



Assam *Complete*  
Legislative Assembly  
Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

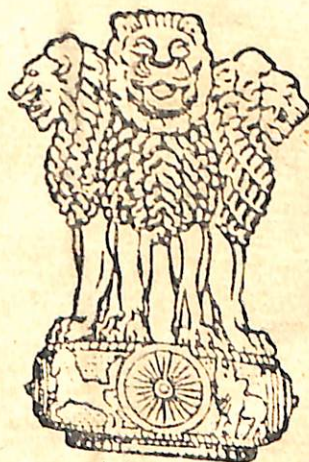
SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE FIRST  
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE  
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN  
CONSTITUTION OF  
INDIA

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REPORT

1917

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

# ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

### GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

SHRI JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM

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55  
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104. Shri Thanuram Gogoi, Nazira-Sonari.
105. Mrs. Usha Barthakur, B.A., B.T., Samaguri.
106. (Vacant) ... .. Naga Hills-North.
107. (Vacant) ... .. Naga Hills-Central.
108. (Vacant) ... .. Naga Hills-South.

**The Speaker**

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L.

**The Deputy Speaker**

Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, B.L.

**Panel of Chairmen**

1. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury,
2. Shri Khagenda Nath Nath,
3. Shri Mohan Singh, and
4. Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa.

**Secretary**

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

The Specter

1. The Specter of the Past

The Specter of the Future

2. The Specter of the Future

Table of Contents

3. The Specter of the Future

4. The Specter of the Future

5. The Specter of the Future

6. The Specter of the Future

Index

7. The Specter of the Future

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M. on Wednesday, the 2nd March, 1955.

**PRESENT**

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, two Parliamentary Secretaries and forty-seven Members.

**Oath of allegiance**

The following Member took oath :—

Pu Lalmawia.

**Governor's Address**

MR. SPEAKER, MY COLLEAGUES,

AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY,

BEFORE I touch upon other subjects, I have the melancholy duty of referring to the great loss sustained by the Country by the sudden deaths of the late Rafi Ahmed Kidwai and Syed Md. Saadulla. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai was a redoubtable fighter for freedom, a superb organiser and leader of men and a brilliant administrator. Syed Md. Saadulla dominated the political scene in pre-Independence Assam for over 20 years and had been associated with this House almost continuously from the Montague Chelmsford Reforms until the last election. The voids left by the death of these two outstanding public men cannot easily be filled and I am sure you will all associate with me in paying a tribute to their memory.

**Natural Calamities**

The year that has ended, has been a trying and difficult one for Assam as three successive floods occurred in June, July and August, 1954, each one more devastating than the previous one. The floods were accompanied by the worst erosion ever experienced in living memory. The total loss of private property including standing crops due to the floods and erosion has been estimated to be over 17 crores of rupees. More than 10,000 families have lost their homesteads or cultivated lands due to erosion. The damage caused to Public Works Department roads, bridges, embankments, etc., was colossal and the reconstruction of the Government administrative buildings and residences, lost due to erosion or dismantled at Dibrugarh,

would also cost several lakhs of rupees. Government had to go to the limit of their resources for granting relief. Nearly 70 lakhs of rupees have already been sanctioned for gratuitous relief, agricultural loan, test relief works and rehabilitation loans. The expenditure will go on increasing as the schemes of rehabilitation make progress and further loans are issued. In addition to the man-power resources of the State Government, including the Armed Police, valuable assistance in relief work was rendered by the Army and several non-official organisations like the I. N. T. U. C., the Indian Tea Association, Assam Oil Company, Students' Organisations and other bodies. The Ramkrishna Mission and the Marwari Relief Society came forward as usual to render help ungrudgingly and the local public at every place organised relief committees which made speedy distribution of relief possible. It is also gratifying to note that Assam's ordeal evoked widespread sympathy from people in the Country as well as from abroad. Foreign Governments like Burma and Thailand sent gifts of rice and the State Governments of Bombay and Madhya Bharat and organisations like the Bombay Millowners' Association, the Glaxo Laboratories and the Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association sent gifts of foodstuffs, cloth, drugs, etc., for free distribution to the flood-affected people.

The financial burden of relief and rehabilitation and the repair and re-construction of damaged property belonging not merely to Government but also to Local Self-Government bodies, educational institutions and other public bodies, being entirely beyond the resources of the State, the Government of India was approached for assistance. I am glad to say that the Government of India have agreed to bear half the expenditure on gratuitous relief and 50 per cent. of the cost of repairs and re-construction on the same principles as were adopted after the 1950 Earthquake. Loans for the remaining 50 per cent. would be available, if needed by the State.

### Flood Control

The key to the State's economic stability and prosperity lies in effective measures of flood control. In my last address, I gave some idea of the steps being taken for the collection of hydrological and other data in connection with multi-purpose river control schemes. Since then, the work has been put on a more systematic basis. A full-fledged River Investigation Circle with four Divisions is already in the field collecting and compiling hydraulic, meteorological, seismological, geological and other data. It is expected that after the current working

season, this Central River Investigation Circle will be in a position to make available to the State Government preliminary engineering feasibility reports on a number of problem rivers. The data now being collected will also benefit planning of integrated flood control measures in addition to the multi-purpose river control schemes.

Faced with the devastating floods not only in Assam, but also in North Bengal, Bihar and U. P., the Central Government constituted a Central Flood Control Board and established the Ganga and Brahmaputra River Commissions. They also asked the State Governments concerned to constitute high-powered State Flood Control Boards. The Assam Flood Control Board with the Chief Minister as its Chairman was accordingly constituted and has taken important decisions both on long-term planning and on taking up certain immediate schemes for town protection and flood control. A separate Chief Engineer for Flood Control work has been appointed. The high priority schemes taken up, include the survey of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries and protection schemes of Dibrugarh, Palashbari, Sualkuchi, Nowgong, Goalpara, Naharkatiya, Silchar, Karimganj, Bhojo and Jamaguri. The estimated expenditure on these schemes during the financial year 1954-55 is over rupees one crore and in the coming financial year, it is likely to be doubled. In the coming year, it is proposed to take up construction of embankments along the Brahmaputra and some of the tributaries and the establishment of a River Research Station in addition to the work already taken up which will be continued until completion. In this connection, I might also review the progress of the flood protection, irrigation and drainage schemes taken up by the Public Works Department from year to year, under the Grow-More-Food and Five-Year Plan Schemes. The progress of these schemes has added to the cultivable area and afforded protection to fields subjected to inundation, thereby contributing to the growing of more food and other crops. The total number of these schemes including those aimed at improving permanently, areas exposed to scarcity and famine mentioned by me in my last address is 165, estimated to cost over  $4\frac{1}{2}$  crores of rupees and benefiting an area of nearly  $8\frac{1}{2}$  lakh acres. Nearly one-third of these schemes have been completed and the others are at various stages of progress, some near completion. The total progressive expenditure till the end of 1954-55 on these schemes is likely to be nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  crores of rupees and Government are making every effort to complete these schemes by the end of the coming financial year. A good deal

of public enthusiasm and co-operation has been evoked by these schemes, as for instance, in the work in connection with the Chunari-Balikuchi embankment in Goalpara Subdivision. Out of a length of nearly 30 miles of embankment to be completed there in one season, about 20 miles are being constructed by the local public in record time. The measures already taken and the schemes in hand and programmed for the next year would give some idea of the massive efforts of Government to combat the menace of floods. With the collection of more detailed data which are the essential pre-requisites of any major work of flood protection and the recruitment of sufficient technical staff, the shortage of whom at present constitutes the major difficulty, it is expected that more major flood protection works would be taken up to afford necessary protection to the State's agriculture and communication system and place its economy on a stable and sound footing. I can assure the House that Government would leave no stone unturned in this work.

### **Food position and Grow-More-Food**

The improvement in the food situation in the State has been really remarkable. Although the Ahu crop was severely damaged by the floods and Sali seedings destroyed, thanks to the efforts of the cultivators with timely assistance from Government, the main Sali crop including its per acre outturn, has been satisfactory on the whole. Consequently, the food position in 1955 is expected to remain satisfactory. The Government maintained huge stocks of rice and paddy which enabled them to rush supplies and keep prices in check in all areas affected by the floods. In view of the satisfactory food position throughout the country, rice and paddy were de-controlled by the Government of India in July 1954. The State Government are still holding sufficient stocks of paddy which are being taken over by the Central Government for the Central Reserve. The stocks, however, will remain physically in Assam to be available at any time the State might require them. The price trend of rice and paddy showed a tendency to decline at the beginning of the year, but the prices have moved up since. The position is being closely watched and if there is any apprehension of prices falling below levels considered economic to the cultivators, Government will take suitable steps for their stabilisation.

In connection with schemes for the control of floods, I mentioned the irrigation, drainage and flood protection schemes undertaken by the Public Works Department, some of which were under the Grow-More-Food Schemes. All these schemes

are intended to benefit the agriculturists and the completion of a number of them has contributed to a great extent to the improvement of the food situation. In addition to the irrigation, drainage and flood protection schemes executed by the Public Works Department, the Agriculture Department completed a large number of minor irrigation schemes and expanded the programme of irrigation with power-pumps. The other items of Grow-More-Food activities like multiplication and distribution of improved seeds, making of compost manure and distribution of fertilisers, utilisation of waste lands and mechanised cultivation, etc., were also carried on. In the Kaki Land Reclamation Project, already a crop of about one lakh maunds of paddy has been produced and another scheme to reclaim 7,000 bighas of land at Subankhata in Kamrup is under implementation. Recently, reclamation work has also been taken up at Philobari in Lakhimpur district which will be jointly financed by the Central and the State Governments and the operation will be carried on by the Central Tractor Organisation.

### Law and Order

The internal law and order situation in the State was normal during the year. The agitation of the Naga National Council for an independent Naga State, however, still continued. The main features of the activities of the Naga National Council were secret meetings and propaganda, collection of funds for continuing the agitation, refusal to supply labourers, essential articles, etc. and agitation for non-payment of house-tax and putting of pressure on Government Gaonburas to resign. Having failed to achieve any tangible result in their campaign against payment of house-tax and inducing Gaonburas to resign by persuasion, they have started taking recourse to coercive and violent methods particularly in the Mokokchung area. Young volunteers of the Naga National Council are reported to have been assaulting loyal Gaonburas and others and terrorising over them. They are also suspected to have burnt down one Inspection Bungalow and a school and damaged bridges and culverts on the Amguri-Mokokchung road. Government had to take necessary action for suppression of unlawful and violent activities and the situation is under control.

There were no violent activities of any other political party and there were no detenues in the State under preventive detention. The State was also free from communal disorders. There was improvement in the general crime situation and dacoities registered a further decline from the figures of 1953



which were considerably better than 1952. For the better control over crime, some Police Stations with unwieldy jurisdictions have been split up, establishing new Stations. A number of Outposts and Investigation Centres have also been opened. It is proposed to continue this process to afford greater security specially to the rural public. The Village Defence Organisation has been a great success and joint patrols by Police and Village Defence Party members have largely been responsible for the marked decrease in crime. Altogether 1,700 parties with nearly 1½ lakh volunteer members are in the field. The Police Wireless Organisation which has developed to a great extent was useful not only in the maintenance of law and order but also during the floods which cut off places from other means of communication. In the coming year, it is proposed to make permanent, a part of the Organisation.

### Border Problems

There was a slight fall in the number of raids and incidents on the Indo-Pakistani border as compared to the previous year. In the majority of incidents, Pakistan nationals were involved while in 3 incidents, exchange of fire took place between Pakistan Armed Police and our Border Security Force. No casualties were sustained by the Assam Police. In the Goalpara-Rangpur border, the joint demarcation was smoothly in progress and fixing of concrete pillars is now going on. Joint survey is proceeding along the Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills border according to agreed programme. The demarcation of the Radcliffe Line in the Patharia area has also been taken up by the Surveys of India and Pakistan. In the Sylhet-Khasi Jaintia Hills border, an agreement was arrived at with the East Bengal Government to allow the two Deputy Commissioners to make *ad hoc* arrangements on the spot without prejudice to the claims of either Government in areas where the boundary was indeterminate. This has enabled the cultivators on both sides to harvest the paddy without any incidents as were recurrent in the past. An agreement was also reached at the Chief Secretaries' Conference for the settlement of Indo-Pakistan fisheries in the Sylhet-Cachar border under which settlements will be made in the presence of officers of both countries alternately by East Bengal and Assam.

Border trade continued to be depressed and the usual arrangements for marketing of border produce including airlift of oranges, etc., were made. The scheme of supplying subsidised rice and other essential commodities to the border people

of Garo Hills and Lungleh subdivision was continued. In the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills border, however, due to some easing of the situation, the scheme for supplying subsidised rice has been discontinued and the amounts earmarked for the purpose have been diverted to certain welfare schemes designed to give permanent relief to the distressed border people. These schemes included the construction of some feeder roads in border areas as test relief work and settlement of some families from the border, in the Bhoi area with loans and grants. These schemes for affording permanent relief will be continued in the next year also. It is hoped that in view of the recently improved Indo-Pakistani relations, the two Central Governments would be able to resolve pending disputes in the near future and find a satisfactory solution particularly of the problems of border trade in which people of both the countries are interested.

### **Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons**

There was a continuous influx of displaced persons from East Pakistan during the whole of the year 1954, raising the estimated total number of displaced persons in the State to 3,58,290 at the close of the year. While further progress in rehabilitation has been made during the year, the fresh influx has added to the problems of formulation of firm plans for expeditious rehabilitation. It has been estimated, however, that by the 30th September, 1954, nearly two and a quarter lakh refugees have been rehabilitated through Government help and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakh bighas of land provided for them by Government or with Government's assistance. Besides, a large number has rehabilitated themselves by their own efforts.

A thorough enquiry into the conditions of the refugees settled under the I. T. A. scheme of the Central Government in Cachar has been made and on the recommendation of the enquiring officer, a plan for reorganisation of the scheme has been worked out. This would include additional financial assistance and allotment of further lands to give agriculturist families economic holdings. Among the schemes for rehabilitation, the establishment of refugee markets at Karimganj, Silchar, Nowgong, Dhubri, Tezpur and Nalbari is under implementation through the respective municipalities, which have been granted long-term loans for the purpose. A few more refugee market schemes are under consideration. During the year, over Rs.33 lakhs were issued as loans to displaced persons, making a grand total of nearly Rs.340 lakhs issued as loans in the State up to the end of 1954.

Destitute women and children are being maintained in the existing Homes and a revised scheme to establish one Central Destitute Women and Children's Home at Nowgong and another at Cachar with a capacity of one thousand inmates each is under consideration. The administration of relief for the maintenance of the indigent, grants for medical aid, financial assistance for marriages, funerals and similar ceremonies was continued and on these items Rs.10 lakhs were spent during the year. Nearly 24,000 displaced students got financial assistance and 34 primary schools meant exclusively for refugee students are being maintained by Government. It is proposed to take up establishment of another 66 primary schools very shortly. Schemes for training of refugee students in crafts like paper-making, printing, book-binding, weaving and spinning as well as in nursing and midwifery were continued. For further vocational and technical training of refugee students, schemes for the expansion of the Civil Engineering School at Gauhati and the establishment of Junior Technical Schools at Nowgong, Tezpur and Silchar are in hand.

### **The Five-Year Plan**

I mentioned in my last year's address that with the increase in the estimate for the Umtru Hydro-Electric Project, the expenditure contemplated under the State Five-Year Plan stood at Rs.18.23 crores. Since then, with the addition of fresh schemes along with some other revisions in the plan, the contemplated total outlay of the State Five-Year Plan stands at Rs.23.7 crores. This figure, however, is exclusive of the expenditure on Community Projects, National Extension Service Blocks and various other schemes in the Central sector. Up to the end of 1953-54, an expenditure of Rs.686 lakhs was incurred and during 1954-55, a programme of over Rs.7 crores was under execution. The contemplated expenditure in 1955-56 is in excess of Rs.9 crores. Every possible effort is being made to increase the tempo of work all round and achieve the targets. It is not necessary for me here to go into the details of the schemes and programmes of development of different departments, an account of which has been given in the State Government's publication on the Five-Year Plan.

In the Umtru Hydro-Electric Project, work is proceeding at a fast pace and at the present rate of progress, it is expected that power would be generated by the end of 1956. It is proposed to take up the extension of the transmission system to the North Bank of the Brahmaputra in the Second Five-Year

Plan period. In addition, a survey is in progress for a second phase of the Umtru Project for construction of a storage dam in the upper reaches of the Umtru river which according to experts, will provide a potential capacity for generating upto 90,000 kwts. of electricity.

Although the First Five-Year Plan of Assam does not contain many spectacular schemes, there has been all round development in every sphere of welfare activities. Particularly notable has been the spirit of self-help displayed by the public. During 1953-54, over 800 schemes of local development involving a Government outlay of Rs.15 lakhs with people's participation coming up to as much as another 50 per cent. in terms of money, were completed. During 1954-55, a similar programme of local development with a Government grant of Rs.15 lakhs and a scheme of rural water supply with Government grant of Rs.14 lakhs with varying public contribution and participation up to 50 per cent. of the Government grants was undertaken.

The State Government have set up a State Welfare Board and the State has been allotted 17 Social Welfare Extension Projects, of which 4 have been taken up for execution. As a result of proposals submitted by the State Government, the Government of India during the current year intimated Central assistance of Rs.42 lakhs for expansion of power facilities in the State. Steps are being taken to utilise this amount by grant of loans to existing and new companies or co-operative societies and also taking up departmental undertakings where possible. The Government of India recently announced a scheme for granting house building loans to low income groups. The State Government have decided to take advantage of the scheme and an organisation is immediately being set up to facilitate the grant of loans to private persons and to local bodies.

In my last address, I mentioned briefly the steps that were being taken for a more methodical planning of the Second Five-Year Plan. In addition to establishing a fully representative State Planning Advisory Board, suggestions from various organisations and individuals were received and considered. Three pilot projects for "planning from below" were carried out in the districts of Cachar, Kamrup and Sibsagar. With the intimation of the likely size of the Second Five-Year Plan by the Government of India and after a broad review of the needs of the State, the State Government have tentatively decided to formulate the Second Five-Year Plan in which provision will be made for expenditure under different heads of

Rs.71.5 crores. In addition, a sum of Rs.5 crores is being set apart to provide for certain special problems and to tackle the peculiar needs of different districts and subdivisions. This monetary ceiling will be exclusive of Community Projects and National Extension Blocks, multi-purpose River Valley Schemes, flood control measures and schemes in the Central sector. A recent joint meeting of the State Development Advisory Committee and the Sub-Committee have generally approved of the size of the Plan and the allocations to different heads.

The different departments are now engaged in preparing the detailed schemes within a definite time schedule. Some schemes will be for the benefit of the State as a whole and others will be broken up districtwise while there will be village level schemes for the exclusive benefit of the rural areas.

### **Community Projects and National Extension Blocks**

Five new National Extension Blocks were inaugurated on the 2nd October, 1954. The total area in the State now covered by Community Projects and National Extension Blocks is over 8,300 sq. miles with a population of approximately 17.5 lakhs in about 5,700 villages. Thus, nearly one-fifth of the rural population of the State has already been brought under the scheme. Progress has been achieved in many fields in the Project areas notable results being achieved in respect of double cropping, introduction of Buro paddy and the Japanese method of cultivation. The best yields of paddy achieved, ranges from 85 maunds of sali paddy per acre in Cachar and Darrang to over hundred maunds in Lakhimpur district while one cultivator of Kamrup got 96 maunds.

Public co-operation has been most noticeable in the construction of minor irrigation canals and roads by voluntary labour. The total mileage of new roads built by voluntary effort in the project areas exceeds 1,200. A number of co-operative societies of different kinds have been started and improved methods in weaving, spinning and other cottage industries have been introduced. The efforts were not confined only to economic betterment and there has been great impetus to educational and cultural activities. Over 700 new schools have been started of which 84 are of basic type. Hundreds of night schools for adults, youth classes, community recreation centres and village libraries have also been established.

Steps were taken during the last year for complete co-ordination of the activities of all development departments in the Project areas and the arrangements made in this State have been accepted as a model by several other States. The training facilities were also substantially expanded to cope with the increased requirements of different types of personnel.

### Autonomous Districts and Tribal Areas

The District Councils in the autonomous districts have continued varied activities including legislation, assumption of different functions as envisaged in the Constitution and establishment of courts, etc. The State Government have as usual been making available trained personnel to assist them in the discharge of their functions. Several Councils have also authorised the State Government to continue to collect taxes, etc., on their behalf and credit the proceeds to the District Funds after deduction of the cost of collection. In the Mizo District, the election to the Village Councils was completed. These Councils have taken over the functions previously exercised by the Chiefs. The necessary legislation for the acquisition of the rights of the Chiefs and payment of compensation was passed and received the assent of the President. The total estimated expenditure on payment of compensation is likely to be of the order of Rs.13 lakhs, half of which will be paid by the State Government and the other half by the Government of India. An officer has been appointed to assist the Deputy Commissioner in assessing compensation and making other necessary arrangements for implementation of the scheme. The work of development carried on by the State Government in different fields has achieved an increased tempo with the progress of organisation of the administrative frame work. In 1954-55, the total grants under Article 275 for welfare schemes in the autonomous districts exceeded Rs.107 lakhs as against Rs.51 lakhs of the previous year. The grant for the plains tribal areas was Rs.24 lakhs.

I mentioned in my last address about the schemes taken up for permanent improvement of the scarcity and famine-affected areas which were submitted to the Government of India for their approval. In view of their urgency and the importance attached by Government to the schemes, implementation was initiated in anticipation of the Government of India's approval with State funds and over Rs.4½ lakhs for schemes in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills and Rs.10 lakhs for the Naga Hills were provided by obtaining supplementary demands in the last August session of the Assembly. I am glad

to say that the Government of India after certain preliminary objections have ultimately agreed to finance these schemes involving a total outlay of Rs.44 lakhs, out of the Central loan assistance. The pilot project for the scientific control of jhum cultivation taken up in the Garo Hills to demonstrate to the tribes the methods of cheap contour bunding, contour weeding and terracing and of reducing the area they are compelled to jhum annually by adopting valuable and quick yielding cash crops like pepper, cashew nuts, coffee, etc., has met with a good deal of initial success and it has been decided to extend the scheme to six more centres in the Mikir, North Cachar and the Lushai Hills. The scheme also includes the cultivation of wattle in abandoned jhummed areas.

To appreciate properly the progress of development in the autonomous hill districts in the last few years, it will be worthwhile to make a comparative study of the position before Independence in a few fields and things as they stand to-day. The total expenditure incurred in the autonomous hill districts in 1947-48 by the nation building departments like Education, Medical, Public Health, Agriculture, Cottage Industries, Co-operation, Veterinary and Civil Works was Rs.23.7 lakhs. The amount budgeted for under the same heads in 1954-55 was Rs.242 lakhs an increase of more than ten times. In physical terms, the number of schools of all description has risen from 1,311 in 1947 to 2,165 in 1954. The number of Government High Schools was doubled and the number of Government Middle Schools were more than trebled during this period. The number of State hospitals and dispensaries has risen from 52 to 88 and roads of all description from 2,040 miles to over 5,441 miles during this period. In 1947, the total mileage of motorable roads in the hill districts was 394 miles which rose to 834 miles in 1954 and at the moment, 931 miles of roads are under construction or improvement to motorable standard. The State Government have also been spending progressively larger amounts from their own resources every year for the development of the hill districts on top of all the grants received from the Government of India under different heads. In 1951-52, the first year when accounts were separately maintained for the Sixth Schedule areas, the excess of expenditure incurred by the State Government was a little over Rs.35 lakhs. In the budget estimates of 1954-55, this amount rose to Rs.130 lakhs. It should also be remembered that this expenditure does not include the State Government's expenditure on the headquarters establishments and institutions maintained for the benefit of the whole State in which the autonomous districts also have an equal interest as the other districts.

I mentioned earlier that Government have tentatively decided to prepare schemes of development under the Second Five-Year Plan within a monetary ceiling of Rs.71.5 crores with another Rs.5 crores as reserve. Schemes exclusively for the tribal areas are likely to involve an outlay of over Rs.8 crores within that financial ceiling. It is also estimated that to continue some of these schemes taken up during the first Plan period in the tribal areas, another sum of Rs.3 crores will be needed during the Second Plan period. Government can legitimately be proud of their achievements in the autonomous hill districts and tribal areas during the short period after Independence. The rate of development could not be dreamed of during the previous regime and it is getting faster everybody. The Government's plans for the coming few years have been ambitiously conceived involving more than three fold increase in the financial outlay and efforts over the first Plan period.

### **Economic and Financial**

The stability in the economy of the Country which was noticed in 1953 was continued in 1954 which also saw easy food position, increased industrial production and a gradual fall of wholesale prices over the country as a whole. In Assam, the devastating floods created a setback but the tea industry is going through a period of unprecedented prosperity and jute prices improved although a good part of the crop was destroyed by the floods. The prospecting operations of the Assam Oil Company at Naharkatiya met with success and crude oil is being extracted from several wells. But for the heavy loss caused by the floods, one could legitimately expect an easing of the economic condition in the State. I can only hope that in the coming year nature would be kind and would not deprive the people of the State of the fruits of their toils. Although considerable volume of employment was generated by the Government's development activities and the renewed prosperity of the tea industry, the growth of employment is not keeping pace with the number of employment seekers which is causing concern to Government. They have taken up several schemes and are substantially expanding the facilities for technical and vocational education.

I mentioned in my last address that in order to cope with the need for more and more funds to finance the welfare and development schemes Government have been seriously searching for all possible ways to augment the revenues of the State. The last Budget Session enacted into law some of the new



measures of taxation. Consequent upon all these measures, the budgetary position had somewhat improved and the details would be given by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech and the Financial Statement.

The budget estimate for the next year will indicate that Government have gone to the hilt to make adequate provision for nation building and welfare services in addition to the schemes under implementation under the Five-Year Plan.

### Legislative

The Legislative Programme before the House is comparatively small this time. The Assam Finance Bill, 1955, is intended to fix the rates of agricultural income-tax for the coming financial year and the Assam Stamp Amendment Bill, 1955, seeks to keep in force, *in die*, the Assam Stamp Amendment Act, 1950, with the increased rates.

The Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955, seeks to empower Government to grant postponement of realisation of interests due on loans in genuine cases of hardship. The Assam Forest Amendment (Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955, and the Criminal Law Amendment (Extension to Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955, seek to extend the provisions of the Assam Forest Amendment Act, 1946, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1938 respectively, to the autonomous districts, where they were not hitherto applicable. In order to allow the work in connection with flood control schemes to progress unhampered, the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood control and Prevention of Erosion Ordinance was passed recently and a bill for enacting the provisions of the ordinance is also before the House.

### Conclusion

It has not been possible for me even to touch upon various aspects of the continuously expanding field of activities of the Government in the administrative and welfare spheres except refer to some of the important matters.

In the economic life of the State, cottage and small scale industries play an important part. The Departments of Cottage Industries, Weaving and Sericulture are continuing schemes of demonstrations, training and issuing loans. A large number of emporia are being established in different areas of the State and outside, for better marketing of cottage industries products. As a result of intensive work of the Departments, substantial increase in the production of hand-loom cloth, mulberry silk, muga and eri in the State has been

reported. The Industrial Finance Corporation has started functioning and has taken up the work of financing the small scale and medium sized industries in the State which apply for assistance. It is hoped that people will take full advantage of this organisation to develop small and medium size industries which create employment. Government are also actively considering the establishment of major industries in the State for which ample provision of funds would be made under the Second Five-Year Plan. Preliminary negotiations in connection with several industries are in progress. The Co-operative Department has taken up the re-organisation of the credit movement with loans from the Reserve Bank of India. In addition to short-term loans, provision is also being made to issue medium-term and long-term loans through co-operative organisations. The Shellac Factory at Chaparmukh has gone into production.

The Government's efforts have not been confined to economic development only and considerable progress has been made by the Medical and Public Health Departments. The provincialised hospitals and the nursing services have been improved. There has been an increase in the number of hospitals and dispensaries and the rural areas are being covered progressively with a net-work of maternity and child welfare centres. The most remarkable progress has been achieved in the fight against tuberculosis. The diagnostic and treatment facilities in the State are being multiplied manifold. In the establishment of T. B. Hospitals, public munificence has been most encouraging. In this connection, the donation of Shri B. Gupta of Silchar and the raising of an handsome amount by the public of Dhubri deserve mention. These have followed the gift made by Haji Jalaluddin of Dibrugarh and referred to by me last year.

The activities of the Education Department are expanding fast in all directions as will be evident from the budget proposals. They also include expansion of the facilities of technical education.

Government have been following steadfastly the goal they have set before themselves of bringing about all-round improvements in the economic and social life of the masses. The First Five-Year Plan which represents their concrete efforts would be completed at the end of the financial year now being ushered in. In the implementation of the Plan, there were initial setbacks but most of the difficulties and uncertainties of finance have been overcome and an increased tempo of work has been achieved. I hope that the financial as well

as the physical targets would be substantially realised at the end of the Plan period. Even if achievement falls short of the targets in some spheres, there is nothing to despair as solid progress would have been achieved in most fields and valuable experience gained. I have mentioned earlier, that Government contemplate an ambitious plan—more than three times the size of the First Five-Year Plan exclusive of any river valley schemes that may be found feasible, and Community Projects and National Extension Blocks. Steps are being taken for a careful and methodical preparation of the detailed schemes with an assessment of the requirement of personnel and gearing up of the administrative machinery. With the measures being taken and contemplated, I have no doubt that the implementation of the Second Plan would go forward at an even pace from the very beginning. But in realising the objects of the plan, the efficiency of the administrative set-up and the availability of financial resources are not enough. The entire emphasis of the Second Five-Year Plan is to make it genuinely a people's plan, to cater for the needs and requirements of the masses in all fields of activity and realise their hopes and aspirations. It is incumbent, therefore, that there is maximum public enthusiasm and the maximum of public co-operation and effort. The experience in the Community Projects and National Extension Block areas and of the numerous local development and self-help schemes being implemented throughout the State, shows clearly, that there is wide awakening in the country and a genuine desire for realising a better life. The fortitude with which lakhs of people have faced the calamities caused by the floods and the determination with which they have applied themselves to repair the damage and rebuild their lives are also a pointer to the essential qualities of the men and women of Assam. These factors are of the highest importance in the fulfilment of the gigantic task the country has embarked upon, namely the planned development of a vast country with nearly 360 millions of people. In our country, the planning is democratic and the execution is based on voluntary co-operation without the use of any force or any compulsion. History of mankind has no parallel and the entire world is watching this experiment in India with wide-eyed interest. I have ample confidence that the main object and the main task will be kept firmly in view by everyone in Assam, regardless of the fact whether he comes from the hills or the plains, from the village or the town or what faith he professes or what language he speaks or whether he is a worker in the field or the factory or behind a desk in an office. I firmly hope that

no temporary factor or ephemeral cry would deflect the people from the goal before them or detract from their unity of purpose in achieving the goal.

### JAI HIND

#### Motion of thanks for the Governor's Address

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Governor has left the Chamber.

Under rule 24(2) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby report to the Assembly that the Governor has been pleased to make a Speech, a copy of which is laid on each Member's table.

I have received notice of a motion from Shri Mohi Kanta Das, Government Chief Whip, which is as follows :—

“That 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 assembled on March 2, 1955.”

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in connection with the Address which the Governor has been pleased to deliver in this House, I beg to move as follows :—

“That 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 assembled on March 2, 1955.”

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the Motion moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Motion moved is :

“That 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 assembled on March 2, 1955”

I hereby fix 3rd March, Thursday, 4th March, Friday and the 5th March, Saturday as the dates for discussion of the Motion or matters referred to in the Governor's Speech.

Notices of amendments to the Motion or the address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 5 P. M. today.

## PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The following Members will form the Panel of Chairmen for the Budget Session, 1955 :—

1. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury,
2. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath,
3. Mr. Maham Singh, and
4. Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa.

### Condolence Motion on the death of Maulavi Saiyid Sir Muhammad Saadulla

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I have received notice of another Motion which wants to make a reference in this House to the death of Sir Muhammad Saadulla *ex*-Premier of Assam, at the end of the business of the House to-day after item 4.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I take this opportunity of referring to the sad and sudden death of Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla. He was long associated with this House and the political life of Assam. He was an astute lawyer. He began his practice, as is known to many of us, in the Calcutta High Court and in the midst of great competition he established his practice there. His activities were not confined as a lawyer in Calcutta but he was also alive to the need of serving his country in other more important sphere.

He came and joined the political life of Assam and continued to serve the country for about 30 years. He served as Prime Minister of the State for several years till Congress assumed power some time in 1938 and then again he came to power and continued as Chief Minister till February 1946. Besides that he functioned as Leader of the Opposition and his parliamentary activities had always been appreciated by every Member of this House. He carried on the deliberations in this House without any passion and without generating any heat. In his private life he was a perfect gentleman. We to-day mourn his loss and it will be difficult to fill the gap which has been left by the death of such an eminent politician. He not only served here, he was also associated with the political life of the country generally. He was a member of the Constituent

Assembly and did valuable work for the country there, particularly in the framing of certain articles of the Constitution, like Article 275 regarding financial provision, which we are taking advantage of to-day. We have assembled here to-day for the first time since his sudden death and I take this opportunity of referring to and condoling his death. We are all grieved at the sudden death of this eminent personality who was an able administrator and statesman. With these few words, Sir, I record our sense of grief at the sudden death of Saiyid Md. Saadulla and I am sure other Members of the House will also associate themselves with this reference.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, I on behalf of the Members sitting on this side of the House, fully associate with the feelings expressed by the Leader of the House in paying tribute to the memory of Saiyid Md. Saadulla.

Saiyid Md. Saadulla was a towering personality in the political life of Assam and for long 20 years he stalked over the land as an astute politician and a noble statesman. It was not always possible to agree with all his policies, but it cannot be denied that he loved Assam and the people of Assam with all his heart. When most of the Muslim League politicians left for Pakistan, Saiyid Md. Saadulla decided to stay in Assam and see that the people of Assam prosper under a good Government. Saiyid Md. Saadulla was one of the few architects who framed the Constitution of India and it is left to us to-day to see that the fundamental rights, which have been enumerated in our sacred Constitution, are enjoyed by every one in this country irrespective of caste and community and it will be the best memorial to late Saiyid Md. Saadulla if we can do this much at this hour.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I endorse every word that fell from the lips of the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

It is a sad thing to record the death of a classmate and a close friend of mine as Sir Saadulla was. He came from Nazira in the district of Sibsagar and his parents settled down at Gauhati. Both Sir Saadulla and his elder brother late Jonab Obeidulla were very good students. Jonab Obeidulla stood first in the B.A., Examination of the Aligarh University and Saadulla came out successfully from the Presidency College, where we were studying together. In the beginning of his life he was offered many tempting jobs, but he preferred to

take to law where he was a great success. He possessed a creative genius and his mind diverted to the constructive side of politics and became a Member of this House, which he adorned for many years and subsequently as Chief Minister he served the country for seventeen long years. He carried his work conscientiously in his own light and administered his country justly and fairly as far as possible according to his principles. He was a rare personality which captivated the minds of all those who came in contact with him and he had wonderful charms of manners, urbanity and suavity. Even when he disagreed, he agreed to differ in a way which convinces you of his difficulty and the reasonableness of his disagreement. The beautiful traits of his conduct remained all throughout his life even to the end. One day when I came to Shillong on a professional call and stayed in a place which was hardly visible from the road, but somehow or other he noticed me and for hours together stepped down to the house and stayed with me memories. This was at a time when our political views were poles asunder. Such a man one can never forget.

His statesmanship led him to become a Member of the Constituent Assembly where his contribution towards the framing of the Constitution was very great and as a Member of the Drafting Committee he impressed its members with statesman-like views and liberal ideas. He did his best for the protection of all the minorities in India. Thus Assam lost a great personality and a statesman in the demise of Sir Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla and we all mourn his loss.

The House stands adjourned till 10 A.M. to-morrow as a mark of respect for late Sir Saadulla.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday the 3rd March, 1955.

Shillong:

The 12th August 1955

A.G.P. (L. A.) No. 232/55-126--16-8-1955.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.

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