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DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1979

(Budget Session)

Volume— III

No— 1

Dated the 21st February, 1979.

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**Proceedings of the Third session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the Sixth General Election
under Sovereign Democratic Republican
Constitution of India.**

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Dispur, Gauhati on Wednesday, the 21st February, 1979 with the Hon. Speaker in the Chair, 12 (twelve) Ministers, 4 (four) Ministers of State, 4 (four) Parliamentary Secretaries and 103 (One hundred and three) Members present.

STARRED

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Date : 21st February, 1979.

Mr. Speaker :— Hon'ble member present, the Governor is addressing the House to-day at 10.10 A.M. He is coming by the Eastern Gate of the Assembly premi-

ses at 10.05 A.M. Myself, Deputy Speaker and the Secretary will be going to receive him at the Gate. The instructions as to how the Governor is to be received in the House have been laid on each Member's table. As soon as the Governor comes, I think, we should comply with these instructions. In the meantime, the Address will be distributed to the Members.

With your permission now, I leave the House to receive the Governor at the Gate. (Mr. Speaker left the House at 10-02 A.M.)

(The Governor arrived at 10.05 A.M.)

Before I request the Governor to address the House I like to inform the House that the Governor is indisposed, and as such the Governor will be pleased to address the House sitting.

(At this stage the Hon'ble members belonging to Opposition Groups viz : Congress, Congress (I), C.P.I., R.C.P.I. and S.U.I.C. stood up almost all at a time shouting : "When the Governor could not

protect the life and property of the people he has no moral right to address the House " and this continued for quite sometime.)

মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল :— মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আৰু সন্মানীত সদস্যবৃন্দ.....

(Again interruption and shouting by the members of Opposition Groups viz Congress, Congress (I), R.C.P.I., C.P.I. and S.U.I.C. continued. The Congress Member Shri Mukut Sarma held a poster written as " BORBORA RESIGN " and displayed it in the House. Then the Opposition Groups viz: Congress, Congress (I), C.P.I., R.C.P.I. and S.U.I.C. staged a walkout shouting against the Governor and Shri Mukut Sarma, a Congress Member placed the poster " BORBORA RESIGN " on the table of the Deputy Speaker.)

শ্ৰীঅতুল চন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী :— মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি যোৱাবাৰ বিধান সভাত ৰাজ্যপালক বিজিয়নেল লেংগুয়েজত ভাষণ দিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰিছিলো।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ :— তেখেতে অসমীয়াতে ভাষণ আৰম্ভ কৰিছে। কিন্তু যিহেতু আমাৰ এটা নিয়ম আছে যে ইংৰাজী, অসমীয়া, হিন্দী আৰু বঙালী এই চাৰিওটা ভাষাতেই ভাষণ দিব পাৰে। তেখেতে যদিও

অসমীয়াতে আবন্ত কৰিছে তেখেত অসমীয়াত পাৰ্গত নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে অসমীয়াত দিবলৈ অনুবিধা পোৱাৰ কাৰণে ইংৰাজীত ভাষণ দিব।

শ্ৰীপ্ৰেমধৰ বৰা :— মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসম-নগালেণ্ড বোৰ্ডাৰত যিটো ঘটনা হৈ গল আৰু তাত যিসকল লোক নিহত হল তেওঁলোকৰ শোক সন্তপ্ত পৰিয়াল বৰ্গলৈ সমবেদনা জনোৱাৰ কথা আৰু লগতে এই চৰকাৰৰ ব্যৰ্থতাৰ কথা ৰাষ্ট্ৰপাল মহোদয়ে শুনাকৈ মই দাঙি ধৰিছো।

Mr. Speaker :— Order, order, no interference at this stage please.

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It is with great pleasure that I address this august House once again. The period since I addressed you last has been quite eventful and marked by profound changes in different spheres of social, political and economic life. The restoration of democratic values has led to new dawn of dynamism, initiative and purpose giving rise to hopes of a great future for all sections of our people.

Border Situation.

The past year has not however been without its stresses and strains. A number of units have been carved out of the state of Assam during the past years and our borders with them have been the subject-matter of their claims although the Acts of Parliament constituting such units clearly specified which areas would constitute their territories. It has always been the endeavour of my Government to solve any genuine boundary claim in a spirit of cooperation and mutual goodwill. It was in pursuance of this policy that an agreement was reached between the Chief Ministers of Assam and Nagaland on 2nd January, 1979, to find a permanent solution of the boundary problem between the two states through bilateral discussions. It was hoped that this long standing problem which had resulted in a number of incidents of violence in the past would be finally solved in a spirit of cooperation thus paving the way for a new era of goodwill between the people of the two states. The heinous crime perpetrated by bands of armed miscreants who made a surprise attack on the innocent people of Assam along the Assam-Nagaland border on 3th January,

1979 last, leaving behind a trail of death and destruction came as a rude shock. A deep sense of anguish and agony engulfs our hearts when we recall the inhuman atrocities perpetrated by the bands of armed miscreants on our innocent people. The criminals responsible are being hunted down and the steps taken to restore confidence and security of the affected people are yielding good results. My Government are confident that it will be possible before long to fully rehabilitate the uprooted people in their original habitations. My Government are also confident that it will be possible to find a long term solution to the boundary problem with Nagaland so that the people living on the border can in future live with a full sense of security. It is my pleasant duty to congratulate the people of Assam in this context for the exemplary manner in which they refrained from taking any retaliatory measure against innocent Nagas inhabiting or passing through Assam despite the atrocities committed from across the border on our innocent people.

Law and Order.

3 The law and order situation within the

state has also been under control, thanks to the timely steps taken by my Government. Nonetheless there were trying times for the administration when interested elements tried to take advantage of the restoration of the democratic way of life to exploit the dissatisfaction of the people resulting from the neglect of vital problems over the past many years. A large number of agitational programmes were resorted to by various sections of the people. In all cases of genuine grievances my Government have been pursuing a policy of holding free and frank discussions with the people's representatives and meeting the legitimate grievances to the extent of their capability. At the same time, firm action has been taken to check deliberate efforts by interested quarters to paralyse the life of the community. It will be the constant endeavour of my Government to promote an atmosphere of mutual trust, understanding and good will in a true democratic spirit so that all legitimate grievances of the people are satisfactorily redressed.

Commitment to democratic values.

It is in fact the earnest endeavour of my

Government to build up a truly democratic system to ensure proper growth and development of the creative forces. It is in keeping with this total commitment to democratic values that the Panchayat elections have already been conducted. It is gratifying to record that the elections roused great enthusiasm all over the state thus demonstrating the increasing democratic awareness in rural Assam. Holding of the civic polls to the Gauhati Municipal Corporation and other Municipal Boards, which were superseded by the previous Government, has been likewise prompted by my Government's determination to restore democracy in all spheres of life. Mention may also be made in this context of the steps currently being taken for suitable legislative measures to amend the Assam Municipal Act, 1956 and the Gauhati Municipal Corporation Act, 1969, so as to reduce the maximum period of supersession of any civic body to one year. General elections were held in April 1978, to the Karbi Anglong District Council, in which the candidates supported by the Janata Party obtained majority and formed the Executive Committee. The administration of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous District however had to be taken over with effect from November

3, 1978, following development of a situation in which administration of the District Council could not be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. Fresh election to the District Council will be held in due time.

Creation of new administrative units.

My Government have been constantly exploring ways to bring the administration closer to the people which is essential for purposeful formulation and expeditious execution of the development projects. With this object in view, it has been decided to constitute ten more districts and twelve new sub-divisions. Three sub-divisions viz. Majuli, Sadiya and Jcnai, have already come into being and the rest of the proposed units will be constituted in a phased manner. My Government have also decided to have administrative units at Sarupathar and Moran of Sibsagar and Dibrugarh districts respectively.

Rural Development.

As the Hon'ble members are aware, there has been a marked increase in the emphasis

on rural development. While the Government's developmental activities are already marked by a general tilt in favour of the rural sector, an ambitious programme of integrated rural development called Gramothan has also been formulated and is being launched in a phased manner. The programme envisages the gradual emergence of a healthy village economy through the integrated development of the Development Blocks in the State. Thirty-nine blocks located in four districts covered by Small Farmers' Development Agencies have been initially selected for execution of the programme. The other districts will also be covered as soon as the agencies for implementation of the programme are evolved. It is expected that the entire state will be covered by the end of the Sixth Plan period.

Planning Strategy

The draft Sixth Plan for the state, which is awaiting final consideration at the national level has been prepared keeping in view the national objectives like raising the living standard of the poorest section of the people, provision of basic amenities to those in the lower income group and removal of unemployment.

Pattern of Annual Plan

Meanwhile, the Planning Commission has fixed the Annual Plan outlay for the state for 1979-80 at Rs. 155.00 crores including Rs. 11.00 crores for the Hill Areas. In addition, there will be special central assistance of Rs. 3.25 crores for the tribal sub-plan and an amount of Rs. 8 crores will be available under additive programme for the Hill Areas.

Agriculture

The Annual Plan for the agricultural sector, which is the most vital sector of the state's economy, aims at increasing food-grain production by 1.57 lakh tonnes in General Areas, increasing area and yield of sugarcane in the proposed and existing sugar mills areas so as to feed six sugar mills by the end of the sixth plan, increasing area and production of oil seeds to meet about sixty percent of the state's total demand and of pulses to meet half of the total requirement of the state by the end of the same plan period.

Hon'ble members may be aware that the current year's target of food production had to be

lowered from 26 lakh tonnes to 24 lakh tonnes due to prevailing drought condition which resulted in late transplantation of Sali paddy in several areas, heavy pest attack in Cachar and non-receipt of required wheat seeds from the National Seeds Corporation.

Several important schemes in the sphere of agriculture are in progress. Special mention may be made of the World Bank assisted project of Intensive Extension Service, which has been implemented with emphasis on crop management practice and increasing area under high-yielding variety. Other important schemes relate to effective use of fertilisers, distribution of improved seeds, plant protection, increased production of commercial crops, farmers' training, manufacture of small implements suitable for local conditions, quality control and development of horticulture.

In addition to the continuing schemes, several new schemes aimed at giving social benefits as well as stimulating productivity will be initiated during the ensuing year. The schemes will include innovative programmes like organisa-

tion of "Bhumi Sena", small scale tea cultivation by marginal farmers and old age pension to deserving cultivators.

Land Reforms.

Stimulation of productivity is also conditioned to a large extent by land reforms. My Government have constituted a Land Reforms Commission to study the land reforms policy so far followed in the state and to suggest revision and consolidation of the land laws. Sub-divisional Land Advisory Committees have also been constituted to look into matters connected with planned settlements, settlement of waste land, rehabilitation of landless and flood affected people and allotment of ceiling surplus land. A crash programme has been launched for updating Record-of-Rights and more than 3 lakhs tenants have been recorded so far. My Government have decided to issue patta to those landless people who have been in occupation of Government land prior to January, 1976, according to the limits for land settlement prevailing at the relevant time.

Irrigation

As the agriculture sector holds the key to

to the State's economic transformation, my Government firmly believe that stabilisation of this vital sector is our first priority and, therefore, emphasis has to be given on development of irrigation, which will help the farmers in following improved cropping pattern and practices and undertaking multiple cropping. During the Sixth plan, it is proposed to invest about Rs. 100 crores on minor; medium and major irrigation projects to develop a gross irrigation coverage of 7.67 lakh hectares against a total net crop area of 23.71 lakh hectares.

A major irrigation project, namely, Dhan-siri Irrigation Project, as well as 9 medium and 218 minor projects are under construction.

Comprehensive schemes for development of command areas of Jamuna, Sukla and Kaliabor Irrigation Projects are also being taken up.

The next year's target under minor irrigation is 27 thousand hectares while the major-medium sector is expected to cover an additional area of a little less than 23 thousand hectares. A massive programme of installing shallow tube wells has

also been taken up for augmenting rabi cultivation in the 'char' and the flood affected areas.

Flood Control.

The State was not seriously affected last year by floods but erosion damages were heavy. However, the adoption of a comprehensive programme for river control in the Brahmaputra and Surma Valleys is essential in order to save the people from the annual ravages of floods. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the Central Government have introduced a Bill in Parliament for constituting the Brahmaputra River Board and it is hoped that it will soon be possible to undertake comprehensive measures in an integrated way to tackle the flood problem. In the meanwhile, my Government will continue to undertake protection measures to the extent feasible by construction of new embankments and strengthening of old ones besides anti-erosion measures.

Fishery

Fisheries play a no less significant role in our rural economy and my Government will give

special emphasis on development of fisheries specially because the actual fishermen are almost entirely drawn from the weaker section of the society. The Fish Farmers Development Agency, now functioning only in Kamrup and Darrang districts is proposed to be gradually extended to the other districts as well. In order to meet the increased requirement of technical persons for pisciculture development, one additional training centre is proposed to be set up in Nowgong district in addition to the two existing centres at Joysagar and Cauhati. A proposal to set up a Centre in Cachar district is also under examination. The Assam Fishery Development Corporation will continue its endeavours for development and exploitation of the teel fisheries.

Veterinary Animal Husbandry.

Several schemes have also been launched for development of cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, feeds and fodder. The veterinary schemes include establishment of hospitals and first aid centres, expansion of diagnostic and biological products laboratories and disease control measures.

Several improved Indian and exotic breeds

have been introduced to reduce the milk shortage. In addition to the four existing projects, a new intensive cattle-development project is being implemented in Kokrajhar. Four Town Milk Supply Schemes are presently functioning with a total handling capacity of 19,000 litres. A milk cooperative union has been established at Gauhati as the apex body with a number of primary milk producers' societies in the rural areas of Kamrup, Goalpara and Nowgong districts.

Schemes of animal husbandry are being implemented in the tribal areas as well. A total number of 2995 tribal farmers will get direct benefit from distribution of milch cattle, poultry, ducks and pigs while 1615 farmers are being trained in modern methods of rearing birds and animals.

Forest and wild life

Forests too play a key role in our economy. Hence programmes for regeneration and plantation have been continued while special emphasis has been laid on Teak wood, Match wood and Plywood plantations to facilitate growth of industries.

Attention is being paid to wild life which adds to the charm of the state and also contributes to the state's resources. The measures undertaken to protect the precious animals in the sanctuaries have shown encouraging results. Protection measures are being further geared up against poaching in the Kaziranga National Park and other wild life sanctuaries. Measures to protect tigers under the central 'Tiger Project' have been intensified.

Co-operation

The co-operative movement has a key role to play in the rural economic life of Assam. It is however unfortunate that the co-operative movement could not gain proper strength and viability in the past years due to various factors. My Government have, therefore, constituted a high level committee to streamline the co-operative structure to make it a fit instrument for the socio economic improvement of the state. Endeavour will also be made to improve the performance of the Gaon Panchayat level Samabai Samities, by providing each society with two additional hands to facilitate distribution of agri-credit, ensure its proper utilisation and improve recovery.

An apex level Housing Finance Society has been organised to encourage growth of housing co-operatives to meet the acute problem of housing. Efforts are being made to organise two spinning mills in the co-operative sector to meet the yarn requirement of the weaving co-operatives.

Industrial Development.

The broad strategy for industrial development in respect of large and medium sectors has been to encourage growth of industries having locally available resources and potential. The main thrust under village and small industries has been for generation of greater employment opportunities. The industrial policy is proposed to be suitably revised to give proper emphasis to employment orientation.

Work has been started on implementation of two paper projects at Jagiroad and Pancharam by the Hindustan paper Corporation. The first batch of local youths has been sent by the State Government for training in the Institute of paper Technology so that trained local personnel are given employment in the paper projects. STATFED

will set up a Vanaspati plant for which letter of intent has been received. Feasibility study has been undertaken for establishment of a coir industry in consultation with the Coir Board.

It has been decided to establish a spinning Mill with polyester and viscose blends as a down-stream unit of the Bongaigaon Refinery & Petro-Chemicals Limited. A Textile Corporation is proposed to be constituted for this purpose and the handloom and powerloom units will also be transferred to the Corporation for integrated development.

The Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation have set up two Khandsari Sugar Mills, a fruit preservation unit, a citronella farm-cum-distillation unit, a saw mill and oil crushing units in the two hill districts. The Assam Tea Corporation is earning good profits and during 1977 and 1978, it could pay bonus at the rate of 20 per cent.

Small Industries.

Special emphasis is being for development of small and village industries including handicra-

fts. Construction of six commercial estates under the tribal sub-plan has been completed and the sheds are being allotted to tribal entrepreneurs. Five District Industries Centres have been set up in Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong, Dibrugarh and Cachar districts to provide support and services to small and rural entrepreneurs. The Assam Small Industries Development Corporation is assisting the educated unemployed in setting up small scale industry by offering industrial plots and sheds in mini-industrial estates, machineries on hire purchase, seed money, equity participation, essential raw materials, marketing assistance, consultancy service and training in management. It has already constructed five mini-industrial units and twelve more are being added.

Power

Shortage of power is a major constraint in the state's industrialisation. The Central Government have recently approved a project for setting up three gas turbines of 3 megawatts each to be run on gas now being flared in different ONGC and Oil India fields in Upper Assam. The turbines are expected to be commissioned within a year.

The first unit of the Bongaigaon Thermal Station and the Lakwa Thermal Station are expected to be commissioned towards the end of 1979. Work on the two hydel projects viz Upper and Lower Borapani with installed capacities of 60 and 100 MWs respectively will be taken up soon. The Bordikharu Micro Level Project (3x 00 kw) is expected to be commissioned by the end of 1980. Investigation works for five more hydel projects at Lower Kopili, Amring, Kaliani, Barapani, and Daliama have also been taken up.

Efforts have been stepped up to electrify as many villages as possible within the shortest time to promote irrigation facilities and small industries in the rural areas. It is proposed to electrify 1165 villages and energise 300 pumping sets during the next year.

Roads and Transport

My Government have also accorded very high priority to the improvement of communication. The laying of the foundation of the second bridge over the Brahmaputra has opened a new chapter in the history of communication development in

Assam. The Government have given special emphasis also on construction of rural roads and during 1978-79. 614 Km. of rural roads will be completed and the next year's target has been fixed at 920 Km. The tribal sub-plan target includes 50 Kms of new rural roads. The Ganga-dhar bridge on National Highway 31 has also been completed and thrown open to traffic, thus improving communication facilities with the rest of the country.

My Government have also decided to re-vamp the inland water transport facilities in the state, more particularly for maintaining a steady supply of essential commodities.

The p or state of communication in the border areas has been fully exposed during the recent unfortunate incidents along the Assam-Nagaland border. Special steps are being taken to improve communication in the border areas.

Sub-divisional Road Boards have been constituted to review the progress of road development works as well as for preparation of District

Master Plans of roads.

The works on road projects taken up during the Fifth plan period under North Eastern Council programme are under progress. For the period 1979-83 12 projects viz., Jhanji-Angu i-Mokokchang, Road, (2) Giladhari-Nagabat Road, (3) Kampur-Raha-Baithalangsua Road, (4) Lekhapani-Joyrapur Road (section II), (5) Darrnagiri-Khurkutta Road, (6) Krishnai-Mendipathar Road, (7) Dhupdhara-Adogiri Road, (8) Construction of bridge over river Jinjiram near Phulbari, (9) Damara-Dalgama Road (section II), (10) Tamenglong-Haflong Road, (11) Kohima-Haflong Road, (12) Laporijo-N. T. Road have been proposed.

Hon'ble Members will be glad to know that because of the efforts of my Government, Railway Ministry has increased the financial allocation for the extension of broad-gauge railway line to Gauhati and this will expedite completion of the project.

P. W. D.

With a view to accelerating the building

construction activities of my Government, the building wing in the Public Works Department was separated from the Road wing in late 1977. The activities of this wing of the Department have been geared up since last year and within a short period it could complete some prestigious construction works which remained incomplete for a long time. Due to all round improved performance, the work-load of the wing has increased from Rs. 800 lakhs in 1977-78 to Rs. 1500 lakhs in 1978-79.

Government have in the meantime taken steps to regularise the services of work charged employees who have put in 5 years of continuous service in Public Works, Flood Control, Irrigation, Health and Transport Departments. Similarly, appointment of Muster Roll labourers of public Works Department who have put in 5 years of continuous service would be regularised.

Self employment.

The increasing number of the unemployed educated youths has caused much concern to the Government. Besides the efforts made to increase

the employment opportunities in Central and State Government offices and public sector undertakings emphasis is being laid on promoting self employment opportunities. The Entrepreneurship Motivation programme which aims at promotion of such opportunities and creation of an industrial climate is being implemented through six centres at Kokrajhar, Mangaldoi, Jorhat, Diphu, Dhemaji and Silchar. Over 800 unemployed youths have benefited from this programme. 2596 schemes have been sponsored with the banks, bank finance amounting to Rs. 196.71 lakhs arranged and seed money amounting to Rs. 21.97 lakhs provided by the State Government.

At the instance of my Government, the Union Railway Ministry has set up a Railway Public Service Commission for N. F. Railway with headquarters at Gauhati and it is hoped that this will facilitate appointment of local youths from this region in the railway service.

Technical Education.

Further diversification in the field of technical and vocational education is also being

contemplated in view of the new avenues of gainful employment. New Diploma Courses in disciplines like fishery technology, short term management courses and commercial practice courses are proposed in the next year's Annual Plan. Three new Polytechnics will also be opened in the north bank districts.

Education.

My Government consider educational development to be an essential part of the nation-building activities. During the current year, important policy decisions have been taken relating to remission of school fees, improving science education in schools and upgrading existing high schools in the backward areas. Special mention may be made of the launching of the ambitious National Adult Education Programme. It is encouraging to find that the programme has already roused considerable enthusiasm in the rural areas. Steps have been taken to cover 4.26 lakh adults under the programme in Assam during the coming year.

Eradication of illiteracy and ignorance

will not be complete without universalising elementary education. Hence, my Government have suitably refixed the targets and restructured the machinery to achieve universalisation on a time-bound basis. It has been decided to cover every schoolless village with at least one primary school. With a view to streamlining elementary education and achieving the target of universalisation, a separate Directorate has been created. In the hill areas 14,000 additional children are proposed to be enrolled in the elementary schools in the coming year.

Improvement of text books to keep pace with the changed times and extra curricular activities designed to facilitate all around development of the student community are being encouraged.

Sports and youth Welfare.

My Government attach great importance to the promotion of sports as an essential part of youth welfare. A comprehensive scheme involving 1,500 youths in each block of the plains districts is under execution and it has generated noticeable enthusiasm. The scheme involves improvement of

play grounds, coaching of spotted talents and competition from Gaon Panchayat level upwards. Infra-structural facilities like Stadia are being created in Silchar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Mariani. The programmes in this sphere also include institution of awards for distinguished sportsmen and scholarships for spotted talents.

Social Welfare

Besides promoting various social welfare programmes, my Government have decided to implement integrated child welfare programmes on the occasion of the International Children Year Commencing from 1st of January 1979 involving the non-official social welfare organisations.

Historical and Antiquarian Studies

The Department of Historical and Antiquarian studies, which has celebrated its golden jubilee earlier this year, has been carrying on earnest endeavours to create and develop a climate for historical and antiquarian studies. The second volume of the Political History of Assam has been brought out under the auspices of the Department

of Political History and the third and final volume is getting ready for the press.

Art and Culture

The programmes relating to cultural development includes setting up of a cultural museum at Gauhati for preservation of traditional art and culture, a Tai Museum at Sibsagar and several small museums in different places including Diphu and Haflong. A cultural centre is proposed to be set up at Majuli for training in Satriya forms of dance and music. The College of Music and Dance will also be started this year in a rented house.

Health

Construction of 200 bed Civil Hospital at its new site in Dhubri is in progress. Administrative approval has been accorded for construction of Civil Hospitals at Dhemaji and North Lakhimpur. Steps are being taken to set up a full fledged Hospital at Hamren. Plans and estimates are under preparation for hospitals at Marigaon and Tinsukia. A 30 bed hospital at Maibong will shortly start

functioning. Four Primary Health Centres have been upgraded to 30 bed rural hospitals and more such upgradations are contemplated. Upgrading of Public Health Centres of Jonai, Chapakhowa and Majuli are under active consideration of my Government. Augmentation and strengthening of drug control administration are engaging the Government's attention.

There were 47 occurrences of Ch lera including nine deaths during 1978 in the Kamrup district but further spread was effectively checked through prompt preventive measures. Japanese Encephalitis affected 423 persons and claimed 214 lives in different areas. Since there is no known specific treatment of the disease, it had to be contained through extensive preventive measures.

A number of medical officers drawn from the Primary Health Centres have been trained for the expanded programme of immunisation which will be launched from April next.

Drinking water

My Government have laid considerable

emphasis on provision of drinking water facilities to the rural people. In addition to the normal plan schemes, a special programme was also launched under "Accelerated Rural Water Supply" from 1977-78. During 1979-80, 500 villages will have drinking water through piped supply, ring wells and tubewells. Two urban schemes will also be completed. In the hill areas, 42 villages will be provided with drinking water. The urban scheme at Haflong is likely to be completed within two years.

The Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution proposes to establish 48 monitoring stations for classification of rivers and assessing the pollution load on the rivers which are carrying effluent discharge from industries.

Housing

The important programmes in the Housing sector during 1979-80 will include Hire Purchase Scheme for economically weaker sections, integrated subsidised housing for industrial workers, loan to individuals under Low Income Group Housing Scheme and research and training in respect of low

cost housing. The physical targets for the year include 2,411 houses under State Plan Schemes 800 under subsidised Housing Scheme for plantation workers and 4 pockets under the MNP Scheme of Environmental improvement of slum area.

Town and Country Planning.

Schemes for improvement of slum areas in Gauhati are proposed under the Town and Country Planning programmes and seventeen slum areas have been identified. Meantime, final Master plans for development of Tezpur, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar have been adopted while draft plans for Nowgong and Sibsagar have been published. The Master Plan for Gauhati is being revised in the light of changed circumstances. Work on Master Plan for Diphu is in progress and action has been started with regard to Haflong. Based on the adopted master plans, some growth centres are proposed to be developed and ten such centres have been earmarked for 1979-80.

A traffic cell is proposed to be created in the Town Planning Organisation to study traffic problems and prepare traffic operational plan for

selected urban areas.

Jail Reform

With a view to initiating long overdue prison reforms, Government have already constituted a Jail Reforms Commission with a full-time Chairman to formulate suitable recommendations in this regard.

Public Distribution:

Relief to the rural poor is the main objective of the public distribution system and my Government are taking steps to make it an integral part of Assam's economic life. Measures have already been initiated to streamline and broaden the existing arrangements and Government are confident that there will be noticeable improvement within a short time. Although controls over sugar, wheat and wheat products have been abolished, commodities like rice, salt and kerosene oil continue to be distributed through the system. One hundred and fifty-nine outlets of the Assam State Co-operative Marketing & Consumers' Federation have been set up with a view to regulate prices Members will

be glad to know that the Central Government have agreed to consider my Government's suggestion for uniform price policy in respect of essential commodities throughout the country, if necessary, by subsidising the transport cost.

Procurement

My Government have decided to procure paddy in the current khariff season under the price support scheme through the agencies of Assam State Co-operative Marketing & Consumers' Federation and the Food Corporation of India. Procurement of paddy during the current khariff season. (November 1978—October 1979) till second week of February 1979 has been about 4.59 lakh quintals as against 3 lakh quintals procured during the entire period of last khariff year. The procurement price of paddy has been raised by Rs. 8 per quintal for all varieties over the price of the previous khariff year.

The food position during the year was satisfactory and occasional shortfalls were met by monthly allotments of rice, wheat and wheat products from the Central pool. The salt position

improved significantly after the STATFED took over import of the state quota from June 1978;

Supply position:

A salt iodising plant is being installed shortly and a salt gollah is also proposed to be established. Procurement and distribution of free sale cement was entrusted to the STATFED from the fourth quarter of 1978 in order to improve the supply position.

The Government are also contemplating to establish a State Civil Supplies Corporation to augment the public distribution system.

There were spells of shortage of Kerosene oil in some areas due to operational and movement restrictions and strikes etc. and the situation had to be overcome by supply from other storage points to the extent possible.

Administrative Reforms:

The question of making the administrative machinery respond more fully to the changed

concept and priorities has been engaging the attention of my Government. It has been decided to prepare a training programme for systematic training of officers as a part of the programme of administrative reforms. A wing of the Central Training Institute at Fhanapara with capacity for 50 trainees is likely to start functioning from April next. The public enterprises require special attention so that they can yield surplus to augment the state's resources. A training course on Material Management was recently conducted for the executives of the public enterprises and more such courses covering fields of financial administration and management are proposed to be organised during the coming financial year.

It will be my Government's constant endeavour to infuse into the administrative machinery a strong sense of responsibility, dedication and purpose. The police force will be further strengthened and modernised to deal effectively with the law and order problems. A scheme is being prepared also for effective utilisation of Home Guards in literacy and adult education

campaigns and as relief and rescue squads in times of natural calamities:

Effective measures have been taken also to check influx of foreign nationals.

Public Relations.

My Government firmly believe that the success of the Government's plan and programmes depend primarily on the extent of popular involvement and participation. The public relation activities have been accordingly stepped up to effectively enlist popular involvement. Different mass communication media like publications, films, exhibitions etc. are being explored. Special emphasis is being laid on suitable public relation campaigns in the rural areas and the hill districts. Special training courses on proper public relations in the hill districts were recently conducted for grass root level extension workers in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Hon'ble Members, I have briefly highlighted the important policies, Programmes and achieve-

ments of the Government. The task of clearing the back-log left by long years of neglect is indeed formidable and my Government will require the whole-hearted support and co-operation of all sections of the people in their efforts to ensure the socio-economic development of all sections and the weaker sections of society in particular. I am confident that in accomplishing this great task my Government will receive the active and generous co-operation of all the Members of this August House.

Thank you.

শ্রীহেমেন দাস :— এই বিষয়টো আলোচনা কৰাৰ আগতে নগালেণ্ড বৰ্ডাৰৰ বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰাৰ সুযোগ দিব লাগে। চৰকাৰে নগালেণ্ড বৰ্ডাৰৰ মানুহৰ জীৱন আৰু সম্পত্তি ৰক্ষা কৰাত ব্যৰ্থ হৈছে। এই ব্যৰ্থতাৰ বিষয়ে আজিও চৰকাৰে কোনো আলোচনা কৰা নাই। আনকি যিসকল ব্যক্তি এই বাৰ্ষিক দোৰা সেই সকলৰ ওপৰত শাস্তিমূলক ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা নাই।

Mr. Speaker:— Order. Order. Order. Hon'ble member being a leader of a responsible group of legislators should restrain himself. I just want to make an announcement before the Hon'ble House. I do not say that you will not be allowed to address before

the House. It can be done at an appropriate time.

শ্রীহেমেন দাস :— আমি সদন ত্যাগ কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হ'লো।

(The C.P.M. group of legislators walked out of the House)

Mr. Speaker :— Under Rule 13 of the Sub-rule 2 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I hereby report that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech. A copy of the speech has been placed on the table of the House. Copies of the same have also been distributed amongst the Hon'ble Members. Now Mr. Altaf Hussain Mazumdar might move the motion of thanks to the Governor to be seconded by Dr. Tarini Barua.

Shri Altaf Hussain Mazumdar :— Sir, I beg to move that the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are grateful to the Governor for addressing this August House today the 21st February, 1979;

Dr. Tarini Barua :— I second the motion,

Mr. Speaker :— We will take up the debates on Governor's address on the 22nd, 26th, 28th February and 1st March, 1979 and the motion of thanks on the Governor's address: Amendments, if any, to the motion will be received by the Assembly Secretariat upto 4 P.M. today (21-2-79).

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker :— Under Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I called a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on the 7th February, 1979 in my Chamber Dispur. The Committee after discussion decided that the meeting of the Budget Session of the Assembly commencing on and from today, the 21st February, 1979, should continue upto 6th April, 1979 and finalised the calendar of business for the present Session.

There will be altogether 33 working days including two Saturdays i.e. 17th and 24th March, 1979 which are ordinarily recess days. Out of these 33 working days, 27 days have been earm-

arked for transaction of Government Business and 6 days for transaction of Private Members' Business. Of these 27 Government days, 4 days will be devoted for debates on Governor's Address, one day for Supplementary Demands for Grants, 7 days for General Discussion on the Budget, 9 days for Voting on Demands for Grants and the remaining 6 days have been allotted for disposal of other Government Business including the Resolution for Ratification of the Constitution (45th Amendment) Bill, 1978 and consideration and passing of the Government Bills. A copy of the calendar for the meetings of the present Session, as settled by the Committee, has already been circulated among the Members of the House.

The Committee also decided that henceforth obituary reference to the demise of notable persons should be made by the Speaker alone.

I hope, this has the approval of the House.

শ্রীপ্ৰেম বৰা :— অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এটা কথা ক'ব বিছাৰিছো যে আমাৰ অবিচূৰেৰী বিজিনেজ এডভাইচাৰী বোৰ্ডৰ সিদ্ধান্ত যিকথা কোৱা হৈছে মই ভাবো তাৰ এটা ৰি-কনচিডাৰেচন কৰিব লাগে।

বিশেষকৈ শোকসন্তপ্ত পৰিয়ালৈ অভিনন্দন জনোৱা আৰু শ্মশানলৈ
 নিয়া লোক এজনকো যদি মালা দিয়াত বাধা থাকে তেনেহলে
 এখটো এটা ডাঙৰ কথা হৈছে। গতিকে কথাটো পুণৰ বিবে-
 চনা কৰিবলৈ অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো যাতে যত্ন
 প্ৰস্তুত কোনো সদস্যই ইচ্ছা কৰিলে সমবেদনা জনাবলৈ সুবিধা
 পায়।

Shri Altaf Hussain Mazumder :— I would like to draw
 your kind attention to the calendar of the bus-
 iness of the House. 10th of March is Saturday.
 Again, Sunday, the 11th March is a holiday. On
 12th March, there is business. Then 13th and
 14th are holidays. So, I would submit that 12th
 March may also be considered as recess. It will
 thus be convenient for the Hon'ble Members.
 This may be considered by the House or by the
 Business Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker :— It will be placed before the Business
 Advisory Committee. About Shri Bora's sugges-
 tion, I would like to say that there is no bar
 for Hon'ble Members to take part in the obit-
 uary references. The Business Advisory Commi-
 ttee observed that if the Hon'ble Speaker ment-
 ions the obituary report of the notable persons,

48. Report of the Business Advisory Committee 21st Feb:

the time of the House will considerably be saved. The Hon'ble Members will not be prevented from making references. This is only a suggestion of the Business Advisory Committee. If the Hon'ble Members want, I will place before the Advisory Committee meeting next.

CONSTITUTION OF PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Spekar :— Under Rule 9 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I nominate the following members to constitute the Panel of Chairman for the current Session of the Assembly :—

1. Shri Nagen Barua
2. Shri Altaf Hossain Majumdar
3. Shri Golak Rajbanshi
4. Shri Premodhar Bora

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of Report of Legislature Committee

Dr. Tarini Mohan Barooah :— I beg to move that the House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Interim Report of the Committee to enquire into the matters relating to Health and Family Welfare Department and Public Health Engineering Department till 31st March, 1979.

Mr. Speaker :— I put that the House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Interim Report of the Committee to enquire into the matters relating to Health and Family Welfare Department and Public Health Engineering Department till 31st March, 1979.

(Motion is passed)

LAYING OF REPORTS

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua (Minister) :— I beg to lay the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1976-77 (Civil), Finance Accounts, 1976-77 and Appropriation Accounts 1976-77 relating to Government of Assam.

Shri Romesh Mohan Kouli (Minister) :— I beg to lay the Twenty Fourth Report (Part I and II) of the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1975-76 and 1976-77.

Shri A. F. Golam Osmani (Minister) :— I beg to lay the Administration Report of the Assam State Electricity Board for the year 1971-72.

Shri A. F. Golam Osmani (Minister) :— I beg to lay the Administration Report of the Assam State Electricity Board for the years 1972-73 to 1974-75.

INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BILL

শ্রীলক্ষ্মণবৰ্ণ গৌহাটী (মন্ত্রী) :— ১৯৭৯ চনৰ অসম (অস্থায়ী বাসতি অঞ্চল সমূহ) ব্যৱস্থা স্বত্ব (সংশোধনী) বিধেয়কখন উপস্থাপন কৰা হওক।

(The motion is passed)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker :— I hereby inform the House that I have

received a letter from Shri Dhani Ram Rongpi, an elected member of the Assam Legislative Assembly intimating me that he has joined the Indian National Congress (I) party. His letter reads as follows :

“ The Hon’ble Speaker,
Assam Legislative Assembly,
Dispur, Gauhati.

Sir, I have the honour to inform you that in response to the unity call given by Smti Indira Gandhi to Congressmen I had decided and joined to the National Congress of which Smti Indira Gandhi is the President. This for your information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,
Dhani Ram Rongpi,

3 - 2 - 79 ”

His seat will be accordingly allotted.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ :— এতিয়া অবিটুৱেৰী ৰেফাৰেন্স কৰা আছে ।

যিহেতুকে বিধায়কে এটা পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়াইছে সেই আগৰ নীতিটো বিবেচনা কৰা হ'ব, এতিয়া বিজিলে এডভাইচৰী কমিটিৰ পৰামৰ্শ মতেই আমি আৰম্ভ কৰোঁ Hon'ble Members, as we meet today after an interval of more than two months, it is my unpleasant duty to inform the House of the sad demise of two former Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Doulat Chandra Buragohain and Shri Gahan Chandra Goswami.

Shri Doulat Chandra Buragohain was born in the year 1886. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in a bye-election in 1943 from Saikhowa Assembly Constituency and was the first person to be elected to Assam Legislative Assembly from that constituency. Before his election to the Assam Legislative Assembly he served in several capacities with a meagre salary of Rs. 20/— P. M. and was a Mauzadar from 1919 to 1945 at Saikhowa. In recognition of his meritorious services he was conferred the title of "Raisahab". He was connected with various social and cultural organisations of his constituency and he inspired the youths to do social services. He passed away on 6th January,

1979 at the age of 94.

Shri Gahan Chandra Goswami was born in the year 1900. He was a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1957. He actively participated in the independent movement since student life and had to undergo imprisonment for two long terms. As a religious head he preached the great Bhagawati Dharma among the people of Plains and Hills. In recognition of his devotion to the preachings of Bhagawati Dharma he was conferred the title of "Dharmaratna" by the Viswa Hindu Parishad. He was also an artist of all India repute and was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. He made various contributions towards Assamese literature and he was the President of the Tezpur Sahitya Sabha till his death. This noted freedom fighter and former MLA passed away on 18th January, 1979 at the age of 79.

Shri Afajuddin Ahmed was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1946 from Nowgong (East) Constituency and continued as such

till 1951. He took keen interest in constructive work in his constituency. He was also closely connected with several social, educational and cultural organisations. He was loved and respected by all for his amiable nature and good behaviour. This ex-MLA passed away in August, 1978.

We deeply mourn the loss of these noble sons, including Assam-Nagaland border victims, Borgolai victims, Barpeta Bus accident victims of Assam and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may stand in silence for two minutes and pray for the eternal peace of the departed souls.

(The members stood in silence for minutes)

The House adjourned till 10 a. m. tomorrow 22 - 2 - 79.

ADJOURNMENT

The House then rose at 11:17 A. M. and stood adjourned till 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 22nd February, 1979.

DISPUR:**The 21st February, 1979****P. D. BARUA,****Secretary****Assam Legislative Assembly.**