



1951

**Proceedings of the Third Session of the Assam Legislative  
Assembly assembled under the Sovereign  
Democratic Republican Constitution of India.**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 8th March, 1951.

P R E S E N T

**The Hon'ble Srijut LAKSHESVAR BOROOAH**, Speaker, in the Chair, the seven Hon'ble Ministers, three Deputy Ministers and twenty seven Members.

**Oath of Allegiance to the Constitution of India**

The following Member was sworn in under the Constitution of India :  
Maulavi Md. Maked Ali.

**Panel of Chairmen**

**The Hon'ble SPEAKER :**

The following Members will form a Panel of Chairmen for the Budget Session, 1951 :—

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN, B.L.**

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN.**

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA.**

**Dr EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY.**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Deputy Speaker will escort His Excellency the Governor to the Assembly now.

(The Deputy Speaker and the Secretary left the Chamber).



### Address by His Excellency the Governor

**His Excellency the Governor Shri JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM:** Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues and Friends and Members of the Assembly.

Six months have passed since I had the privilege and the pleasure of addressing you as the representatives of the people of Assam. These six months have cast new shadows on our Nation's face. Another great leader of the country has passed away. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's achievements, many years ago, earned for him the title of Sardar and he proved to be, when struggle was replaced by power, as great a Commander of the people as when he strove against foreign rule. None could have put the Nation's loss more appropriately than did the Prime Minister when, on the demise of the Sardar, he said: "Sardar Patel will be remembered as a great Captain of our forces in the struggle for freedom and as one who gave us sound advice in times of trouble as well as in moments of victory, a friend and colleague and comrade on whom one could invariably rely; as a tower of strength which revived wavering hearts when we are in trouble". Sardar Patel proved to be greater than Bismark who consolidated Germany. The Sardar consolidated a land which was vaster than Germany and integrated into one whole more numerous and more varied units of administration than did that great maker of the German State. But the Sardar's contribution has been equally epoch-making in the most important sphere of law and order. He knew how to be firm against violence and yet was sensitive to the peoples' true liberty. His advice and action in the entire field of administration helped to stabilise the new Government over an area which, but for Partition, was greater than was ruled by Ashoka. He had his great share in achieving this result in collaboration with men at the head of the realm who were tried warriors where battle was to be given, but who were new to the secrets of wise administration of a country which was peopled by one-sixth of the human race and over a nation which was characterised by unparalleled variety of social and cultural make-up. His prophetic vision, his leonine courage, his political acumen made him a mighty pillar of the new Republic. He has gone leaving us not merely the memories of a great statesman but also partially fulfilled tasks which it should be now our sacred duty to complete and thus take the nation a big step further in its onward march.

#### International Situation

Developments have occurred in the international situation within the last few months which should cause anxiety to every



peace-loving person. The Korean dispute has threatened to enmesh the countries of the world in another sanguinary conflict. The ceaseless efforts of our Prime Minister to persuade the civilized nations to settle their disputes in a peaceful manner, have not found the response they deserve. There is no doubt, however, that the independent line taken by India in her foreign policy and the lead she has given time and again by her attempts to get the nations to solve differences amicably, has raised her international status. India, through her Prime Minister, has appealed to advancing America not to repeat the political error of crossing the 38th parallel in Korea and thus serve the fundamental cause for which the United Nations Organisation was created. As I speak today, the sequence to that appeal is still uncertain. The world seems to hang over the yawning abyss of another global war in which human culture will again disappear from sight and civilized men will once more play the part of the wild denizens of the jungle. May the Four-Power talks just begun save us from the abyss. Irate public opinion in the United States misled by its press is flinging into India's face its unsolved problem of Kashmir. But the issue is not that no nation will have unsolved territorial problems with its neighbours but that armed conflict will remain the very last method of defending one's rights. No nation has a prouder record than India which though provoked by proved armed aggression inside her territory in Kashmir, responded with exemplary promptness to an appeal for cease-fire leaving many problems to be solved in due time and has throughout the last two years not only refrained from crossing the cease-fire line but has made untiring endeavours to make her neighbour to agree a no-war declaration. If there is any nation which today can voice the unexpressed urge for peace of the masses of all countries it is India and she has spoken boldly and firmly for a cease-fire in Korea. The warring nations may not but History will thank India for her stand.

Events on our North Eastern Frontier have demanded increased vigilance recently from both the Government of India and the State Government. As recently stated by the Prime Minister, our policy is not to get ourselves entangled with any bloc and to check aggression whencesoever it may come with all the resources at our command. But we look forward, with hope, to friendly relations with all our neighbours. Soon after Independence, the Bhutan Government approached the Government of India with a request for the revision of certain treaties concluded between the Bhutan Government and the Indian Government during the British regime. The Bhutan Government complained that these treaties were harsh and were signed



by them under duress. A new treaty of Darjeeling was therefore concluded between the two Governments in 1949, one of the terms of which was the retrocession to the Bhutan Government of 32 square miles of territory at present forming part of India in the State of Assam. The Chief Minister will be moving a resolution in the House on this subject so that with the consent of this House, Parliament can enact a law providing for the cession to Bhutan of the area known as the Dewan Giri. May I venture to say that it is not usual in the history of international relationships that a comparatively stronger power returns to a weaker country any territory which it has gained under a treaty? This has been done because India wants to act correctly in its relations with other nations even though this may involve some sacrifice.

### Earthquake Relief

In my last address I dealt at considerable length with the earthquake of the 15th August last, and the havoc it had wrought. As was feared, the disturbances caused in the channels of the Brahmaputra and its various tributaries on the north, brought a spate of floods during the months of October and November, and in one of these floods a colleague of mine, the Hon'ble Shri Omeo Kumar Das, had a miraculous escape but to the grief of all several of his companions—ardent public workers who were even at the time of their death engaged in bringing succour to flood-stricken people—lost their lives while on this fateful mission of mercy. Their sacrifice will ever be a source of inspiration to Assam's youth. It is difficult even now to assess accurately the total loss of life and property due to the earthquake and the subsequent floods. The total estimated damage to roads and buildings itself is of the order of a crore. The works for the protection of Dibrugarh town which the Brahmaputra has been eroding at a rapid rate since the earthquake are estimated to cost 40 lakhs. The Government of India have promised to meet half the cost of repair works and have agreed to give loans for other protective works. An expert Committee has been examining the extent to which the regimes of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries have been disturbed as a result of the earthquake and will recommend remedial measures for the protection of the areas which have now become subject to inundation and erosion as well as for training the various rivers. Liberal assistance has been provided from the Governor's Earthquake Relief Fund to persons who have been rendered destitute and homeless on



account of this cruel visitation of nature, and the victims of the earthquake will be receiving relief from the Fund to the extent of about half a crore of rupees in the shape of food, clothes, blankets, utensils, yarn, building materials, milk and other things. I take this opportunity of conveying my grateful thanks and those of my Government and the people of Assam to all those numerous persons and institutions in the country and abroad who have contributed so generously to the Earthquake Relief Fund. I also congratulate the Marwari Relief Society, the Kashi Bishwanath Samity, the Sankar Mission, the North Lakhimpur Congress Committee, the Mahila Samity and other charitably disposed organisations whose devoted bands of workers have toiled ceaselessly in the affected areas even at great peril to their lives. My Government also allotted considerable sums in the form of gratuitous relief and agricultural loans for the rehabilitation of the agricultural population. Forty-five thousand bighas of land in Rupahi, Borhil, Bokanadi, Gamnadi and Nemutenga areas and in the Boginadi and the Subansiri Forest Reserves have been made available for the settlement of 1,800 families whose fields were destroyed by the earthquake. An area of over 41,000 bighas of grazing reserves has been thrown open for cultivation with the double object of rehabilitating the landless and increasing the production of food in the State. Besides this, Government have also dereserved  $7\frac{1}{2}$  square miles of fuel reserve near Sadiya for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people.

### **Indo-Pakistan Agreement of April 1950**

The Agreement concluded between the two Prime Ministers in April 1950 has led to a movement for return among the Muslim migrants of Assam and the Hindu refugees of East Bengal. Almost all the former have come back to us and a substantial minority of the latter have gone back to their original districts. Under the instructions of the Central Minority Ministers my Government have been engaged in taking action to implement the various provisions of the above Agreement. A Minority Commission has been set up, Districts and Subdivisional Minority Boards have been formed and a Search Service Bureau for the recovery of abducted women is in the process of being set up, although, I am proud to say, that the people of this Province have not been guilty of this dastardly crime of kidnapping women and children. An Ordinance known as the Assam Evacuee Property Ordinance was promulgated last month to enable the returning Muslims to obtain possession of



their property as well as to make arrangements for the administration of the property of those Muslims who do not come back before the 31st March 1951. The atmosphere for the returning Muslim migrants has vastly improved in the countryside and the rapidity with which a recent unfortunate incident in Kamrup district was localised and nipped in the bud and the readiness with which some of the guilty persons openly surrendered themselves in response to our Chief Minister's appeal are evidence that the communal situation in this State is well in hand.

### **Law and Order position**

Besides the improvement in the relations between the two communities, there is also a gratifying reduction in crime. Throughout the last six months the State Police have been engaged in a concerted drive against the members of certain subversive organisations whose avowed object is to bring about a violent revolution by employing terrorist methods. Members of these organisations have committed several dacoities, murders and other heinous offences in furtherance of their objective, and at one time the whole countryside was cowed down by these anti-social forces. The combined operations against the subversive organisations in the Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts have been successful and have yielded a large number of lethal weapons and important documents which have helped us to understand the objectives and tactics of these organisations. The villagers in the affected areas deserve our congratulations for with their co-operation and prompt organisation into Village Defence Parties, they made the task of the Police much easier. I must in this connection congratulate also the Police force of the Province on the success achieved by them though they had little respite after the disturbances earlier in the year which had already imposed a heavy strain on them. The development of the State with the concomitant increase in population will naturally require an expansion of the police force and a speedy extension of the police administration into the less accessible areas of the State. We have already added seven platoons to the existing armed strength of the police. My Government wish to inform the House that in view of the vital character of the subject of law and order, the whole question of the re-organisation of the police force is now under their consideration.

### **Rehabilitation of Refugees**

Government are making progress in their programme for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons from East Bengal



who have taken shelter in this State. A total number of 2,600 families has so far been rehabilitated through the agency of the State Government. Another 7,600 families were temporarily allotted the lands evacuated by the Muslims, but on the return of the original owners of these lands alternative arrangements are now being made for the displaced Hindu families. My Government have distributed Rs.9,36,000 as loans to displaced persons in the urban and the rural areas. Among the schemes for permanent rehabilitation of these persons is the proposal for an agricultural colony for 2,400 families in Barpeta and another colony for 200 families in Rangia. A scheme for settling 2,500 families on land in the Goalpara district is awaiting approval by the Government of India, and there is a further scheme to rehabilitate 200 families on lands requisitioned from tea gardens in Nowgong district. There are several schemes for rehabilitating artisans and craftsmen, and for women, a Maternity and Child Welfare Training Centre has been opened in Nowgong. At Gauhati a Home for 100 unattached women and children is being opened. A Bill known as the Assam Displaced Persons Rehabilitation Loans Bill which will be placed before you during this session provides for the grant of loans to displaced persons and for their recovery as arrears of land revenue.

### Food Situation

Hon'ble members of the Assembly are fully aware that the food situation in the country as a whole continues to be serious and within our own State also it has become the cause of considerable worry to my Government. To meet the situation in the country, the Government of India have directed that for a period the cereal ration should be further reduced by 25 per cent. so as to build up stocks for the coming lean months.

My Government gave anxious thought to the effect of this new directive of the Central Government on the people of this State. The cut was being imposed on all the States in the country. Whether a State was surplus, self-sufficient or deficit in food, it had to bear the cut. It was a call for temporary sacrifice by all in the country to save the people from grave difficulties in the coming months. Could we on behalf of Assam say that we want to fall behind the nation at a time of national emergency and that our rationed population must eat their fill while our countrymen elsewhere had to tighten their belt around half empty stomachs? And so my Government have fallen in a line with the rest of India. We must stand



together in adversity as in prosperity, we all, who are members of the Indian Republic. But my Government had also a special problem to deal with and a special duty to perform. It could not forget the interest of labour. It has been ever watchful of those interests. The welfare of labour is one of the objectives nearest to its heart. Labour in the tea gardens had already put itself patriotically on a par with the heavy manual workers in the country by accepting a reduction in their weekly wage rations. Another cut of 25 per cent. would have meant a further reduction in their wages which they could not bear. My Government took up the cause of labour even in this emergency. It is a matter for gratification that in response to our appeal, the Government of India have agreed not to enforce this 25 per cent. cut in the case of heavy manual labour in tea gardens and the industrial areas of Assam.

During the financial year 1950-51, the State had to face a series of unusual calamities. We had the great earthquake of August last. We had unprecedented floods in its wake. Communal disturbances had their effect on production. And lastly the insect pests took their share of our crops. It has been estimated that the crop yield as compared with the previous financial year (1949-50) has gone down by as much as 4,41,500 tons (in terms of rice) owing to lands remaining fallow or having been rendered unfit for cultivation and because of damage to standing crops. Apart from the above loss in yield, the amount of paddy already produced which was destroyed in granaries by earthquake and floods, was 4,852 tons and in the course of communal disturbances 14,226 tons. This meant an additional deficit of some 19,000 tons.

In spite of all these difficulties, however, my Government succeeded last year in meeting its internal commitments and could feed all the deficit areas with some aid from outside. It would appear that unless special steps are taken, this State will have lost its position of being a surplus province. To relieve the situation, the State Government prohibited movement outside the State of rice and other cereals altogether since last year and the Government of India have made an allotment of 24,000 tons of wheat products for the current year. While production has suffered due to the causes enumerated above, our commitments have substantially increased. Apart from the normal increase in population, several lakhs of refugees have taken shelter in Assam. On the other hand, the Muslim migrants whose lands mostly lay fallow due to disturbances have now returned. The people rendered destitute by earthquake



and flood have had to be fed. All these factors have made the food problem of the State a serious one and unless the people co-operate fully in the production and procurement drive of the Government, the future for us, to say the least, will be far from bright.

To deal with the problem, my Government have this year prepared a more comprehensive scheme for procurement of food crops from the surplus parts in the State, in order to meet the obligation of feeding the statutory rationed areas and to provide food at controlled price in the deficit pockets and partially rationed areas and for the industrial and Tea garden labourers. Paddy grown by Tea garden labourers is being set off against their rations. Small procurement units in surplus areas with a single Government purchasing agent have been created in order to eliminate competition. Check-gates at convenient points have been established to enforce strict control over the movement of paddy. The Assam Foodstuffs (Food-grains) Control Order of 1951 has been promulgated to make this scheme effective and the district officers have been given adequate powers and responsibilities to step up both production and procurement.

My Government hope that it will be realised that the interests of the agricultural masses are linked up with the Government's plans of procurement. So long as rationing continues in the country, the Government of India have to import food from outside if the producers inside the country do not give all that is needed. To the extent that Government have to spend money and foreign exchange on importing food, to that extent will they have less for importing a large variety of other goods needed directly or indirectly for the cultivator's benefit. What the agriculturist needs, is either produced inside India or is imported. For increasing and cheapening Indian products, more of machinery and raw materials have to be imported for Indian factories. Cloth, implements, and other requirements of the agricultural producer require both new machinery and more raw material, if the needs of the agriculturists are to be met. And yet money and foreign exchange in the hands of Government are limited. The more we spend on foreign food, the less is available for importing things which are essential for rural interests. The food producer should not put himself in a vicious circle and act against his own interests by withholding his surplus from the procurement agent and obliging Government to import food from outside. Those who are advising the producers not to give their surplus to Government are thus advising them against their real interests.



My Government trusts that the public-spirited citizens and non-official groups throughout Assam will propagate the message of co-operation in the countryside and persuade those fortunate brothers who have surplus stocks of grain to part with their surplus to feed those who are in dire need. The war drums are beating. The war dance may soon follow. With the war, the ships will carry only the agents and engines of death. Hardly any ships will be available for importing food. Shall we then let others starve while our own granaries bulge overful? My Government have taken care of every interest of the agricultural producer. Only recently they moved the Government of India to allow them to pay an increased procurement price of Rs.10 per maund of paddy in place of Rs.7-8-0 a maund, since the cost of agricultural requirements have been high for some time. The Government of India have been good enough to agree to this increased procurement price. Our Government have therefore every justification to expect that the agriculturists of Assam will rise to the occasion and discharge their duty to themselves and the country. It is needless to say that this procurement scheme, which touches a vast multitude of producers and middlemen, can only succeed with the whole-hearted co-operation of the people themselves.

The Chief Minister and I during the course of our visits to various districts have emphasised that the achievement of self-sufficiency in food is of the utmost importance to Assam, situated as she is at present with a vulnerable narrow link with the rest of the country. The Grow-More-Food section of the Agriculture Department is doing everything possible to increase the production of food. Over 900 minor and 29 major irrigation schemes have been undertaken. It is estimated that by these measures about 4,80,000 acres of land will come under cultivation or receive assured water supply and increase food production by nearly one lakh tons. The Revenue Department has also thrown open about 53,000 acres of land for cultivation. This should make a further substantial addition to our food resources. Mechanical cultivation has made a beginning and more than 8,000 acres have been either ploughed or harrowed. Further steps have been taken in the direction of improvement of agricultural methods. For it has been realised that the lasting remedy against deficiency in food is not merely extension of acreage under food crops but better methods of cultivation giving higher yields. The programme of establishing district seed farms is being pushed on. We have had during recent months, an encouraging response to our



campaign for compost making and the villagers are becoming conscious of the value of enriching the soil with all available organic manure. The Plant Protection Scheme has made good progress and the co-operation of the cultivator in protecting his crop against pests is readily forthcoming. A scheme for crop protection against wild animals is under consideration. The Tea Garden Land Utilization Scheme and the scheme for loans for fallow-land cultivation have been put into operation. To remove the results of the food production measures from the sphere of uncertainty and guess work, a scheme for a scientific check-up of these results has been proposed and when implemented will place us on a firmer basis as to the outcome of each measure adopted. Government are conscious that the food production programme has to be carried on with even greater vigour, if the State of Assam is to be made self-sufficient, despite the yearly visitation of some calamity or other. But whatever may be the Government schemes and their plans to execute them, full results will never ensue unless the people manifest the will to produce more. That will has to be generated. The programme of food production has yet to grip the mind and fire the imagination of the average cultivator. In this field, my Government naturally rely upon the co-operation of the non-official leaders of the rural people.

### **Problems of Autonomous Districts**

In my last address I explained at some length the proposals contemplated under the Constitution for the conferment of substantial powers of self rule on the elected representatives of the Autonomous Districts. Government are anxious as early as practicable to hold elections to the District Councils which are required to be set up in the autonomous districts of the State under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. The relevant rules for the composition of, the District Councils, the conduct of elections and the procedure and conduct of business, and for the establishment of the executive machinery to implement the decisions of these District Councils have been drafted, and forwarded to the Advisory Councils in these districts for their comments and suggestions. These rules will be finalised in the near future, in the light of the comments and suggestions received.

The delay in some of the districts in the delimitation of constituencies for elections to the District Councils, the extensions from time to time, by the Government of India, of the last date for objections to entries in the preliminary electoral



roll and the consequent delay in the finalisation and printing of the electoral rolls, the time further taken in finalising the boundaries of some of the autonomous districts, as for instance the Mikir Hills autonomous district, due to the elaborate constitutional procedure prescribed—and the various essential preliminaries which have to be gone through before elections under adult franchise in areas almost totally lacking in modern means of communication can be held—all these causes have been responsible for the delay in holding elections to the District Councils. Despite Government's best efforts to expedite the holding of these elections, they have reluctantly come to the conclusion that there are insurmountable practical difficulties in holding them before the advent of the rains. Government have, therefore, decided that the elections should be held early during the next cold weather, and the necessary preparations are being made with this target in view. In the meantime, the Advisory Councils, which in practice are being treated as 'Provisional District Councils' are functioning well in all the five districts where they have been set up, and the views expressed by these bodies have played an important role in the shaping of Government policies in these districts.

In my address to you last September, I referred to a Three-Year Scheme for the development of the autonomous districts which had been formulated and submitted to the Government of India for the provision of funds under Article 275 of the Constitution. The Government of India have sanctioned a sum of Rs.24 lakhs, for the implementation of the first instalment of the Scheme, during the current financial year. Of this amount, Rs.11.33 lakhs have been earmarked for the construction of roads, as Government are convinced that the key to the development of the hill areas lies in the improvement of communications. Among the important road projects taken up this year are the Silchar-Aijal Road, the Amguri-Mokokchung Road and the Mawphlang-Balat Road. Unfortunately, however, due to the late receipt of Government of India's sanction to the implementation of the development projects, it was feared that an appreciable part of the current year's grant may lapse, and some of the projects which were originally intended to be completed during the current year may remain unfinished at the close of the year. My Government however, hope to have the lapsed portion of the grant reallotted next year, in addition to next year's grant, so that the work remaining incomplete at the close of the current financial year may be completed next year. Apart



from roads, the other schemes taken up this year include the provincialisation of schools, grant of a large number of scholarships to Tribal students, establishment of hospitals and dispensaries, improvement of communications in forest reserves, development of cottage industries, establishment of Co-operative institutions and the setting up of a shellac factory for the benefit of the Mikirs.

I am glad to be able to say that our markets on the Pakistan border have shown signs of revival. The initial difficulties after the expiry of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement were solved and there has been a brisk trade across the Khasi Hills-Pakistan border in oranges, pan leaves, tezpata from our side in exchange for eggs, poultry and fish from East Bengal. The prices have, on the whole, been reasonable. The air strip at Shella revived by the voluntary labour of the local people was utilised for flying oranges to Calcutta and arrangements are now in hand for making the strip an all-weather air field. Difficulties on the Garo Hills-Pakistan border and the Lushai Hills-Pakistan border continue to exist but even here the situation is better than last year.

### **Plains Tribal Areas**

I mentioned in my last address the question of the transfer of the plains portion of the Frontier Tracts to normal administration. The proposal has been approved by the Government of India and the inhabitants of this area adjoining the districts of Lakhimpur and Darrang will be able to exercise their right of franchise at the next General Election.

My Government have also been very keen to speed up the development of the plains tribal areas and have made provision for better educational and medical facilities and for improvement of communications in those areas.

### **Labour Welfare**

As development of the natural resources of this State depends on an enlightened and contented labour force, schemes of Labour Welfare have received their special attention. The new Factory Rules make it obligatory to provide amenities and better conditions of work for factory workers. Steps are being taken to fix minimum wages for workers in tea, rice, coal, oil, roads and building industries. A Bill will be introduced in this Session to amend the Assam Maternity Benefit Act so as to extend the period of maternity leave. The Labour Welfare



Scheme has been started in co-operation with non-official Labour Organisations and the Provincial Kasturba Gandhi Trust Committee. In these Labour Welfare centres the worker will be trained to employ his leisure in cultural activities and will also be taught handicrafts.

### **Self-Help Schemes**

In the rural areas great stress is being laid on the self-help schemes under which villagers are encouraged to undertake public works such as construction of roads, schools, houses, etc. and an incentive is being provided by the grant of subsidies. There has been an excellent response to this scheme for which a substantial sum has been provided. It is extremely encouraging that our rural people are recovering their initiative and resourcefulness which they had lost due to years of slavery and neglect. Village Self-Government is being restored to its pristine vigour by establishing Rural Panchayats, 15 of which are being opened during the current year. New life, it is expected, will be put into village industries by the Polytechnic at Jayasagar and by the sericulture farms opened in different places in the State.

### **Co-operative Movement**

My Government believe in the goal of the Co-operative Welfare State and, in pursuance of this objective, they have laid great stress on schemes for social welfare and for the growth of co-operative enterprise. My Government are leaving no stone unturned to develop the Co-operative movement on a sound footing. If our whole economic and industrial life could be organised on a co-operative basis the speculator, the profiteer and the exploiter of labour would lose their occupations. The State has now 800 Trading Co-operatives, 18 Central Trading Co-operatives, a Co-operative Cottage Industries Association, several Fishery Co-operative Societies and two Co-operative Marketing Centres.

### **Financial Situation**

The Finance Minister will place before you the financial statement for the next financial year, and will explain in his speech the Budgetary position of the province. I shall only confine myself to saying that there is every need for husbanding all our resources and preventing all wasteful expenditure. My Government estimated that the current year's revenue deficit would mount up to nearly 87 lakhs but by pruning



down unnecessary expenditure judiciously they expect to be able to keep this deficit down to about 8 lakhs. The receipts during the course of the year have, on the whole, been better than we hoped for and a credit for the sum of 86 lakhs, being two-thirds of the estimated expenditure on the Shillong-Agartala Road, is also expected from the Government of India before the end of the financial year.

The Budget estimates for the year 1951-52 will be presented to the House by the Finance Minister and although they may fail to satisfy every one, it will be noticed that all essential developmental activities will be carried on in spite of the strain imposed on the economy of the Province by the recent natural calamities. In allotting the available sums for Developmental projects the needs of the rural population have been uppermost in the minds of my colleagues. Provision of water supply, improvement of rural communications, better medical facilities, schools and colleges and technical institutes for the training of personnel are worthy objects of expenditure on which it is proposed to spend the amounts which are available, after defraying the current expenditure of the Administration. Education is being fostered amongst the Plains Tribals and as many as 10 Vernacular Middle Schools in the areas inhabited by Plains Tribals are proposed to be provincialised. My Government are going ahead with the programme for building and equipping an up-to-date Medical College at Dibrugarh and the needs of that institution during the next two financial years are being provided for. I have already mentioned the grant of 24 lakhs which has been received from the Central Government for the development of the Autonomous Districts. A sum of 30 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government of India under Clause A of the Second Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The figure is still under argument between the Central Government and my Government. According to our calculation a much larger amount is the legitimate contribution due to this Government. There is every hope of a favourable decision from the Government of India in this matter.

### Legislature Programme

Among the new legislative measures that will be introduced in the current session are the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill and the Assam Sales of Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation Bills. These Bills seek to bring the parent Acts in conformity with Article 286 of the Constitution. I have already



referred to the Evacuee Property Ordinance which was promulgated in pursuance of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 1950. A Bill will be introduced by the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue to continue the provisions of the Ordinance. The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris Bill, 1948, which had been awaiting the assent of the President, has since been returned to the House with a message from me for the re-consideration of some of the amendments recommended by the President. The reform of the land tenure system has been under consideration for many years now but owing to the complicated legal questions involved it has not been possible to give effect to the proposals. We want our peasantry to be economically free and contented. You will agree that it is, therefore, desirable to bring about uniformity in the Land Tenure System throughout the State, which is one of the objectives of the measure now under consideration. The Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy Bill which was passed by the House in the last session is now awaiting the assent of the President.

Two Bills which aim at giving more powers to Government to deal effectively with breaches of the peace and with subversive activities will also be introduced by the Chief Minister. They are the Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1951, and the Assam Disturbed Areas Bill, 1951. The former is an amending Bill to bring up-to-date the provisions of the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947, in the light of various judicial pronouncements. The latter continues the powers which were taken by an Ordinance promulgated last year when communal disturbances of a widespread nature broke out in the State at about this time. The Ordinance had been allowed to lapse when it expired in August but had only recently to be re-issued as there appeared to be danger of an outburst of communal frenzy after the Evacuee Property Ordinance had been notified. My Government intend to use the powers conferred by these Acts which are admittedly legislative measures of an emergency type, very cautiously and in circumstances in which the use of the ordinary law proves inadequate for the purpose of controlling the situation.

### **Assam's share in India's progress**

I have, I know, detained you for a long time. The major activities of Government and their proposed programme for the coming time have covered a wide field and it became necessary to deal at some length with those matters which needed



further explanation in view of the public interest aroused in regard to them. I would now leave you to deal with the heavy agenda you have decided to dispose of in three brief weeks. A budget session with a crowded legislative programme to be concluded in three weeks will probably be a record in the history of India's Parliamentary life and a testimony of the solidity of the support behind the Government as also of the reasonableness of the Opposition. I hope there were many other fields also where my Government and the people of Assam will be able to show evidence of rapid progress achieved by the same spirit of cohesion and co-operation despite any differences of view on minor phases of public affairs. Such achievement will ever help Assam to make its contribution to the solution of the vital problems which a free country has always to face and to solve. Assam is part of a big whole, a limb of a great living national organism and the more we become conscious of this, the closer will be the nation's identification with our problems and the larger will be our share in India's glorious future.

**Jai Hind.**

**Motion on His Excellency's Address**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Under rule 20(2) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby report to the Assembly that His Excellency 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 Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, M.L.A., Chief Whip, Government Party, which is as follows:—

“That a respectful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor of Assam as follows:—

‘Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session offer our humble thanks to your Excellency for the most illuminating speech which your Excellency has delivered to this House’ ”.

I hereby fix Friday, the 9th and Saturday, the 10th March as the dates for discussion of the Motion or matters referred to in His Excellency's speech. This will be taken up as the first item immediately after the presentation of the Budget.

Notice of any amendment to the Motion or the address made by His Excellency the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 5 P. M. today.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a respectful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor of Assam as follows:—

‘Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session offer our humble thanks to your Excellency for the most illuminating speech which your Excellency has delivered to this House’.

**Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the Motion.



**Condolence Motion on the deaths of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel  
(Deputy Prime Minister) Shri A. V. Thakkar Bapa, Shri Khrushid  
Lall, and Shri Aurobindo**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Friends, I rise to condole the death of our late Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Patel, who was a foremost fighter in the fight for country's freedom. By his able statesmanship and farsightedness he could bring together divergent elements under one Constitution, *viz.*, the Constitution of the Sovereign Republic of India. The country is definitely poorer by losing a man of such mental and moral calibre. We hope his successor, Shri Rajagopalachari, will have the same qualities of head and heart to guide the country.

I am placing before the House a condolence motion and I hope the House will adopt it

"This Assembly expresses its deepest sorrow at the great loss which the country has sustained on the demise of the Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the late Deputy Prime Minister of India and also expresses its sincerest sympathy and condolence to Shrimati Maniben Patel and Shri Dayabhai Patel and other members of the bereaved family and as a mark of respect for the departed great, the House do stand adjourned for the rest of the day."

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, on behalf of the Government and the people of Assam, rise to pay my respectful homage to our great departed leader and builder of the United Indian Republic and the first Deputy Prime Minister of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The hon. Members of this House are aware that Sardarji passed away on December 15th last peacefully, leaving the country in the midst of profound grief.

The story as to how our brave Sardar fought valiantly for the Indian Freedom during successive phases of our struggle for independence will glorify for ages the pages of our history. He was our valiant captain and a guide all along during our struggle for freedom. After the attainment of Independence he consolidated the country and unified India under the banner of the Sovereign Indian Republic. Till the last breath of his life he worked hard and worked without rest. We, the nation, are indeed indebted to him for all time to come for what he did and achieved for the nation. He was a wise administrator and his advice and action helped to stabilise the new Government after the attainment of Independence in the formative stage of development as a Sovereign Indian Republic.

It is well-known to you, the hon. Members and the people of Assam, how sympathetic he was for the development of this strategic province, and how anxious he was for the welfare of this problem State. He always used to take very keen interest to guide and help us in the solution of our manifold problems. Even in his death-bed, Assam was in his thought. Only the day previous to his death, as will appear from a letter from Shrimati Maniben Patel, he made enquiries about the consignment of various relief articles for the relief of the earthquake victims! He has thus endeared himself to Assam and his name is a household word.

I record, on behalf of the people and the Government of Assam, our most respectful homage to the great Sardar and trust our countrymen, true to the ideals and principles for which Sardarji stood, will dedicate themselves to the service of the country and exert themselves to complete the task of building the Sovereign Indian Republic according to his ideal.



Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would also like to condole the deaths of three other personalities, and I propose to move the following Resolution:—

“This Assembly deeply condoles the deaths of Shri A. V. Thakkar Bapa, Shri Khrushid Lali, Deputy Minister, Communications, Government of India, and Shri Aurobindo, and conveys the sympathy of the House to the Member of the bereaved families”.

The life of Thakkar Bapa is known to the hon. Members and the people of Assam as a life dedicated to the cause of the upliftment of the Harijans, the tribal and the backward people of the country. His name also is a household word in Assam. When he was lying ill in his death-bed, he being unable to come and help us in organising relief measures after the earthquake, sent a few of his workers to help us in rendering relief to the earthquake victims.

We also mourn the loss of Khrushid Lall, who was a Deputy Minister of the Government of India and who proved to be a great success in the Indian Parliament.

Then, Sir, we also deeply mourn the loss of the great thinker Shri Aurobindo who dedicated his life for the cause of humanity. He was also a patriot of All-India fame and we all mourn his loss.

With these few words I fully associate with what the Hon'ble Speaker has said in connection with the demise of our Sardarji.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Opposition, I whole-heartedly associate myself with whatever has fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble Speaker and the Hon'ble Leader of the House.

The violent hands of death have fallen upon a number of great Indian leaders at a time when their services were needed most. Vallabhbhai Patel was one of the few Indian leaders of outstanding merit. His love and services for the country, his sacrifice and sufferings for the nation are to be written in letters of gold. His name will go down in History as one of the most effective *Satyagrahis*. Although, Sir, as a Barrister he had a lucrative profession in Ahmedabad, Sardar Patel felt at a very early stage of his life that his services were needed elsewhere. In his devotion to the cause of the country he had been influenced not a little by the moral and spiritual powers of Mahatma Gandhi, whose philosophy of life and services to the under-dog have attracted the attention, and evoked the admiration of the peace-loving countries of the world. Sir, the year 1928 is a landmark in the chequered history of our country. That year saw the wisdom and organising ability of Sardar Patel when he conducted the No-Rent Campaign at Bardoli. It was in appreciation of his efficiency as a leader that Gandhiji had called him 'Sardar'. Whenever occasion arose to fight for the liberation of the country Sardar Patel was never found faltering or wavering. He welcomed jail-life whenever necessity arose and he courted jail-life several times in his life. “Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown” of the political leader, whose life is not a bed of roses,—this is amply exemplified by the life of Sardar Patel.

The introduction of the Reforms by the 1935 Act found Sardar Patel specially busy when, as the Chairman of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee, he had to control the activities of the Ministries of seven different provinces. Whenever Mahatma Gandhi wanted to launch a Civil Disobedience Movement Sardar Patel always took a leading role. But it was after the attainment of Swaraj that the country received his brilliant services. He held the very important portfolio of Home and the States Affairs since the pre-swaraj interim Government.



It was in this connection that he rendered yeoman's services to our country. His special achievement lay in securing the accession, democratisation and integration of hundreds of Indian States so aptly referred to in his Address to this House by His Excellency.

We students of Indian History are fully aware of the activities of the Nawabs, Rajas, the Maharajas and the Rajadhirajas who have rarely, if at all, taken interest in anything except their own well-being and welfare. These people have taken little interest in India's welfare and well-being. The British rulers in spite of their 150 years' rule had failed to bring them together, but Sardar Patel amazingly succeeded in the course of three years. He was the Bismark of India as has been aptly referred to by His Excellency in his Address. Bismark unified the German States, Sardar Patel unified the Indian States. But a still greater service that was rendered by Sardar Patel to India was when he handled in his own unique way the Hyderabad affair—which now-a-days appears to have been forgotten by his countrymen—at a time when the Razakar leader, Kasem Razvi, held out threats of war should India intervene in the domestic affairs of this Southern State. All hon. Members present here can well imagine as to what the fate of the whole country would have been if the disaster that would have overtaken us was not averted through the tact, wisdom and timely action of Sardar Patel. It was a quiet police action. Sardar Patel, Sir, was associated either as a Trustee or as a Director with several institutions. He was also long connected with the Trade Union Congress. It is therefore fitting and appropriate that the House pass a condolence resolution on the death of this great leader of India.

As regards the other three gentlemen who have passed away, namely, Thakkar Bapa Sri Khurshid Lall and Sri Arobindo, all I need say is that they earned the respect and love of their countrymen by their own efforts. They rose to eminence because of their own labours, of their own sacrifices. Thakkar Bapa's work in the cause of the Harijans, in the uplift of the depressed people, will always be remembered not only by them for whom he had worked, but by India as a whole. India in general and the Harijans in particular will be grateful to Thakkar Bapa for his labours and sacrifices. Khurshid Lall rose to be Deputy Minister in the Central Government by his own efforts. As to the philosophy of Shri Aurobindo and sacrifice and also sufferings undergone by him, we need hardly talk much because the whole world knows from his own works as to the vigorous intellect that Shri Aurobindo possessed.

I, on behalf of the Opposition, Sir, express my profound sorrow at the deaths of these great Indian leaders and associate myself with what you have said and with what the Hon'ble Leader of the House has said on the passing away of these leaders.

**Mr. C. W. MORLEY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, a great deal has already been said and I do not feel that I have much to add. But we should in all earnestness like to join with all other Members of this House in paying our tribute to the great service rendered to India by the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at a time when the world situation has become most threatening and specially when India's political problems of the utmost magnitude are arising. It was indeed a great misfortune to lose a Leader who had for years been characterised as a leader with calm temperament and soundness of judgment. We are certain that his name will live for ever as one of the great architects of India, and we wish to associate ourselves with all in expressing our condolence and sincere sympathy to his family.



We also wish to join with all in our sincere sympathy for the victims of the Brahmaputra Boat disaster—brave men all they were in the face of danger ; and we wish to associate ourselves with the Motion of condolence moved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I thank the Hon'ble Leader of the House for moving this Motion and thereby giving me this opportunity of paying my tribute to the departed leaders. I associate myself with whatever has been said by the Leader of the House as well as by the other hon. Members of the House. I had the privilege of working together with Thakkar Bapa in his work of upliftment of the Harijans at Dibrugarh. As regards Shri Kurshid Lal, he was one of the front rank fighters in the National struggle and he was appointed Deputy Minister of the Central Government and which he efficiently and creditably fulfilled. Sri Aurobindo can be rightly called the Maharshi of India and contributed a great deal to the spiritual and cultural literature as well as to philosophy. By the deaths of these eminent persons India is poorer today.

With these words I support the Motion moved by the Leader of the House and as a mark of respect to the departed souls I propose to adjourn the House today. I wish you all to express your condolence by standing in reverential silence for two minutes.

(The House stood in silence for 2 minutes).

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P. M. on Friday, the 9th March, 1951.

SHILLONG ;

R. N. BARUA,

The 13th April, 1951.

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.*

A.G.P. (L.A.) No. 1/51—118+2—17-4-1951.