to automatic working. This project will cost about \$1,160,000 and of this \$110,000 has already been expended.

Our telecommunications system in Penang has served the State well although from time to time there have been waiting lists of applicants who could not for some reason or other be given

connection. The present expenditure is a determined step towards the eradication of the waiting list, with consequent advantages to trade, public services, and personal convenience not only to those now waiting but to existing subscribers in Penang and elsewhere in Malaya.

Electricity has now come to be regarded as a daily necessity, and it is no longer the privilege of the urban dwellers. For long our rural dwellers have lived in darkness both literally and metaphorically. Electricity can open the door to the vast store of knowledge; hitherto the rural dwellers, after having worked in the fields the whole day long, have had to strain their eyes in dim lights if they wished to read. Under such conditions, especially after a strenuous day, reading can be irksome and difficult. With the provision of electricity, the rural dweller can now avail himself of all the reading material. He can educate himself and lead a fuller life. With the expected improvement in the Standards of living he may be able to afford a radio, and perhaps other useful electrical appliances. Should he be more enterprising, he could usefully employ electric power in handicraft and such other cottage industries which might be paying.

The State Government is actively pursuing its programme of rural electrification by providing subsidies to the Central Electricity Board and the City Council of George Town. It is hoped that before the Five Year Plan period is over there will hardly be a household in the State which cannot be supplied with electricity. During the period under review, electricity was extended to Tanjong Berambang and Sungei Kechil in Province Wellesley South, towards which State Government made a contribution of \$52,114. Extension of electricity

to Kampong Permatang Ara and Kubang Ulu of Province Wellesley Central is now under way. This extension will cost \$14,817. The extension to Kubang Ulu will be completed during this month and this will cost \$117,000. The State Government has made a contribution of \$29,048 for the electrification of Permatang Toh Labu, Province Wellesley North, which includes supplies to Bakar Kapur, Sungei Tembus, Pasir Gebu, Kampong Dua Puloh, Lorong Jawa and Permatang To' Ibrahim. This project will be completed very soon. A subsidy of \$32,300 has been made by the State Government for the electrification of Permatang Janggus in Province Wellesley North. Federal contribution is awaited in respect of several other rural electrification schemes in Province Wellesley.

Rural electrification in Penang Island was completed in respect of Sungei Kluang and Kampong Jawa during the first half of 1961. Electrification of Permatang Damar Laut is almost complete and it is expected that the electrification of Permatang Pasir and Sungei Burong will be completed some time this year. The State Government subsidy for all the above schemes in Penang Island amounts to \$133,757. A sum of \$48,000 has been made available from State funds for the electrification of Batu Maung, and this scheme will be completed towards the end of this year. The extension of electricity supplies to the various kampongs has been met with full enthusiasm by the residents, and supply has been connected to the bulk of prospective consumers within a few weeks of completion of the respective projects.

The Penang Station of Radio Malaya has now become an important station in the country. Shortwave transmissions hitherto operated from Singapore have, as

from this year, been transferred to Penang, with the result that the Penang Station now radiates two shortwave and three medium wave transmitters. These transmitters are housed in the newly-completed station in Glugor costing \$707,000. Listeners in and around Penang will have by now experienced clearer and better listening. Transmissions from Penang now cover a sizeable portion of North Malaya. The new studios and offices building of Radio Malaya, Penang, is nearing completion. This building will cost Government \$860,000.

Ever since its founding in 1784, Penang's importance lay in its natural harbour and the port facilities it could offer for the promotion of trade. As the premier and only free port of the Federation, the trade of Penang plays a significant role in the economic progress of the State and the country. Penang's share of the Federation direct trade (i.e. excluding trade with Singapore) rose from 54.5% in 1960 to 56.1% for the same period. From these figures it will be observed that Penang handled more than half of the Federation's direct trade and over a third of the Federation's total trade. Although entrepot trade in the first quarter declined by \$14.8 million the overall position is satisfactory.

Visiting Trade Missions did not fail to include Penang in their itinerary. Their objectives were obvious in that they came to discover ways and means to increase trade to the mutual benefit of our country and the country of the Mission. The Federation Government also sent a Goodwill and Trade Mission to Burma and the majority of the members of the Mission represented Penang trade interests. The value of these trade missions

cannot yet be gauged but suffice it to say that the missions which visited Penang were favourably impressed and there is every likelihood of expansion and progress in trade in the foreseeable future. The development of Weld Quay, the provision of deep water berths in Butterworth, the extension of the railway terminus from Prai to Butterworth, and the establishment of an industrial estate in Butterworth within the next 5 years promise a bright future for Penang as a trading station and port.

As mentioned earlier, the State Government, recognising the need for urban progress, has wisely embarked on a scheme to provide an industrial estate at Sungei Mak Mandin in Butterworth. The Committee which has been appointed to make recommendations to Government has already invited applications for factory sites in the proposed estate. The fact that over 100 applications have been received, involving a total investment of about 30 million dollars, gives hope for a successful industrial estate. The Committee is in the process of examining these applications and at the same time layout plans are being drawn up. The Committee will be submitting its recommendations to the Government in the very near future. As the planning of an industrial estate is a new venture for Government, the Malaya Developments Ltd. have been retained as advisers to Government. The good response shown justifies Government's choice of Sg. Mak Mandin for the proposed Industrial Estate. The estate when finally established will alleviate unemployment to some extent and no doubt contribute immensely to the economy of the State of Penang. Complementary to the setting up of the industrial estate is the Federal Government's plans to provide deep water berths

and wharf facilities in Butterworth during the five year period involving an expenditure of \$15,000,000.

The audited accounts of the State for the year 1960 are to hand and they give a picture of the State's financial position from which it is not possible to derive anything but satisfaction. Revenue collected in 1960 exceeded estimates by \$2,076,271 whilst expenditure only slightly exceeded original estimates by \$64,352. The result was a surplus of \$2,011,919 for the year and a very healthy position was achieved with \$7,846,586 in the General Revenue Balance on 31st December, 1960.

Hon'ble members will recall that the 1961 Estimates of Ordinary Expenditure provided for a contribution of \$8,848,610 to the State Development Fund to finance the large development works to be carried out in 1961. This large contribution, it will be recalled, was made possible only by withdrawing the large sum of \$5,632,492 from the General Revenue Balance. The position as revealed by the 1960 audited accounts is that even had withdrawal of this large sum of \$5,632,492 taken place on the 1st January, 1961, there would still have remained a substantial balance of \$2,214,093 in the General Revenue Balance to meet contingencies. This state of affairs gives much cause for satisfaction to a Government which believes in being prudent and careful in its financial affairs.

Another cause for satisfaction is the fact that, thanks to the understanding and helpful attitude manifested by our Federal Government, the State Government has been able to transfer to the Federal Government some of the heavy financial commitments of the Second Five Year Plan for

which the State Government had already made provision in the 1961 Development Estimates. The largest item so far is for State Roads. The Federal Government has agreed to reimburse the State Government its expenditure on the construction of some 20 roads. The Ministry of Rural Development has allocated \$500,000 for reimbursement and there is promise of a further allocation after satisfactory proof of expenditure having been given to the Ministry. Application has also been made by the State Government for assistance in a number of other schemes and there is no reason to believe that they will not receive sympathetic consideration by the Federal Government.

I have made mention of the helpful attitude of the Federal Government. Besides making financial contributions towards the State's development programme, this attitude finds expression in numerous other acts of goodwill and friendship. One such act which I would certainly not hesitate to describe as an outstanding example of goodwill, was the Federal Government's decision to waive its claim to the proceeds from the sale of the Government buildings, viz. the Simpang Anam Police Station, "Bellevue" bungalow Penang Hill, the old Customs building in Queen Street and the Runnymede Hotel building, involving a total sum of not less than \$1,434,554.50. This decision of the Federal Government benefited 1960 State Revenue to the extent of \$930,025.50 and 1961 State Revenue to the extent of \$473,235.

Whilst we thank the Federal Government, we must not forget to show proper appreciation of the good work done by our officers in exercising control of expenditure. The healthy position of our finances today is due in large

measure to their efforts and devotion to duty.

The overall financial position of the State is, therefore, a sound one and there are no grounds to suppose that the State Government will not be able to carry out its programme of development.

While on the subject of finance, it is appropriate to mention the opening of the branch office of Bank Negara, Tanah Melayu, in March this year. The establishment of this branch marks an important milestone in the history of banking in Penang. The main functions of this branch are to afford clearing facilities, receiving and paying cash to commercial banks, keeping Government accounts, maintaining foreign exchange control, and acting as agents for the Board of Currency Commissioners. Being the bankers' bank, this branch enables the commercial banks to keep themselves in a liquid position.

A noteworthy feature of banking in Penang was the opening of two indigenous banks during the period, namely the United Malayan Banking Corporation Ltd., and the Malayan Banking Ltd. The United Commercial Bank Ltd., and the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation Ltd., moved into new and imposing premises of their own.

The above events are significant in that they reflect the sound economic position of Penang and the country as a whole.

The revenue derived from the Penang Hill Railway during the first half of this year almost equals that of the same period in 1960 which was a record in the history of the Railway, and present indications are that this satisfactory trend will continue. The Penang Hill Railway which

is the only funicular railway in Penang continues to be an attraction not only to local residents but to outstation visitors and tourists as well. It is so well known that enquiries have been received from Tourist Associations as far afield as California, U.S.A.

With a view to improving the comfort of passengers by providing smoother running of the trains, it was decided to weld all rail joints on the track and this work commenced last year and will be completed in 1962 involving a total expenditure of approximately \$10,000. The State Government has approved the demolition of the old garages at the Lower Station and the construction of new garage accommodation both lockup and open type on State land on the south side of the Hill Railway Road near the Lower Station. On the site of the present garage buildings a floral roundabout and fountain will be constructed. Provision of approximately \$40,000 will be included in the 1962 State Development Estimates to carry out this project. This development will result in considerable improvement to the appearance and the general layout of the Lower Station approaches, and will add to the attractiveness of the Railway, particularly to visitors and tourists as the view of the incline rising to the Middle Station will be unimpeded by these present unsightly buildings. The coaches on the Upper Section were painted last year in a brighter colour scheme and the Lower Section coaches which are maroon in colour will be painted in the same colour scheme as the Upper Section coaches in 1962.

The State Government has under consideration a new and smarter type of uniform for Hill Railway personnel and the employees themselves will be issued with new uniforms this year.

Action is being taken to improve generally the appearance and the amenities of the Penang Hill Railway. These improvements are being made with a view to enhancing the reputation of the Penang Hill Railway as a tourist attraction.

While dwelling on the Penang Hill Railway, I would like to mention that Government has not lost sight of its plans to construct a road to the top of the Hill. Because of rural development commitments and other more important developments, the Hill Road project has of necessity to take a lower position in the order of priority. The exact line of road can only be determined after the completion of survey work which is now in hand. The survey work involved is arduous and exacting and has to be executed with a great deal of care.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Penang Tourist Association for its good work in the promotion of tourism in Penang.

Water is essential to sustaining life, and while Nature has been kind in providing abundant sources of water supply, these sources must be harnessed so that water can be brought to the household. Water is also very essential for industrial development. Our Government is actively engaged in a programme to supply its people with wholesome and treated piped water. Well water will become a need of the past, and there will be ample supply for domestic and industrial purposes. Work on 25 extension schemes totalling 96,500 feet of 4-inch mains has been started and will be completed this year. The Pulau Betong/Kebun Besar extension was completed at a cost of \$16,000. These 25 extension schemes are in various stages of completion, and they will cost a total of \$246,500. The object of

these schemes is to make water supply available in the kampongs.

The 10 miles of 18-inch Asbestos Cement Main from Bukit Toh Allang to Butterworth will now be replaced with 24-inch steel main at an estimated cost of \$1,655,000 to improve water supply in the North District of Province Wellesley. This work has been let out on contract, and the project is estimated to be completed in early 1962. Apart from improving the water supply in the North District, this 24-inch main will have the capacity to cope with requirements for the proposed industrial estate at Mak Mandin.

The extension of the Bukit Toh Allang Filtration Plant at an estimated cost of \$684,000 for boosting the production capacity of the plant to meet the increasing water demand brought about by the large number of extensions to rural areas is now being designed. It is proposed to lay a 12-inch water main from Bukit Mertajam service reservoir to Permatang Tinggi at an estimated cost of \$350,000 to supply areas lying on either side of the boundary between the Central and South District of Province Wellesley. Tenders have been accepted for the supply of pipes, and specials, and actual work on the main will commence soon this year. The construction of a 1,000,000 gallon service reservoir at Bukit Mertajam at an estimated cost of \$325,000 is now in hand. This project will increase the storage capacity for water, and is expected to be completed in March, 1962.

It was my privilege and pleasure to open the 18-inch diameter steel main from Bukit Toh Allang to Bukit Mertajam recently. This 18-inch main which is 7½ miles in length has been constructed to divert some of the water treated at the Bukit Toh Allang Filtration

Plant to serve the central district. The whole project was completed at a total cost of \$1,050,000. The laying of 3¾ miles of 12-inch Asbestos Cement Main from Simpang Ampat to Prai was also completed in the first half of this year at a total cost of \$235,000. \$300,000 will be spent on the installation of a new water supply in Pulau Jerejak, and this scheme will be completed this year.

The above projects clearly illustrate Government's intention to provide wholesome treated piped water to all our people in the State. The periods of drought and suffering will pass into history. Government is also actively reviewing the position of water rate with a view to abolishing it. We can now hopefully look forward to a future with plentiful supply of water for domestic, industrial and other purposes.

As regards Health and Medical facilities, the past six months have been chiefly a period of preparation in Penang. However, the new out-patients building in the General Hospital is nearing completion, and will be ready for use. This new building will relieve congestion and overcrowding of out-patients. By about the end of September the 'B' Block of the General Hospital will have been renovated and improved to accommodate the Chest Clinic and the Eye Department. When completed, these units will prove to be of great benefit to patients suffering from Tuberculosis and Eye diseases.

Tenders have been invited for a Dental Nurses Hostel in Penang to improve facilities for the training of dental nurses. As mentioned earlier, water supply will be installed in Pulau Jerejak, and this will enable expansion of facilities to accommodate more patients at the Tuberculosis and Leprosy Camps.

Construction of a health centre at Sungei Bakap has been let out on tender and work will commence soon. Land acquisition has been completed in respect of five health centres and work on the construction of these five centres will also commence in the near future. These five health centres are at Sungei Pinang, Permatang Jangus, Pinang Tunggal, Simpang Ampat/Permatang Buloh and Bukit Indra Muda. It is anticipated that the above six health centres will be completed before the end of the year. Land acquisition is in various stages of completion in respect of 18 other health centres. Work will commence on these health centres before the end of the year. These health centres will be built in accordance with standard plans and when completed they will greatly improve the maternity and child health services in the rural areas. A domiciliary centre for midwives at Simpang Ampat will be set up at a cost of \$100,000/- for training midwives, and at the same time midwives' units will be established at Sungei Acheh, Tassek, Kampong Besar, Kampong Nanas, Sungei Bakau and Pulau Aman.

Recently I was accorded the privilege and pleasure of opening the first conference on Tuberculosis held at Penang. The Tuberculosis Associations in Malaya have been doing yeoman service in reducing the incidence of this disease. It is a known fact that about 4% of the population of the Federation suffer from infectious Tuberculosis and it is widely prevalent in both the rural and urban areas. Before Merdeka, no serious thought was given to the prevalence of Tuberculosis in the country and no policy was formulated to control this disease. The present Government took measures to assess the prevalence of this disease and a National

Tuberculosis Control Programme has been drawn up. The Tuberculosis Associations can help Government immensely in achieving its objectives in controlling Tuberculosis. The Penang Anti-Tuberculosis Association had 1,056 cases X-rayed during the period under review, and of this number 195 were found to have T.B. 269 contacts were brought to the Chest Clinic by 3 liaison workers of the PATA during the year. This year a sum of \$10,000 was spent for the purchase of a van and Laboratory equipment for the Chest Clinic in Penang T.B. Centre, George Town. The 'B' Block of the General Hospital is being altered and renovated to provide facilities for a self-contained Chest Clinic with X-ray machines, records, Laboratory facilities, a section for Outpatients attending for check up, and another section for those attending for follow-up. Control measures for Tuberculosis in Penang Island will be centralised at the T.B. Centre in the General Hospital in George Town, while the control of Tuberculosis in Province Wellesley will be centralised in Bukit Mertajam Hospital. A sum of \$180,000 has been earmarked for extending facilities to the T.B. Centre in Bukit Mertajam. Action has already been taken to acquire the land for that purpose. Government also intends to spend \$460,000 for improvements to the T.B. Settlement in Pulau Jerejak soon after the installation of piped water supply in this area.

While I have already expressed my gratitude to all the Anti-Tuberculosis Associations and the Malayan Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis for their good work, at the Conference, it is perhaps appropriate for me to thank them again before this Assembly. I hope they will continue their good work and help Government in its efforts to eradicate Tuberculosis.

Our thanks are also due to the Social and Welfare Services Lotteries Board for a donation of \$20,000 for the purchase of two "micro-buses" for the use of T.B. patients in Penang. These "micro-buses" will be under the control of the Penang Anti-Tuberculosis Association, and I am sure will improve greatly existing facilities for T.B. patients.

Government recognises the need to provide adequate health and medical facilities. Several other projects are being planned for the future, with a view to increasing the health and medical facilities for the people of Penang.

On the subject of Government housing, much is being done to improve accommodation for labourers. 18 units of labourers' quarters are being constructed at Trengganu Road at a cost of \$68,000 to increase housing accommodation for Government labourers. Work has been completed in respect of 20 units of labourers' quarters at Glugor, Balik Pulau and Batu Uban at a total cost of about \$65,000 and tenders have been accepted for the construction of 5 units of labourers' quarters at Permatang Pauh and this will cost Government \$20,000. Under construction are also six units of labourers' quarters for Radio Malaya at Bukit Glugor, two units for the Public Works Department at Telok Bahang and eight units for the Public Works Department at Bayan Lepas which will cost Government about \$72,000. The improvement to labourers' quarters by converting sub-standard accommodation to standard accommodation is in various stages of completion and when completed will cost Government a total of \$61,500. In order to provide better accommodation for Hill Railway employees, certain obsolete quarters near the Lower Station were demolished and re-

placed by 12 units of modern design at a total cost of \$38,000. 18 Class 'D' quarters costing about \$103,000 were built for the Police rank and file at Jelutong and several quarters were built for the staff of the Marine Fisheries School at Glugor at a cost of \$75,000.

For some time the question of rehousing squatters affected by land acquisition has engaged the attention of the State Government. At the same time, Government has also been concerned about the many people still living in slum conditions and shoddy tenements. In order to ease the position, State Government has been considering the implementation of low cost housing schemes to rehouse squatters and slum dwellers. The plans for low cost housing, formulated during the period under review, can now be translated into action as a result of Federal Government's decision to offer cheap loans for low cost housing schemes. The Ministry of Interior has informed the State Government that under its revised policy it will offer loans direct to the State Government to undertake low cost housing schemes, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Federal Government for its generosity in this respect.

In order to take advantage of cheap loan funds, the State Government is introducing a Bill at this Assembly to enable it to borrow money from the Federal Government for purposes of implementing low cost housing schemes. A State Committee has already been appointed to make recommendations to Government. Prospective purchasers of these low cost houses will pay instalments not exceeding \$35/- a month. These housing schemes will be confined to those families earning less than \$300/- a month. The first housing scheme to be

implemented soon after the Loan Bill has been passed, will be at Kampong Herriot. Plans have been drawn up for another low cost housing scheme to house fishermen in Telok Bahang. This low cost housing scheme will consist of cheap strong timber houses of a type suitable for fishermen and costs will be kept as low as possible so that repayments will suit the pockets of poor fishermen in this area. It is also relevant to mention that the Berapit Low Cost Housing Scheme is nearing completion.

The Botanical Gardens which are the "lungs" of the City continued to provide a useful and healthy amenity for the people of George Town. In order to make the Gardens as attractive as possible, State Government has provided at the main entrance a suitable place for motor-cars, buses, motor-cycles and bicycles to park. This will reduce traffic hazards in the Gardens itself. The Gardens Committee in order to encourage local talent and to provide entertainment for the general public recommended to Government that local bands should be invited to perform regularly at the Gardens. The State Government accepted the recommendation and has invited local bands to perform once a fortnight on Sundays. This move by the State Government was indeed a very popular one, judging by the record crowd that gathered at the Gardens at the first performance by the band of the Chung Ling High School. I would like to record my thanks and appreciation to the local bands which have accepted the invitation to give voluntary performances at the Gardens.

In order to maintain the good health of our citizens, the State Government is doing its best to establish playing fields in various places. Land has already been

acquired in Penaga and Kepala Batas, for this purpose. At Sungei Dua the school padang will be used as a playing field amenity for the people in this area. The search for a suitable site at Tassek Glugor is under way, and in Bukit Mertajam recommendations have already been submitted for the acquisition of land at Kubang Semang, Simpang Ampat, Bukit Tengah, Cherok To'kun Bawah, Alma and Permatang Pasir for playing fields. Recommendations are also being considered for playing fields at Sungei Acheh, Sungei Bakap, Simpang Ampat, Tassek and Kampong Nanas in the south district. In this connection I would like to pay tribute to the Penang Playing Fields Association for having set up six children's playgrounds since its inception. A further two children's playgrounds, one at Sungei Nibong and the other at Customs village will be ready soon. It is also the intention of the State Government to establish Community Centres on playing fields so that they could serve as changing rooms and toilets. The standard Community Centre will have a badminton court and a stage for entertainment.

The Local Authority Elections, 1961 were successfully concluded during the period under review. The main feature of changes with regard to local authorities is that single member wards have been established and qualifications are now similar to the State and Parliamentary Elections. This has enabled the Office of the Election Commission to have a single register. Out of the 72 seats in the State, 52 were contested. With a view to economy but without sacrificing efficiency in administration, the Town Councils of Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam have been amalgamated with the former

Rural District Councils North and Central, Province Wellesley respectively to form single local authorities in the North and Central Districts. Each authority is now constituted as a District Council.

In order to publicise the various rural development projects which had been undertaken by Government and also those to be undertaken full use was made of the facilities provided by the local press and, in addition, mobile units of the Department toured the various districts making 462 visits in all, screening films and organising talks. An estimated total of 211,000 people benefited by these visits. The field officers of the Department also organised 536 Civic Discussion Groups, 172 Organised Talks and 3 Civic Assemblies. Publicising Government activities has great merits in that it awakens the people and inspires them to come forward to lend a helping hand in achieving Government's objectives.

There is a depth of philosophy in the Chinese proverb which says that a picture speaks more than the utterance of a thousand words. This philosophy gave birth to the idea of a series of exhibitions at which photographs and posters depicting progress and containing other useful information, were displayed. Over 160,000 persons attended these exhibitions and there is no doubt that the development programme planned for the State has captured the imagination and awakened the interest of the people.

The Department of Information also organised 5 civics Courses for a wide cross section of the public which included Penghulus, hawkers, trishaw riders and villagers. During these civic courses lectures were given on Government and its activities. A total of 173 people attended these

civic courses, the purpose of which is to instil in the people a sense of loyalty and unity, and to lead a democratic way of life.

The Department is presently engaged in an extensive campaign to clarify the Education Policy to the people. It has been unfortunate that there has been a misrepresentation of facts contained in the Talib Education Report thereby causing concern among certain sections of the Chinese community. It is to be emphasised that it is not the intention of Government to destroy the other languages and cultures existing in this country in order to advance the National Language; in fact the Education Report aims at the promotion and furtherance of all the other languages and cultures in this country. Lack of understanding and distortion of facts on the Education Report can easily strike a discordant note in the harmonious relationship between the various communities. It is in order to maintain the peace and harmony of the country that the Information Department is giving wide publicity to the Education Report and clarifying points of doubt.

The issue of new identity cards is progressing smoothly and by the end of May, 1961 nearly 110,000 cards had been issued. At this rate and with the continued co-operation of the public, Government will be able to complete registration according to schedule by January, 1963. Appointment dates, especially in George Town, are now fixed about a year ahead. Two of the five registration teams in the State are mobile and are at present touring the south-west district of Penang Island and the south district of Province Wellesley. With effect from next year, part of the team from George Town

will move to the rural areas of the North and Central Districts of Province Wellesley and the North-East District of Penang Island. The operation of mobile teams in the rural areas has saved the rural people in expenditure and in time taken to travel to registration centres. While the mobile teams have benefited thousands of people in the rural areas, the cost to Government has increased in meeting transport and other expenses.

Since my last address to this Assembly, the most important development in respect of the Religious Affairs Department is the establishment of a Kathi Besar's Court for George Town and six Kathis' Courts at George Town, Balik Pulau, Butterworth, Kepala Batas, Bukit Mertajam and Nibong Tebal. These Courts have been duly constituted by His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong under the provisions of the Administration of Muslim Law Enactment. The Kathi Besar and six Kathis have been appointed to preside over these Courts, and at present, with the kind permission of the Judge, they are permitted to sit with Magistrates in the various Courts in Penang and Province Wellesley to gain the necessary experience in their duties. 20 Naib Kathis have also been appointed in Penang to assist in carrying out the functions under Part VI of the Administration of Muslim Law Enactment. This Part mainly deals with marriage and divorce.

Under Part IV, Section 101, which prescribes the drawing up of Rules for the collection of Zakat and Fitrah, I am happy to say that the Rules are under preparation. The Majlis Ugama Islam is already issuing licences to mosques authorising collections for repairs and religious ceremonies under Section 104, Part IV of the Enactment.

The Courts of the Kathi Besar and Kathis are already dealing with matters prescribed under Part VII of this Enactment.

The following Parts and provisions of the Enactment will be brought into force as soon as practicable:—

- (a) Section 9 of Part II (Wakafs);
- (b) Sections 88 — 100 (dealing with accounts, estimates and banks);
- (c) Part V, dealing with management of mosques.

I am sure it will be of interest to many of you that the Administration of Muslim Law Enactment, 1959, has already been translated into the National Language by the Majlis Ugama Islam. 400 copies have been sold to members of the public.

The Religious Affairs Department organized the State Koran Reading Competition for 1961. The finals of this competition were held at the City Stadium on 2nd March this year, and about 20,000 people were in attendance. The highlight of the competition was the recitation of a short verse from the Holy Koran by the prominent Egyptian Koran reader who came to the Federation at the invitation of the Federation Government. In the National Competition one of the lady finalists from Penang won 2nd place in her section.

113 Religious Teachers have been recruited to teach Ilmu Ugama Islam in all the 86 National Primary Schools in Penang and Province Wellesley. Recruitment of Religious Teachers for the National Type Primary Schools is now receiving urgent attention. The appointment of teachers of Ilmu Ugama Islam in Secondary Schools in the State is under active consideration by the Ministry of Education.

Since its inception the Religious Affairs Department has played an important part in State functions and ceremonies, in meeting the religious requirements which are now part and parcel of such occasions.

I have already touched on building activity in respect of Government housing. The Public Works Department completed several buildings during the period under review and I will mention a few which are of interest. In Pulau Jerejak a community hall, Madrasah and Hindu temple were built at a cost of \$29,000/- for the benefit of inmates in the Island. The new Registrar & Inspector of Motor Vehicles' Office at Batu Uban costing \$122,000/- was recently opened. The removal of this office from Penang Road to Batu Uban will certainly relieve traffic congestion to some extent in Penang Road; although the new office is some distance away from the City, this inconvenience of distance will be more than offset by the advantages of larger office space, less traffic congestion adequate parking space and speedier transaction of official business. The near completion of the Out-patients Clinic at the General Hospital at a cost of about \$55,000 will be a relief to the public seeking medical attention. The new Government Offices, as you all can see, has taken shape and is about 70% completed at present. It is anticipated that construction work will be completed by the end of January, 1962, and the building will be ready for occupation before the end of March. since it will take between one to two months to instal other services such as airconditioning, lighting, etc. The building will be an imposing landmark in the City of George Town and tourists coming by sea cannot fail to be impressed by its appearance. Although it will be an imposing edifice, the main purpose

and function of this building will be to centralise Government departments in one building to facilitate the public and the Government. There is no doubt that centralisation of all departments will assist materially in expediting Government business.

The Federal Government made a magnanimous gesture indeed when it agreed to hand over the Old Magistrates' Court building to the State Government for the purposes of renovating and re-conditioning this building into the future Assembly Chamber. Our present Assembly Chamber has outlived its purpose. The State Government will be providing \$150,000/- in next year's Development Estimates for the purpose of renovating and re-conditioning the Old Magistrates' Court building into the new Legislative Assembly Chamber. This development is in keeping with Government's intention to develop King Edward VII Place and the adjacent areas in such a way that this area of George Town will be a place of much scenic attraction.

With a view to improving the cultural amenities of George Town, the State Government has made an approach to the Federal Government to convert the former Hutchings School building into an Art Gallery and Museum.

Hon'ble members of the Assembly, permit me to offer on behalf of my wife and myself, our gratitude to the State Government for allowing us to leave the shores of Penang from 28th April to 14th June this year to go to Mecca to perform the pilgrimage with our daughter, Raja Fuziah, and for the good wishes on our departure and the warm greetings and welcome on our return. We had an inspiring experience and

have returned with a strengthened determination to do all in our power to serve Penang and the Federation. I also wish to take the opportunity to record my thanks, as well as those of the Government to Yang Teramat Mulia Tengku Indra Putra for officiating as Officer Administering the Government during my absence.

Before I end this address, it is my sad duty to refer to the recent loss of two of Penang's leading citizens—the late Dr. Kamil M. Ariff, and the late Dato' (Dr.) Lee Tiang Keng. Both of them served the former Nominated Council of the Settlement of Penang and the Federal Legislative Council with great credit. They led a crowded public life and served on numerous public and voluntary bodies, and their loss to Penang leaves a void which will be difficult to fill.

Finally, I wish to say that if we maintain the same rate of progress there is no doubt our Five Year Development Plan and the Rural Development Plan will bear the fruits of prosperity, peace and harmony. Although our plans are not over-ambitious in scale, they call for maximum effort on the part of Government officers and the co-operation of the people. As in any other society, we have our critics and pessimists. To the critic I would say that Government welcomes constructive and planned criticisms which will contribute materially towards the advancement of our State. We have our motto "Bersatu dan Setia" to guide us and we must continue to abide by this fine motto. May Almighty God help us and guide us in our efforts to make Negeri Pulau Pinang a place of peace and happiness for all.

The Assembly adjourns at
12.45 p.m.

The Assembly resumes at 2.30 p.m.

3. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Chief Minister: (in Malay)
Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the table of the Assembly the following papers:

No. 4 of 1961 — The State of Penang
First Supplementary
Development Estimates,
1961.

No. 5 of 1961 — The State of Penang
First Supplementary
Estimates of Ordinary
Expenditure, 1961.

No. 6 of 1961 — The Statement of Items
of urgent and unforeseen
Expenditure
for which an advance
has been made from the
Contingencies Fund.

No. 7 of 1961 — The Report of the
Public Services Commission,
Federation of
Malaya, for the year
1959.

No. 8 of 1961 — The Report of the
Public Accounts Committee on the State of
Penang Accounts and
the Accounts of the
Penang Hill Railway
for the year 1959, and
the Reports of the
Auditor-General, Federation of Malaya
thereon.

No. 9 of 1961 — The Report of the
Standing Committee on
Standing Rules and
Orders and Privileges
on Allowances payable
to the Speaker and
Members of the
Legislative Assembly,
Penang.

4 (A). ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

1. On the question of the landing place at Noordin Street Ghaut, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, in his reply at the State Assembly Meeting on 29th March 1961, said that the State Government had approached the Federal Government to re-open this jetty and that the matter was still under consideration by the Federal Government. May we know whether a decision has been taken by the Federal Government, since this matter was raised two years ago?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, The matter is still under consideration by the Federal Government.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, When was the last communication the State Government had with the Federal Government about this matter?

Chief Minister: Sir, I require notice of that question.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, It arises as a supplementary question — when did the State Government last communicate with the Federal Government on this matter?

Chief Minister: Sir, As I said, I require notice of that question.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question: Will the Honourable the Chief Minister please state whether any communication has been sent to the Federal Government after 29th March, 1961?

Chief Minister: Sir, There The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, What sort of communication? The contents of the communication, please.

Mr. Speaker: Excuse me, this cannot come under supplementary questions. (in Malay):

This cannot come under supplementary questions because the first question enquires about the communication with the Federal Government. If you wish to know what the contents of the communication are, that is a separate question and, therefore, cannot be allowed.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Another supplementary question: Is it the intention of the State Government to press for an early decision?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that is a new subject.

Mr. Speaker: (in Malay) The question which you submitted reads as follows:—

“On the question of the landing place at Noordin Street Ghaut, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, in his reply at the last State Assembly Meeting, said that the State Government had approached the Federal Government to reopen this jetty and that the matter was still under consideration by the Federal Government. May we know whether a decision has been taken by the Federal Government, since this matter was raised two years ago?”

You wish to know what steps have been taken by the Federal Government. If you wish to know whether or not this State will be taking any action, that is a new subject. I think I cannot allow it.

2. The Hon'ble Member for Butterworth, in his reply at the Assembly Meeting on 29th March, 1961, said that the amount to be collected from the City of George Town in connection with the Education Rate under Section 106(3) of the Education Ordinance 1957 was \$237,543. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please state how the State Education Board arrived at this figure? Is it based on the number of Primary Schools in the City? Is it based on the number of school children in Primary Schools in the City? Or, what is the basis of calculation?

Chief Minister: Sir, With your permission, may I invite Dr. Yegappan to reply to this question?

The Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, The amount to be contributed by each local authority in the State to the funds of the State Education Board was decided at a special meeting of the Board and representatives of all local authorities held on 30th December, 1958, to consider a method of meeting the estimated deficit in the State Education Board's revenue and expenditure for 1959. The City Council of George Town was represented by the Mayor.

The figure of \$237,543 was calculated on the amount which would have been contributed as Education Rate at 2% of the total assessment value. This basis of calculation was accepted by all the local authorities in the State.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): 2%. Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question: And how did the State Education

Board arrive at the figure 2% instead of 1%, 1.5%, or even 3%? Why 2%?

The Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, As I said just now, the 2% collection was based on the assessment value of property within the limits of the City of George Town, and has been accepted by the City Council.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question: Would it be correct then to say that all local authorities in the State were charged the same 2%?

The Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, The answer is, Sir, as I said. It was agreed by all the local authorities.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

3. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his reply re Penang Hill Road at the State Assembly Meeting on 29th March, 1961, indicated that a decision would be taken within a month. May we now know whether a decision has been taken? If not yet, why not in spite of his assurance?

Chief Minister: Sir, At the meeting referred to I said, 'A decision will be taken this month if it is possible.' No assurance was given that the decision will be taken within a month. A decision will only be taken after the completion of the survey work on the exact line of the Road.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Was that mentioned by the Honourable the Chief Minister at the meeting of 29th March, 1961—

the fact that decision had to be taken after survey work has been accomplished? Was this fact mentioned at the meeting of the 29th; or you cannot remember?

Chief Minister: Sir, That was not mentioned.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question: Is the Honourable the Chief Minister aware that in the draft Proceedings sent out there was no mention of the words 'if possible'? It is actually 'within a month.'

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I ask him to produce the draft? I shall produce it and show to you that there is 'if it is possible.'

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification: In the draft Proceedings sent to me for correction the words 'if possible' were not in those draft Proceedings.

Chief Minister: Sir, May I ask the Honourable Member to produce the draft?

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Sir, The draft has been sent back to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): At the request of the Clerk.

Chief Minister: Sir, Is the Honourable Member questioning the correctness of my reply?

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, What I am actually interested in is the correctness of the draft, and nothing else, and whether the draft could be produced for the information of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker: My views are as follows: The matter of draft proceedings does not arise in the problem we are discussing in question 3. Therefore, if you wish to bring up this matter, I hope you will do so at another meeting, not in the question we are now discussing.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, This was not brought up by us, in point of clarification. It was brought up in reply by the Honourable the Chief Minister — 'if it is possible.'

Mr. Speaker: I understand. You may accept the reply given by the Chief Minister. If you are not satisfied when you compare it with the draft Proceedings later on, you will have the opportunity to bring the matter up at a future date. I do not wish to lead the Assembly away from what we are discussing.

The Member for Tanjong Barat (Mr. Tan Chong Bee): Mr. Speaker, Sir, May we ask the Honourable the Chief Minister when the survey of the road will be completed?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, It will be done as early as possible.

The Member for Tanjong Barat (Mr. Tan Chong Bee): Mr. Speaker, Sir, According to this question, the question arose whether 'within a month if possible' was mentioned. Now the Chief Minister has just told us that completion of the survey of the road would be done as soon as possible. Do we take it to be one year or two years?

Mr. Speaker: If there is any definition for 'as soon as possible.'

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question:

Is the Honourable the Chief Minister aware that \$500,000 has been approved in the Development Estimates for the Penang Hill Road for 1961? And at the rate that the State Government is going it would appear to be impossible to have a commencement of that Hill Road within this year.

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, If the Honourable Member had followed His Excellency's gracious speech this morning carefully he would at least have heard that due to rural development projects the Penang Hill Road has been brought down to a lower priority: and as such I am afraid the \$500,000 may not be fully spent within this year.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

4. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please state whether there is any member on the State Education Board who has absented himself for three consecutive meetings? If there is, please give his name.

Chief Minister: Sir, With your permission, may I invite Dr. Yegappan to reply to that question?

The Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan): (in Malay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, The answer to that question is No: therefore the second part of this question does not arise.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): May we know: if I understand correctly, it won't be revealed? Is that correct?

The Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I know if the Member for Kota is challenging my knowledge of Bahasa Kebangsaan?

Mr. Speaker: I invite the Honourable Member for Butterworth to answer again.

The Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan): Sir, The answer to this question is No; therefore the answer to the second part of the question does not arise.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of order; Is the Honourable Member for Butterworth unaware that the official languages of this Assembly shall be English and Malay?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification: Is the Honourable Member requesting our Honourable Member not to speak in Bahasa Kebangsaan?

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification: It is just my intention that when the Honourable Member for Kota seeks the reply to be in English then it is out of courtesy that the Honourable Member for Butterworth should heed to the request.

Mr. Speaker: I allow no more on this subject. It does not arise. (in Malay:)

This matter does not arise in the question you have asked. With regard to the question of language, I would like to make it clear that, in accordance with the Standing Orders, both the National Language and English can be used in this Assembly. You have the right to choose either the National Language or English, and no Member can force any other Member to translate what he has said.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

5. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his reply regarding the Children's Playground near Fort Cornwallis said that two schemes were being studied by the State Government and that a decision would soon be made. Can he please inform the Assembly whether the State Government has made its decision?

Chief Minister: Sir, The State Government accepted in principle one of the two schemes submitted by the Committee set up to examine the future development of King Edward Place and its adjacent area. In the scheme which has been accepted a site for a Children's Playground near Fort Cornwallis has been provided for. As it is the intention of the Government to convert the old Magistrates Court building into the new State Legislative Assembly Chamber, the Committee has now been asked to make further recommendations in respect of the area adjacent to the building.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question: Can we take it from the reply of the Honourable the Chief Minister that the matter is now being deferred?

Mr. Speaker: Please repeat the supplementary question.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Can we take it from the Honourable the Chief Minister, in his reply, that the matter of a Children's Playground near Fort Cornwallis is now being deferred?

Chief Minister: It is not so, Sir.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Has the Honourable the Chief Minister agreed with the President of the Playing Fields Association in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Repeat the question again.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Has the Honourable the Chief Minister agreed, in this matter of having a Children's Playground near Fort Cornwallis, with the President of the Playing Fields Association?

Chief Minister: Sir, May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat the question:

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): May I ask whether the State Government, through the Chief Minister, has agreed

with the President of the Playing Fields Association, Penang, on this matter of Fort Cornwallis being used as a Children's Playground?

Chief Minister: Sir, The President of the Penang Playing Fields Association has no part to play in this decision.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

6. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please state who are the Hon'ble Members of the State Executive Council in (a) 1959, (b) 1960 and (c) 1961?

Chief Minister: (in Malay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, The Members of the State Executive Council for 1959 were as follows:—

The Chief Minister (Hon'ble Dato Wong Pow Nee, P.M.N.)	...	...	From 1. 1.59 to 31.12.59
Dr Lim Chong Eu	...	...	" 1. 1.59 " 15. 6.59
Hon'ble Enche Hashim bin Awang, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.59 " 15.11.59
Hon'ble Enche Cheah Seng Khim, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.59 " 9.10.59
Dr. N. K. Menon, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.59 " 15. 6.59
Hon'ble Enche A. M. Abu Bakar, J.M.N.	...	...	" 1. 1.59 " 15. 6.59
Hon'ble Enche Aziz Ibrahim, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.59 " 31.12.59
Hon'ble Tuan Haji Ismail bin Che Chik, A.M.N.	...	...	" 16. 6.59 " 31.12.59
Hon'ble Enche Kee Yong Chin	...	...	" 16. 6.59 " 31.12.59
Hon'ble Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan, J.P.	...	...	" 16. 6.59 " 31.12.59
Hon'ble Enche C. D. Ismail, A.M.N.	...	...	" 23.11.59 " 31.12.59
Hon'ble Enche Phee Joo Teik	...	...	" 23.11.59 " 31.12.59

The Members of the State Executive Council for 1960 were as follows:—

The Chief Minister (Hon'ble Dato Won Pow Nee, P.M.N.)	...	...	From 1. 1.60 to 31.12.60
Hon'ble Enche Aziz Ibrahim, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.60 " 31.12.60
Hon'ble Tuan Haji Ismail bin Che Chik, A.M.N.	...	...	" 1. 1.60 " 31.12.60
Hon'ble Enche Kee Yong Chin	...	...	" 1. 1.60 " 31.12.60
Hon'ble Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.60 " 31.12.60
Hon'ble Enche C. D. Ismail, A.M.N.	...	...	" 1. 1.60 " 31.12.60
Hon'ble Enche Phee Joo Teik	...	...	" 1. 1.60 " 16.12.60

The Members of the State Executive Council for 1961 until to-day are as follows:—

The Chief Minister (Hon'ble Dato Wong Pow Nee, P.M.N.)	...	...	From 1. 1.61 to date
Hon'ble Enche Aziz Ibrahim, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.61 " "
Hon'ble Tuan Haji Ismail bin Che Chik, A.M.N.	...	...	" 1. 1.61 " "
Hon'ble Enche Kee Yong Chin	...	...	" 1. 1.61 " "
Hon'ble Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan, J.P.	...	...	" 1. 1.61 " "
Hon'ble Enche C. D. Ismail, A.M.N.	...	...	" 1. 1.61 " "

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question. Is it the intention of the State Government to fill the vacancy vacated by the Hon'ble Member for Bagan Ajam?

Chief Minister: (in Malay) That rests with His Excellency the Governor of Penang.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

7. At the time of asking this question, the Hon'ble Members of the State Assembly have not yet received the reports of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly, Penang, for the First Meeting of the Second Session held on 17th August, 1960; for the Second Meeting of the Second Session held on 28th December, 1960; and for the Third Meeting of the Second Session held on 29th March, 1961.

Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please explain the long delay of nearly a year; 8 months; and 4 months respectively to produce these reports?

Chief Minister: Sir, As I have mentioned before, in reply to an oral question from the Hon'ble Member for Tanjong Barat at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 28th December, 1960, the main reason for the

delays is that we do not have a Council Reporter. Although two stenographers who take down the proceedings of the Assembly have partly been relieved of copy-typing work in the Secretariat by the appointment of typists, other factors have to be taken into account in the production of the proceedings of the Assembly, such as the despatch of draft speeches to Honourable Members for correction and setting up and checking of the proof copy of the proceedings submitted by the Printers before printing.

With regard to the despatch of draft speeches to Honourable Members for corrections, the practice adopted before April, 1961 was to circulate certain pages of the draft proceedings according to the items in the Orders of the Day to Honourable Members concerned for corrections; and this practice was found to be unsuitable in that the draft speeches invariably take an unduly long time to be returned to the Clerk of the Assembly. Reminders had to be sent and on one occasion certain pages of the August, 1960 proceedings were mislaid in the course of transit from one Honourable Member to another, and had to be typed all over again and re-circulated to the Honourable Members concerned for corrections again. This was done on 20th April, 1961. The printed proceedings were ready from the Printers on 25th July, 1961 and distributed to Members on the

following day. Moreover, the proceedings of the meeting of August, 1960 was an unusually long one.

Now, in order to avoid similar delay in the issue of the proceedings of the Assembly, a new procedure has been adopted since April, 1961 by distributing a complete set of the draft proceedings to every Member who is requested to return the draft proceedings, with or without corrections, within ten days. By adopting this practice, it can be expected that printing of future proceedings of the Assembly will be expedited.

The proceedings of the meeting for December, 1960 are now in the hands of the Printers and will be ready for distribution to Honourable Members within the next week or so. The proceedings of the meeting for March, 1961 are in the process of checking and it is expected that these will be ready for printing by about two weeks' time.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of order. According to the reply by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, the practice is to give Honourable Members quite a lot of time, and even reminders; and even the latest procedure is to give Honourable Members ten days wherein they might make the corrections and send them in. Our Standing Order 19(3) states that "a copy of the record of a Member's speech shall be sent to him before it is published. If the Member does not return the copy to the Clerk within four days from the date upon which it was despatched, the speech shall be published without correction." I am sure the State Government can take action accordingly according to Standing Order 19(3).

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification: I wish to draw the attention of the Honourable Member to Standing Order 19(2) — The report shall be published in such form as the Speaker may direct, and a copy thereof shall be sent to each member as soon as practicable after the conclusion of each meeting. I repeat again, Sir: as soon as practicable.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, I must rise on a point of clarification. I would like to ask the Honourable Chief Minister whether he reads Standing Order 19 as a whole? 19(2) refers to the report; 19(3) refers to copy of the record. A report shall be published in such form it may be published in stencil form, hard cover form, or whatever form. But section (3) refers to copy of the record of the member's speech, it does not say anything about the report of the whole proceedings.

Mr. Speaker: (in Malay) Honourable Members, I would like to remind you that in this question the Chief Minister was asked regarding the delay in publishing the report of the proceedings, and that reply has been given. I feel I have made a mistake in allowing Members to bring up Standing Orders 19(2) and (3). I should draw your attention—it is not for you to draw my attention—to such matters; so I do not see any reason to bring this up.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

8. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please table for the information of this Assembly matters referred to the State Government for confirmation or approval which are outstanding to-date, from:—

- (a) the City Council of George Town.
- (b) the Rural District Council, Penang Island.
- (c) Province Wellesley (North) District Council.
- (d) Province Wellesley (Central) District Council.
- (e) Province Wellesley (South) District Council.

Chief Minister: (in Malay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not able to lay on the table my answer. That is not practicable.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am rather surprised that the Honourable the Chief Minister could say that this is too long for him to reply. This is seeking information.

Mr. Speaker: The Chief Minister does not say it is too long to reply.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): It is difficult for him to find.

Mr. Speaker: He does not say it is difficult for him to find. It is not possible for him to table on Oral Questions.

Chief Minister: Sir, For the information of the Honourable Member in English it means like this: It is not possible to table an oral answer.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, It all boils down to one point—that the number of items of the local authorities which are being referred to the State Government is so enormous that the Chief Minister cannot table the replies.

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of order.... (interrupted).

Mr. Speaker: Order please!

We are now on Oral Questions. Oral questions must be answered orally, not tabled.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On my question I am just reading my question again:

"Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please table for the information of this Assembly matters referred to the State Government for confirmation or approval which are outstanding to-date, from" the various local authorities.

Chief Minister: Sir, In reply to that, how am I to table? The question is for an oral answer. He wants me to table my answer for his oral question. Is it proper to do so? If he wants a written answer, say so, and I shall have it tabled to him in writing. I am sorry it is not possible for me to table the answer to his oral question.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

9. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please table, for the information of this Assembly the approved revised Development Estimates for 1960 and the actual expenditure for the following Heads of Expenditure:—

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Head 101 | Chief Minister & State Secretariat |
| Head 103 | Drainage and Irrigation |
| Head 107 | Public Works |
| Head 108 | Public Works. Water Supply. |

Chief Minister: (in Malay) Sir, I do not lay on the table the replies because it is not practicable.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

10. Is the Hon'ble the Chief Minister aware that there is no School Canteen for the Sekolah Kebangsaan Dato Kramat? Is it the intention of the State Government to provide this school with one?

Chief Minister: Sir, The Chief Minister is of course aware that there is no school canteen for Sekolah Kebangsaan Dato Kramat.

Now, Education is a Federal responsibility, and action is being taken by the State Education Board and Board of Management of the school concerned.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question: May I ask the Honourable the Chief Minister if the school concerned is a primary school or a secondary school?

Chief Minister: Sir, It is a primary school.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, In that case I should like clarification on the point as to whether primary schools are also a Federal matter?

Chief Minister: Sir, It is. Education is a Federal matter, whether it is a secondary school or a primary school.

The Member for Tanjong Barat (Mr. Tan Chong Bee): Mr. Speaker, Sir, May we know who instituted the Penang State Education Board; the Federal Government or the State Government of Penang?

Mr. Speaker: This is entirely a new question. It is not a supplementary question to Question 10. The institution of a Board

of Management does not come as a supplementary question to Question 10. The question before us is asking about a canteen — asking if the Chief Minister is aware whether there is a canteen for the Dato Kramat school or not. I am afraid I cannot allow that question.

The Member for Tanjong Barat (Mr. Tan Chong Bee): Sir, The Honourable the Chief Minister said that it was a Federal matter — Education; and he was asked by the Member for Sungei Pinang whether primary schools are under the State or under the Federal Government. And, as far as I am aware, I have been appointed by this Government as a member of the State Education Board to look after primary schools — not the secondary schools — of Penang. So it is surprising that (interrupted).

Mr. Speaker: If the Honourable Member wishes to put a supplementary question he can always say it arises from the answer from the Honourable the Chief Minister. It is not a direct supplementary question to No. 10. Your supplementary question arises from the answer by the Chief Minister. Then I can permit that.

(to Chief Minister:)

Do you wish to reply to the question put by the Member for Tanjong Barat?

Chief Minister: (to Member for Tanjong Barat)

Will you please repeat the question?

The Member for Tanjong Barat (Mr. Tan Chong Bee): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Arising out of the Chief Minister's reply to the Member for Sungei Pinang, may I ask whether the Penang State

Education Board has been formed by the Federal Government or by the State Government?

Chief Minister: Sir, The word "born" may not be very appropriate.

The Member for Tanjong Barat (Mr. Tan Chong Bee): Formed.

Chief Minister: Sir, The State Education Board is appointed by the State Government.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): asks the Chief Minister:

11. Is the Hon'ble the Chief Minister aware that a motion was passed by the previous Bukit Mertajam Town Council at its meeting held on 22nd September, 1960 stating "that the State Government has no right to interfere with the decision of Council"? By the word "Council" it refers to the Bukit Mertajam Town Council.

If he is aware of it, will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please clarify whether the statement contained in the motion is correct?

Chief Minister: (in Malay) Sir, The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes.' The answer to the second part of the question is that the statement contained in the motion is not in order.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew) asks the Chief Minister:

12. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please state how many reservoirs are owned by the State Government for the supply of water to the rural folks and how many reservoirs are owned by the City Council. Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister also please give the capacity of each reservoir?

Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister state which are the rural areas supplied by the State Water Supply and which are the rural areas supplied by the City Council's Water Supply?

Chief Minister: Sir, The State Government owns 11 reservoirs for the supply of water to rural folks. The City Council owns 6 reservoirs in all. The capacities of the reservoirs owned by the State Government are as follows:—

Sungei Pinang Service Reservoir (1954 — that is, date of construction) — capacity 600,000 gallons.

Tiger Hill Service Reservoir (1925) — 250,000 gallons.

Bukit Toh Allang Service Reservoir (1953/54) — 3,000,000 gallons.

Bukit Mertajam Service Reservoir (1937) — 1,000,000 gallons.

Bukit Panchor Service Reservoir (1931) — 250,000 gallons.

Bukit Berapit Impounding Reservoir (1898; extended in 1911) — 37,000,000 gallons.

Cherok To'Kun Impounding Reservoir (1938) — 18,500,000 gallons.

Bukit Panchor Impounding Reservoir (1898) — 135,000,000 gallons.

Quarantine Station Impounding Reservoir at Pulau Jerejak (1910) — 1,500,000 gallons.

Leper Camp 4 Pulau Jerejak Quarantine Station Impounding Reservoir (1924) — 750,000 gallons.

Pulau Jerejak Green Bank Impounding Reservoir (1900) — 750,000 gallons.

The capacities of the City Council reservoirs are as follows:—

Telok Bahang Tanks 60,000 gallons.

Batu Ferringhi Tanks	100,000 gallons.
Guillemard Service Reservoir	7,500,000 gallons.
Waterfall Gardens Service Reservoir	4,800,000 gallons.
Ayer Itam Service Reservoir	4,100,000 gallons.
Bukit Dumbar Reservoir	8,000,000 gallons.

Now, the answer to the second part of the question is: In Penang Island the rural areas supplied by the State water supply systems are Balik Pulau and West Coast District and Penang Hill. The whole of Province Wellesley is supplied by the State water supply system. The rural areas supplied by the City Council water supply system are Telok Bahang, Batu Ferringhi, Tanjong Bungah, Tanjong Tokong, Waterfall Road, Ayer Itam, Paya Terubong Valley, Glugor, Sungei Dua, Sungei Ara, Sungei Nibong, Relau, Bayan Lepas, Batu Maung, Permatang Damar Laut and Telok Kumbar Village.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I just noticed that written questions have been asked, but the answers were not tabled.

Mr. Speaker: You will be coming to the written questions.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Because some of my oral questions may depend on the replies to the written questions.

Mr. Speaker: Have the written questions been tabled?

Chief Minister: Sir, We are coming to the written questions.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, It was the practice that the written questions (interrupted).

Mr. Speaker: It is the practice, but not the ruling.

Chief Minister: Sir, The answers will be tabled when the time comes.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

1. Has the State Government arrived at any decision as to which of the several proposals of the Committee on the Penang Hill Road would be acceptable to the State Government. If so, what are the precise terms of the decision?

Chief Minister: Sir, Although the State Government has agreed in principle to some of the several proposals of the Committee on the Penang Hill Road, no decision has yet been arrived at.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, A supplementary question: Does it mean that the State Government has not yet decided which of the several proposals the State Government would want to implement, or does it mean that the State Government may reject all the proposals of the Committee on Penang Hill Road?

Chief Minister: Sir, May or may not.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

2. If no decision has been arrived at by the State Government as to (1) above, please give the reasons for the delay or for not wanting to come to a decision?

Chief Minister: Sir, The State Government will come to a decision when the exact line of road can be determined after completion of survey work which is now in hand.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, A supplementary question is, 'What decision?' On the proposals of the Committee? May I ask for clarification? Does the Honourable the Chief Minister refer to the fact that the State Government cannot arrive at a decision with reference to the several proposals submitted by the Committee? (To Chief Minister:) Is that what you mean?

Chief Minister: Sir, May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat the question?

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Does it mean that the State Government cannot arrive at a decision until after survey work as to which of the several proposals of the Committee on Penang Hill Road the State Government would implement?

Chief Minister: Sir, It is not correct to say that Government cannot arrive at a decision. The Government has not arrived at a decision.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question: When is the survey work expected to be completed?

Chief Minister: Sir, As early as possible.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I ask that question because I have been asking it for the last two years, and every time the answer is 'as early as possible.'

Mr. Speaker: I think 'as early as possible' is quite understood.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question again. Does the Chief Minister imply by

his reply to question No. 2 that the instruction to carry out survey work is a vague sort of instruction, that is, some sort of a preliminary investigation by a survey team without fixing the line of the road?

Chief Minister: Sir, To say that is a vague instruction is wrong, but to say that it is preliminary work I agree.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

3. Who are the members of the Committee on the Penang Hill Road. How often does the Committee meet and what sort of problems has the Committee to tackle?

Chief Minister: Sir, There is no Committee on the Penang Hill Road at present.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Is that correct? At present there is no Committee on the Penang Hill Road? Was there a Committee on the Penang Hill Road before — before now?

Chief Minister: Is that a supplementary question?

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Yes, arising out of your reply. You say that there is no Committee on the Penang Hill Road at present. Was there any before?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, The question is in the present tense — "Who are the members?" My answer is: "There is no Committee" — therefore, there is no member.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): So, just arising out of that, a supplementary question — was there a Committee of the Penang Hill Road? Because it would appear that, if the question were right, it casts an impression on me of trying to

mislead the Assembly. I am not misleading the Assembly by asking this question.

Mr. Speaker: This is not a question of misleading: it is a question of answering the question. You ask who are the members of the Committee on the Penang Hill Road. The question of whether there is any Committee before — I think that is another separate question to that.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): All right, I can ask a supplementary question. If there is no Committee on the Penang Hill Road, then how does the State Government or the Hon'ble the Chief Minister reply to question No. 1 where the Committee on the Penang Hill Road is mentioned, and the question is in the present tense — question 1 and question 3.

Chief Minister: The State Government is taking action on the report submitted by the former Committee.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Former Committee? Then I should think you could easily have said "There is no Committee now."

Mr. Speaker: You can submit another question at the next Assembly Meeting to know who are the former persons. That would solve the problem.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

4. Does and has the abovenamed Committee dealt with the question or problems of:—

- (a) the terrain of the area and gradient of the routes,
- (b) the best possible route,
- (c) the availability of water and electric power,

(d) the number of building sites to be allotted to private investors,

(e) the transport system up and down the hill,

(f) whether the opening up of the Penang Hill Road be undertaken by the P.W.D. solely or jointly with other engineering and constructing firms,

(g) obtaining data of the costs of such works, durations and completions of such works,

(h) compensation for the removal of squatters along the proposed routes or alternatively building of a model farming estate for squatters so affected.

(i) setting up model Malay villages along or near the proposed routes,

(j) whether to allow private building along or near the proposed routes,

(k) whether to place restriction on private building development within a certain number of yards from either side of the route,

(l) whether to consider possible future expansion of side roads and tributary routes,

(m) whether to preserve the natural beauty of the Hill.

Will the Chief Minister kindly reply in the alphabetical order? What are the recommendations made in respect of any of the above items?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, In view of the answer to question 3 above, this question does not arise.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question. It may not arise out of question 3, it still arises out of question 1 to which the Chief Minister has answered in the affirmative.

Chief Minister: Sir, May I request the Honourable Member to read the question carefully? I am answering to the question "Does and has the abovenamed Committee," the Committee asked in question 3. My reply is: There is no Committee.

Mr. Speaker: We are now on question 4.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Yes, may I speak on a point of clarification because the Chief Minister has interpreted my question without allowing me to interpret my own question? My question 4 asks "Does and has the abovenamed Committee (which is the Committee on the Penang Hill Road) dealt with the problems" at (a), (b), (c), (d). It may be a former Committee or it may be the present Committee, if it exists. If it does not exist, then it refers to the former Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Do you require notice, or do you want to reply?

Chief Minister: I will just answer the question. If the Honourable Member wishes to know whether the report of the Committee has dealt with these matters, I could have answered that straightway. But I am answering the question "Does and has the above Committee dealt with?" I am interpreting this question "Does and has the above Committee" as the Committee referred to in question 3. I said there is no Committee.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): I never said "above Committee." I said "abovenamed Committee" which is the Committee on the Penang Hill Road.

Mr. Speaker: Question 3 has been dealt with. We are now on question 4, "Does and has the abovenamed Committee dealt with the question or problems of etc., etc." The answer to question 3 is that there is no such Committee, so I do not think question 4 arises.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, I do want a ruling from you. I do not wish to argue with you because you are the final authority. If you rule me out of order, I would not waste the time of this Assembly. I think the Hon'ble the Chief Minister would have more courtesy.

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification — where do I go out of courtesy?

Mr. Speaker: I think the answer given by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is quite clear. Question 4 does not arise.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

5. With regard to Notice that land is likely to be acquired gazetted in the Penang Government Gazette of 16th March, 1961 for the construction of Penang Hill Road, will the State Government inform this Assembly:—

- (a) whether the Lots in Mukim 16 adjoins the Lots in Mukim 17 as specified therein;
- (b) whether the Lots in Mukim 17 adjoins the Lots in Mukim 18 as specified therein;

- (c) whether the boundaries of the Lots in Mukim 16, 17 and 18 are coterminous with one another and, if so, where?

Chief Minister: (in Malay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, The answer to that question is: No.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Does it mean to say that the lots do not adjoin each other?

Chief Minister: Yes.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): What is the purpose then to carry out preliminary investigation by survey work in lots not adjoining each other — arising out of your reply?

Mr. Speaker: Is not the supplementary question similar to question 6?

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Question 6 then.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister.

6. If none of the aforesaid Lots in Mukim 16 or Mukim 17, or Mukim 18 adjoins with Lots in either of the two Mukims, then will the State Government illuminate for this Assembly, apart from preliminary survey work:—

- (a) what is the purpose of intending to acquire three separate areas of land far apart from each other,
- (b) whether the Penang Hill Road will be a one-way road with different Ascent and Descent points,
- (c) as the lands in Mukims 16, 17 and 18 are mostly, to the extent of 90% or so, alienated lands, is the

State Government proposing to use part of the unalienated Crown Land in Mukims 16, 17 and 18 for Penang Hill Road purposes or to compulsorily acquire or to privately purchase private lands? If so, what are the private Lots concerned?

- (d) what reports or recommendations have been made as a result of the preliminary investigation upon the above Lots in Mukims 16, 17 and 18.

Chief Minister: Sir, It is not intended to acquire three separate areas of land far apart from each other.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, A supplementary question to (a): If it is not far apart, is it close apart?

Chief Minister: Sir, It may be close; it may be far.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Then what is the purpose of acquiring these three separate areas of land?

Chief Minister: Sir, There is no intention yet to acquire.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Intending to acquire?

Chief Minister: Sir, The land has been gazetted for investigation and survey purposes.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, There is notice that it is likely to be acquired in the Gazette; that is why I was asking, 'Why?' May I put it: Is it because — under (a) — the Government thinks that these are good areas for roads to start in?

Chief Minister: Sir, Government is not prepared to commit that.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Not even to say this? I wonder why.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

- (b) Whether the Penang Hill Road will be a one-way road with different Ascent and Descent points.

Chief Minister: Sir, This will be decided as and when the exact line of the road can be determined after completion of survey work.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

- (c) As the lands in Mukims 16, 17 and 18 are mostly, to the extent of 90% or so, alienated lands, is the State Government proposing to use part of the unalienated Crown Land in Mukims 16, 17 and 18 for Penang Hill Road purposes or to compulsorily acquire or to privately purchase private lands? If so, what are the private Lots concerned?

Chief Minister: Sir, Where the route of the proposed Penang Hill Road passes through State land it is prudent to use it for the road; but where the route passes through alienated lands it will be necessary to acquire compulsorily parts or the whole of the Lots affected. Alienated lands which may — I repeat again, may — be needed for the Penang Hill Road are those listed in Penang Gazette dated 16th March, 1961.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Is it then that these are all the Lots, and no more Lots are involved? Apart from the Lots listed in the Gazette

dated 16th March, 1961, are there any other private lands concerned? That is my question.

Chief Minister: Private Lots concerned with what, Sir?

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Meaning that Government has no intention to acquire any Lots other than those gazetted?

Chief Minister: Sir, If necessary more areas may be gazetted for the propose.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

- (d) What reports or recommendations have been made as a result of the preliminary investigation upon the above Lots in Mukims 16, 17 and 18.

Chief Minister: Sir, The tentative line of part of the route has been recommended.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, When was it recommended?

Chief Minister: Sir, I require notice of that question.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

7. With regard to the Industrial estate to be established somewhere in the Sungei Mak Mandin area, will the Chief Minister state precisely the location and acreage of the proposed Industrial Estate?

Chief Minister: Sir, The location will be within the area of land gazetted under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act, vide G.N. No. 85 of 13th April, 1961. This is a notice to the effect that the lands referred to in the notification are likely to be needed for the Industrial Estate. The actual area of land required is being examined

by a Committee appointed for the purpose.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

8. So far how many applications have been made since the advertisement of the Sungei Mak Mandin Industrial Estate scheme in the newspapers?

Chief Minister: (in Malay) 115.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): And was there an increment—because in the Governor's speech it was 100?

Chief Minister: Sir, There is an increase.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Since the Governor's speech? But were not applications closed?

Chief Minister: Sir, The Governor's speech says "over a hundred."

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

9. Were there any applications for sites or inquiries made with regard to the proposed Industrial Estate prior to such public advertisement. If so, from whom?

Chief Minister: Sir, The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes.' The answer to the second part of the question is that two enquiries were received. These were: one from an engineering company, and the other one is from a plywood industry concern.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Arising out of that reply, would the Chief Minister kindly elucidate how there come to be application or enquiry before the public heard about this matter?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think you cannot stop anybody from writing to enquire or apply.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, What was the enquiry about? What was the type of enquiries?

Chief Minister: Sir, I require notice of that question.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

10. What policy has the State Government in mind with regard to the Industrial development at Sungei Mak Mandin, e.g. the size, unit, capital worth, production of each industry?

Chief Minister: A Committee has been appointed by the State Government to make recommendations with regard to the development of the Estate. The State Government will formulate its policy on its development after examining the recommendations of the Committee.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Does that Committee contain representatives of the Opposition?

Chief Minister: No, Sir.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Does it mean that the State Government has until now no policy in mind, but has to receive recommendations from the Committee?

Chief Minister: Sir, I am not prepared to answer that question.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): But I have asked the question "What policy has the State Government in mind?" That is the question I asked.

Chief Minister: Sir, The policy of the Government is to have an Industrial Estate in Penang.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

11. Which authority will be responsible for the construction of the buildings (such as factories, warehouses, labourer lines, offices) on the Industrial Estate?

Chief Minister: Sir, It is too premature to reply to this question as this is still under consideration by the Government.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): I am asking 'which authority.' Arising out of your reply, can I take it that the State Government considers that Government authority will be responsible for the construction. The Government authority—either the P.W.D. or.....

Chief Minister: Sir, I think my answer is quite clear. It is premature.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

12. Who is in charge, or which Committee is in charge, of the Industrial Estate Scheme at Sungei Mak Mandin, and of allocation of sites and approval of applications. If it is a Committee who are its members?

Chief Minister: (in Malay) Sir, The Penang State Government.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): You said there is a Committee. If it is a Committee who are its members?

Mr. Speaker: The Chief Minister does not say there is a Committee in the reply under Question 12.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, In other words the Committee is not in charge. Is that what the Chief Minister is saying? The Government is in charge—not the Committee in charge—of the Industrial Estate Scheme, and the allocation of sites, and approval of everything. Is that what your reply means? It means that the Government is in charge, and not the Committee, in respect of the allocations and approval of sites?

Chief Minister: Sir, That is quite correct.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

13. On what system is allocation of sites made and applications approved? State precisely the system, if any, evolved for this scheme.

Chief Minister: Sir, The State Government has not devised any system for allocation of sites yet.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): And devised any system for applications to be approved? Has it devised any system as to how applications are to be taken and approved?

Chief Minister: Sir, The State Government has not devised that.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Sir, Both with respect to allocation of sites and with respect to applications?

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Yes:

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

14. Have applications been made to prospect for, or mine iron ore in any part of the State of

Penang. If so, by whom are these made and whether such applications are granted or refused.

Chief Minister: (in Malay) Sir, The answer is 'No.'

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

- Specifically have there been applications to prospect for, or mine ore in the islands of Pulau Aman and Pulau Kendi? If so by whom are these made?

Chief Minister: Sir, The answer to that question is also 'No.'

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

- Specifically have there been applications to alienate parts of the unalienated Crown Land in Pulau Aman and or Pulau Kendi and, if so, by whom are these applications made and, if so, whether alienation is granted or proposed to be granted? If so, for how much area and which parts of the island?

Chief Minister: Sir, No application for alienation of State land in Pulau Aman has ever been received. An application was made by Messrs. Leow Kean Joo and Leow Chee Joo for alienation of land in Pulau Kendi, but it was not approved. The application was for the area comprising the southern half of Pulau Kendi.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang) asks the Chief Minister:

- Whether the State Government proposes to set up a Commission to inquire into the problem of unemployment in this State?

Chief Minister: Sir, As the subject is within the province of the Federal Government, the answer is 'No.' However, the Honourable Member and the Assembly may be interested to know that the Federal Government proposes to carry out a pilot survey during August/September this year, through the Department of Statistics, on employment, under-employment and unemployment in the whole country, so that it may have the necessary data for its development plans.

(B) WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of order—the written replies have not been tabled.

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am coming to that. [continuing in Malay].

Mr. Speaker, Sir, The answers to questions that have been asked are laid on the table of Assembly.

Mr. Chor Sin Kheng asks the Chief Minister:

- What progress has been made in the construction of:—

- Jalan Kampong Pisang
- Boundary Road
- Relau / Paya Terubong Road.

The Chief Minister:

- (a) Jalan Kampong Pisang.

Land required for road reserve has been acquired. Although payment of compensations for building to be demolished has been made, some houses have still not been demolished and, that being the case, road construction work cannot start as these houses

are in the way. However, a site for the settlement of squatters in this area is now being proposed at Paya Terubong Road and it is anticipated that all the houses in the reserve will be pulled down in order to clear the way for construction work to commence.

(b) Boundary Road.

The construction of this road is 80% complete. The remaining 20% will be completed when a water main in the road reserve has been shifted and a house thereon has been demolished. Compensation for demolishing this house has been paid.

(c) Relau/Paya Terubong Rd.

The alignment of this road has been finalised and plans have been sent to the Collector of Land Revenue requesting him to acquire the necessary road reserve. Acquisition proceedings are now in progress. The road alignment has been pegged out on the ground for Collector of Land Revenue to inspect.

Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew asks the Chief Minister:

- Will the Hon'ble the Chief Minister please state the actual amounts of water rate collected from the people in the following District Councils for the years 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959 and 1960, separately:—

(a) Penang Island Rural District Council.

(b) Province Wellesley (North) District Council (This to mean the former Province Wellesley (North) Rural District Council and the Butterworth Town Council).

(c) Province Wellesley (Central) District Council. (This to mean the former Province Wellesley (Central) Rural District Council and the Bukit Mertajam Town Council).

(d) Province Wellesley (South) District Council.

The Chief Minister:

- The actual amounts of water rate collected from the people in the Rural District Council, Penang Island and District Councils North, Central and South for the years 1956 to 1960 are as specified below:—

(a) Rural District Council, Penang Island

YEAR	AMOUNT
1956	\$ 8,728.40
1957	56,671.43
1958	107,257.29
1959	107,343.82
1960	126,775.18

(b) District Council North, Province Wellesley

YEAR	AMOUNT
1956	\$ 38,790.17
1957	75,865.33
1958	96,870.24
1959	100,635.39
1960	98,442.85

(c) District Council Central, Province Wellesley

YEAR	AMOUNT
1956	\$ 11,979.96
1957	28,775.12
1958	31,357.73
1959	29,060.20
1960	35,598.40

(d) District Council South, Province Wellesley

YEAR	AMOUNT
1956	\$ 5,118.50
1957	10,693.11
1958	10,044.08
1959	9,269.12
1960	13,263.14

Enche Ariffin bin Shariff asks the Chief Minister:

1. Is it true that the Government will pay for the salaries of the Religious Teachers in National Schools in the State?
2. If it is true, when will they get their salaries; and with effect from what date?
3. Is it true that in Province Wellesley when a consumer applies for service connection and that only one point is required, the authority will instal the tap only at the kitchen and nowhere else?

The Chief Minister:

1. Yes.
2. Normally, they will be paid at the end of the month subsequent to their first appointment as approved teachers.
3. No.

Mr. Lee Kok Liang asks the Chief Minister:

1. Whether the State Government has received a request ~~from~~ from the District Council Central, Province Wellesley, for a construction of a foot-bridge over Sungei Pertama (near the existing bridge opposite the Mosque)? If so, whether the request has been approved, if it is not approved then, kindly give the reasons?
2. Who are the applicants for such a footbridge and where does the footbridge lead to and how many persons or households does it serve if constructed?

The Chief Minister:

1. Yes. The request which was received in July this year is under active consideration.
2. The request to construct this bridge was received from the Secretary, District Council

Central, Province Wellesley. It leads from one part of the kampong to the other. The construction of this foot-bridge will enable people to cross the Sungei Pertama without having to go on to the bridge on the main road. The proposed bridge is within Kampong Pertama Village.

As regards the question "how many persons or households does it serve if constructed," the answer is it will serve 400 to 500 households if constructed.

Tuan Haji Sahid bin Hassan asks the Chief Minister:

1. To date, how many applications for land under Federal Land Development Authority Schemes have been received by the State Government?
2. How many of the applications have been approved and where have the approved applicants been sent to?
3. What steps are being taken by Government with regard to unsuccessful applicants? Is there any possibility that land will be made available to them?
4. What steps are being taken by Government to encourage animal husbandry in the State?

The Chief Minister:

1. 987.
2. Five and the applicants will be sent to Bilut Valley.
3. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister has made personal appeal to the Deputy Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of Rural Development, for his good office to assist in obtaining places in Federal Land Development Authority Schemes in other States. Appeal by letters has also been made from time to time to the General Manager,

Federal Land Development Authority. The decision lies with the F.L.D.A.

4. The following steps have been taken by Government to encourage animal husbandry in the State:—

(1) Provision of free preventive vaccinations, inoculations, veterinary service and advice to our farmers.

(2) Provision of drugs at cheap rates to farmers for treatment of their animals.

(3) Provision of 2 travelling dispensaries, one in Penang and one in Province Wellesley, bringing drugs and rendering veterinary service in the kampongs, estates and villages.

(4) Imposition of strict quarantine and preventive measures on all imported animals and animal products to prevent introduction of diseases from abroad.

(5) Recruitment of 2 new Malay Veterinary Probationary Assistants particularly for work in the rural areas. They have been trained in poultry husbandry and are now concentrating their efforts on Malay kampongs.

(6) Running training courses for rural youths in modern methods of poultry husbandry.

(7) Arranging for the purchase by farmers of good bulls, goats and pigs to improve local livestock.

(8) Distribution of good imported cockerels to poultry rearers to upgrade local fowls.

(9) Import of pedigree pigs from England to improve local pigs and negotiating for purchase of more pure-bred pigs from Australia.

(10) Negotiating for purchase of cattle and goats from Kedah for distribution to farmers under the "bagi pawah" system.

Mr. Wong Choong Woh asks the Chief Minister:

1. How many applications for industrial sites have been received by the State Government from:—

- (a) Companies and
- (b) Individuals

from 3rd to 15th July, 1961, the effective period for applications to be submitted.

2. How many applications are from:—

- (a) Malays
- (b) Chinese
- (c) Indians
- (d) Others.

3. (a) Are such applications confined to Federal Citizens only?

(b) Or are applications open to non-Federal Citizens as well?

(c) Why was this important point not clarified in the Government announcement of 3rd July, 1961?

4. (a) What is the area of the proposed industrial site?

(b) Why should the State Government regard the industries of intending applicants as secret and confidential?

- (c) Is it because the State Government intends to introduce favouritism into such applications?

The Chief Minister:

1. (a) Companies — 59
- (b) Individuals — 33

2. (a) Malays — 8
- (b) Chinese — 79
- (c) Indians — 2
- (d) Others — 3

3. (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Government did not consider it necessary.

4. (a) It is not possible to make a categorical reply at the moment as the actual amount of land required for development is being examined by a Committee appointed for the purpose.

- (b) It is the normal practice of this Government to treat information given by this category of applicants in confidence to safeguard the private interests of those concerned. As stated in the advertisement in the newspapers, the information supplied would be treated as confidential but not secret.

- (c) No. The State Alliance Government has not in the past nor will in the future introduce the practice of favouritism in any matter.

Mr. Tan Khim Hoe asks the Chief Minister:

1. What action has the State Government taken to light unlit Private streets in George Town?

2. May I know the names of the private streets which have been lighted?
3. May I know the names of the private streets which will be lighted later in the year?

The Chief Minister:

1. A street lighting programme along certain unlit roads estimated to cost Government \$25,600/- has been drawn up and forwarded to the City Electrical Engineer with a request that the work be put in hand.
2. The following streets have been lighted:—
 1. Lane off Barrack Road to Dato Krāmat Road—five street lights.
 2. Ayer Itam (Grove Road) (Alterations only) — nine street lights.
 3. Ibbetson Road—two street lights.
 4. Access Road to Peons' Quarters and Labourers' Lines off Trengganu Road — five street lights.
 5. Access Road to Workshops—five street lights.
3. The following streets will be lighted later in the year, probably in August or September, depending upon the availability of underground cables:—
 1. Barrack Road to Perak Road — six street lights.
 2. Sepoy Lines — twelve street lights.
 3. Francis Light School Road — six street lights.
 4. Tull Road — four street lights.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of order—before we go to item 5, I rise under Standing Order 31 to ask leave to move the adjournment of this Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance under Standing Order 31.

The matter is that I have submitted a Motion on 22nd July, 1961 under Standing Order 31, thereby giving the required number of days for the notice of my Motion to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. My Motion is not in the Orders of the Day. The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has written a letter dated 31st July, 1961, pointing out that you, Mr. Speaker, has ruled out of order my Motion in accordance with Standing Order 46(xvi) of the Legislative Assembly. I can find nothing in this Standing Order which is inconsistent with my Motion. Besides, this Standing Order refers to the heading "Rules of Debate" and not on the question of submitting Motions, which are covered by Standing Orders 31 to 39. There is nothing in the Standing Orders, the Constitution or any written law where I can find which makes my Motion not in order. Even the Speaker of the Dewan Ra'ayat has considered the matter raised in my Motion. a State matter, and Motions of no confidence in Prime Ministers or Ministers of any Government have been moved everywhere in democratic countries. I see no valid reason for my Motion, duly submitted, not to be in the Orders of the Day.

In view thereof, it is my intention to move, as a matter of urgent public importance, the following Motion:—

"That this Assembly shares the concern of the people of Penang over the ruling of my Motion by

the Speaker because it is not consistent with the Standing Orders, the Constitution or any written law, and therefore requests that my Motion sent to the Clerk on 22nd July, 1961 be inserted in the Orders of the Day of the sitting of the Legislative Assembly."

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): I beg to second the Motion moved by the Hon'ble Member for Jelutong.

Mr. Speaker: You were seeking my leave under Standing Order 31 whether this Motion can be debated in this Assembly.

[continuing in Malay.]

I had conveyed my decision by letter through the Clerk and it was stated in that letter that I had disallowed your Motion. As a matter of fact if you will glance at Standing Rule and Order No. 46(xvi), undoubtedly there is nothing in your Motion which is a breach of the Standing Orders. But I would like to inform you that, as Speaker of this Assembly, I have to use my own discretion in running this meeting and I cannot depend solely on what is mentioned in the Standing Orders.

The first reason why I disallowed your Motion is that you had moved a vote of no confidence on the Chief Minister's advice to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong in respect of the appointment of the Officer Administering the Government who held office during the Governor's pilgrimage to Mecca. I believe that, if this appointment had been agreed by you, this Motion would certainly not be submitted in this Assembly. Therefore, you yourself have indirectly disagreed with the appointment. Secondly, I would like to inform you that it is stated in the Constitution of the State of Penang that the Chief Minister should be consulted on the appointment of the Governor or the Officer acting

as the Governor and, as such, you should also be aware that His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong is not bound to accept any advice given by the Chief Minister, Penang. Under that same section, it is not stated that the Chief Minister must consult any Assemblyman, by way of a Motion, as regards the advice he intends to present to His Majesty the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

I am of the opinion that the Motion standing in your name is indirectly connected with the appointment of the Officer Administering the Government by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. That is why I had disallowed it and I shall certainly disallow it again to-day.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): May I be permitted to speak?

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing to speak about.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): On the fact that S.O. No. 46 refers to debate, not to rejection of Motions as yet.

Mr. Speaker: (in Malay) If Honourable Members wish to prolong this matter, it would be desirable that the matter be brought up at another meeting. My decision in rejecting the Motion which was conveyed through the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, is correct and I hold firmly to my decision which is final.
[continuing in English.]

It is the final decision. I permit no more on this debate. If any Member would like to challenge such a power, we will be prepared to bring it up at the next meeting.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I then have your leave for this legal interpretation to be done by our Legal Adviser as to the..... [interrupted.]

Mr. Speaker: If you want it, I will send you a copy of the letter by the Attorney-General.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Thank you.

5. BILLS

(A) The Loan (Low Cost Housing Schemes) Bill, 1961.

First Reading

The Member for Dhoby Ghaut (Enche C. D. Ismail): (in Malay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled 'An Enactment to authorise the borrowing of a sum not exceeding two million dollars from the Federation for certain purposes' be read a first time.

The Member for Ayer Itam (Mr. Chor Sin Kheng): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Bill accordingly read a first time.

The Member for Dhoby Ghaut (Enche C. D. Ismail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Standing Orders be suspended in so far as it is necessary to enable this Bill to be taken through all its stages at this meeting.

The Member for Ayer Itam (Mr. Chor Sin Kheng): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Second Reading

The Member for Dhoby Ghaut (Enche C. D. Ismail): (in Malay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Enactment to authorise the borrowing of a sum not exceeding two million dollars from the Federation for certain purposes" be read a second time.

His Excellency the Governor in his gracious speech mentioned that the Federal Government is making available to the State Government cheap loan funds for the purposes of implementing low cost housing schemes. The State

Government has for some time been reviewing the situation with regard to the provision of low cost houses for the poorer section of the community, and has in fact drawn up tentative plans to embark on low cost housing schemes. We are indeed grateful to the Federal Government for its assistance in offering cheap loan for the purpose.

There are many housing schemes being undertaken by private developers and other authorities in the State of Penang. They should undoubtedly be commended for their enterprise in easing the housing situation in the urban areas. However, most, if not all, the housing schemes undertaken by private developers do not, unfortunately, cater for the low income groups. It is perhaps relevant to mention that 73% of the population of the Federation earn less than \$300 a month (authority: Housing Trust Annual Report, 1959), and it is for the need of this category of people that the State Government proposes to launch low cost housing schemes. The State Government is fully aware of overcrowding and congestion in the urban areas, and it is to relieve these conditions to some extent by establishing low cost housing schemes in suitable areas.

The Ministry of Interior under its revised policy will make available loans direct to the State Government for the latter to implement low cost housing schemes. The State Government has appointed a Committee to make recommendations with regard to the implementation of low cost housing schemes in various parts of the State. I am happy to say that one such scheme has already been accepted in principle, and on the passing of this Bill work can almost start immediately. This scheme will be known as the Kampong Herriot Low Cost Housing Scheme. The land has been

purchased, and the plans for the construction of houses have been completed.

In its rural development programme the State Government has of necessity in some instances to move squatters from the land in order to carry out its projects. In order that the squatters will not be put to extreme hardship, Government, besides offering them compensation, also hopes to re-house as many of them in low cost housing schemes.

The Federal Government will provide cheap loans only for cost of buildings, but the State Government has to provide land and essential services such as water supply, roads and light. The instalment repayments will be spread over as long a period as possible, and will not exceed \$35 a month. In fact it is hoped that in some of the cheaper schemes the instalment payment will work out to about \$20 a month.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Member for Ayer Itam (Mr. Chor Sin Kheng): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

In the State of Penang I notice that the housing schemes undertaken by private developers do not cater for the people in the lower income group. In recent years the tendency in building housing has been to construct houses costing about \$9,000 and over, and selling them either outright or by instalments spreading over a limited period of 15 years after an initial payment. Thousands of new houses of many types and designs — terrace, semi-detached and detached — have been built by the various housing estates of late. But the people with low earnings have scarcely benefitted by this trend in local building activity, and have no opportunity whatever to own any of these houses.

The objects and reasons of this Bill as explained by the Member for Dhoby Ghaut are really sound and praiseworthy. In the first place it will help to relieve to some extent overcrowding and congestion in urban areas and many poor families now living in small, ill-ventilated cubicles and dilapidated shanties will have the opportunity to remove to more congenial and healthier surroundings. The need in housing is very much indicated by the increase in population every year; and this scheme of the Government will help in some measure to offer cheap and practical housing to people in the lower income group.

It is the declared and determined aim of the Government for the next few years to continue to concentrate its absolute maximum effort in the development of the country, with emphasis on rural economic development to raise the standard of living of the rural people. In order to carry out its rural development projects the State Government has of necessity in many instances to move squatters from the land so affected. The Government, besides offering them compensation, will be able to rehouse as many of them in the low cost housing schemes, thereby eliminating their hardships and worries.

Sir, this scheme of the Government is highly commendable, and it has my full support.

Thank you.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Regarding this Bill, originally it was not my intention to oppose the introduction, since the purpose for which the loan is to be sought is, as the mover and seconder said, commendable—that is, to implement low cost housing schemes in the State of Penang. However, after going through the Bill and reading through the Federal and

State Constitutions it became very clear to my mind that the Bill is being introduced more for political purposes than in a sincere desire to help low cost housing schemes. Besides, we are doubtful whether housing and provision of housing accommodation, improvement trusts, are really matters within the purview of the State Government.

It is admitted that local government authorities receive their Constitutions from the State Government, but it should be borne in mind that in the Federal Constitution public housing comes within the jurisdiction of the local authorities, and not of the State Government. I refer Honourable Members on the Government side to List II, State List, Ninth Schedule, attached to the Constitution of the Federation of Malaya. Under Item 4 of this list it is clearly shown that housing and provision of housing accommodation, improvement trusts, come within the power of local authorities. I quote:

“Local government outside the federal capital, including—

- (a) Local administration; municipal corporations; local, town and rural boards and other local authorities; local government services; local rates; local government elections;
- (b) Obnoxious trades and public nuisances in local authority areas;
- (c) Housing and provision for housing accommodation, improvement trusts.”

Again, in a Local Government Course organized by the Ministry of Local Government some time ago it was pointed out that the role of local authorities in public housing is that “the local authority be the owner, and that it is responsible for its maintenance and upkeep.” It pointed

rightly to the fact that municipalities and City Council have engineers, architects and town planners who are capable of planning and implementing public housing. Therefore the planning and implementation should be left to the local authorities. In so far as the financing of the schemes is concerned the Federal and State Governments could help. And if it is the intention of the State Government to raise a loan under this Bill to help local authorities in the implementation of their schemes then we would have no objection. But if it is the intention of the State Government to obtain a loan and to provide low cost housing in competition with local authorities like the City Council then we would have the strongest objection to this Bill being introduced and passed.

Earlier I said that this is more a political move than a desire to help the people in having low cost housing schemes. I say this because in so far as the number of low cost housing schemes is concerned, and the question of slum clearance in the City is involved, the City Council has nine schemes, of which only one scheme—that is, the Trengganu Road Public Housing Scheme—has received the approval of the Alliance Federal Government when it applied for loans. Eight schemes have to be held in abeyance for lack of funds. Yet we have a Bill by the Alliance State Government seeking a loan from the Alliance Federal Government, and possibly receiving approval at Federal level since they belong to the same political party. It would therefore appear to us that, firstly, the people in the City are now being penalized by the Alliance for voting Socialist. Secondly, the Alliance Government have now realized the importance of low cost housing, and since they have no powers in the City Council

they are even prepared to sidestep the Federal Constitution by giving themselves powers to raise loans for low cost housing schemes. Whichever way you look at it, one cannot help being suspicious of the Alliance State Government in attempting to pass this Bill. This is but an attempt by the Alliance State Government to recapture their dwindling support in the City because, if I am not mistaken, they have two such schemes in the City itself which would compete with the City Council's low cost housing schemes by the very fact that the interest charged to them by the Alliance Federal Government would possibly be 2% against the levy of 5% to 5¾% charged by the Alliance Federal Government to the Socialist Front controlled City Council.

If the Alliance State Government is really sincere, my request is that after receiving such a loan it is for them to help the City Council and other local authorities in their slum clearance and low cost housing schemes, and, as I have said before, not to compete with them.

Another factor I am unable to understand is: Why should sums borrowed by the State Government under these powers be paid into the State Development Fund? Once it is in the State Development Fund it is difficult for anyone to know whether the money has been expended or not, whether the money is expended for purposes for which it is intended, since there is a clause, under section 5 of the Bill, that the money could also be used for purposes ancillary thereto. This is too wide a phrase and interpretation for which the loan could be utilized.

To sum up my arguments, I would like the Honourable the Chief Minister to clarify whether it is the State Government's intention to obtain this loan to

implement their own housing schemes in the State, including the City of George Town, in competition with schemes of local authorities. If this is so then we strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill. If on the other hand it is the intention of the State Government to raise a loan and help in financing schemes which have already been approved by local authorities then we on this side of the House would welcome the Bill provided the State Government did not use this measure to make money from the local authorities by charging them a higher rate of interest than what they have obtained from the Federal Government. I hope the Honourable the Chief Minister will clarify this because on this clarification the Opposition will vote accordingly.

Chief Minister: Sir, I did not intend to talk on this Bill because I thought at least for one Bill the Opposition would support wholeheartedly. Instead they try to make it into a political issue. Now, when Government introduces a Bill for a good purpose they accuse the Government of playing politics. Whether the Socialist Front in the City Council are playing politics or not it is for them to say so. But the Alliance Government, whatever we do we do with a sincere and honest conscience to help our people so that they can live peacefully and in harmony. Now to say that it is for a political purpose we are here on political tickets. It is up to anyone to interpret the action we take.

It is quite true that under the Constitution housing is a local authority responsibility. But that does not mean that the State Government of Penang should shut its eyes. The State Government realised that housing in Penang should be attended to

more seriously because local authorities are not playing their part well. As we have heard from the Honourable Member just now, they had eight schemes in hand; but they are all just castles in the air. I say so because they need loans to start such things. Of course, they have a right to borrow money, but to accuse the Government of making a profit by giving the loan is..... (Interrupted).

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must correct, on a point of order, the statement made by the Chief Minister that we have a right to borrow money. I must make it clear that under the new Constitution even the City Council and old established Municipalities have no right to borrow money except from the Federal Government. They had that right prior to the war, to raise their own loans; but they do not have the right now.

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification:

The City Council has a right to borrow money, but it must be borrowed from the Federal Government. I say you have a right to borrow, but the right is restricted. To borrow from 'Anamalai Chettiar' is not permitted. I did not say 'Arumugam Pillai.'

Now, to come back to the request made by the Honourable Member to seek a clarification from me whether it is the State policy of the Government to make money by giving loans. It is never the policy to make money. In fact, whatever money given out by either the Federal or State Authorities has been given out at the lowest interest possible.

Now, the Honourable Member said that people of the City Council are now being penalised because the City Council is now being run by the Socialist Front; I would like the Member to reply to me, "How much loan have you got from the Alliance Federal Government?"

The Socialist Front has been controlling the City Council for quite a number of years and yet the Federal Government continues, and will continue, to give it loans if the project is for the good of the City. To say that the City Council has Engineers and Architects and a Town Planner, and they should not be deprived of their housing schemes is sensible. We never deprive the Council of any such opportunity. If the Council has the money, go ahead. Now we are considering this scheme for rural areas where local authorities do not have such facilities. But you might have heard that the mover of the Motion mentioned the Kampong Herriot Scheme. The State Government moved into it because we feel that the City Council has disappointed the people in the area. The State Government is prepared to give the City Council a loan to purchase the land for the housing scheme, but what it wanted was a grant — in other words, free land for the City Council, which is not possible.

Again, I repeat for the information of Honourable Members that whatever the State Government does or will do is never for political reasons only but for very many reasons. The Alliance is the party in power. Naturally the plan has to be according to the party policy or the Manifesto or promise that we gave to the people when we stood for election. Now we are carrying out that solemn duty to fulfil our promises to the people. You may call it politics but we look on our work as sincere, according to

our promises to our electorates; and I am certain that this Bill, if it goes through, the Kampong Herriot people will certainly be pleased. We never had the intention of wooing any votes at all, neither do we wish to mislead people in any area. Our policy is, as I said just now, to carry out our promises to our people.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe the Hon'ble the Chief Minister is quite wrong if he thinks that we on this side are determined to oppose this Bill. Possibly he may have misunderstood the tenor of what our Whip said because our Whip, as usual, speaks or, rather, cracks his whip with great vehemence but, if you have followed the Member for Jelutong's speech, his support of this Bill is conditional on the clarification which was: is the State Government going to compete with local authorities in this matter of housing? Once that clarification has been received, we on this side are certainly not going to oppose a Bill which would appear to be in the general interests of the public.

I was quite amused to hear the Chief Minister say that he is not playing politics because I want Honourable Members to look at what happened at the Fifth Meeting of the First Session of this Assembly in March, 1960. A similar Motion was introduced by this side — to refresh the memory of Honourable Members, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will read the terms of that Motion:—

"Resolved that this Assembly, being aware of the great need for houses for poor people, calls upon the Government to undertake a low-cost housing scheme to build immediately at least 500 houses for those drawing a monthly income of from about \$100 to \$200 a month: and, further, that this

scheme be financed, if necessary, by borrowing from the Federal Government."

Of course they were not playing politics but they merely defeated this Motion by altering it out of recognition. What they were doing then, therefore, I do not know. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister in his speech, I noticed, gave me many friendly pats, practically praised me, at the same time giving me a 'lutut' in the back because my Motion was completely changed and what I had brought in as a Motion, which is exactly the purpose of this Bill, was made into a Motion congratulating the Government. It was quickly put through. Whether this is playing politics or not, I leave it to Honourable Members to decide.

I repeat that the Opposition is not against this Bill. All that we want to know is that the State Government will not interfere in the sphere of local authorities, not only in George Town but also in the rural and urban areas; and I am very happy to have the clarification of the Chief Minister that much of this money would go to local authorities in the rural areas for various low-cost housing schemes (interrupted.)

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification, I never said the money would go to the local authority. The money will not go to any local authority.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): All right, thank you.

Now we come to the other point which the Chief Minister also raised and remarked that only one of the City Council's housing schemes has become a reality and 8 schemes are in the air. I do not know what authority he has to say that. The other

eight are already planned for and, as soon as funds are available, they will become realities. The point he has to remember is this: in 1958 and 1958 clearly the Government did not give the City Council, and for that matter they did not give any local authority, a single cent because there was as they claimed then a financial blizzard. They allocated a small amount of money to the City Council for going ahead with any scheme already contracted for. As it is, prior to the War, the Municipality had the authority under the Municipal Ordinance to raise loans, and some of these loans are still outstanding because they are not yet due; but, after the War, that was changed and all loans which any local authority requires have to be obtained from the central Government or from the State Government. That is why those schemes are still hanging fire. They are not, definitely, castles in the air: they will very soon be houses on the land for people and actually the City Council has done a considerable amount of building with the limited resources available to them.

Now, as far as Kampong Herriot is concerned, I am afraid the Chief Minister has again got at least one fact wrong. The City Council has never asked for a free grant of land, unless my memory is at fault. All that we wanted was for the State Government to acquire the land and give us a lease at a reasonable price, of course. I am now informed that the State Government is going to undertake that very scheme. All that I can say is: "The best of luck to you."

Chief Minister: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On a point of clarification, the request was made for the State Government to acquire the land and hand it over to the City Council under lease.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): On a lease.

The Member for Jelutong (Mr. Ooi Thiam Siew): On a lease.

Chief Minister: On a lease. We would have given you straight-away.

The Member for Sungei Pinang (Mr. D. S. Ramanathan): That is a matter that can be easily looked up because in Kampong Herriot the great problem with which the City Council was confronted, and which is now going to confront the State Government, is: how are you going to build low-cost houses for rent or for hire purchase when the ground is to be purchased at a very high cost. Of course, that was the problem that defeated the City Council. It was not anything else. The question of putting up those houses could have been dealt with easily but when the economics of it were gone into, we found that the people living there could neither afford to rent those houses nor hire-purchase them.

As I said, I wish the State Government every luck in this matter if they could erect low-cost houses and let them out at rents, which they envisage to be really "low cost."

I have, Mr. Speaker, Sir, some further comments to make on the various clauses of the Bill and I shall do so when they are discussed in Committee.

The Member for Kota (Mr. Lee Kok Liang): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had at first no intention to speak on the principle and merits of this Bill; but in the course of these proceedings there were certain statements made and certain attitudes adopted which made me feel that I must stand up and seek clarification, and to express my opinion.

The Bill is based on the principle as set out in His Excellency's speech on page 21—may I recapitulate the speech?

"In order to take advantage of cheap loan funds, the State Government is introducing a Bill at this Assembly to enable it to borrow money from the Federal Government for purposes of implementing low cost housing schemes. A State Committee has already been appointed to make recommendations to Government. Prospective purchasers of these low cost houses will pay instalments not exceeding \$35 a month. These housing schemes will be confined to those families earning less than \$300 a month. The first housing scheme to be implemented soon after the Loan Bill has been passed will be at Kampong Herriot. Plans have been drawn up for another low cost housing scheme to house fishermen in Telok Bahang. This low cost housing scheme will consist of cheap strong timber houses of a type suitable for fishermen, and costs will be kept as low as possible so that repayments will suit the pockets of poor fishermen in this area. It is also relevant to mention that the Berapit Low Cost Housing Scheme is nearing completion."

The point that strikes my mind is that this Bill, the Low Cost Housing Scheme Enactment, has in its definitions schemes that are meant for rental as well as schemes that are meant for hire purchase. In the speech made by His Excellency the Governor this morning the policy apparently laid down there is that of only hire purchase. There are two specific instances mentioned there of Kampong Herriot and of the fishermen at Telok Bahang where it is stated that costs will be kept as low as possible to suit the pockets of the poor fishermen for repayments. The word is

'repayments,' not 'payments.' In other words it envisages hire purchase.

As far as the mover of this Bill is concerned, in my very halting knowledge of Malay the mover of this Bill has not clarified the position as to the principle which would govern the State Government in the implementation of this Bill, as to how much would go to hire purchase, how much should go to rental. In fact these are the two crucial problems; and this I think has been admitted by the Honourable the Chief Minister in his debate on the Motion brought forth by the Honourable Member for Sungei Pinang at the Fifth Sitting of the First Session. The Honourable the Chief Minister stated that the State Government is trying to form a policy about low cost housing, and that there are two essential problems involved, and one is that—if I may be permitted to read from the horse's mouth, because this is a gift—

"The problem contains two parts: first, that of providing houses for hire purchase; and secondly, of providing housing for the lower income groups by way of rental."

And the Chief Minister goes on to say that as far as Butterworth and Bukit Mertajam are concerned the problem is not the same as that in the City. The problem is not of building flats but of building houses. And he goes on to say that in both Bukit Mertajam and Butterworth, however, the problem is not nearly so acute as in the City, and it is more likely that the form which these proposals will take will not be for flats but probably for houses to be owned under a hire purchase scheme.

What I am asking seriously for clarification is whether the State Government has any policy at all towards low cost housing, apart

from the policy of borrowing money from the Federation Government, because apparently the policy laid down in His Excellency the Governor's speech appears to conflict with the statement pronounced by the Chief Minister in his debate at the Fifth Sitting of the First Session. And if that is so clarification would indeed help this Assembly to realise actually how far the benefit would have gone. And the Chief Minister himself admits that it is essential that the development of Butterworth should take place on a properly co-ordinated and planned basis. He says, "I shall be in a position at a later meeting of this Assembly to go into more detail as to what the Government intends to do."

When I first came to this Assembly today, and upon looking through this Bill, I thought of the speech given by the Honourable the Chief Minister. But on hearing the speech given by the mover, and on hearing the policy as laid down in His Excellency's speech, and the reply given by the Chief Minister, I am at some doubts as to what sort of policy Government has in mind, or whether there is any co-ordinated planning for low cost housing. Is this the final Bill that we are called upon to borrow from the Federation Government, or is there going to be a series of Bills. That will be of vital interest to this Assembly.

The Member for Butterworth (Dr. M. P. L. Yegappan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, It appears to the House that the Honourable Members of the Opposition have got the wrong impression and interpretation of the Constitution, that the housing schemes of low cost type are an unparalleled and unquestioned monopoly of local authorities; but it is not so. What I can see from the Constitution is that it is the duty and not right of the local authorities.

But if the local authorities which are given these duties are too slow in implementing or to provide such facilities on a meagre scale naturally there should be somebody else who should come to the rescue of the needy people. The chief aim of the Government is for the welfare of the people of the State. And, as it was pointed out just now by the Honourable the Chief Minister, it is also the policy of the Government to have peace and harmony in the State. To achieve these ends it will appear quite necessary to have a high standard of living. To have a high standard of living there should be three essential things: better clothing, better roofing and better food. And one of these essential amenities is housing. That is why the Government has stepped in, to augment these facilities by giving the cheaper type of houses to the people. Therefore I point to the Members of the Opposition that Government is not infringing on their rights, but they have come in to give more adequate amenities to the needy people. Therefore I strongly support this Bill.

The Member for Dhoby Ghaut (Enche C. D. Ismail): (in Malay) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard several opinions expressed in respect of this Bill and the Hon'ble Members for Jelutong, Sungei Pinang and Kota stated that it is just that the Government intends to play politics. I have a feeling that in the Federation at present even a child in the cradle has a knowledge of politics. When the child wakes up in the morning and milk is not given, it cries. Well, that is politics too—politics to obtain milk! Politics, therefore, is nothing new to us. Whenever we propose to do something, it is said, "Ah, the Alliance Government intends to play politics" and, similarly, when members on the

other side propose, the people on this side would say, "Ah, the Socialist Front intends to play politics."

I can still remember what the Member for Sungei Pinang said with regard to the minutes of the meeting. If I am not mistaken, I was the one who opposed the motion moved by the Opposition Party during the March meeting because we could see that the reasons given were completely different. As regards Kampong Herriot, we probably know that since 1956 the residents of this kampong have been in constant fear of being required by the landowner to quit the land. They have been very worried and had also negotiated with the City Council on the matter during the last four or five years. Until Government acquires the land, the matter cannot be settled. There was no other authority whom the residents could approach and, therefore, they just went to whoever they thought could assist them. Their situation is likened to that of a drowning person who, when he manages to catch hold of a small twig, feels that it is a big log which can convey him to safety. The Penang State Government considers that steps should be taken to assist in relieving the residents of Kampong Herriot of their worries and troubles.

Therefore, I hope that we in this Assembly will not think that the purpose of introducing this Bill is to play politics, or to restrict or even to snatch away the powers of any party. That is certainly not the intention of the Government. As the Chief Minister said earlier, Government is only carrying out the policy of the Alliance Government to fulfil its promises to the ra'ayat; and I would like to add that we will never make any promise which we cannot fulfil.

That's all.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

Committee

The Assembly resolves itself into Committee.

The Bill is agreed to without amendment.

The Assembly resumes

Third Reading

The Member for Dhoby Ghaut (Enche C. D. Ismail): (in Malay) Sir, I beg to report that the Loan (Low Cost Housing Schemes) Bill, 1961 has been considered in

Committee clause by clause and agreed to without amendment. I beg, therefore, to move that the Bill be now read a third time and passed.

The Member for Ayer Itam (Mr. Chor Sin Kheng): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a third time and passed.

Mr. Speaker: Honourable Members, There are still many matters for discussion and I do not wish to have Hon'ble Members sit here till 3.00 a.m. I therefore adjourn this Assembly till 9.30 a.m. to-morrow.

The Assembly adjourns at 5.20 p.m.



