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Assam  
Legislative Assembly  
Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

No. 1

The 8th June 1957



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1957

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

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 8th June, 1957.

**P R E S E N T**

Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumder, M.A., B.L. (Acting Speaker) in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the eight Deputy Ministers and eighty-seven Members.

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**Order No.1 from the Governor *re*: appointment of a person to perform the duties of Speaker**

**THE SECRETARY:** The following order has been received from the Governor:—

“WHEREAS the office of the Speaker will become vacant immediately before the commencement of the first meeting of the Assam Legislative Assembly on the 8th June, 1957 and the office of the Deputy Speaker is also vacant ;

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by clause (1) of Article 180 of the Constitution of India, I, Saiyid Fazl Ali, Governor of Assam, hereby appoint Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, M.A., B.L., a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, to perform the duties of the office of Speaker from the commencement of the said meeting and until the Speaker shall have been elected by the said Assembly.

Shillong,

The 28th May, 1957,

S. FAZL ALI,

Governor of Assam”

**Order No.2 from the Governor *re*: appointment of Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, M. L. A. as the person before whom the Members of the Assembly shall make and subscribe their oath of allegiance**

**THE SECRETARY:** The next order of the Governor runs as follows:—

“In pursuance of Article 188 of the Constitution of India, I hereby appoint Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, M.A., B. L., a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, as the person before whom the Members of the said Assembly shall make and subscribe their oath on and from Saturday, the 8th June, 1957 until a Speaker is elected.

After the election of the Speaker of the Assembly, the oath shall be made and subscribed before the Speaker of the said Assembly and in his absence before the Deputy Speaker or when the Assembly is in session and both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are absent, before the person who may be presiding over the Assembly for the time being.

Shillong,

The 28th May, 1957.

S. FAZL ALI,  
Governor of Assam.”

**Oath or affirmation of allegiance by Members under Article 188 of the Constitution of India.**

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** (Acting Speaker): I now take up item No.2.

The procedure that will be followed is this. The Secretary will please call out the names of those hon. Members one by one who have not yet taken oath or allegiance under Article 188 of the Constitution of India. He will first call the Leader of the House and then other Ministers and Deputy Ministers and the names of other Members will then be called by him in alphabetical order. Hon. Members will please come up to the Secretary's Chair and then they will resume their seats, shake hands with the

I would request Mr. Secretary to call out the names now.

*(The Secretary then called out the names beginning from the Treasury Benches in the following order)*

- |                                    |    |    |                  |
|------------------------------------|----|----|------------------|
| 1. Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi           | .. | .. | Chief Minister.  |
| 2. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma          | .. | .. | Minister.        |
| 3. Shri Moti Ram Bora ..           | .. | .. | ”                |
| 4. Shri Rup Nath Brahma            | .. | .. | ”                |
| 5. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi   | .. | .. | ”                |
| 6. Shri Hareswar Das ..            | .. | .. | ”                |
| 7. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury..     | .. | .. | ”                |
| 8. Shri Mohi Kanta Das             | .. | .. | Deputy Minister. |
| 9. Mrs. Usha Barthakur..           | .. | .. | ”                |
| 10. Mr. A. Thanglura.              |    |    |                  |
| 11. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das.       |    |    |                  |
| 12. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya.     |    |    |                  |
| 13. Shri C. Thuamluaia.            |    |    |                  |
| 14. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.     |    |    |                  |
| 15. Shri Gopesh Namasudra.         |    |    |                  |
| 16. Shri Harrison Momin.           |    |    |                  |
| 17. Shri Karka Chandra Doley.      |    |    |                  |
| 18. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah. |    |    |                  |
| 19. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed.   |    |    |                  |

20. Pu Lalmawia.
21. Shri Manik Chandra Das.
22. Shri Mody K. Marak.
23. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.
24. Maulavi Sahadat Ali.
25. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** (Acting Speaker): If there are any other hon. Members present who have not taken their oath or affirmation of allegiance should come up and take their oath or affirmation of allegiance.

### Election of Speaker

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** (Acting Speaker): I now take up item No.3, *i.e.*, election of Speaker. There are three valid nomination papers and I shall read out the particulars of these nomination papers, as required by sub-rule (3) of the Assembly Rule 5. All the nomination papers are in favour of the same member, *viz.*, Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, M.L.A.

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|-----------------------|--|
| Nomination paper No.1 | .. Proposed by Shri Ram Nath Sarma and seconded by Shri Narendra Nath Sarma. |
| Nomination paper No.2 | .. Proposed by Shri Mohi Kanta Das and seconded by Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.  |
| Nomination paper No.3 | .. Proposed by Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma and seconded by Shri Debeswar Sarmah.  |

As there is only one Member nominated for the office of the Speaker, I have much pleasure in declaring Shri Dev Kanta Borooah to have been duly elected unopposed in this House as Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly.

(Applause)

### Felicitations to the Speaker

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Acting Speaker):** Before I request Shri Borooah to occupy the Chair, I would like to offer a few words of felicitation to him for his elevation to this exalted office. Shri Borooah is not new to us. His qualities of head and heart are well known to us. I am strongly of opinion that the trust laid in him has been not only not misplaced but has been very rightly placed and as an able Parliamentarian I am confident that he will acquit himself to the satisfaction of all concerned. I am sure, in his selection as Speaker we have ensured safety for the rights and privileges of the hon. Members of this august House. I hope co-operation will come forth abundantly from all quarters, and with our co-operation I hope Mr. Borooah will have a very smooth sailing as regards the working and deliberations of this House to the best interest of our people.

We know Mr. Borooah's vast experience both inside the country and outside. We know what valuable services he has rendered in his capacity as Member of the Lok Sabha and in other capacities and confidence that is so very essential for a smooth and peaceful transaction of the business here. I believe, knowing as we do, Mr. Borooah's all-round qualities and achievements will come forth spontaneously. I will conclude by saying that Mr. Borooah will amply justify his unanimous selection by the hon. Members of this House, and I now request Mr. Borooah to come and take the Chair.

[At this stage Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar (Acting Speaker) vacated the Chair, and Shri Dev Kanta Borooah occupied it.]

(Applause)

**Shri BISHNU RAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to convey my greetings and felicitation on your being unanimously elected as Speaker of this august House. Your experience in Parliament will be a great help to us in our deliberations and in raising the standard of our debates in the House in all matters that come before it for discussion. There is no doubt that you will be able to protect the rights and privileges of every Member of this House. I also at the same time congratulate the hon. Members of this House who have set up a healthy convention by electing their Speaker unanimously. It is essential that in a democratic set-up of our type a convention should be established and adopted so that the Speaker is unanimously elected without contest. And that is why, I congratulate the hon. Members for having adopted this healthy convention of electing their Speaker unanimously.

I am quite sure that you, Sir, who has occupied this august position of trust, will discharge that trust to the best of your ability and with your past parliamentary experience and as a responsible public man, you will always try to protect the rights and privileges of every hon. Member of this House and uphold the prestige of the House. So, I on behalf of myself and my Party, whole-heartedly offer you our fullest co-operation in the discharge of the onerous duties now reposed on you. I am quite sure that the same co-operation from all sides of the House will also be forthcoming to enable you to discharge your responsibilities to the best of your ability.

With these words, Sir, I again convey my greetings and felicitations on your assumption of this high office.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of the Praja Socialist Party and its associated Members congratulate you on your being unanimously elected to this high office in this House. Sir, from this moment onward you do not belong to any party, but you belong to the whole House and it is for this that we were very anxious to have a unanimous choice of a Speaker through discussions and consultations amongst different shades of opinion in this House. I am glad that at long last we have been able to establish a healthy democratic convention in this House.

Sir, you are the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House. Not infrequently an over-bearing and over-zealous executive may attempt to transgress on the rights and privileges

of this House, but I am sure, Sir, you will guard us against such transgressions on the domain of this House with a ruthless hand from whichever quarters such attempts may emanate.

Sir, I know it is a difficult task for one who has been in the vortex of party politics, but we are sure that with the kind of experience you have acquired from your parliamentary life and from your tours outside, from your visit of different democratic countries, you will be able to uphold the tradition of this House. Sir, it may be necessary for you to be harsh even to those fold you have just left or soft to those who are considered to be in the Opposition, but I am sure that if we try together to build up a healthy tradition, we shall be able to establish such a healthy democratic convention in our country. And, Sir, even if you must at moments take drastic action, I can assure you on our behalf that we shall all co-operate with you.

With these words, Sir, I again congratulate you on your being elected to the high office by this House.

**Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Sir, on behalf of the Communist Group I congratulate you on your being elected unopposed to this office of dignity by this House. I am sure that under your guidance and advice a new democratic tradition in the State will grow and develop. We believe that while guiding the deliberation of this House, you will protect the rights and privileges of all sections of this House. Sir, in a democratic set-up, there are two parts, or aspects of it—one is rule of the majority and the other counterpart is the protection of the subjugated minority. I believe, our Speaker will see that both these parts function in a healthy way. Elements of the minority who seek for the well-being of the country should be given due weight. In a democratic administration, it is expected that the majority party has the right to rule and to administer and the Opposition has equally the right to criticise, to seek to amend or correct and to oppose. We have the greatest confidence in you as Speaker who will do justice to all this.

We know that our new Speaker is not only a Parliamentarian but also a poet of Assam. I believe, his long parliamentary experience will be of great use to this House and his guidance will inspire the Members of this House just as his poems did. But, I am afraid our felicitations may appear to be a bit stale or late because our over-enthusiastic Publicity Department issued



a press note stating that you would be elected unopposed as the Speaker of this House and felicitated you in advance. However, our new Speaker will get impetus to discharge the responsibilities conferred on him and will get co-operation from all sides of this House to discharge his duties smoothly.

I again congratulate you on behalf of myself and the Members of my Party in this House.

**Shri KHOGENRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Sir, I, on behalf of the Revolutionary Communist Party of India, offer our congratulations to you that you have been elected unopposed as the Speaker of this House.

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really glad to have this occasion to congratulate you on being elected unanimously. Perhaps, if I remember rightly, you are the youngest man to have been selected as Speaker in the life time of this Legislature in Assam, and, I believe, you will be able to safeguard the rights and privileges of this House and, I am sure, you will be very impartial to everyone and also to the hon. Members who have come for the first time to this House, some of whom will not be able to express properly and they may speak without observing the regulations of this House, and you, I hope, will have patience to guide them.

I congratulate you again and hope, you will safeguard all the privileges and rights of the Members of this House.

**Shri PRABHATNARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of the independent Members elected to this House, convey our congratulations to you on your unanimous election. We hope, you will be able to maintain the standard and conventions of this august House. Though we are independents, we have to oppose the Party-in-power as we occupy the status of the Opposition in the House and we hope you will give us all the privileges and guidance in the House.

**Shri BROJO MOHON ROY (Shillong):** Sir, on behalf of the Hills Tribal Group in this House, I offer you our hearty congratulations on your election as Speaker of this House. We hope that you will preserve the privileges, conventions and rights of all the Members. We are new to this Legislature and we hope

with your help and guidance we will be able to carry on. I want to impress on you the fact, Sir, that you belong to no party as Speaker and as such we expect you to be just and impartial. I wish you all success.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি আপুনি বিনা [প্রতিদণ্ডিতাই অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্ব্বাচিত হোৱাৰ বাবে আমি বৰ সুখ পাইছো। আপুনি ভানকৈয়ে জানে যে—আমাৰ মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাটো অসমৰ ভিতৰতে অতিকৈ পিচ পৰা। তাৰ পৰা বি কেইজন সদস্য নিৰ্ব্বাচিত হৈছে তেওঁলোকৰ দৈনিক কাৰ্য্য সম্পাদনত বি দোষ ক্ৰটি হ'ব সেইবিনাক আপোনাৰ নিজ গুণৰ দ্বাবাই মাৰ্জ্জনা কৰি তেওঁলোকক স্বযোগ সন্নিবিধা দি আগবঢ়াই নিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এইখিনিকেই কৈ, আপোনাৰ বিনা প্রতিদণ্ডিতাবে গাফল্যমণ্ডিত হোৱা কাৰণে মই পুনৰ আন্তৰিক সুখ প্রকাশ কৰি মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণী মাৰিলো।

**Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA : [(Patharkandi)**  
(Voice)] আপুনি হিন্দিতৈ কব পাৰিব; ইয়াত হিন্দি Reporter আছে।

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय,  
मैं अभी अभी दिल्ली गया था। मेरे बाजुमें ही सिंगापुरसे आनेवाले कुछ distinguished guest बैठे हुए थे। हमारे देशमें अंग्रेजी भाषाका बोलवाला और प्रचलन देखकर उन्हें बड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ था और उन्होंने मुझसे यह प्रश्न पूछा था "is English not band in your country? It is really very disgraceful" मैंने उनसे कहा कि यहाँ कुछ समय तक अंग्रेजी चलेगी। बादको हिन्दी से ही हमारे काम काज चलेंगे। हिन्दीको हमने राष्ट्रभाषा के रूपमें ग्रहण किया है। हिन्दी हमारी राष्ट्र भाषा है इसीलिये मैंने हिन्दी बोलनेका निश्चय किया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, दिल्ली में भी मैंने आपके वारेंमें बहुत कुछ सुना है। मुझे पूरी उम्मीद है कि आपकी देखरेखमें हमारे इस सदनके कार्य बहुत ही सुचारू रूपसे चलेंगे। आपके अध्यक्ष पदपर अप्रतिदंडित चुने जानेसे हमें बड़ी खुशी हो रही है। मैं आपको अपनी ओरसे तथा देशवासी अन्य भाइयोंकी ओर से हार्दिक वधाई देता हूँ।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Ladies and gentlemen, I am indeed grateful to you all for this signal honour that you have conferred on me. It is not only an office of honour that you have conferred on me but of trust and responsibility as well. It will be my endeavour to discharge the duties of this high office to the best of my abilities. You have given me the job, and I need the tools. The tools are your support and active co-operation in this House. I hope, we shall be able not only to uphold the traditions of this House and the privileges of the Members individually and the House collectively but also to expand them. It will be my endeavour, ladies and gentlemen, in this Chamber to uphold the sovereignty of discussions which may be circumscribed only by rules and procedures and code of Parliamentary conduct.

The Leader of the Praja Socialist Party group referred to my being in the Party politics. That is the unenviable lot of those who like to participate in public life of the country. I can assure you as well as other Members of the House that in the discharge of my responsibilities as Speaker, I shall be guided only by strict fairness to all, irrespective of party labels.

I again thank you for the kind words that have been said about me and also for the high honour conferred on me.

Rev. Nichols-Roy has said something about new Members. Although I had been in Parliament, I am new to this House and I am not also fully acquainted with the tradition and conventions of this House. Be that as it may, I feel that both new and old—the vigour of the new and the experiences of the old—will combine to go to create a healthy Parliamentary life in this Assembly in particular and in the State in general.

Thank you.

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of information, whether those who have come late after the election of Speaker will be sworn in ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The usual practice is for the Members to take their oath in the early part of the day, and I hope it will not be inconvenient for the Members to take their oath day after tomorrow morning.

#### **Fixation of date and time for election of Deputy Speaker**

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Under Rule 6(1) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby fix Monday, the 10th June, 1957 as the date for holding the election of the Deputy Speaker.

Under Sub-rules (2) and (3) of Rule 6 of the Assembly Rules it is necessary that the nomination papers are delivered to the Secretary either by the candidate himself or by his proposer or seconder in person before 3 P.M. tomorrow. A printed copy of nomination paper has already been sent to each hon. Member.

#### **Panel of Chairmen**

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I have constituted a panel of Chairmen for the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1957. The following Members will form the Panel of Chairmen for the present Session :—

1. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy,
2. Shri Ram Nath Das,
3. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, and
4. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala

#### **Adjournment**

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

**Address by the Governor****The Governor (Shri SAIYID FAZL ALI):**

MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,

It is my pleasant duty to-day to welcome you to this House. I see among you many old friends who have been re-elected to this House and also others who have been elected for the first time. I hope in the tasks lying ahead of you not only will continuity be maintained but fresh ideas will take shape. The masses in the State look up to you to interpret their hopes and aspirations and place them before the House and the Government. It will also be your duty to explain the Government's policy and programmes before the public and give them the necessary guidance and leadership. I wish you all success in the work before you in the next five years. I take this opportunity also to congratulate the vast electorate, members of the political parties and the officers of Government engaged in conducting the Elections for the part they have played in making the second General Elections under the Constitution a success and thereby strengthening the base of Indian democracy.

2. The year that has passed since my predecessor in office addressed the last House, has been an anxious one and various problems beset the future. The security of the State has been seriously disturbed by the activities of a section of the Nagas which continued with varying degrees of intensity throughout the year. These hostile Nagas have inflicted great miseries on the Naga people taking a heavy toll of life and causing wanton destruction of property. It is estimated that over 240 persons have been killed by the hostiles. The vast majority of the sufferers are ordinary Naga villagers, many of whom were most brutally murdered and mutilated for being loyal to Government. Those who have lost their lives include a number of Gaonburas and Dubhasis and other Government servants, both Naga and non-Nagas. The Police lost 18 Officers and men killed. These are exclusive of casualties suffered by the Army and Assam Rifles. The Army and units of Assam Rifles and Armed Police have been continuously in operation against the hostiles throughout the Naga Hills district and the Tuensang Frontier Division as well as areas on the Naga Hills border in the neighbouring districts, for more than a year. In spite of enormous handicaps due to the difficult terrain, lack of communications, difficulties of supplies and the fact that they have to act under great restraint so as not to interfere with the normal life of those who might be innocent or unconnected with the hostiles, etc., the security forces have given a very good account of themselves. The

Army, after the monsoon operations, succeeded very largely in breaking up large concentrations of hostiles and destroying their hide-outs. After a lull, however, the hostiles regrouped themselves and adopted hit and run tactics in small groups. Their activities include sniping on and ambushing of patrols, attacks against posts as well as sniping on convoys of vehicles. Pressure has been exerted by the hostiles on loyal villagers in various ways. A number of Gaonburas, Dubhasis and other loyal Nagas who were fortunate not to have been murdered, have been kidnapped, detained and often tortured or made to suffer other indignities. The properties of many have also been looted or totally destroyed. The object of the hostiles has been to get recruits, food and other supplies and money from the villages by coercion and violence. They have resorted to frequent raids on the villages for these purposes. To check these activities, a large number of Army posts have been opened in the interior to give security to the villages and resist such actions of the hostiles. To make the policy of denying the hostiles fresh recruits, money and supplies and make security of the villages more effective, isolated villages are being grouped together and placed under protection of an armed post with stockades round them. This policy recently adopted has proved a considerable success. Early in last year, some raids were committed by the hostiles across the border of the Naga Hills in the plains areas of the Sibsagar and United Mikir and North Cachar Hills Districts, for which a number of Armed Police outposts were opened in the plains sector. During the last winter, faced with the pressure of the Army in the Naga Hills itself and with a view to secure maximum publicity to their activities by creating terror in the plains areas, to secure money, food and other supplies and also possibly to interfere with the elections, large number of armed hostiles came down to the Reserved Forests in the plains areas and started raids and attacks on the villages accompanied by looting and arson. Attacks were also made on Railway Stations and running trains and during the month of December, January and February, a very large number of such incidents were reported. These necessitated special precautions for the protection of these areas. At the instance of this Government, the Army authorities undertook the responsibility of restoring law and order in these plains areas which were declared as Disturbed Areas under the Act. Since these arrangements were undertaken towards the last part of February, the number of incidents in these areas has been greatly reduced and the elections could also be completed without any interference. The precautionary measures,

however, are being continued in full to avoid any deterioration of the situation. Inside the Naga Hills, the latest information indicates that the hostiles, not achieving any significant success by hit and run tactics in small groups, are again organising sporadic attacks on outposts and patrols, etc., in larger groups. In order to enable the Army to take full scale counter action, the Government of India has been approached to send a substantial number of additional Armed Police from other States who can take over guarding of outposts and other static duties, so that the maximum number of troops could be freed for offensive action against the hostiles perpetrating these attacks. As a result of the Army operations, 1,509 weapons of all descriptions including a fair number of automatic arms and modern rifles have been captured from the hostiles up to the beginning of May. The number of hostiles captured during the period is 392. Seven hundred and ninety-three hostiles surrendered themselves to the military or civil authorities and the number of arms surrendered by individual hostiles or the villages collectively runs to 759. A small force of special constables has been recruited from loyal Nagas. They have been trained and armed and entrusted with protecting their villages against hostile raids. They have often taken successful offensive action against hostiles. There is ample evidence that the majority of the villagers who had actively or passively helped the hostiles in the past, are gradually turning away from them and looking to Government for protection and restoration of normal conditions. This is evidenced by large scale surrender of hostiles brought about by villagers themselves and their demand for units of the special constables for protection of their villages. Increasingly greater areas are being cleared of hostiles and normal conditions restored.

It is worth noting that the Naga Hills District elected three representatives to this Assembly for all the three constituencies which remained vacant in the last General Election. Also in spite of the hostiles terrorising the voters with a view to preventing them from voting, over 3,000 tribals of Naga Hills exercised their right of franchise in different centres to elect a representative to the House of the People.

The hard core of hostile leadership with fairly large number of followers, stocks of arms and ammunition and fighting potential are still in tact, operations against whom have to be continued until these groups are liquidated or made to surrender. A number of moderate minded leaders have

approached the Government for giving them facilities to propagate the need for restoring peace and persuade the hostiles to surrender. They have been given all possible assistance. The civil administration has all along been busy in restoring normal administration as far as possible, rendering relief and arranging facilities for the relief and rehabilitation of villagers who were driven to the jungles by hostiles' action and who are returning. A very large programme of construction and repairs of roads and bridges has been undertaken throughout the district and has made considerable progress. The Army has rendered great assistance in providing medical relief through teams of military doctors and the State Government are trying to recruit more civilian doctors for extending medical relief.

It is most regrettable that the national resources and manpower which could have been fruitfully harnessed for promoting the prosperity of the Nagas in conformity with the objectives of the Second Five Year Plan are being wasted owing to the ill-conceived action of certain misguided elements whose activities are not only depriving the common people of a share in the general progress of the country but are in addition causing untold hardship to them. Had these resources been fully available for welfare and development work in peaceful conditions, even the most incredulous and derisive among the hostiles would scarcely have been in a position to disprove or belittle the immense advantage of co-operation and good citizenship. It is to be hoped that these misguided persons will try to look at the whole situation dispassionately and objectively and judge for themselves whether the course of co-operation and constructive endeavour will not be the surest means of securing the maximum amount of happiness and prosperity to the Naga people.

The military and police operations, construction of roads and buildings, relief and rehabilitation have all meant huge expenditure, the details of which will be given by the Finance Minister in his budget speech. The State Government has approached the Government of India for adequate financial assistance.

3. Apart from the disturbances in the Naga Hills, the law and order situation in the State has remained satisfactory on the whole. In the Indo-Pak border, there were 46 incidents during 1956, in 12 of which exchange of firing took place. There was no serious border incident involving firing after July 1956. The demarcation of the boundaries continued to make

progress and demarcation in the Patharia sector which was abruptly stopped by Pakistan last year has been resumed. A new Indo-Pak Trade Agreement came into effect from 1st February 1957. It has made provision for border trade as well. Its implementation is being watched.

4. The general food situation in the State during the last year was not quite satisfactory. Though there was no serious scarcity in any area, the market prices were high. Consequent upon decontrol of foodgrains there were some movements of foodgrains outside the State and the large scale smuggling to Pakistan was also suspected. The State Government promulgated two Control Orders to restrict the movement of rice and paddy from Assam and also control smuggling. The State Government moved the Government of India to allot sufficient quantity of rice for distribution through fair price shops. About 874 fair price shops were opened in different areas for distribution of rice and the total quantity of rice received from the Government of India was about 20,000 tons. The rice crop during the last year, however, was not very good due to damage caused by floods in some areas and drought in other areas like Hojai in Nowgong which is reckoned to be the granary of the State. There was no fall in the price of paddy after the harvest; on the other hand, prices have hardened and have been steadily rising ever since. This has caused serious concern to the Government which moved the Central Government strongly to allot 59,000 tons of rice for distribution through fair price shops and have also sought powers to take anti-hoarding measures. Government are also keeping an alert eye on the situation and taking measures to relieve scarcity and distress. The rise in foodgrain prices is, however, an all-India phenomenon and largely caused by increased economic activity and rise in the circulation of money due to heavy investment under the Second Five Year Plan.

5. In the present context, it is imperative that the increased target of food production under the Second Five Year Plan is realised. It is planned to cover as much area as possible under paddy with improved seeds. A phased programme of having one seed farm for each of the N. E. S. blocks of the State has been taken up. Other measures to increase production are extending the use of compost, chemical fertilisers and green manure during the Second Five Year Plan period. Irrigation will continue to feature prominently in the scheme to increase production. During 1957-58, it is proposed to execute 1,200 projects likely to benefit nearly  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lakh acres. Power pumping



sets have also proved very popular and the Agriculture Department now has 235 sets for hire to the cultivators at very reasonable rates. The Kaki Land Reclamation Scheme has been completed and the Philobari Scheme is still in progress. A new reclamation project has been started at Phalongani in Golaghat Subdivision intended to reclaim 5,500 acres of land. Schemes for improving agriculture in the hill districts are also in operation.

6. The objective of the Government is not merely to achieve the target of increased food production but also to bring about maximum development of the resources of the State. The Government has laid particular emphasis on the development of major industries to utilise raw materials available in the State, develop the various natural and mineral resources and to remove the imbalance that exists between Assam and the other more developed regions. The Government is, therefore, anxious that the Oil Refinery should be established inside the State. Along with major industrial projects, the Government is fully conscious of the need for organising cottage and medium sized industries to provide employment to the unemployed and the under-employed and generally to raise the incomes and the living standards of the people in the State. The targets under the First Five Year Plan were fulfilled almost fully in spite of the difficulties of shortage of technical and other personnel, scarcity of materials and the difficult transport position. Despite the fact that there were not many spectacular projects included in the First Five Year Plan of the State, the Plan has left its mark in various spheres like increased agricultural production, development and expansion of forests, construction of a large number of embankment, drainage and flood protection schemes, extension of the road system, particularly in the hill areas and other improvements in the tribal areas. Achievements in the self-help schemes in the spheres of local development works, minor irrigation, rural water supply, community projects and N. E. S. programmes testify to the ability of the people of the State to get together for executing projects beneficial to the community. A number of training programmes were initiated and expanded during the First Plan period. The success of the Second Five Year Plan would largely rest on turning out the requisite number of trained personnel. It is computed that the national income in the State which stood at Rs. 212.8 crores in the year 1950-51, increased to Rs. 239.6 crores in 1955-56 and the corresponding increase in the *per capita* income was from Rs.237 to Rs.254.

It is not necessary for me to refer in detail to the salient features of the Second Five Year Plan which were indicated in my predecessor's address last year. The ceiling for the State Plan was fixed at Rs. 59.39 crores by the Planning Commission. Subsequently, in view of the big gap in resources for financing the Second Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has imposed a 5 per cent efficiency cut in the plan outlay and increased the State's share of resources for financing the Plan. After necessary adjustment, the final ceiling for the State Plan now stands at Rs. 57.93 crores. I had referred earlier to the increased target of food production under the Second Plan. It stands at 8.42 lakh tons as against 2.29 lakh tons originally provided for. The Community Projects and the N. E. S organisation are expected to play a big part in achieving the additional target and blockwise and villagewise plans are being prepared. It is needless to mention that it is a very big task and will require the efforts of everyone concerned to achieve the target. One feature of the Second Five Year Plan is the preparation of annual plans. For the first year of the Second Plan, the Planning Commission had allotted a lesser sum than had been budgetted for by the State and the actual ceiling fixed was Rs. 10.33 crores. In implementation of the schemes, the momentum achieved during the last two years of the First Five Year Plan could not be maintained, particularly in the case of new schemes which had to receive scrutiny and approval according to prescribed procedures. The annual plan for 1957-58 was prepared in considerable detail keeping in view the needs of economy and adjustments necessitated like taking into account the availability of personnel, materials and transport. Initially, the annual plan contemplated an outlay of Rs. 17.6 crores but after discussions with the team of representatives of the Planning Commission and Central Ministries, the Planning Commission ultimately fixed a ceiling for Rs. 11.1 crores during 1957-58. The State is required to raise resources of the order of Rs. 3 crores to achieve this target.

One of the items related to planning which is assuming considerable importance is manpower planning. The Government has set up a Committee of the Cabinet and a Manpower Directorate to deal with the subject. The need for a special machinery for manpower planning has been emphasised by various committees, specially by the Engineering Personnel Committee. It has also been found necessary that steps on the lines of the Centre should be taken in the State. Accordingly, a Manpower Committee has been set up to undertake a thorough

study of the current manpower shortages, the production capacity of training institutions, the quality of training imparted, the likely demand for trained personnel for the next 10 or 15 years and allied matters. The administrative machinery has been subjected to very great strain due to the expansion of activities under the Five Year Plan. The objective of the Government is to increase efficiency in all branches of the administration, preventing delay and ensuring speedy implementation not merely of the plan, but of all decisions of Government in every sphere, so that the benefit may reach the humblest in the land. The entire matter is under urgent consideration of the Government and the cadres of the services, both technical and administrative, are being reviewed in the light of needs of the situation.

7. The target laid down for the Community Development Programme during the First Five Year Plan to cover approximately one-fourth of the rural population of the State by the 31st March 1956, was largely achieved. During 1956-57, 21 additional blocks were taken up. At present, there are in all 53 blocks in operation covering 17,27,000 square miles and a population of over 28 lakhs living in nearly 10,000 villages representing 34 per cent of the population. The contribution of the people in various development projects has been enormous. This is estimated to be Rs. 1.40 crore as against the Governmental expenditure of Rs. 2.66 crores. Out of this, Rs. 36 lakhs were contributed in cash and materials, the balance being monetary equivalent of voluntary labour. Voluntary labour has been most outstanding in the field of communication and reclamation of agricultural land. In agriculture, considerable progress has been achieved in popularising improved methods of cultivation, double-cropping, vegetables and fruit growing and manufacture and use of compost manure. Nearly 2,000 minor irrigation projects have also been completed. Animal Husbandry, Public Health and Education have also received due attention and some progress has been achieved in the field of Industries and Co-operation. Two fruit preservation factories on modern scientific lines and two cottage industries training institutes have been set up in addition to 188 small demonstration *cum* training centres in the villages. Special attention has been paid to the recruitment and training of Gram Sevaks on whom the success of the Plan largely depends. It is proposed to set up 3 Combined Training Centres at Jorhat, Khanapara and Upper Shillong where integrated training will be given both in agriculture and extension.

8. I have mentioned earlier the aim of the Government to give particular emphasis on the development of industries in the State. Messrs. Balmer Lawrie & Co. has been selected for the establishment of a Paper Pulp Mill at Lamsakhang with a capacity of 100 tons of pulp per day. Four parties have been selected for Steel Re-rolling Mills and their cases are now under the consideration of the Government of India. The Government of India has also granted a license for setting up a Textile Mill with 25,000 spindles. The Co-operative Sugar Mill project is progressing satisfactorily and the Planning Commission has also approved a second Co-operative Sugar Mill for the State. Some progress has been made for setting up of the Cement Factory and Jute Mills. The Cement Factory project has been retarded somewhat because of the difficulty of giving the lease for coal and limestone. Efforts are being made for the establishment of an integrated Fruit Preservation and Cold Storage Plant. Generally speaking, the Government's policy announcement offering assistance to private industrialists undertaking to set up industries in Assam has been encouraging. The main handicaps standing in the way of industrialists are the absence of cheap power and inadequate transport facilities. To remove these handicaps, the State Government have been insisting on the Government of India the urgent necessity of stabilising the Rail Link and increasing its capacity. Measures are also being taken for the improvement of the River Transport within the State. The Ganga-Brahmaputra Water Transport Board has agreed in principle to the need for developing port facilities at Pandu, Gauhati, Niamati, Dhubri and Karimganj. As Pandu is the most important rail-cum-river port in Assam, the Board has decided to give top priority to the development of the Pandu port. A project report has been prepared. I mentioned earlier, the strong demand put forward by the State Government for the location of the new Oil Refinery within the State. This matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India. With the finding of natural gas in the Naharkatiya oil field, possibilities of establishment of a number of industrial projects such as manufacture of carbon gas, fertilisers, etc., and generation of electricity based on gas have opened up. A scheme for utilisation of the gas in various industrial projects has been prepared by a foreign firm at the instance of the State Government. To promote the development of industries, a State Development Committee with members representing different interests has been constituted.

9. In the Second Five Year Plan, provision is made for 3·8 crores of rupees for expansion of power generation

facilities intended to provide for the total additional installed capacity of 20,650 k.w. Although this is a big step forward, the State is much behind other States or the All-India average so far as generation and consumption of electricity is concerned. Six Small Town Electrification schemes out of 14 projected have already been completed and others are expected to be completed during the current year. Two private undertakings at Nowgong and Karimganj were taken over for departmental running and are functioning to the greater satisfaction of the consumers. The Umtru Project is very near completion and power is expected to be switched on early next month. Government are preparing to set up a State Electricity Board which will take over the overall administration in the sphere of electricity.

10. In addition to the efforts being made for bringing about the industrialisation of the State, the Government is fully alive to the need for the maximum development of the cottage industries. An increased provision has been made for cottage and small industries under the Second Five Year Plan and the programme of development includes supplying of raw materials, arranging disposal of products and training in different crafts as well as modern techniques of production. Financial assistance has been granted to several producers, co-operative societies and similar organisations. The provision of industrial loans has been greatly increased and the procedure liberalised. It is estimated that during the current year, nearly Rs. 10 lakhs would be advanced as loan. Training facilities by granting stipends have also been greatly expanded. The schemes forwarded by the Japanese expert for the establishment of an industrial block and for upgrading one of the Cottage Industries Training institutions have been approved. An Industrial Estate schemes has been sanctioned. Considerable progress has been achieved in Sericulture and Weaving. The proposal to establish a Spun Silk Mill in Assam is being actively pursued.

11. As usual, Brahmaputra and its tributaries as well as the rivers in Cachar were in spate several times during the last monsoon causing floods in different districts. Reports from all the districts indicate that 4,252 villages covering an area of 2,330 square miles inhabited by over 5½ lakhs of people were affected by the floods. Nineteen human lives were lost due to the floods including boat disasters. The value of the damage to crops was estimated to be over Rs. 3 crores apart from the damage caused to houses and other properties. An area of 83,586 acres of land were eroded in different districts affecting

over 3,000 families. The amounts sanctioned for gratuitous relief and loans during 1956-57 totalled over Rs. 42 lakhs. This year, early floods have occurred already in the Lakhimpur district affecting a large number of people. Necessary relief measures have been undertaken.

As a measure of protection against floods, a length of 312 miles of embankments at a cost of about rupees two crores was successfully completed during the last working season, bringing the total length of embankments in the State to 1,336 miles. It is estimated that these embankments have given protection to over 5 lakhs of acres of agricultural land. During the current working season, a length of 200 miles of Brahmaputra and tributary dykes is programmed. Of the 12 town protection schemes taken up in the First Five Year Plan, the second phase of the Dibrugarh protection and the protection work of five other towns, namely, Dhubri, Bilasipara, Goalpara, Nowgong and Jamaguri, were practically completed during the last working season. Several other town protection schemes are scheduled to be completed this year. At the advice of the technical experts, Palasbari town had to be abandoned and an alternative township is being set up at a cost of Rs. 12.85 lakhs. Along with embankments, a number of drainage schemes are also being worked out to carry away accumulation of water. Apart from the other flood control works, work on schemes of irrigation are in progress and the continuing schemes under the First Five Year Plan are proposed to be completed by 1957-58. It is estimated that protection works and embankments have reduced the area affected by floods to about half during the last monsoon as compared to the damage caused in 1955-56.

Investigation of river valley projects is making satisfactory progress and earnest efforts are being made for the early completion of the detailed investigation of the Kapili project. A small power project in Tura in Garo Hills is under investigation and three other Hydro-Electric Projects at Bokakhat, Haflong and Dimapur are being taken up for investigation. Considerable headway had been made in the detailed investigation of the Umiam, Barapani Hydro-Electric scheme but on account of strong opposition from the local people, further investigation on these projects has been stopped.

12. According to the survey completed in February, 1956, the number of displaced persons in Assam was estimated to be 4,66,139. Influx from East Pakistan, however, continued unabated and rose sharply from August, 1956, onwards. By

the end of the last year, the total number of displaced persons was estimated to have reached over 4,87,000. To cope with the situation arising from increased influx, a reception centre was set up at Arunachal in the district of Cachar where destitute new migrants were accommodated and given cash doles. Apart from the usual relief measures, the granting of loans for rehabilitation continued. So far, Rs. 5.50 crores have been advanced as rehabilitation loans to nearly 60,000 families. Efforts are being made to find more land for the displaced persons. A scheme to reclaim 4,780 acres of land in the district of Cachar costing nearly Rs. 32 lakhs has been sanctioned. Efforts are being continued to induce industrialists to start industries in Assam with assistance in the shape of loans and other facilities with a view to provide gainful employment to displaced persons. Government is also examining the feasibility of starting industries for the same purpose. Other schemes for rehabilitation include the establishment of production *cum* training centres for various crafts, provision of housing and establishment of urban markets. To expedite the execution of rehabilitation schemes, an Engineering Division for Relief and Rehabilitation works has been created. Various educational schemes including the establishment of lower primary schools, expansion of accommodation and facilities in secondary schools and colleges are in operation. Schemes for training of displaced students in different technical schools and colleges are being continued and facilities are being expanded. Arrangements have been made for medical relief in different rehabilitation colonies and particular emphasis is being laid on expansion of facilities for the treatment of tubercular patients.

13. The progress of land reforms was held up by some proprietors of Goalpara district challenging the Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris Act, 1951, before the Supreme Court of India. In April last year, Supreme Court's decision upholding the validity of the Act, was given. Immediately thereafter, Government took over possession of three big estates, namely, Bijni, Chapor and Parbatjuar, Mechpara and Gauripur Estates which were under the management of the Court of Wards have since been acquired. Government has been preparing the records of rights of tenure holders with a view to acquire the rights of intermediaries. The Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill was passed by the Assembly during the last Budget Session. The Government of India while conveying the President's assent advised amendment

of certain provisions before enforcing the Act. A Bill containing the amendments will be placed before you. It is the intention of the Government to speed up land reforms in the State.

14. In the last address delivered by my predecessor, various aspects of developmental activities in the autonomous districts and tribal areas in the plains districts were dealt with in detail. It is not necessary for me to reiterate them here. The development schemes completed during the First Five Year Plan period and the provisions made under the Second Plan would show the extent of the Government's efforts and determination to bring about allround development of the autonomous districts and the tribal areas in the plains districts. The Government has also continued schemes for the relieving of distress caused in the hill districts due to the Partition. The development schemes are comprehensive covering communications, education, medical, public health, agriculture and all other aspects of economic activity as well as social welfare. So far as the hills districts are concerned, the target of the First Five Year Plan financed under Article 275(1) of the Constitution stood at Rs. 344.53 lakhs. In addition to this, the expenditure in the hill areas on schemes of development under the State's general plan amounted to Rs. 204.14 lakhs during the First Plan period. The State Government had also undertaken several development schemes entirely financed from the State revenue outside the First Five Year Plan and the expenditure on these schemes in the hill areas amounted to Rs. 160 lakhs. From these figures, it will be seen that as against a total expenditure of Rs. 344.53 lakhs financed from grants by the Government of India under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, the State Government from its own resources spent a total amount of Rs. 364.14 lakhs on development schemes in the hill areas during the First Five Year Plan period. I am quoting these figures to remove the misconception which seems to have found place among certain sections of the public that whatever development work is undertaken in the autonomous hill districts and tribal areas is financed entirely by the Government of India and that the State Government has done nothing from its own resources. So far as the Second Five Year Plan is concerned, it follows the general pattern of the First Plan except that targets have been more than doubled. The Plan contemplates a total outlay of Rs. 10 crores, out of which Rs. 7.40 crores are earmarked for the autonomous hill districts, Rs. 2.10 crores for plains tribal



areas and Rs. 50 lakhs for the scheduled castes. In addition, the Home Ministry have approved of a programme of Centrally sponsored schemes totalling Rs. 198 lakhs, out of which Rs. 168 lakhs will be earmarked for the autonomous hill districts. During the First Five Year Plan period, the Government of India bore the entire expenditure of Rs. 344.53 lakhs under the Article 275(1) schemes mentioned by me earlier. So far as the Second Plan is concerned, the Government of India have laid down a condition that they would bear only two-thirds of the cost of the Plan for the welfare and development of the tribal people in the plains and hills, the balance one-third to be met from the State revenues. The State Government has protested against this decision, but it has not yet been revised. This will mean that the State Government will have to find nearly Rs. 3½ crores from its own revenues during the Second Plan period for financing the development plans under Article 275(1) alone, in addition to finding resources for the general State plan which include schemes for the autonomous hill districts and tribal areas over and above the Article 275(1) schemes. One of the useful schemes taken up last year was that of provision of free education of scheduled tribal and scheduled caste students for which the Home Ministry contributed Rs. 6 lakhs and the State contributed an equivalent amount. This scheme will be continued. The Government has initiated a programme for solving the problem of water supply which is acute in the hill districts. The scheme at Cherrapunji was completed and reservoirs are being constructed at Aijal. A scheme for Tura is under scrutiny by the Public Works Department and it is also proposed to take schemes for supplying water to Lungleh, Mokokchung and Diphu. District Councils were first constituted in 1952 for a term of five years in all the autonomous hill districts except the Naga Hills. Along with the General Elections, elections to the respective District Councils were also held. In case of the Mizo, Garo, Mikir and North Cachar Hills District Councils, elections were conducted by Government on their behalf, the cost being borne by the Government at the first instance. From their very inception, the Government has been rendering every possible help to them for the efficient discharge of their functions. During the last five years, the total of grants, loans and other financial assistance rendered by the Government to the District Councils amount to nearly Rs. 16½ lakhs, while Rs. 10,40,000 Grant-in-aid was paid out of the block grant under Article 275(1)(b) of the Constitution. The District Councils are a unique experiment in district

autonomy and the Government's policy has been to nurture them to healthy growth, so that the population in the hill districts can enjoy the fullest benefits granted by the Constitution of managing their own affairs.

15. The Government has been exploring all possible means to augment the revenues of the State to finance the welfare and development schemes. The recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission were examined in detail and efforts were made to implement the recommendations as far as possible. Some textile goods hitherto exempted from the levy of sales tax were brought under taxation and the rate of tax on some other goods was raised up to one anna in the rupee. Steps were also being taken to collect the tax at source from some items, to reduce the chances of evasion. The centralisation of sales tax on commodities of inter-State trade has been brought about by Parliamentary legislation and it is hoped that this will help trade without interfering with the fiscal rights of the State Governments. The details of the taxation measures adopted during the last year and the current year and their results will be given by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech and Financial Statement. The second Finance Commission constituted under the Constitution visited Assam in 1956. It is hoped that the Commission, after considering the financial position of the State Government, the tax effort and the special problems of the State, will recommend a larger share of the Central taxes and grants to the State.

16. The Government constituted a Pay Committee in July 1955, to enquire into the scales of pay and allowances in all branches of Government services to bring about rationalisation and also to secure a decent living wage to Government servants. The Committee was also requested to suggest model scales of pay for essential non-Government services and teachers of recognised educational institutions. The Government has generally accepted the recommendations of the Committee which it submitted its report in August 1956, and decided to give effect to the revised scales of pay from 1st October 1956. As against 254 different scales of pay obtaining in the State, there will now be only 62 standard scales for various services. The minimum of the scale for Government services of the lowest category has been revised from Rs.25 to Rs.28 per month and the maximum raised from Rs.35 to Rs.40 per month. With dearness and other allowances, the total monthly minimum emolument of the lowest paid employee would be Rs.58-3-0 throughout the State.

and Rs.61-8-0 in Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The Government has also decided that the ceiling of the highest salary of State services should remain at Rs.1,500 per month as at present. This means that the *ratio* of income of the lowest and highest paid State Government servant would be 1 to 23 which is less than the *ratio* considered reasonable by the Planning Commission. The immediate financial effect of the revision of scales has been estimated at Rs. 125 lakhs approximately. More than half the benefit is expected to go to the teachers of Aided Educational Institutions and L. P. Schools. In view of the rise in the price of food-stuffs and other essential commodities, the Government has decided to give further relief to employees whose total emoluments do not exceed Rs.100 per month. With effect from 1st April 1957, an *ad hoc* increase would be granted to the dearness allowance of such employees to bring up the increase in emoluments caused by the revision of pay scales to a minimum total of Rs.12 per month.

17. Government decided last year to cover the entire State excluding the autonomous districts by Rural Panchayats. To make democracy broadbased in the country and fully evoke public co-operation and participation in development, it is essential to organise the Panchayats and nurse them to growth. This programme is being pushed through in spite of financial difficulties.

18. The steady rise in the budget provision for education during recent years reflects the Government's efforts in this field. New lines of activities in the coming year includes deputation of a larger number of secondary school teachers for B. T. training and other training classes of the Gauhati University and the gradual expansion of Hindi teaching in Schools. Larger funds have been provided for giving grants to aided High Schools. The Government has also accepted the policy of conversion of selected High Schools into Higher Secondary Schools and Multi-purpose Schools. To implement the policy of gradually converting Primary Schools into Basic Schools, provision has been made for large expansion of training facilities for teachers. Action has been taken for the all round development of the Gauhati Civil Engineering College and improvement of the Institute of Engineering and Technology at Jorhat. Provision has also been made for the development of the Civil Engineering Institute at Gauhati and the Technical Schools at Nowgong, Tezpur and Silchar. The seats in the Assam Medical College have been raised from 65 to 100 and opening of Post-Graduate courses in certain selected subjects has recently

been sanctioned by Government. In the Second Five Year Plan, further expansion of the Medical College including the establishment of a Research Department has been provided for. In the autonomous hill districts, the taking over of existing schools by Government and opening of new schools continue. Liberal provisions have also been made for giving grants to schools of all varieties. Increased provision has also been made for the grant of scholarships to tribal students in schools, colleges, technical institutions and also for studies overseas. The N. C. C. and A. C. C. are being expanded.

19. Under the Medical Department, one of the important schemes taken up during the last year was for the treatment of leprosy in the autonomous districts and the plains tribal areas. The facilities for treatment of tubercular patients were further expanded. In addition to the normal activities of the Public Health Department, anti-malaria and hook worm units functioned effectively and more dispensaries, maternity and child welfare centres were opened both in the Plains and in the Hill Districts. A few mobile dispensaries are at present serving places in the hills and plains where there are no dispensaries. Three cases of plague occurred at Gauhati during November, 1956, and immediate preventive measures were taken. After conducting thorough investigation by specialists, Government has set up a separate Anti-Plague Department to take all necessary measures to keep this disease under control. The implementation of Medical and Public Health schemes has been retarded to some extent due to acute shortage of doctors and the matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

20. The State Transport has taken up several new routes to the satisfaction of the travelling public. For encouraging tourism in the State, apart from the development of the Game sanctuary at Kaziranga which has acquired international reputation, several new schemes have been accepted by the Ministry of Transport to the Government of India which will be implemented.

21. The co-operative movement has gained further momentum and the rehabilitation of rural credit has been taken up systematically. Up to the end of 1956, over Rs. 72 lakhs were advanced as short and medium term loans. Efforts are being made through co-operative organisations to increase production not only in the field of agriculture but of industry. Several industrial enterprises on a co-operative basis have been

taken up, including the project for the Co-operative Sugar Mill at Dergaon, the Co-operative Ginning Mill at Phulbari and the Rural Electrification work by the Mauza Consumers' Co-operative Store at Barpeta. It is proposed to start another Co-operative Ginning Mill at Diphu in the Mikir Hills. The activities of the Department are being intensified in the Community Projects and National Extension Service blocks where fruitful results are confidently expected to be achieved. A large number of field officers are being trained in different training institutions.

22. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to raise the general standard of living of the plantation and other industrial workers in the State. Apart from introducing legislative measures and implementing them, the Government is engaged in welfare activities among tea garden workers by establishing welfare centres and community centres in collaboration with voluntary organisations like the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust, the Hindusthan Mazdoor Sevak Sangha and the Assam Seva Samity. The Plantation Labour Act has been brought into force. This Act provides for housing, medical and other facilities to be granted by the employers. The Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Scheme which was taken up from September, 1955, has been a great success and the total contributions exceed Rs. 2 crores.

23. I have mentioned earlier that the Government is taking measures for strengthening of the administration, improving procedures to eliminate delay in addition to the measures to combat corruption. An Organisation and Methods Division was established in October, 1954. This Division with a small staff, started work in inspection of offices, assessment of weaknesses and suggesting remedial measures. Under the Division, a Secretariat Assistants' Training Centre has been functioning and training in stenography and typewriting has recently been sanctioned. It is also proposed to establish an officers' training college to impart training to administrative officers.

24. In my address, I have attempted nothing more than giving an outline of some of the significant activities of the Government. The country has embarked on an ambitious Second Five Year Plan, to implement which all our resources have to be mobilised and a good deal of hard work by all has to be put in. It is also quite evident that some sacrifices are unavoidable to finance the Plan. The development of Assam and her future progress is intimately linked up with the success

of the Plan. The task in Assam is particularly difficult as, on top of our limited resources of manpower and slender finances, we have various problems both created by nature and man-made which we have to face and solve as we go along. While there are difficulties ahead, there is no reason for despondency. With complete unity and steadfastness of purpose of all sections and classes of the people and mutual co-operation, the task of building up the future prosperity of the State can be successfully achieved. I am confident that if small differences that arise here and there are not allowed to cloud the main issues and every one is prepared to pull together for the common good, we shall achieve our goal. In this gigantic co-operative venture lying in front of the people of the State, I look upon the hon. Members of this House representing all areas of the State and different sections of its people to provide the necessary leadership.

JAI HIND

### Motion on the Governor's Address

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Deputy Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that 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 House this assembled on June, 8th 1957. I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Mohi Kanta Das.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** 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, Deputy Minister 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 June 8, 1957”.

I hereby fix 10th June, Monday, 11th June, Tuesday and forenoon of 12th June, Wednesday 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 3 P.M. on Sunday, the 9th June, 1957 for which office will remain open on that day from 12 noon.

As we have no more business today, the House stands adjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday, the 10th June, 1957.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday, the 10th June, 1957.

Shillong:

The 25th July, 1957.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly,  
Assam.