

Proceedings of the Fourteenth session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the Fifth General Election under Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India,

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Dispur Gauhati on Monday, the 9th February, 1976 with the Hon'ble Speaker in the Chair, 14 (Fourteen) Ministers, 5 (Five) Ministers of State, 1 (one) Deputy Minister and 69 (Sixty-nine) Members present.

Mr. SPEAKER—There is no light. Shall we continue

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Minister)—According to rule we should continue but as there is no light it is very difficult to continue.

Mr. SPEAKER—The Governor is to address the House today at 10.00 A. M. He is coming by the Eastern Gate of the Assembly premises at 10.05 A. M. But as there is no light, after I receive him I shall conduct him to my Chamber and when the current is restored I shall conduct him in to the Assembly Chamber for addressing the House. The instructions as to how the Governor is to be received in the House have been laid on each Members table. As soon as he comes, I think we should comply with these instructions.

With your permission now I leave the House to receive the Governor at the Gate.

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Minister)—That will be better.

(Mr. Speaker then leaves the Assembly Chamber to receive the Governor.)

(Electric current was restored at 10.13 A.M. Governor was conducted to the Assembly Chamber by Mr. Speaker at 10.14 A.M.)

Mr. SPEAKER.—I request the Governor to address the House.

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members,

It is with great pleasure that I once again address the Budget Session of this August House.

We have just completed a period which might verily be called a Decade of Achievement. It has been marked by an initial period of challenge, followed by a period of immense response; the last 4 years in particular have been years of consolidation. Some elements tried to take advantage of the discontent consequent upon rise in prices to launch a movement over the whole country. The atmosphere of violence which appeared to be enveloping the entire country has however been averted by the declaration of Emergency. The firm action taken thereafter together with the earnest efforts made to implement the 20-Point Economic Programme, announced by the Prime Minister, has enabled us to turn the corner. Despite the various problems facing the State to-day it is with a sense of confidence that we are tackling these problems. Not only has the law and order situation improved but a sense of discipline now pervades all parts of the national life, thereby enabling higher productivity and better administration.

LAW AND ORDER

The unfortunate episode resulting in boycotting the Pre-University Examination of 1975 involved a very large number of teachers and students. My Government had to adopt firm measures in dealing with the situation. Soon thereafter the proclamation of Emergency brought a new climate of discipline in the State. Normalcy is prevailing in all fields of activities.

Following the declaration of the National Emergency on 26th June, 1975, necessary preventive measures had to be adopted by the State Government to curb the activities of those who were determined to paralyse the administration. It is heartening to note that as a result there

no major law and order incident took place in the State thereafter. My Government are now properly armed with stringent laws to curb undesirable activities but at the same time steps are taken to ensure that all actions are taken most judiciously and reviewed from time to time.

BORDER

Despite happenings in a neighbouring country, it is reassuring to note that normalcy has continued to prevail along the State's borders. Useful discussions have also been initiated at the Minister-level and at the official level between the State Government and Arunachal Administration regarding demarcation of the remaining portions of the Assam-Arunachal boundary. The situation on the Assam-Nagaland border is also expected to improve considerably as a result of the recent accord with the various leaders of Nagaland.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

The year has seen a definite attempt at toning up and improving the quality of administration. In order to weed out unsuitable personnel from the administration action was taken under Article 311 (2) (b) of the Constitution of India or under the rule relating to compulsory retirement against a number of Government servants. Emphasis has been placed on removal of corruption from all levels of administration. The comprehensive measures taken by Government in this respect have covered not only the Secretariat and the headquarters organisations, but have reached down to the lowest strata at the field level. These steps have not only resulted in cleansing the administration but has succeeded in toning up the administration to make it capable of delivering the goods. As a result of these measures substantial achievements have already been recorded in the implementation of the 20-Point Economic Programme and the developmental schemes undertaken by Government. Serious efforts have been made to remove the bottlenecks in implementation of Government policies and programmes by holding regular and frequent consultations at various levels.

Special measures have been taken to ensure punctuality in attendance and for maintaining businesslike atmosphere in Government offices. To a great extent these efforts have led to quicker disposal of Government and public business. Working hours in the Government offices have been increased by converting the Saturdays into full working days though a relief has been allowed by observing full holiday on every second Saturday.

The introduction of an action calendar has streamlined the functioning of the administration. The office procedure and methods are being continually reviewed and studies to effect improvement. Some more services of the State Government have been brought under regular service rule.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The basic objective of the 20-Point Economic Programme is to involve people at all levels of the implementation machinery, because without an emotional and psychological involvement of the people no such programme can be successfully implemented. With this end in view a high-powered State Level Programme Implementation Committee has been set up. In addition two State-level functional Committee to look into Land Reforms and Production, Procurement and Distribution of essential commodities and consumer goods have been set up. Elaborate steps have been taken for liquidation of rural indebtedness and to provide for a moratorium on debts incurred by the poorer sections of the society. The normal channels of credit from Banks, Co-operatives etc. are being adequately equipped to cater to the needs not only of production and marketing, but also for certain consumption purposes.

In order to give immediate relief and to lift them up from the morass of abysmal poverty, a Rural Development Project, specially designed for the bottom 20% of society, has started functioning. The project is now busy in developing and formulating schemes for the particular strata of the society and in using the data emerging in the process to develop projects qualifying for institutional finance, including World Bank assistance, for the entire State. So far intensive work has been taken up in 8 selected Blocks. A break-through in the economic and social transformation of the poorest section of society in our rural areas has been attempted and it is hoped

that its effect would soon permeate the entire rural fabric. The philosophy underlying the project is the postulate that to help the weak, not subsidy but loans from banks should be made available. The poor must be made to realise that credit facility from banks can also be had by him. In other words, attempt has been made to make him feel that such commercial institutions are as much his as of the rich.

INVESTIGATION OF ECONOMIC OFFENCES

A new bureau of investigation has been set up with a D. I. G. level officer to enquire into economic offences. The bureau will supplement the efforts of the concerned State revenue-earning Departments in preventing evasion of taxes and will also appropriately deal with offenders. The functioning of the Anti-Corruption Branch and the Special Vigilance Cell has been further intensified.

ANNUAL PLAN 1976-77

The 1976-77 Annual Plan has been so drawn up as to initiate action towards the attainment of the basic objectives of the Fifth Plan as well as to carry forward the schemes under implementation, and particularly the 20-Point Economic Programme. Priority has been given to the rural sector, especially agriculture and other allied activities which provide subsidiary sources of income to the rural people. A major thrust of the plan is towards taking specific measures through appropriate institutional arrangements for economic development of the backward sections of the community. The launching of the nationwide 20-Point Economic Programme has given a specific direction to the planning process and in pursuance thereof the State Government have stepped up implementation of all economic programmes.

For the Annual Plan for 1976-77 the Planning Commission has agreed to an outlay of Rs. 72.66 crores, which would include Rs. 6.30 crores for Hill Areas and Rs. 66.36 crores for the General Areas. In addition thereto, special Central assistance for the Hill Areas as well as for a Sub-Plan for the Plains Tribal sector is likely to be received.

ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE

In order to implement the Annual Plan steps are being taken to mobilise resources and to economise in Government expenditure efforts have been made to locate spheres where direct savings can be made and also to make necessary organisational and procedural modifications which could lead to indirect savings in the long run. At the same time collection of arrears has been geared up.

WELFARE PROGRAMMES FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

Separate welfare programmes for backward classes are being implemented in the fields of education, health, housing and economic upliftment. During the current year approximately 15,210 Plains Tribal students, 14,450 Scheduled Caste students and 34,000 Other Backward Class students are expected to receive either free education or scholarships for education. 350 non-Governmental educational institutions are also being given financial assistance for construction and maintenance of schools and hostel-buildings.

Individuals from amongst the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are also being assisted financially for setting up piggery farms, and for undertaking dairy farming, sericulture and weaving. Some Plains Tribal girls are also being assisted to undertake training in nursing. Steps are also being taken to complete construction of roads and dispensaries in the backward areas.

Development Corporations for Scheduled Castes and also for Scheduled Tribes have been set up by the Government with the main objective of promoting and administering all kinds of developmental activities in various sectors of the economy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A Corporation has also been set up for the Other Backward Classes with similar objectives.

FLOODS

Through the havoc wrought by the floods in 1975 have been less than in the previous year, it is estimated that 1,038 villages with a population of nearly 2,30,000 were affected. 16,604 hectares of cropped area suffered damages, whilst 143 heads of cattle were lost. Floods and erosion also damaged 7,219 houses. Floods also cost Rs. 5 crores. The Dhemaji district was mostly affected.

North Lakhimpur, Barpeta, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Nowgong and Silchar Sub-divisions. Necessary relief and rescue operations were undertaken in the affected areas. The recurring problem faced by the State as a result of the annual visitation of floods has been engaging the attention of Government and protective measures are being extended.

BARAK DAM

Following discussions at New Delhi in last December by the Union Agriculture Minister with the Chief Ministers of Assam and Manipur it has been decided that investigation will be expedited for construction of a dam across the river Barak at Tipaimukh in Manipur. The North Eastern Council is considering to arrange financial assistance for the investigation work.

SOIL CONSERVATION

Along with the protective measures being taken, stress is also being laid on such long term measures as soil conservation. For this purpose in the Hill areas this year 2155 hectares will be covered by terracing and land reclamation projects. Afforestation work has also been undertaken especially along the steep hill slopes, which have been denuded by repeated 'jhumming'. In the Plains areas it is expected to protect 180 hectares with contour bunds and to bring 360 hectares under afforestation schemes. 1250 hectares will also be provided with protective measures against gully erosion.

FORESTS

Along with soil conservation measures steps have also been taken to constitute Reserve Forests and to undertake plantation and regeneration schemes.

IRRIGATION

Whilst protective measures are being taken to meet the problems created by floods, the necessity to change the cropping pattern in the State is receiving serious attention of my Government. In order to enable the change in the cropping pattern the provision of adequate irrigation facilities is an absolute necessity. As the irrigation

potential created so far has been inadequately utilised stress has been laid on fuller utilisation by providing necessary field channels and command area development work. Schemes for providing irrigation facilities with shallow tube-wells, lift-irrigation and deep tube-wells are being undertaken wherever found suitable. It is expected that as a result of the efforts made in the current year 22,000 hectares can be covered under minor irrigation schemes. Preliminary work on the Dhansiri major irrigation schemes has also been taken up. For the rabi season it is assessed that more than one lakh hectares can be provided with irrigation facilities.

ECONOMIC UPLIFTMENT OF THE RURAL POOR

Whilst extending irrigation facilities it would be unrealistic to overlook the fact that one of the major constraints in the development of the agricultural sector is the poverty of the agriculturists in general. Special programmes have, therefore, been launched for upliftment of the weaker sections of the rural population. About 1,60,000 farmers have so far been identified as eligible for the special credit facilities under the programmes for small and marginal farmers and also for agricultural labour.

The Gaon Panchayat level co-operative societies are also making efforts to give agricultural credit to the farmers. The commercial banks which have adopted most of the societies for all purposes have been asked to play their due role in extending efficient credit facilities to the societies so that shortage of finance does not stand in the way of achieving their objectives. Financial institutions such as the Agricultural Re-finance and Development Corporation and Central organisations such as the National Co-operative Development Corporation, are being involved extensively so that they play their desired roles through the network of 663 Gaon Panchayat Level Co-operative Societies in bringing about a radical change in the economic sphere of the rural sector.

The minimum daily wage-rates for agricultural workers have also been fixed and steps are being taken for the enforcement of these wage-rates. To uplift the economic condition of the poorer section of the rural population, stress has been laid by my Government on providing subsidiary occupations to them.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

One of the most important aspects of the 20-Point Economic Programme is the streamlining of the public distribution system. My Government have introduced it about 3 years ago and it is now being strengthened. In this system a network of 663 Gaon Panchayat multipurpose co-operative societies, one for each Gaon Panchayat, have already been set up. These co-operatives are working as instruments to bring about socio-economic revolution in the rural sector.

All the 11549 fair-price shops in the rural areas of the Plains Districts have been replaced by a network of 13620 retail outlets of the Co-operatives. Through these retail outlets they are already distributing wheat products, salt, sugar, rice, cloth, kerosene oil etc. It is expected that in the near future other essential items will also be taken over by them. The involvement of the societies in the public distribution system is to ensure that essential commodities are available to the rural masses at reasonable prices and the market price is kept down to the minimum.

PROCUREMENT

Besides the public distribution system, the societies have been entrusted with the task of procurement of paddy. They have already exceeded the target of 20 lakh quintals. The target then has been revised and fixed at 30 lakh quintals. This is also being achieved. After achieving the revised target a further target will be fixed so that the entire marketable surplus of paddy is procured and thereby the support price is ensured to the producers.

AGRICULTURE

During 1975 a record production of rice with an all-time high of 21.75 lakh tonnes has been achieved. Though the achievement is creditable we cannot afford to rest on our oars, studies show that agricultural productivity in Assam is still below the all-India averages. A programme for increasing production of foodgrains to 31.12 lakh tonnes by 1978-79 is, therefore, proposed to be taken up, for which aid from the World Bank has been sought. For this purpose discussions

have already been initiated with the World Bank. Such a programme will no doubt benefit the large number of farmers in the State. The extension agency is being reorganised and strengthened to cope with the programme of increasing food production.

LAND REFORMS

In regard to land reforms the provisions of the Assam Fixation of Ceiling of Land Holdings Act, 1956, as amended, are being implemented as expeditiously as possible. So far approximately 4.87 lakh bighas of surplus lands have been vested in the State and of this, about 2.22 lakh bighas have already been allotted to approximately 60,000 deserving landless families. Allotment of land to landless families for construction of houses has also been going on at a brisk pace. More than 7,000 families have been benefited thereby, including 1974 Scheduled Castes families and 1100 Scheduled Tribes families.

In order to secure people's participation and to ensure speedy implementation of land reform measures as a part of the 20-Point Economic Programme, Committees have been set up at the State, Subdivision and Circle level. Efforts are being made to complete the distribution of surplus lands by 15th August, 1976.

The implementation of the Assam Temporarily Settled Areas Tenancy Act, 1972, is continuing and names of more than 3 lakh tenants have been recorded till the end of October, 1975. It is expected that another 1 lakh tenants will be recorded by the end of this year. The provisions of Tenancy Act are being extended to the permanently settled areas of Goalpara and Cachar Districts.

A high powered Committee has also been set up to examine and to ensure disposal of all pending land acquisition cases. Changes in the method of payment of compensation are also being considered in order to reduce delays in payments.

VETERINARY

With a view to improving the breed of cattle intensive work is being done to extend the cross breeding programme.

For this purpose the Frozen Semen Plant at Khanapara, when completed next year, will facilitate implementation of the programme.

PISCICULTURE

Development of pisciculture is receiving close attention as the economy of a substantial section of the rural population is tied up with this. Research has shown that it is possible to increase production of fish from the present level of about 300 Kgs. per hectare of water area to about 2,200 Kgs with the help of composite piscicultural practices. It has also been decided to undertake an intensive piscicultural programme in Kamrup District by actively linking training, investment, extension work and marketing.

SERICULTURE

For the spread of sericulture a number of 'eri' seed-grainages, concentration centres, 'muga' food plantation centres and collective mulberry gardens have been established. The cultivation of 'oak tassar' silk has been tried in the State. It has been decided to set up on an experimental basis a seed farm and block rearing centre in the North Cachar Hills, where prospects appear to be bright. A few schemes for development of sericulture financed by the North Eastern Council have also been taken up.

WEAVING

Schemes have also been drawn up for intensive development of silk-weaving at Sualkuchi in Kamrup and of cotton-weaving in Cachar District. Institutional finance has also been made available to weavers of some villages in Kamrup District and surveys are underway to identify weavers in other areas who stand in need of similar assistance.

For ensuring supply of quality hand-spun eri silk a production centre has been started at village Uparhali in Kamrup District. It is expected that ultimately about 300 weavers of this village will be benefited with institutional finance. A handloom production-centre has also been opened at Matia for providing full-time employment to about 100 artisans, and other such centres are proposed to be started next year.

EMPLOYMENT

Whilst schemes are being implemented to improve and diversify the rural economy the need for larger employment facilities cannot be overlooked. The employment situation in the State continues to be a matter of concern.

In order to enlarge employment facilities and to provide training, especially to the Weaker sections of the population, the apprenticeship scheme is being implemented. More than 1200 establishments have been surveyed for locating apprenticeship-seats and already 677 such seats are being utilised. It is expected that more than 900 seats will be utilised in the next session of training starting from March, 1976.

INDUSTRIES

To improve the employment situation in the State the need for industrial development of the State cannot be over-emphasised. Industrial activity in the State is gradually increasing. The granulated fertilizer plant near Gauhati has gone into production; while some units taken over by the Assam Industrial Development Corporation have started functioning. The Ashok Paper Mills Limited at Jogighopa is also ready to start production and its captive units for production of chlorine and caustic soda are under construction. One mini-paper mill at Gauhati and a jute-twine mill at Nowgong in the private sector are also likely to be commissioned shortly. The Bokajan Cement factory is also expected to start production soon. A solvent extraction plant at Rowta will soon go into production.

Work on the sugar-mill project at Chargoala is progressing satisfactorily and the plant is likely to be commissioned by the end of 1976. Civil construction work of the Bongaigaon Refinery-cum-Petro Chemical Complex has also started. The Assam Petro Chemical Ltd. is likely to go into production in the near future.

Technical and financial assistance are being extended to local entrepreneurs for manufacturing lime, alum, rubber products, craft paper, carbon and such other items. Machinery have been made available on hire-purchase system to 120 small-scale entrepreneurs during the year and already 70 such units have gone into production.

1976]

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

In the Hill areas the Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation Limited has set up a khandsari unit at Manja and is establishing a number of industrial projects, including khandsari sugar mills at Maibong and Kheroni, a Fruit Preservation unit at Haflong and a solvent extraction plant at Howraghat.

Efforts are being made to increase production in the cottage and village industries sector and necessary assistance is being given for development of handicrafts. A Design and Research Centre for handicrafts has been established to assist craftsmen with popular designs.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

With the increase of industrial activity in the State the necessity has been felt to provide for a suitable machinery for resolving industrial disputes. An Apex Industrial Relations Council has been constituted at the State level and Industrial Relations Committees have been set up at the district level.

POWER

Even whilst steps are being taken to set up more industrial projects, the State is faced with the serious problem of power shortage. Curbs have had to be placed on consumption of power. Though stress is being laid on the maximum utilisation of the existing power potential in the State, the necessity to take up new power projects in the State cannot be overemphasised. The State Government are repeatedly impressing on the Union Government to clear expeditiously the power projects proposed to be taken up in this region so that the apprehended power famine can be averted. So far clearance has been received only for the Bongaigaon thermal power station which will have 2 sets of 60 MW each. The Kapili Hydel Project has been taken up as an NEC project to be implemented by the Regional Power Corporation. The Borgolai, Lakm and Namrup Second Extension projects are awaiting Government of India's clearance.

SURVEY FOR MINERALS

The other infra-structural requirements for industrial development of the State are also being attended to.

systematic geological survey for ground-water, minerals and base metals is being carried out.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

The communication system of the State also is being improved. The road system is being expanded gradually and it is expected that in the current year it will be possible to add about 110 k.m. of roads. Road construction projects taken up under the Minimum Needs Programme last year are also likely to be completed. Eleven road projects of an inter-State nature have also been taken up with funds received from the North Eastern Council.

The Assam & Meghalaya State Road Transport Corporation is now operating on 4180 k.m. of road, transporting on an average 55,000 passengers and 480 MT of goods daily. During the current year 222 k.m. of new routes will be brought under the operation of this Corporation. In the coming year it is proposed to extend the services of the Corporation to a further 231 k.m. of new roads.

As an alternative means of transport, the expansion of the water transport system has been taken up. For this purpose, hydro-graphic surveys have been completed in some stretches of the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Tramp commercial services have also been started on the Brahmaputra by the State Inland Water Transport Corporation.

TOURISM

With the development of the transport system efforts are being made to encourage tourism in the State and publicity is being carried on for this purpose. A special drive has been launched to popularise the Manas Wildlife Game Sanctuary and a tourist information-office-cum-transit-camp is being established at Barpeta Road for this purpose. Construction of a tourist lodge at Haflong is also being taken up.

PRESERVATION OF HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Preservation of historical monuments in the State has been receiving attention and already renovation of two

1976]

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

historical monuments has been completed. Steps have been taken to involve the student community in the preservation and maintenance of sites of historical importance.

EDUCATION

During the year the services of all the Elementary school teachers serving under the Board for Elementary Education have been provincialised. With a view to raising the standard of education at the primary level it has also been decided to provincialise the existing Pre-Primary Teacher's Training Centre at Dibrugarh and to establish another Training Centre at Mirza. Financial assistance is also being given to voluntary organisations in backward areas for organisation and development of Pre-Primary Education.

Government have already taken over 330 M.E. Schools under the direct payment system and 131 high schools under the deficit system of grants-in-aid. 30 colleges receiving ad-hoc grants have been brought under the deficit system. More schools and colleges will be brought under this system in a phased manner.

In order to accelerate the literacy campaign in the State 750 centres for non-formal education of children in the age-group 9-11 years have been opened. Similarly 100 centres have been set up in the tea garden areas of Jorhat Sub-division under the Literacy Programme for the age group 15-25 years. More such centres will be opened in a phased manner.

SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR STUDENTS

Special schemes have been taken in hand to provide student's hostels and boarding houses with essential commodities at fair prices. The scheme was initially taken up in a Gauhati benefiting more than 10,000 boarders. It has now been extended to other parts of the State and large numbers of students residing in hostels have been helped thereby.

Arrangements have also been made for providing textbooks and exercise-books at reasonable prices to students. A number book-banks have also been established in educational institutions. Steps have also been taken to form

co-operatives in Schools and Colleges through which supply of stationery articles at reasonable prices can be channelised.

Improvement of sports and youth welfare activities has also been receiving careful attention from the State Government.

HEALTH

During the year expansion of medical facilities have been continued. Construction of the Gauhati Medical College Hospital Building is progressing and extension of some of the other hospital buildings, including the construction of a 200-bedded Civil Hospital at Dhubri has been undertaken. Under the Minimum Needs Programme Primary Health Centres have been established in 127 out of 130 blocks. Re-construction of 17 State Dispensaries is in progress and it is expected to be completed by the end of this year. One 30-bedded hospital at Gauhati and one 20-bedded annexe at Tinsukia are being taken up under the Employees State Insurance Scheme. The National Small-Pox Eradication Programme is being implemented through out the State. The target in respect of sterilisation under the Family Planning Programme was fixed at 67,000 and Sterilisation has been done in 1,20,000 cases, registering an increase of 53,000. The House will be glad to know that Assam has maintained its lead over all other States in this respect. My Government has been concerned at the re-appearance of Malaria and steps are being taken to control it.

WATER SUPPLY

A Board for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution has been constituted. In the rural areas of the Plains Districts 11 Water Supply Schemes benefiting 37 villages with a population of 34,000 will be completed in the current year. Another 2 lakhs of rural population in 250 villages will also benefit from the installation of more than 2,000 tube-wells. In the Hill areas 129 villages with a population of approximately 32,200 will be benefited by Water Supply Schemes. In the urban areas, 10 Water Supply Schemes are under implementation, of which one has been partially commissioned. The thrust towards providing drinking water to more villages will be continued in the coming year.

HOUSING

The Assam State Housing Board has already taken up a number of housing projects at Gauhati, including a few buildings under the rental housing scheme for low income groups. For construction of houses and development of building-sites on hire-purchase system at two places at Gauhati the Board has recently received assistance from the Housing & Urban Development Corporation. It is proposed to obtain similar assistance for housing projects at Bokakhat, Jorhat and Dibrugarh. It is also proposed to take up rental housing projects at all district and subdivisional towns.

In this session the following Bills will be placed before the House :—

- (1) A Bill to Amend the Assam Co-operative Land Mortgage Act, 1960, and
- (2) A Bill to Amend the Assam Rural Indebtedness Relief Act, 1975.

My Government is determined to continue the effort towards removal of poverty, attainment of economic self-reliance, upliftment of the backward classes and narrowing down regional disparities, with special emphasis on the implementation of the 20-Point Economic Programme announced by the Prime Minister. Though the Programme has been universally accepted by the people, my Government consider that for its successful implementation deeper involvement of all sections of the people is indispensable. My Government, therefore, seek co-operation from the Members of the House and from all sections of the people outside for the fulfilment of the 20-Point Economic Programme and other development efforts.

18 Motion of thanks to the Governor's address [9th Feb.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Under Rule 13, sub-rule (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I now report that the Governor has been pleaded to make a speech. Copies of the speech have been distributed to the Hon'ble Members also.

I have also received a notice of motion of thanks on the Governor's Address from Shri Gunendra Nath Pandit. The Hon'ble Member may now move the motion. The amendments to the motion, if any, will be received up to 3 p. m. in my Secretariat.

Shri GUNENDRA NATH PANDIT.—Sir I have given notice under Rule 13, sub-rule (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly and now I beg to move that the members of the Assam Legislative Assembly in this House are grateful to the Governor for his address delivered today, the 9th February, 1976.

Shri GOLOK PATGIRI.—I second the motion.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The motion is moved. Any amendment to the motion will be received up to 3 p. m.

Now, under Rule 14 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I fix 11th, 12th, 16th and 18th February, 1976 for discussion of the matters referred to in the Governor's Address

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I have nominated the following Hon'ble Members to constitute the Panel of Chairmen for the current Session of the Assembly, 1976:—

1. Shri Ataur Rahaman,
2. Shri Dulal Chandra Khound,
3. Shri Chatra Gopal Karmaker,
4. Shri Ramesh Mohan Kouli.

1976] The Report of the Business Advisory Committee 19

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 1st January, 1976 in my chamber at Dispur. The Committee after discussion decided that the Budget Session commencing on and from today, the 9th February, 1976 should continue upto 22nd March, 1976 and finalised the calendar of Business for the present Session but the Committee had to slightly revise the programme at its meeting held on the 3rd February, 1976 to adjust the programme to facilitate the Government to submit the supplementary demands on the 19th February, 1976 instead of 11th February, 1976 as requested by the Government.

There will be 29 working days including one Saturday i. e. 20th March, 1976 which is ordinarily a recess day. Out of 29 working days, 22 days and 7 days have been allotted for transaction of Government Business and Private Members' Business respectively. Of the 22 days allotted for Government Business, 4 days will be devoted for Debate on Governor's address, 1 day for Supplementary Demands for Grants, 3 days for General Discussion on the Budget, 7 days for Voting on Demands for Grants and remaining 7 days for other Government Business.

A copy of the calendar as revised by the Committee has already been circulated to all Members of the House. I hope this has the approval of the House.

(The House approved the Report of the Business Advisory Committee).

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Shri GOLOK RAJBANSHI (Chairman, Committee of Privileges):—I beg to move that the House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Committee of Privileges relating to the complaint of breach of privileges against Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, M. L. A. by Shri Bishnu Prasad, Minister of State, F. C. and I. etc. till 28th February, 1976.

(The motion is passed)

20 Extension of time for Submission of Committee [9th Feb.

Shri GOLOK RAJBANSHI (Chairman, Committee of Privileges) :—I beg to move that the House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Committee of Privileges relating to the complaint of breach of privilege against Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, M. L. A. by Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar, Minister of Education Assam till 28th February, 1976.

(The motion is passed)

LAYING OF RULES, REPORT ETC.

Shri GAJEN TANTI (Minister Co-operation) :—I beg to lay the Assam Rural Indebtedness Relief Rules, 1975 (Assam Rule III of 1976).

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Chief Minister) :—I beg to lay the Election Commission's Notification No. 282 /AS/75, dated 30th December, 1975.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Industries) :—I beg to lay the Annual Report, 1973-74 of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited.

Shri Md. IDRIS (Minister Power, etc.) :—I beg to lay the Annual Financial Statement of the Assam State Electricity Board for the year 1975-76.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Industries).—I beg to lay the Annual Report 1973-74 of the Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation Limited.

Shri SURATH CHANDRA DEOLAGUPU (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving).—I beg to lay the Annual Report of Assam Spun Silk Mills Limited for the year 1973-74.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Industries).—I beg to lay the Eleventh Annual Report 1972-73 of the Assam Small Industries Development Corporation Limited.

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs and Member of Rules Committee) :—To lay the Third Report of the Rules Committee of Assam Legislative Assembly.

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs).—To lay the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1973-74, Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1973-74 (Revenue Receipts) Finance Accounts 1973-74 and appropriation Accounts, 1973-74 relating to Government of Assam.

Shri NURUL ISLAM (Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings).—To present the 2nd Report (Part I) of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Shri NURUL ISLAM (Chairman, Committee on Public Undertakings).—To present the 3rd Report (Part I) of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

Shri INDRESWAR KHOOND (Minister, Transport).—Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

(Leave is granted to introduce the Bill)

Shri INDRESWAR KHOOND (Minister, Transport).—Sir, I introduce the Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

(Secretary read out that the bill introduced is the Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1976.)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

* Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Chief Minister).—Mr. Speaker, Sir, we express our deep sense of sorrow at the sudden death of Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury formerly Minister and Member of the Legislature. He passed away on 16th November, 1975 at the age of 57.

Shri Choudhury was one of the most outstanding social worker. His liberal views, patriotism and feeling for the poorer section of the people are well known. He was connected with number of organisations and institutions. He was a member of several Committee constituted by this Assembly. He was also the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances. He was the founder of the Jawaharlal Nehru

College at Boko and B. P. Chaliha College at Nagarbera. Shri Choudhury was the General Secretary of the K. & J. Hills Congress District Committee of undivided Assam and also Treasurer of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee. He was loved and respected by all sections of the people for his amiable nature and good behaviour.

Shri Choudhury was born at Gauhati on August 28, 1918. After his College education, he participated in the Freedom Movement and elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly from the Boko Constituency in 1962 and in 1967 and 1972. He became a Minister of State in 1967 and then he was elevated to Cabinet Minister for Transport and Tourism.

We convey our deep sense of condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

Sir, we also express the deep sense of sorrow at the death of Shri Bipin Chandra Medhi noted freedom fighter. He passed away on 11th January, 1976 at the age of 71. Shri Medhi courted imprisonment for several terms for participating in the Freedom Movement. Shri Medhi was a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly for four terms. He was also the Chairman of the Municipal Board, Local Board and School Board of Mangaldoi.

We convey our deep sense of condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

Sir, Shri K. Kamraj formerly Chief Minister of Madras from 1954 to 1963 no more today. This great leader passed away on 2nd October 1975 following a heart attack at the age of 73. He took greater interests in politics since 1919 and it became a full time job for him during the following years. He became the President of Tamilnadu Pradesh Congress Committee in 1940. He participated actively in the quit India Movement and was detained till 1945. He joined the Individual Satyagraha of India Rule. Released in 1941, he was again arrested the following years for participating in the Quit India Movement and was detained till 1945.

Shri Kamraj was elected to the State Assembly since 1937 and in 1954 he became the leader of the Congress Legislature Party. During his Chief Ministership the State made considerable progress in Education, Food Production and Road Building. In 1963 he gave up the Chief Ministership under the 'Famous Kamraj Plan'. In November, 1963, Shri Kamraj was elected Congress President. Shri Kamraj was elected to the Parliament in a bye-election. After the famous split of the Congress in 1969, he came to be known as a possible reconciler between the two Congresses. Shri Kamraj was awarded the country's highest honour 'Bharat Ratna' posthumously on 26th January 1976.

We convey our deep sense of sorrow and condolence to the bereaved family.

Sir, we also express the deep sense of sorrow at the death of Shri Giasuddin Ahmed a popular leader of Goalpara. He passed away on October 29, 1975 at the age 74. He was born at Dhubri in 1900. He was a Bachelor of Law and was a Member of the Dhubri Bar. He was a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1946. He was elected to the Parliament in 1962. Shri Ahmed was loved and respected by all. He was connected with several social and educational institutions. He was the Chairman of the Dhubri Municipal and Local Boards.

We convey our deep sense of condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

Sir, we express our deep sorrow at the death of Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir. This veteran Punjab leader was born in 1899. He was associated with various societies and institutions of Punjab since 1922. He was a member of the AICC since 1930 and member of the Working Committee of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee.

From 1947 to 1950 Giani Musafir was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India. In 1948-50 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Congress Party in Parliament and President of Provincial Congress. He was elected to first Lok Sabha in 1952 and became the Chief Minister of Punjab in 1966 to 1968. He was also a member of Rajya Sabha since 1968.

Giani Musafir took part in all the Congress movements and suffered imprisonment. He was associated with the Akali Party before 1930. He was poet-politician of Punjab and his contribution to the Punjab Literature is commendable.

This Veteran Punjab leader, noted poet passed away on 18th January 1976 at the age of 77. Giani Musafir was awarded the 'Padma Bibhushan' on 26th January, 1976 posthumously in recognition of his contribution to the Country's literature.

We convey our deep sense of sorrow and condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARJEE.—Sir, we condole the death of all the illustrious sons just mentioned by the Chief Minister. One of them, Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury was with us till the other day and it gives us a great shock that instead of his having been with us today we are to mourn his death.

It is too early to assess the services which Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury rendered to the people. But even at this stage certain things may be remembered when we condole his death. First of all, we must remember that himself belonging to the majority community, he was cent per cent with the feelings, urges, sufferings and the aspirations of the minority community quite a large clunk of whom reside in his constituency. That is a matter which all public personages should remember. If we want to bring national unity and harmony in our State and in our country we shall have to make endeavour seriously to serve not only the caste or race to which we belong; we must also identify ourselves with the people belonging to the other sections of the people. In this, Shri Choudhury has set up a brilliant example. Another thing we should remember in his life, is his agreement and acquiescence in his childrens inter communal marriages. Thus he has set up a standard of international, inter-communal connections, social as well as economic and political. If we try in our own life to generate such a broad mind, probably quite a lot of the centrifugal tendencies that are around us will be gradually done away with. There are other aspects to be noted by us, but we sincerely condole his death.

We also condole the death of Bipin Medhi whose personages can be seen from the fact that he was elected to this House from Mangaldoi consequitively for four terms. It is generally difficult to anybody to be re-elected from the same constituency, be ause peoples demands and peoples needs are so many and the capacity for a Legislator to serve them is so limited that it becomes almost impossible or at least difficult for any member to get re-elected from the same constituency. The very fact that this man get re-elected not only once but four times, it shows how popular he was and how he served his people best.

We mourn the death of Giasuddin Ahmed at ripe old age. Even at this old age he was doing the services to the people. He was a member of the Dhubri Local Board, a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1939 to 1946, a Member of the Lok Sabha from 1962 to 1967. His service in different spheres shows how popular a public figure Shri Giasuddin Ahmed was.

We condole the death of Shri Kamraj Nadar, who in the true sense of the term was a man having grass roots. He started his political career as an attendant to Shri Satyamurty, who was the Deputy Leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party. Thereafter he devoted himself to the services of the people and for the liberation of the country. One feature to be remembered in his life is that he was a man who talked less but worked more. Now-a-days, we find too much talk, too many utterances, too many promises and too little work. Kamraj was a man of the opposite character. He talked less, worked more. We shall do well to remember this when we condole his death. Another aspect of his character was that he was a great disciplinarian. In 1969 he has to take some very firm decisions for the sake of discipline. We could however sanction the honour to him only on the 26th January 1976, after his death. He could visualise that once indiscipline starts at high level, it spreads throughout the country, and the country has been compelled to pay for it pay with interest and with compound interest. We have seen now what indiscipline is. Therefore, while we condole the death of great Kamraj we must remember this factor also that being a great disciplinarian he understood what discipline meant.

We also condole the death of Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir. He was not only a Legislator and administrator. He was a writer of Punjabi literature. His death has been widely mourned in the country and we associate ourselves in the condolence due to his death.

* শ্রীসোনেশ্বৰ বৰা :— মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসম বিধান সভাৰ এই সদনত চৌধুৰীৰ লগত যোৱা ৯ বছৰে আমি একে লগে কটাইছিলো। ১৯৬৭ চনৰ পৰা ৫ বছৰ আমি তেখেতক মন্ত্ৰী হিচাবে পাইছিলো। তেখেতক এজন বহল মনৰ আৰু বহল হৃদয়ৰ লোক হিচাবে গন্য কৰিছিলো। এই জনা লোকৰ মৃত্যুত মই মোৰ দলৰ হৈ গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো আৰু শোক সন্তপ্ত পৰিয়াল বগলৈ সমবেদনা জনাইছো।

* বিপিন মেধী এই সদনৰ ভূতপূৰ্ব সদস্য আছিল তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুত গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো।

* গিয়াচুদ্দিন আহমেদ এই সদনৰ ভূতপূৰ্ব সদস্য আৰু লোক সভাৰো সদস্য আছিল। তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুতো গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো। জ্ঞানী গদবন্দ্যুৎ সিং মদচাফিৰ পাঞ্জাবৰ মধ্য মন্ত্ৰী আছিল তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুতো গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো।

ভাৰতৰ আজি যি দয়াল্যমান সংকট আহিছে এই সংকটৰ সময়ত কামৰাজৰ অতি প্ৰয়োজন আছিল। তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুৰে এই সংকটৰ সময়ত বিশেষ ভাবে ক্ষতি কৰিলে বুলি মই ভাবো। এই ক্ষতি পূৰণ তেখেতৰ অনঙ্গামী সকলে পদবাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব বুলি আশা ৰাখিছো। এই সকলৰ মৃত্যুত গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো। আৰু তেখেত সকলৰ আত্মাৰ সঙ্গতি কামনা কৰিছো।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA KHOOND.—Mr. Speaker. Sir, I associate myself and my party with the sentiments and condolence expressed by the Leader of the House at the demise of the illustrious sons and public leader's of our country and we convey our heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

শ্রীকবীৰ চন্দ্ৰ ৰায়প্ৰধানী :— অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, প্ৰবীৰ কুমাৰ চৌধুৰী, বিপিন মেধী, কামৰাজ গদবন্দ্যুৎ সিং মদচাফিৰ আৰু গিয়াচুদ্দিন আহমেদৰ মৃত্যুত গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো আৰু সমবেদনা জনাইছো।

শ্রীগুৰেশ্বৰ পাণ্ডিত :— অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই সদনৰ লগতে প্ৰবীৰ কুমাৰ চৌধুৰীৰ মৃত্যুত গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো। তেখেত মোৰ লগত বহিছিল কাৰণে মোৰ লগত যথেষ্ট আন্তৰিকতা আছিল। তেখেতৰ লগত কম দিনৰ পাৰিচয় যদিও তেখেতৰ মানবীয় গুণ আৰু দখীয়াৰ প্ৰতি যি আন্তৰিকতা আছিল তাত মই সঁচাকৈ মৰু হৈছিলো। বাকী কেইগৰাকী বিপিন চন্দ্ৰ মেধী কামৰাজ, গিয়াচুদ্দিন আহমেদ আৰু জ্ঞানী গদবন্দ্যুৎ সিং মদচাফিৰ মৃত্যুত সদনৰ লগতে মই গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো। তেখেত সকলৰ সামাজিক জীৱনৰ গুণ ৰাখিব যি আলোচনা হৈছে তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো আৰু আত্মাৰ সঙ্গতি কামনা কৰিলো।

Mr. SPEAKER.—I associate myself with the feeling and sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Leader and other Members of the House on the demise of Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury, M.L.A., Shri Kumaraswami Kamraj, Shri Bipin Chandra Medhi, ex-M.L.A., Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir and Giasuddin Ahmed, ex-M.P.

Born on 28th August, 1918, Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury received his education at Gauhati. He actively participated in freedom movement from the beginning of his political career. He was first elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1962 and since then he has been a member of this House till his death. He was also appointed as a Minister of State and subsequently he was elevated to a Cabinet Minister for Transport, Tourism etc.

Shri Choudhury was the General Secretary of the Shillong Congress Committee of the undivided Assam and later he became the Treasurer of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee. He was also the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances. Shri Choudhury was closely connected with several Social Political and Educational Organisations of the State. He was loved and respected by all sections of the people for his simple and unassuming nature. This noted Congress worker died on 16th November, 1975 at the age of 57. In his death Assam has lost an active social worker.

Shri Kumaraswami Kamraj was an outstanding Politician of India. He was born in 1903 in a Nadar family at Virudhnagar. Owing to the death of his father when he was about 6 years, he had to struggle hard for his existence. Since childhood he developed progressive interest in politics which became a whole-time job for him.

He was stern supporter of Individual Satyagraha started by Gandhiji for which he had to court imprisonment in 1941. He was also detained from 1942 to 1945 for actively participating in Quit India Movement.

Shri Kamraj had been a Member of the State Assembly since 1937 to 1954 and he became Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. In 1963 he gave up the Chief Ministership under the famous "Kamraj Plan". In the same year he was elected Congress President. After the split in 1964 he tried to reconcile the differences between the two

Congresses. Whether political views he held, he held them with a sincerity which commanded the respect of all. His name will be remembered as a relentless fighter for the cause of freedom and prosperity of the country. In recognition of his selfless service, he has been awarded the Country's highest honour "Bharat Ratna" posthumously on 26th January, 1976. This distinguished Congressman died on 2nd October, 1975 at the age of 73. In his death the country lost a front ranking freedom & fighter.

Born in 1899 Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir was a veteran Congress leader of Punjab. He was a member of the A.I.C.C. since 1930 and he served as a member of the Constituent Assembly for the period from 1947-50. He held several offices in the Congress Party and he was also member of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. He became the Chief Minister of Panjab from 1966-68.

Giani Musafir actively participated in all movements started by the Congress and suffered imprisonment. His contribution to the Panjabi literature is significant for which he has been popularly known as poet-politician. In recognition of his meritorious service to the nation he was awarded the "Padma Bibhusan" on 26th January, 1976 posthumously. This veteran leader passed away on 10th January, 1976 at the age of 77.

Shri Bipin Chandra Medhi was born in 1904 and he courted imprisonment for several terms for participating in freedom movements. Shri Medhi was a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly for more than one term since 1937 from Mongaldoi. He was also Chairman of the Municipal Board, Local Board and School Board of Mongaldoi. This noted freedom fighter and ex-M.L.A. died on 11th January, 1976 at the age of 71.

Shri Giasuddin Ahmed was born in 1900 in Dhubri Town. Shri Ahmed graduated in Law in 1925 and joined the Dhubri Bar. He was a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1946 and was elected to Parliament in 1962. This renowned social worker died on 29th October, 1975.

As a mark of respect to the great departed souls I request the hon. members to rise in their seats for two minutes to pay our homage to them.

(The members rise in their seats and observed two minutes silence)

1976]

ADJOURNMENT

29

The House rose at 11.31 A.M. and stood adjourned
till 10 A. M. on 10th February, 1976.

Dispur :
The 9th February, 1976.

P. D. BARUA,
Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

AGP. (Mini) L.A. 13/89—15,00—18-2-82.