

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M., on Monday, the 18th February, 1963.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B.L., Speaker in the Chair, nine Ministers, three Ministers of State, three Deputy Ministers and seventy-two Members.

**ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**

GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

Shri VISHNU SAHAY

Mr. Speaker

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B.L.

Mr. Deputy Speaker

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA, B.L.

Members of the Council of Ministers

1. Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister), Appointment, Home, Political, General Administration Department, Secretariat Administration Department, Information and Publicity, Minority Affairs, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings), General Co-ordination of all Departments.
2. Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED, Minister, Finance, Law, Panchayats and Community Projects.
3. Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI, Minister, Power (Electricity), Industries (including Cottage Industries), Planning and Development, Town and Country Planning, Labour, Statistics.
4. Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA, Minister, Revenue, Forests, Transport, Political Sufferers.
5. Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH, Minister, Education, Co-operative, Tourism.

6. Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE, Minister, Medical, Excise, Printing and Stationery.

7. Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY, Minister, Flood Control and Irrigation, Agriculture, Veterinary and Live-Stock, Pisciculture Parliamentary Affairs.

8. Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA, Minister, Supply, Trade and Commerce, Registration and Stamps, Relief and Rehabilitation.

9. Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA, Minister, Khadi and Village Industries, Sericulture and Weaving, Jails.

10. Shri CHATRASING TERON, Minister, Tribal Areas and Welfare of Backward Classes, Local Self-Government, Social Welfare.

Ministers of State

1. Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI, Minister of State, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings).

2. Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS, Minister of State, Revenue.

3. Shri EMONSING SANGMA, Minister of State, Community Project, Tribal Areas and Welfare of Backward Classes Department and Power (Electricity).

Deputy Ministers

1. Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY, Deputy Minister, Tribal Areas and Welfare of Backward Classes, Co-operatives and Forests.

2. Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA, Deputy Minister, Education and Social Welfare.

3. Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA, Deputy Minister, Panchayats and Community Projects.

Parliamentary Secretary

Shri SAI SAI TERANG Parliamentary Secretary.

Panel of Chairmen

1. Shri RAMNATH DAS, B.L.

2. Shri SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI.

3. Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA.

4. Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED.

Secretary

Shri R. N. BARUA, M.Sc., B.L.

Under-Secretary

Shri H. C. DAS.

Editor of Debates

Shri M. C. DAS, M.A.

Serial No. (1)	Name of Members (2)	Constituency by which elected (3)
1	Shri Abdul Jalil Chowdhury, M.A., M.F., M.M., F.D.	Badarpur.
2	Shri Abdul Munim Choudhury	Karimganj-South.
3	Shri Abu Nasar Md. Ohid, B.A.	Rupahihat.
4	Shrimati Afia Ahmed	Jamunamukh.
5	Raja Ajit Narayan Deb	Kokrajhar.
6	Shri Akshoy Kumar Das, B.L.	Sarbhog.
7	Shri Bahadur Basumatary	Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
8	Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee, B.A.	Ratabari.
9	Shri Bali Ram Das, B.A.	Morigaon (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
10	Shri Bazlul Basit	South Salmara.
11	Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha	Sonari.
12	Shri Bishnulal Upadhyaya, B.A.	Gohpur.
13	Shri Biswadev Sarma, B.L.	Balipara.
14	Shri Chanoo Kheria	Morongi.
15	Shri Chatrasing Teron, B.A.	Mikir Hills-West (Reserv- ed for Scheduled Tribes).
16	Shri Dandeswar Hazarika, Advocate.	B.L., Golaghat.
17	Shri Dandiram Dutta	Kalaigaon.
18	Shri Derajuddin Sarkar	Bilasipara.
19	Shri Dev Kant Borooah, B.A., LL.B.	Samaguri.
20	Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika, B.com.	Saikhowa.
21	Shri Devendra Nath Sarma, B.A.	Gauhati.
22	Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, B.A.	Jorhat.

Serial No.	Name of Members		Constituency by which elected
(1)	(2)		(3)
23	Shri Durgeswar Saikia	... ..	Thowra.
24	Shri Dwarikanath Tewari	... ..	Udharband.
25	Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma	..	Digboi.
26	Shri Emerson Momin	... ..	Tura (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
27	Shri Emonsing Sangma	... ..	Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
28	Shri Enowell Pohshna	.. ..	Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes.)
29	Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Barrister-at-Law.		Jania.
30	Dr. Ghanashyam Das	... ..	North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes).
31	Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi, B.L.	... ..	Sibsagar.
32	Shri Gouri Shankar Roy, B.A.	... ..	Katlicherra.
33	Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha, B.A.	... ..	Dudnai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
34	Shri Haladhar Uzir, B.A.	... ..	Tamalpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
35	Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar, M. sc.		Rampur.
36	Dr. Homeswar Deb Choudhury	... ..	Patacharkuchi.
37	Shri Indeswar Khaund, B.L.	... ..	Nongstoin (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
38	Shri J. B. Hagjer, B.A. (Hons)	... ..	North Cachar Hills (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
39	Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi, M.A., B.L.		Biswanath.
40	Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala, B.L.		Tezpur.

Serial No	Name of Members	Constituency by which elected
(1)	(2)	(3)
41	Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah, B.A.	Amguri.
42	Shri Khogendra Nath Nath ...	Goalpara.
43	Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua, M.A. (Bisarada).	Katanigaon.
44	Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami, B.A., LL.B.	Laharighat.
45	Shri Lahit Kumar Doley, B.A. ...	Dhakuakhana (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
46	Shri Lila Kanta Borah, M.A., B.L. ...	Kaliabor.
47	Shrimati Lily Sen-Gupta ...	Lahowal.
48	Shri Lokhyanath Doley, M.A., B.L. ...	North Lakhimpur (Re- served for Scheduled Tribes).
49	Shri Madhusudhan Das, B.L. ...	Barpeta.
50	Shri Md. Idris, M.A., LL.B. ...	Dhing
51	Shri Mahammad Umaruddin, B.A. ...	Dhubri.
52	Shri Mahadeb Das ...	Bhabanipur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
53	Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B.L.	Hajo.
54	Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika ...	Raha (Reserved for Sche- duled Tribes).
55	Shri Mal Chandra Pegu, M.A., LL.B.	Majuli (Reserved for Sche- duled Tribes).
56	Shri Manik Chandra Das ...	Tengakhata.
57	Shri Mathius Tudu, B.A., B.T. ...	Gossaigaon.
58	Shri Matlebuddin, B.A. ...	Dalgaon.
59	Shri Mohananda Bora ...	Bihpuria.

Serial No	Name of Members	Constituency by which elected
(1)	(2)	(3)
60	Shri Mohi Kanta Das, M.A., B.L. ...	Barchalla.
61	Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury, ... M.A., LL.B.	Silchar East.
62	Shri Molia Tanti	Doom Dooma.
63	Shri Motiram Bora, M.A., B.L. ...	Nowgong.
64	Shri Nanda Kishore Singha ..	Silchar West.
65	Shri Nalindra Sangma	Dainadubi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
66	Shri Narendra Nath Sarma ...	Bokakhat.
67	Shri Omeo Kumar Das, B.A. ...	Dhekiajuli.
68	Shri Pabindra Nath Sarma ...	Nalbari East.
69	Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain ...	Moran.
70	Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury, B.A.	Boko.
71	Shriman Prafulla Goswami ...	Nalbari West.
72	Shri Pulakeshi Singh, M.A., B.L. ...	Sonai.
73	Shri R. Thanhlira, B.A.	Aijal East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
74	Shri Radhakishan Khemka ..	Tinsukia.
75	Shri Radhika Ram Das, B.L., Advocate	Palasbari
76	Shri Ram Nath Das, B.L.	Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes).
77	Dr. Ram Prasad Choubey	Lakhipur.
78	Shri Ram Prasad Das, B.A. ...	Bijni.
79	Shri Ramdeb Malah, B.A., LL.B., Plea- der.	Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
80	Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah, B.L.	Dibrugarh.

Serial No.	Name of Member	Constituency by which elected
(1)	(2)	(3)
81	Shri Rampirit Rudrapaul ...	Hailakandi.
82	Shri Rathindra Nath Sen ...	Karimganj North.
83	Shri Rup Nath Brahma, B.L. ...	Sidli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
84	Shri Sai Sai Terang ...	Mikir Hills East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
85	Shri Santi Ranjan Das-Gupta ..	Lumding.
86	Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha, B.Sc., LL.B.	Golakganj
87	Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, M.A., B.L.	Kamalpur.
88	Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi ...	Titabar.
89	Shri Siba Prasad Sarma ...	Mangaldai.
90	Shri Siddhinath Sarma, B.Sc., B.L. ...	Rangiya.
91	Shri Surendra Nath Das ..	Barama (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes).
92	Shri Syed Ahmed Ali, B.A., LL.B. ...	Gauripur.
93	Shri Tajuddin Ahmed, M.A., LL.B. ...	Tarabari.
94	Shri Tankeswar Chetia, B.A., B.T. ...	Nazira.
95	Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee, B.A. ...	Katigora.
96	Shri Tilok Gogoi, B.A. ...	Teok.
97	Shri Upendra Nath Sanatan ...	Bogdung.
98	Shri Zahirul Islam ...	Mankachar.

N. B.—Total number of members has been reduced from 105 to 98 after the resignation of seven members with effect from 24th October, 1962.

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members present. The Governor is addressing the House today at 10.10 A.M. He is coming by the main gate of the House at 10.05 A.M. and myself, the Secretary and the Deputy Speaker will be going [to receive him at the gate. The instruction as to how to receive the Governor in the House has been laid on the members' table. As soon as he comes, I think we should comply with those instructions.

With your permission now, I leave the House to receive the Governor at the main gate and in the meanwhile, copies of the Governor's speech will be distributed to you.

(Then Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Secretary left the Chamber to receive the Governor).

(Governor arrives 10.07 A.M.)

Mr. SPEAKER : I request the Governor to kindly address the House.

Governor's Address

MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,

Since this Assembly met last, tremendous events have shaken the country and this State in particular. These events have made 1962 one of the most important years in the history of the nation. Naked Chinese aggression brought us face to face with grim realities. But I am glad to say that our people rose equal to the situation. The entire population of this State irrespective of differences in political ideology and programme stood solidly behind the Government. Men and women from all walks of life, rich and poor, strong and weak, offered unqualified service in defence of the country. In fact, initially, it became a problem to channelise the huge upsurge of mass enthusiasm through a proper organisational set-up.

2. My Government, however, lost no time in setting up the necessary organisation. With the assistance voluntarily lent by the honourable members of the house, a chain of non-official bodies was created right from the state-level down to the village-level. At the state-level, a State Defence Advisory Council with 54 non-official members was constituted to mobilise people's co-operation towards war-efforts and to advise Government on matters connected with defence measures. Side by side with this body, a State Defence Fund Committee, has also been formed to look particularly after the very important task of collection of funds for the National Defence Fund. At

the Subdivisional level, Subdivisional Defence Committees have been formed in every Subdivision, generally to mobilize people's co-operation in defence efforts and in particular, to organise assistance to defence forces, as and when required; to take all measures for keeping up the morale of the people, to assist maintenance of the price line, to help organisation of Civil Defence and Home-Guards and so on. A non-official member is the Secretary of the Subdivisional Defence Committee and the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer, as the case may be, is its Chairman. Below the Subdivisional level, Defence Sub-committees have been formed also in the Anchalik Panchayats as well as in the Gaon Panchayats. Thus, at every stage of the administrative hierarchy, a non-official body has been set up with a view to associate people's representatives in guiding and advising measures of defence efforts. I am glad to say that the State Defence Advisory Council, the State Defence Fund Committee and the Subdivisional Defence Committees are doing very useful work and have assisted Government with very valuable advice.

3. Simultaneously with the formation of these new non-official bodies, the official machinery was also geared up for the new situation. The Cabinet itself formed a Defence Council of its own and the top-officials formed a Defence Committee to co-ordinate and orientate the works of all departments under Government for expeditious defence efforts. This Defence Committee held its sitting twice every week, and more frequently, when occasion arose. The top Military Officials attended these sittings regularly, and as a result, requisition of vehicles, buildings, and lands, and similar other matters could be completed smoothly and expeditiously. The number of Commissioners in the Brahmaputra Valley was increased with a view to provide the district officers with valuable guidance and to arrive at on-the-spot decisions. A Branch Secretariat was created at Gauhati with an Additional Chief Secretary as its head. The Chief Minister and myself moved to Gauhati. Arrangements were made there for implementation of various decisions of the Government and top level liaison with the military authorities was effected so that there may not be any hold-up anywhere. We were greatly impressed to see the wonderfully high morale of our people even when the ruthless enemy was knocking at our door.

Even evacuation of Tezpur, made necessary due to the military situation, in a very short period of time was effected without any disorder and without any panic or accident. Arrangements made in Nowgong for the reception and care of these evacuees deserve special mention. Evacuees, particularly from N. E. F. A., I am proud to say, were received and looked after with love and affection by all sections of our people. At the peak of the emergency, 18,000 evacuees from N. E. F. A. and neighbouring areas were given hurried refuge in camps in different parts of Assam. In all, 44 camps were set up. Most of them have now gone back home with memories of brotherly affection and a deep impression of the common unity of India.

4. Our relationship with the military authorities has been of the closest and the most cordial. The Government and the people of this State have rendered unstinted aid to the army authorities. Lands, buildings and vehicles, both private and official, have been put at their disposal as soon as any request has been received. Our women have knitted woollen garments for the Jawans, and all kinds of gifts for them are still being received.

5. In order that our Jawans may carry on the fight without worries for hearth and home, my Government have added various new benefits for the fighting soldiers and the *ex*-soldiers. In addition to the existing facilities relating to children's education and to appointment to Government services, my Government have now decided that—

(a) approximately 21,000 bighas of suitable land will be reserved for settlement with the families of *ex*-servicemen and of service personnel killed or disabled in action during the present emergency,

(b) suitable percentage of posts under the State Government will be reserved in favour of the army personnel,

(c) land owned by officers and Jawans would be exempted from rent for the duration of their army service and if they are killed or disabled, till the next re-settlement or such further time as Government may determine,

- (d) recovery of any dues from such officers and Jawans to Government or any Government agency will remain suspended during the pendency of the army service and waived, in case of death or disability,
- (e) civil and revenue cases instituted by Government against any such officers or Jawans will remain suspended as long as they are in army service,
- (f) immovable properties of service personnel will be looked after by the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board or by a S. D. C. or similar officer,
- (g) hostel fees of the children of Army personnel in approved educational institutions will be borne by the Government,
- (h) the University will be approached to allow students who are on active service to appear for examination as private or regular candidates within 3 years of their release from army service and so on.

6. Apart from formation of defence committees, the universal enthusiasm of the common people needed a more positive expression. This need was satisfied by the formation of Home Guards throughout the State. A Directorate of Civil Defence and Home Guards was created with its headquarter at Gauhati. It enrolled volunteers under the Assam Home Guards Act, and gave them training in foot-drill, squad-drill, arms-drill, fire-fighting, first-aid and rescue work. Uptil-now about 15,000 Home Guards have been enlisted out of which 6,000 have completed the full course of training and the rest are under various stages of training. Originally it was contemplated that one lakh of Home Guards in battalion formation would be raised in the State of Assam. But the Union Government has since evolved a uniform pattern for the whole of India and approved a total strength of 25,300 Home Guards for Assam, of which 21,300 will be for rural areas, and 4,000 for urban areas. The Home Guards organisation's effort has been considerably strengthened by utilising other agencies to give training. The Police organisation has been

fully utilised particularly in the rural areas and thanas to give training. Apart from this, Lok Sahayak Sena Camps are being opened in the Districts and Subdivisions to give intensive training for fifteen days. The military authorities are increasing the numbers of their teams so as to give further extensive training. Besides this organised institutions like the I. N. T. U. C. have made large efforts to mobilise labour in the tasks connected with the defence effort. Because of the special position of Assam it is expected that a very much larger programme than the one agreed to by the Government of India will be made applicable to Assam. Under the uniform pattern, the Home Guards will—

- (a) serve as auxiliary to the police and help in maintaining internal security,
- (b) help the community in emergency like air-raid, fire, flood, epidemic, etc.,
- (c) function as an emergency labour force needed for special tasks, and
- (d) provide essential services like motor transport pioneer fire-brigade, nursing, first-aid, operation of water and power supply installations, etc.

7. To prepare the Home Guards for efficient discharge of these duties, a regular training centre (apart from the training camps already completed) has since been started at Gauhati and from 150 to 200 trainees are being trained in each course. Another training centre is being opened shortly at Jorhat. The trainees turned out by these centres will in turn impart training to Home Guards in training camps. In this manner, the entire body of 25,000 Home Guards will be trained in the shortest possible period consistent with efficiency.

8. As regards Civil Defence in the restricted sense, namely, Air-Raid-Precautions, though it was originally planned to introduce A. R. P. measures in all major towns of Assam, it is sought now to restrict it to a small number of towns only. The number of services to be organised will also be now kept to the minimum. The character of war-fare to-day has so much changed

that many measures copied from previous wars are likely to be of little use. It is likely that a more or less common pattern of Civil Defence measures for the whole of India will be evolved very soon on the advice of foreign experts and, in the meantime, the hard core of the organisation will have to be established and the inevitable services like the auxiliary fire-service, etc., will have to be organised.

9. People's enthusiasm after the Chinese aggression helped to strengthen the Village Defence Organisation which has been doing useful work ever since its inception. The number of registered Village Defence Organisations went up from 2,256 to more than 4,000. The rate of out-of-pocket money given to each registered organisation was increased during the year, and the equipments granted to them were also improved. Apart from their normal function of watch and ward in the village, these organisations, during the emergency, rendered valuable service by patrolling the railway lines, oil-pipe-lines, telegraph and telephone lines, and guarding important bridges and other vital installations against sabotage.

10. The emergency put a tremendous strain on the police organisation. It had to stretch its resources to the maximum for guarding the vital lines of communication and vital installations against sabotage. There was free flow of men and materials to the forward areas. The police force also imparted training to volunteers in the rural areas in the use of fire-arms, in drill, and discipline and in fire-fighting. The police thus supplemented the training efforts of the Home Guards organisations, and assisted the rural population to become trained Home Guards within a short time. In order to effectively deal with the law and order and emergency situation, the Central Government, with the co-operation of a number of State Governments, has helped with a number of battalions of police.

11. The law and order situation during the year was quite satisfactory until the first week of February 1963 when communal disturbances broke out in Silchar. I am sure you will join with me in expressing regret for the death of 9 persons and injury to 51 persons and in condemning the acts of hooliganism. My Government took immediate action to put down the troubles and to

prevent their spread to other parts of the State. Prompt imposition of Curfew, promulgation of Section 144 of Cr. P. C., declaration of certain offences as cognizable and non-bailable, arrest of all suspected persons, these and similar steps have produced the desired result. One newspaper which published matters prejudicial to maintenance of communal harmony had to be prohibited entry into Assam, under the Assam Special Powers (Press) Act. On its expressing regret and giving an assurance that such action will not be repeated, the ban has since been lifted. The police forces in the district have also been fully strengthened and have tackled the situation tactfully. I appeal to you to render all necessary cooperation to the Government in preventing such troubles in any part of the State.

12. In 1962, Anti-Corruption work made substantial progress. Its tempo of activities was, however, slightly hampered towards the close of the year when owing to the present emergency, a number of officers were deputed on operational duties. During the year, 130 new enquiries were registered and 214 enquiries were disposed of, inclusive of the enquiries pending from previous years. Government have since drawn departmental proceedings against two Heads of Departments besides other Government officials on the basis of Anti-Corruption Branch reports, and 8 regular cases have been registered against Government officials and other public servants. Out of 40 cases pending for trial from previous years, 33 cases were disposed of during 1962, of which 32 cases ended in conviction and one in acquittal. During the same period, in 28 cases charge-sheets have been submitted.

13. The Naga hostiles have been active all along the Assam-Nagaland border carrying on their sporadic activities of looting and plundering the villages in the plains areas, as well as shooting on passenger trains passing through thick, continuous forests. The situation has been kept under close and constant watch and is being reviewed from time to time. Co-ordination between Civil and Military authorities has resulted in improvement of preventive measures.

14. Conditions in the Assam-East Pakistan border continued to be quiet except for a few incidents of minor

nature, *viz.*, inadvertant crossings of persons and cattle and smuggling, some cases of dacoities and cattle lifting.

In the Lathitilla area, in violation of the existing agreement, patrols were sent by the East Pakistan Rifles to areas, where according to the agreement, no patrols should be sent by either side. There were one or two cases of kidnapping, and this caused panic among our people. As a result, a few of our people left the place to a more secure zone. My Government has sent strong protests to the Pakistan Government.

Considerable progress has been made in the demarcation of the Assam-East Pakistan boundary. The position regarding border trade remains the same as in the previous year. In order to stop unauthorized entry of Pakistan nationals into India adequate preventive measures have been taken by my Government.

15. Employer-labour relations continued on the whole to be satisfactory and no serious trouble was reported from any quarter. The workers and employers co-operated by assembling in a meeting and adopting a truce resolution to avoid strikes and lock outs. The relevant organisations took active steps to implement the same.

In order to provide an adequate labour supply for the numerous development projects my Government has taken steps to mobilise Shramik Bahinis on an expanded scale. It is clear that if our State is to develop faster the people of Assam would have to participate more actively and in larger numbers in the execution of the schemes. The Shramik Bahinis provide the answer in this direction.

16. Owing to the strike of the Pakistani ratings of the Joint Steamer Company the supply position in the State had already deteriorated. With the Chinese invasion, the situation became somewhat serious but my Government took adequate measures to ensure that the supply of essential commodities, including food-stuffs to the State, was maintained. A high level emergency cell was created in the Supply Department which was placed under the charge of a Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Movements. The Director of Movement Co-ordination has been stationed at Gauhati to co-ordinate movements in consultation with the Railways, the Steamer Company and others. These measures have given good results and

I am glad to say that the supply position could be maintained reasonably satisfactorily following the attack on our northern frontier. Measures have also been taken to maintain a buffer stock of commodities, such as salt, sugar and pulses. Opening of the Brahmaputra Bridge for goods traffic has eased movement of goods and its opening for passenger traffic from 16th January 1963 has also been of great advantage. Storage facilities are being increased with the construction of additional godowns at suitable stations. At the instance of the Government of India a nucleus Road Transport Organisation is going to be established on a permanent basis to ensure the movement of goods by Road-cum-Rail route between Siliguri and Dhubri and thereafter up to Gauhati. This organisation is likely to start with 100 ten-ton trucks. This will make it possible to move 200 tons of essential commodities between Siliguri and Gauhati each way. The railways have agreed to through-booking of goods, from any station in India to Gauhati by the rail-cum-road route and *vice versa*. All these measures, it is hoped, will, in the long run, result in considerable improvement of supply and transport position and stabilisation of prices in the State. With the co-operation of the trading community as well as the panchayat and other local-self government organisations, a voluntary price regulation scheme is proposed to be introduced and vigilance committees, have been set up in the Subdivisions consisting of Government officials, representatives of the people and representatives of the trading community. The object is to maintain a reasonable price level on voluntary basis with the co-operation of all concerned.

17. The general food position in the State continued to be reasonably satisfactory, in spite of the heavy demand of food-grains due to floods and the situation created by the Chinese aggression. Unfortunately the harvest of rice this year has been comparatively poorer. Last year's production of the crop in terms of rice was estimated to be 16,49,720 tons—and, according to this year's estimate, it has gone down to 14,99,318 tons. As a result of this poorer harvest there was a tendency of the price of rice to rise, particularly in Gauhati area. My Government, however, promptly met the situation by releasing paddy and rice from the reserve buffer stock. My Government has also pressed the Government of India to send more rice to this State and is also making all possible efforts to

maximise procurement within the State. All these measures, it is expected, will keep the price of rice at a reasonable level. About 2,250 fair price shops have also been opened throughout the State. Paddy and rice are being distributed to the consumers of low income group families through fair price shops. The scheme of procurement of paddy through co-operatives is continuing.

18. As has been mentioned before, Agricultural production suffered considerably during 1962-63 due to floods and incidence of insect pests in various parts of the State. With a view to make up the short-fall in view of the national emergency, schemes for additional increased cultivation of vegetables, onions, etc., have been undertaken. My Government have also initiated a drive for cultivation of Rabi crops and for raising of quick yielding varieties of paddy, such as Ahu and Boro. On the last Republic Day, the intensive agriculture district programme known as 'Package Programme' has been inaugurated in the district of Cachar. It is hoped that this programme, as well as other schemes taken up by the Government will result in substantial increase of food production in the State. The inauguration of the package programme has generated a great deal of enthusiasm and it is hoped, it will give the much needed fillip and boost up our agriculture particularly in Cachar District.

19. The strengthening and expansion of the co-operative movement in the State is necessary from the point of view of increasing agricultural production and affording the necessary facilities for supply of requirements of the cultivator and marketing of his produce. The State Government gave due attention to the development of various sectors of co-operation in the State. A scheme has been initiated to revitalize the co-operative structure for utilising it for the flow of rural credit. It will be implemented in the districts of Nowgong, Cachar and Darrang and North Lakhimpur Subdivision during the year 1963-64. In the sphere of processing co-operatives, steps have been taken to improve the working of the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill and it is proposed to increase the number of Co-operative Rice Mills during 1963-64. Steps are also being taken to set up a Jute Mill in the co-operative sector at Silghat (Nowgong District). The scheme relating to procurement of paddy through Co-operatives is being continued and attempt is being made to link credit with marketing. It is

proposed to accelerate the construction of warehouses in the State in view of the necessity for increase in storage facilities due to present emergency arising out of Chinese aggression on Indian soil.

20. The forest resources of the State are being utilised particularly to meet the demands of the Defence Department, *viz.*, tent pole-making and supply of seasoned timber from the Makum Plant for defence purposes. The work in connection with the Zoo is progressing satisfactorily.

21. As mentioned by my predecessor in the last June-July Session, the development of the Autonomous Hill Districts has been receiving due attention of my Government and approved schemes were sanctioned for implementation early in the year, but due to national emergency the plan allocation under the State sector had to be reduced. All welfare schemes are being continued within the limits of available resources. The building programme in Shillong for the research institute in tribal culture has already been sanctioned and work is in hand. Financial assistance in the form of grants and loans has been extended to District Councils as necessary. The Border Roads organisation is expected to commence its work in the Mizo District in the coming financial year.

22. The measures calculated to improve the standard of living of industrial workers continued to receive due attention. The total number of unemployed on the register of the Employment Exchanges which stood at 30,181 in November, 1961 rose to 41,215 at the end of November, 1962. This is mainly due to the rush of applicants for jobs in Defence Establishments.

23. Two successive floods caused very considerable damage. As a result of the June-July Flood, 59 human lives were lost, about 4,270 square miles were partly or wholly affected comprising about 3,59,862 families. Crops valued at Rs.9,73,82,200 were damaged or destroyed. About 41,160 houses were also damaged or destroyed. Moreover, 2,936 heads of cattle were also lost.

When the relief operations were under progress, a second flood, in the month of August visited the State. This flood was of higher magnitude than that of the flood in the months of June-July. Ninety-eight human lives and

27,586 heads of cattle were lost. Crops valued at Rs.14,37,26,970 were damaged or destroyed. About 34,920 houses were also reported to be damaged or destroyed. Apart from these two floods, erosion was also reported from some parts of the State. To cope with the situation, the Development Commissioner and the Commissioner of Plains Division were entrusted with the task of overall co-ordination of relief operations in the Plains Districts.

24. Implementation of Land Reforms measures already introduced is nearing completion. The Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institutions of Public Nature Act, 1959 has been brought into force from 18th January, 1963. The following land reforms legislations have also been brought into force during the year—

- (1) The Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings (Amendment) Act, 1962.
- (2) The Assam Gramdan (Amendment) Act, 1962.
- (3) The Goalpara Tenancy (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1962.

25. In the matter of road transport, the different schemes for improvement of the State Motor Transport Organisation have been proceeding in spite of the slight set-back caused by the Chinese invasion, during which this Organisation has given a very good account in providing the maximum assistance possible within the limits of its resources.

26. Activities in the sphere of development of industries naturally has suffered a set-back due to the situation created by the Chinese invasion. However, the different schemes taken in hand both in the private and public sectors are progressing now and it is hoped that the loss will be made up in the near future.

27. In the sphere of rural development my Government has taken adequate measures. Sixteen Mahakuma Parishads, 120 Anchalik Panchayats and 2,574 Gaon Panchayats constituted under the Assam Panchayat Act, 1959 are now continuing in the Plains Districts. The emergency has imposed new responsibilities on the Panchayats. The Panchayats have to carry out successfully Village Production Plans. For this purpose and also for assisting defence

efforts with the help of rural man-power, steps have been taken to organise a Village Volunteer Force together with a Defence Labour Bank in each village. Training of Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries is proceeding according to programme. Steps have also been taken for issue of grants and loans to the Panchayats for creation of remunerative assets to serve as a source of future income to supplement their limited resources derived from taxes.

28. The various schemes undertaken for the development of Sericulture and Weaving are progressing satisfactorily. On the L. S.-G. side, schemes for water supply for 8 towns have been taken up. Two new Town Committees started functioning during the year.

29. In the field of Education, my Government has continued the programme of expansion of Primary education. To extend the programme of free compulsory primary education in the hill areas more grants have been placed at the disposal of District Councils. Expansion of facilities for Secondary and Collegiate education is progressing according to plan. The Cadet Corps Schemes have now been considerably expanded and taken up on an emergent basis to build up a reserve of potential officers for Defence purposes. Location for the Sainik School has since been decided and the work on it will start very soon. To assist our boys to compete on equal term with boys of other States for Emergency Commissions a condensed pre-selection training course has been started.

An expanded scheme for training craftsmen has been started in Industrial Institutes.

Government have taken up a scheme for the development of regional languages.

30. The schemes for Medical education already taken up are progressing. My Government is giving due attention to the training of pharmacists, nurses, auxiliary nurses, mid-wives, etc. Measures connected with primary health units, leprosy control, welfare schemes, establishment of dispensaries, family planning centres are all proceeding according to plan. The Public Health Engineering Department is also doing useful work particularly in the field of water supply.

31. The Directorate of Geology and Mining, established recently has started work and it is hoped that it will now be possible for the State Government to take up the development of mineral resources of the State more efficiently as the investigations begin to make progress.

32. The question of oil royalty has been settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. There were differences between the State Government and Union Government on the quantum of royalty payable by the Oil India Ltd., in which the Central Government and the B. O. C. have now equal shares. As a result of the unilateral adoption of a revised formula of "Well Head Value" the State Government was likely to suffer a heavy fall in revenue. This gave rise to legal and constitutional issues. My Government took up the matter with great earnestness with the Centre. After prolonged discussions between the State and the Union Governments, the Prime Minister was pleased to agree to decide the issue and give an award which would bind both Governments.

The award given by the Prime Minister has been satisfactory to all concerned and my Government has accepted it. It is also of considerable significance that the award will now form the pattern for an arrangement on an All-India basis.

33. The total provision for power development during the Third Five-Year Plan, as approved by the Planning Commission is Rs. 2,750 lakhs.

In spite of acute shortage of power, the Assam State Electricity Board has been trying to meet the demand of power for essential services like Defence needs, that of Railways, All-India Radio, Posts and Telegraphs and Engineering and Research Institutions. The demand of industrial consumers has also been met as far as possible.

The existing supply at Jorhat has been almost completely converted from D. C. to A. C. and conversion work at Tezpur is progressing satisfactorily.

The following new places have been electrified during 1962-63--

1. Aijal, 2. Bijohnagar, 3. Mirza, 4. New Palasbari, 5. Abhayapuri,

and the following new places are expected to be electrified during the year—

1. Rampur, 2. Sootea.

The gap between requirement and availability continues to be very great. To meet the situation the special help of the Centre is necessary and may be expected.

34. The Assam Khadi and Village Industries Board has sponsored 6 selected "Gram Ekai" Centres and 14 other centres under the "Naya Morh" programme. The other schemes of the Board which have great impact on rural employment, though hampered by the outbreak of the emergency are also under due implementation.

35. In regard to Town and Country Planning, the preliminary publication of the Master Plan of Greater Gauhati has been made, and the final plan is being published shortly. The draft Master Plan for Tinsukia has been published too, and objections are being received.

36. We are very soon going to enter into the third year of the Third Plan period. This period should be a peak period for developmental activities for a variety of reasons, for, during the first two years all formalities for putting the schemes under implementation should be over and the following two years should see uninterrupted implementation of the schemes. Out of a total outlay of Rs. 120.00 crores under the State Third Plan total outlay approved by the Planning Commission for 1961-62 was Rs. 17.40 crores made up of Rs. 12.50 crores as Central assistance and Rs. 4.90 crores as contribution from State resources, while for 1962-63 it was Rs. 20.40 crores made up of Rs. 14.40 crores as Central assistance and Rs. 6.00 crores as State's contribution for the Plan. At the instance of the State Government, the Planning Commission had also agreed to make available, by way of advance Central assistance, another Rs. 3.00 crores for accelerating the tempo of power programme, raising the ceiling of the 1962-63 development programme to Rs. 23.40 crores. The Central Government have also since agreed to make available, in addition to the above ceiling, a further sum of Rs. 15.00 lakhs for additional minor irrigation, Rs. 102.00 lakhs for additional flood control schemes and Rs. 30.00

lakhs for purchase of diesel sets to meet defence requirements of power. Thus a total programme of the order of Rs.24.87 crores is under implementation in the State during 1962-63 against a programme of Rs.17.40 crores implemented during 1961-62.

In order that there is no hold up in execution of the programme, due to delay in receipt of financial sanction, most of the schemes provided in the annual Plan 1962-63, were cleared in across the table discussions with the representatives of the concerned departments between May and July last. While thus all steps were underway to fulfil the Plan targets envisaged for the year, the massive Chinese aggression across the northern frontiers of the State disrupted the economic activities and the attention of the whole Government machinery had to be diverted to meet the emergency. The Chinese invasion had also necessitated diversification of the productive apparatus by re-orienting the Plans to suit the State's defence requirements. The National Development Council at its meeting on 4th and 5th November, 1962 also suggested that the priorities in the Plan should be re-arranged and adapted to meet the emergency requirements. For a period, a number of activities, important in themselves, and for long-term development have to be deferred or scaled down. To fulfil the objectives warranted by the present situation, the State Government started a review of the 1962-63 programmes so that wherever necessary, planned efforts could be strengthened and where, in the present circumstances, the implementation of plan programmes could wait, be deferred or scaled down. These have become all the more necessary in view of the fact that a number of new schemes to meet the present emergency had to be included in the programme. Thus within the total ceiling of the programme for 1962-63, a total amount of Rs. 54.08 lakhs had to be provided for emergency programme. Despite the stresses and strains caused by the Chinese Aggression it is expected that the Plan targets for 1962-63 will be fulfilled.

For 1963-64, the total outlay is expected to be about 29 crores. My Government is making efforts to increase it further.

At the special request of my Government, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Union Minister and Shri Tarlok Singh, Member of the Planning Commission visited this State in January 1963 along with a number of senior officials of the Union Government. They discussed with my Government the various special problems of this State, particularly in the context of the needs of defence, and appreciated the difficulties that faced this Government. I think we may reasonably hope that this first-hand acquaintance with our problems by the top Ministers and officials of the Union Government will bear fruit in the shape of concrete assistance to this needy State.

37. Bills, one to amend the Assam Excise Act of 1910 and another for the amendment of the Assam Liquor Prohibition Act, 1952 are being placed before the House. There will also be an amendment to the Assam Town and Country Planning Act, an amendment to sections 259 and 396 of the Municipal Act, amendment of certain rules in the Land Revenue Regulations besides the usual financial measures.

38. My Finance Minister will be placing before you comprehensive proposals which will embrace a review of past activities and the future programme of my Government.

39. I have reviewed in brief the problems my Government had to face during the past year, their activities and their future programmes. The situation still continues to be grave. Government and the people are passing through very difficult times indeed and the future remains unpredictable. We can however be reasonably confident that whatever the future may hold in store the people of Assam will rise to the occasion.

JAI HIND

Mr. SPEAKER: We are thankful to the Governor for delivering a very thought provoking address. Now the Governor will leave the House and he will be escorted by the Deputy Speaker and the Secretary. The hon. Members will rise in their seats.

(The Governor left the Chamber at 10.58 hours)

Motion on Governor's Address

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. Under Rule 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I hereby report that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech and a copy of the speech has been placed on the Members' table.

I have received a notice of motion from Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwalla, M.L.A., which is as follows—

“The Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on the 18th February, 1963.”

I hereby fix 23rd February, 1963 as the date of discussion of matters referred to in the Governor's address and further date and time for discussion will be announced in consultation with the Business Advisory Committee which I have already called to-day, the 18th February just after the rise of the House. All amendments to the motion on the address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat by 4 P.M., to-morrow the 19th February, 1963. The business I have just now announced is subject to ratification by the Business Advisory Committee and subsequent approval of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : It is better Shri Agarwalla may move his motion now. He may move his resolution today and speak to-morrow.

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALLA (Tezpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the motion I have already tabled in connection with the Governor's Address.

Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the motion moved by Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwalla.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Tuesday, the 19th February, 1963.

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