

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M., on Thursday, the 23rd February 1961.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B.L., Speaker in the Chair, seven Ministers, three Deputy Ministers and seventy-two Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: I request hon. Members to wait till we come back with the Governor.

(Governor arrived in procession at 10.05 A.M.).

Now I request the Governor to deliver his address.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

GENERAL S. M. SRINAGESH (GOVERNOR OF ASSAM)

MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,

It is my pleasant duty today to address this august Assembly again. I shall review in brief the problems that my Government had to face during the past year, their achievements during the period and their future programmes.

2. We have passed through a very trying time since I addressed you last—a time which caused us considerable anxiety and concern. During the month of July last, wide-spread disturbances overtook the State, causing deaths and injuries to persons, uprooting of thousands of families and very considerable destruction of and damage to properties. The riots caused great dislocation not only of the general administration, but also resulted in the holding up of the normal and developmental activities of the nation-building departments. Above all, these disturbances heavily strained the traditional feeling of friendship, mutual tolerance and trust hitherto enjoyed by the different communities residing in the State. This Assembly has already debated on the subject and has expressed its formal disapproval of the violence and bitterness caused by the disturbance. Apart from restoring law and

order, my Government had to embark on the colossal task of speedy rehabilitation of the large number of persons affected by the disturbances. I am glad to be able to say that very substantial progress has been made in this regard. Considerable expenditure has been incurred for giving relief to the disturbance affected people and also for granting them rehabilitation loans to resume their normal life and avocations. Apart from the State Government agencies and the Army, a good deal of assistance has been rendered by local people and voluntary organisations in rehabilitation work. There are encouraging signs that during the period since the disturbances, there has been a great deal of introspection and I hope that it has been firmly realised by everyone in the State that in a democratic society which we have today, violence is not the way to achieve any desirable end.

3. The situation on our northern border continued to be difficult, but there were no serious incidents. The Government of India have so far pursued with great patience our avowed national policy of peaceful negotiations with China. The President in his address to Parliament has dealt with the matter in detail and given an indication of future policy.

4. Our relations with Pakistan during the past year continued to be satisfactory. There were only a few minor incidents on the border which were taken up with the appropriate authorities under the agreed procedure. In order to implement the agreement reached in the Ministerial level conference between India and Pakistan for the settlement of border disputes, a resolution has been adopted by this House expressing its approval to the merger of territories relating to those portions of the border which fall within the State. With the implementation of the agreement in regard to demarcation and necessary adjustments on the border, the relations between the two countries will further improve. I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that railway communications between Assam and East Pakistan *via* Mahishasan in Karimganj Sub-division which was suspended since March, 1958, was resumed from 1st August, 1960, and through traffic, both for passengers and goods, has been restored. A new Indo-Pak trade agreement has also come into operation with effect from 21st March, 1960, which, however, does not provide for border trade. Considerable progress has been made in the demarcation of boundaries between Assam and East Pakistan and officials of both countries have been meeting periodically to review progress and settle any minor difficulties which might arise.

5. The activities of the Naga hostiles in the bordering areas of Sibsagar and United Mikir and North Cachar Hills continued during the year 1960 almost on the same level as in the previous year. There were several raids and dacoities during which properties and guns were looted. On three occasions, the hostiles opened fire on running trains causing death and injuries to members of the crew and dislocation of the normal train services. Very recently, they ambushed a partol of Armed Police causing death to one Lance Naik and injuries to two constables. Security measures continued by way of maintaining a large number of outposts and carrying on intensive patrol activity in the bordering areas. These measures succeeded to a great extent in keeping the number of raids and incursions down and preventing further attacks on the railways. Last year the Government of India decided to constitute a separate State comprising of the present Naga Hills-Tuensang Administration. Elections to the interim body have been held and a new interim administration was inaugurated on the 18th February 1961. I hope it would be possible for the Naga people to participate whole-heartedly in the nation-building efforts and rendering the hostiles ineffective with the passage of time.

6. The law and order situation in the State was normal and satisfactory during the first half of the year, but deteriorated temporarily due to the disturbances. The disturbances accounted for the registration of large number of cases involving serious offences. The disturbances also brought to sharp focus certain weaknesses of the administrative machinery. To make up for the deficiencies of the State Police, additional police forces have been borrowed from the Central Government and other States and the assistance of the Army in aid of civil power has also been taken. My Government have been giving earnest consideration to the problem of reorganisation of the police force in the State including providing wireless and telephone communications for all the Police Stations in the State, provision of Armed force and transport for the thanas to ensure more mobility and effective action. These schemes, however, are likely to cost several crores of rupees and their implementation will be done under a phased programme. My Government are, however, determined to firmly deal with any lawlessness or violence.

7. A very important event in the history of Assam which took place during the year was the passing of the Official Language Bill. The Bill which has now become an Act embodies the best arrangement under the circumstances to

satisfy the aspirations of the majority of the people and at the same time safeguard the legitimate interest of the minorities. I would earnestly appeal to all sections of the people to end all controversies and to focus their attention on the most important task of implementation of our development plans and raising the standard of life of the entire population.

8. In the sphere of development, the activities in diverse fields gained notable momentum. The year 1960-61 being the last of the Second Five-Year Plan, it was necessary that a concerted effort should be made to reach the targets of the Plan. The most important of the activities under the Plan in a State like ours is obviously agriculture. The increased target of 3.82 lakh tons of additional food production envisaged in the Second Plan is expected to be fulfilled to the extent of nearly 66 per cent by the end of the current Plan period, which has to be considered against the many handicaps encountered. Improvements in the agricultural sector are expected through the activities of Field Management Committees and Service Co-operatives. Upto October 1960, over 8,000 Field Management Committees have been formed whereas the number of Service Co-operatives is expected to be well over 3,000 by the end of this financial year. The Service Co-operative, it is hoped, will make available to the participant cultivator the essential requirement of credit, seeds, manures and implements for his cultivation. Field Management Committees will give him an organisation to plan his production in a scientific and rational manner in terms of the requirements of the nation. In agriculture other activities have been directed to the intensification of the rabi campaign, increasing emphasis on composting, green manuring, double cropping and minor irrigation projects, extending cultivation of cash crops, vegetables, pulses and mustard and control of pests and diseases. Various research schemes are also in progress to deal with local problems of cultivators. In the coming year, Government propose to spend a large sum on various schemes relating to agricultural production and on minor irrigation. During the Third Plan period, a total additional production potential of 4 lakh tons of foodgrains is envisaged. Soil conservation schemes will also play an important part in improving agriculture in the hills and for this purpose, necessary fund will be provided in the next year. Appearance of locusts in some areas of our State caused us great concern. But with effective measure their spread was checked and not much damage was caused to the crop.

9. A necessary corollary to the efforts to increase agricultural production and stabilisation of village economy is the need to stabilise prices and give them support where necessary ; at the same time controlling them at a level within the purchasing power of the consumer. To achieve these objectives my Government adopted the policy of State Trading in food-grains and procurement through Co-operative Societies. During the last year the scope of State Trading was extended over the major areas of the State. Out of the estimated marketable *surplus* of 75.6 lakh maunds of winter rice, control was exercised over the wholesale trade of over 60 lakh of maunds. The target for the buffer stock was fixed at 21.6 lakh maunds of rice or 35 lakh maunds of paddy. This target was substantially realised. In addition, Government procured about 2 lakh maunds of Ahu paddy to help the growers by preventing undue fall in prices. The remainder of the marketable *surplus* was dealt with by licensees, but the distribution and movement were controlled which had a salutary effect on the prices. The Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society Limited which was entrusted with the task of purchasing rice and paddy in the districts where they were allowed to operate, purchased a total quantity of 44 lakh maunds of winter paddy which includes the quantity supplied to Government for building up the buffer stock. The bulk of the stock built up by Government as well as the quantity allotted by the Central Government was distributed at fixed prices through fair price shops and Service Co-operatives during the lean months, thus exercising an effective check over the market price of rice in the State. The Government have decided that the procurement scheme should continue during the kharif year 1960-61. It is proposed to build up a buffer stock of 35 lakh maunds winter paddy and 8 lakh maunds of Ahu paddy which in addition to the carry-over of 12 lakh maunds of paddy from 1960, should be sufficient to meet the requirements of the State without any imports unless any unforeseen major calamity occurs. The procurement will be done at the prices fixed for last year, which incidentally are the highest in India, in the interest of the growers of paddy.

10. Activities in the Co-operative sector were not confined to the procurement and trading in rice alone. It is my Government's aim to link up credit and marketing facilities as far as possible and to extend them to other sectors of village production by increasing the number of primary marketing societies and construction of ware-houses and godowns for

storage. It is also proposed to encourage industrial co-operatives and farming co-operatives to strengthen the village economy.

11. While the food position remained satisfactory over the State generally, the situation in the Mizo Hills had taken a critical turn due to the flowering of bamboos and the consequent rat menace about which I spoke in my last year's address. Most determined efforts were made by Government to rush supplies to the areas and all the means available were employed at considerable cost, to relieve the distress in the district. The total quantity of rice supplied to the district amounted to 5,61,245 maunds in addition to 19,324 maunds of paddy. Apart from employing a big fleet of motor vehicles to rush supplies where they could ply, over 1,82,000 maunds were dropped from the air in the inaccessible areas and a substantial quantity was moved also *via* Pakistan. In addition to the rice supplied for food, the Agriculture Department rushed supply of seeds to enable the people to grow the next crop. By these colossal efforts, the famine was averted.

12. The State was also not spared its share of natural calamities in some other areas. In the early part of 1960, there was a severe drought followed by widespread outbreaks of fire. During the period July/August, there were floods in various parts of the Brahmaputra Valley. A second more severe flood was experienced in the latter part of September when heavy damage was caused to standing and newly transplanted paddy crops. Eight lives were also lost in these floods. My Government undertook relief measures on an extensive scale and gratuitous relief, test relief, seed loans and rehabilitation loans were issued. Relief measures were also adopted for people affected by erosion, drought and fire.

13. My Government are also acutely conscious of the increased pressure on the available cultivable land in the State. A Committee was appointed to assess the extent of cultivable waste land which was available to be utilised and its report is now under consideration. Land reform legislations have been passed, and co-ordinated efforts are being continued for their implementation.

14. My Government are also conscious that for the development of a balanced economy in the State, an equal attention should also be paid to industrialisation. The year 1960 witnessed considerable progress in the sphere of industrialisation. In

the public sector, the progress of work on the Gauhati Refinery continued to be satisfactory. Work in regard to laying of the Oil pipe line is proceeding fast. In the Naharkatiya-Namrup area, the preliminaries in connection with the Electricity and Fertiliser Plant have been completed. The announcement of the discovery of oil at Rudrasagar in Sibsagar district is a highly encouraging factor. With discovery of gas the possibility of a variety of gas-based industries has been opened up. Preliminary work in regard to this has already commenced. My Government has finalised a project for distribution of natural gas in the Tinsukia-Dibrugarh area for domestic as well as industrial consumption. In the private sector, a number of industrial projects have been approved and licensed during the year. These include synthetic rubber, polyethylene and synthetic plastics and carbon black. Licenses have also been approved for the Gauhati area for a super phosphate and sulphuric acid plant and a project for calcination of petroleum coke and manufacture of graphite paste. Licenses have been issued for some pulp projects in the Cachar district. A Directorate of Geology and Mining has been set up to investigate the mineral resources. The policy of my Government in the field of industrialisation has been to set up certain basic industries in the public sector, to encourage expansion of the co-operative sector as far as possible and to assist and encourage industrial development in the private sector. In some instances, my Government have agreed to direct capital participation.

15. My Government are fully aware, that development of the State industrially should be based on a two-fold emphasis on major industries on the one hand and on small-scale and village industries on the other. In a largely agricultural economy, such as we have in the State, a great deal of endeavour is required in the sphere of small-scale and village industries in order to provide subsidiary occupations and means of increased income to the rural population. In the sphere of village industries, my Government have taken up a comprehensive programme under the auspices of Khadi and Village Industries Board. In regard to small-scale industries, it has been the policy to encourage a number of small units, both independent as well as in the nature of feeders for the larger units. Two industrial estates at Gauhati and Dhekiajuli have been set up. Units for manufacture of cycle and cycle parts, wire goods, electrical and leather goods, etc., have been set up. Rupees 10.71 lakh has been spent on loans under the Aid to Industries Act upto December 1960. At the same time, a great deal more attention has been given to the

traditional industries of the State, Sericulture and Weaving. A research and design centre has been set up at Gauhati to evolve modern and attractive designs so that our handloom fabrics could enter competitive markets. The spun silk mill is in the process of construction and is expected to go into production by the middle of this year. The marketing corporation has started functioning to bring about better co-ordination in the marketing programme and thereby, giving a fillip to production. During the next year, the various facilities to be provided by Government for the promotion of small industries are proposed to be substantially expanded including the establishment of more industrial estates.

16. The programme of industrialisation, whether for setting up large units or the expansion of small industries cannot go forward successfully without a supporting complement of power production. The industrial units mentioned by me briefly, both in the public and private sectors, for which the licensing and other preliminaries have been gone through, will depend on the provision of power for their completion and going into production. It is the policy of my Government to increase power generation in the State to such a level that the exploitation of the vast natural resources of the State can be profitably and adequately taken in hand. Among the major schemes, the completion of which is targeted during the Third Plan, are the Umiyam Hydro-Electric Project and the Naharkatiya Power Generation and Distribution Project. The Hon'ble Members will realise that a tremendous effort is being made to extend power facilities for industrial, agricultural and other purposes throughout the State. The demand for power, however, is mounting rapidly and the requirements of the projects already finalised as well as those under contemplation are already in excess of the estimated generation targets even by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan. A bold and imaginative effort will be required to establish more power facilities to give a genuine fillip to the industrialisation of the State and for this purpose it is expected that the Kapili Project on which detailed investigations are being carried out will be ripe for taking up in the Third Plan. Apart from the power requirements for industries, the consumption needs of the public have also been borne in mind. During the year under review, two projects of electrification were taken up for the towns of Jowai and Aijal. A phased programme for augmentation of power supply at Jorhat, Tezpur, Nowgong and Gauhati has also

been taken. Electrification was completed during the year in four small towns and it is expected that a few more small towns will be electrified before the financial year closes.

17. For an effort of this magnitude in the industries and power sectors, corresponding expansion of educational facilities and a phased programme for technical and general education will be undertaken by my Government. Provision has been made to implement the first phase of the programme of introduction of universal and compulsory primary education and the facilities for the training of teachers are being expanded. It is proposed to convert over 100 High Schools to the Higher Secondary Pattern. Provision has been made for the development of facilities for teaching Hindi and regional languages as well as for taking up fundamental research. In the field of general education, my Government are acutely conscious of the deterioration in the quality of education to some extent due to rapid expansion in the first two plan periods. They are addressing themselves to the task of bringing about improvement in this regard. In the sphere of technical education it is proposed in the Third Plan to start polytechnics, junior technical schools and commercial schools. The craftsman training programme will also receive adequate attention. Development of the existing Engineering Colleges and setting up of a regional Engineering College are included in the Plan. My Government hopes to meet substantially the increasing demand of technical manpower by co-relating the needs in the sectors of demand to those of technical education.

18. The efforts of the Government and the people in raising industrial potential as well as the expanded facilities for technical training should be reflected in the sphere of Employment. My Government are doing whatever is necessary and possible to promote employment of the people of the State in the various industrial undertakings. From May 1960, the Employment Exchange (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959 has been brought into force. Simultaneously, it has been planned to increase facilities of registration in Employment Exchanges to a much wider area. A constant review of the employment market is being made to study the current trends and some literature has also been made available in regard to the existing training facilities and trends in the employment market as a step towards vocational guidance. A Liaison Officer was appointed last year for following up the recruitment policies of industrial units

in Assam to safeguard the interests of the local candidates. For employment of local persons in the tea industry, a committee has been constituted with representatives of the industry to screen local candidates desirous of joining the tea industry. A departmental committee has also been set up to examine the recruitment policies in the private sector and to suggest means of maximising local employment. During the 3rd Plan period, it is expected that over 3 lakh job opportunities will be created and there will be appreciable diversification in employment pattern with a significant shift from agriculture to industry. Considerable employment potential will also be created in the tertiary sectors. It is upto the youth of Assam to prepare themselves for the employment facilities that are opening up by shedding the present preference for exclusively white collar jobs, appreciating the value of dignity of labour and taking advantage of the technical and craftsman training facilities to the fullest extent.

19. In the sphere of health services, the expansion of medical facilities has been hampered to a great extent due to the insufficiency of medical graduates. In order to meet the shortages in this regard, pre-clinical classes for two new Medical Colleges have been started during 1960 and during the 3rd Plan, it will be my Government's endeavour to develop them into full-fledged institutions at Gauhati and Silchar. It is also proposed to establish a 50-bedded cancer hospital, a T.B. after-care colony and step up the programmes of eradication of malaria, cholera and small-pox and mass B. C. G. Vaccination. School Health Service Units are also proposed to be set up. A contributory health service scheme for Government servants is being taken up at Shillong, which, if found successful, will be extended to other areas.

20. An important development in the field of transport during the year under review was the commencement of work on the railway line from Rangapara to North Lakhimpur on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra and improvement of the North trunk road. During the 2nd Plan period, my Government have gone ahead with the policy of nationalising road transport and increasing transport facilities throughout the State. Work on several bridges was taken up and completed. During the 3rd Plan period, it is hoped that the major bridge over the Brahmaputra will also be completed and this will go a long way in resolving the road transport difficulties which the State was facing so far. Work has been started for construction of the

Panduriver port and it is expected that the scheme will be completed before the end of the 3rd Plan period.

21. Labour relations during the year under review continued to be peaceful and the number of strikes significantly declined from 30 in 1959 to 19 in 1960. It was possible through the machinery for conciliation to settle disputes to the satisfaction of the parties. The labour welfare programme was also intensified. This programme will be further extended in the next Plan and welfare training facilities will be increased.

22. During the year under review, the development schemes and programmes of welfare of the scheduled tribes of the hills and plains, scheduled castes and other backward classes, continued as usual. The Advisory Council gave valuable advice in the formulation and implementation of these schemes and programmes. An additional programme known as the border and economic rehabilitation programme for the border people of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Mizo District and Garo Hills was initiated in 1958-59. It is hoped that this special programme will also be continued during the 3rd Plan period for which a proposal with enhanced financial provision has been made to the Government of India. A comprehensive programme for free tuition and stipends for students of scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and other backward classes was continued and the excess expenditure for granting scholarships to other backward classes was met from the State's resources. In the 3rd Plan period, the allocations for the various development and welfare schemes have been stepped up in the State sector and it is expected that assistance would be available for schemes under the Central Sector. A separate provision has been made for matching contribution to the District Councils for the implementation of local programmes of development. It has also been decided to entrust primary education in the hill areas to the District Councils during the 3rd Plan period.

23. In order to implement the policy of democratic decentralisation, my Government passed the Assam Panchayat Act providing for three tiers of institutions at the village, block and the subdivisional levels. The Rules were finalised in March, 1960 and elections were held during the year under review. The Panchayats at the different levels have been allocated resources and grants-in-aid for specific development purposes have been placed at the disposal of the Anchalik Panchayats.

In the successful functioning of these self-governing institutions rests the realisation of our aspirations of heightened tempo of development work and also the vitalisation of democracy upto the village level. For this purpose, it is necessary that the whole-hearted co-operation of our people is forthcoming and also from the beginning, sound traditions and conventions for the conduct of business are built up and local conflicts and strife avoided. It is also necessary to build up a healthy relationship between the various levels of officials who would have to work under the guidance of, or in close co-ordination with, the Panchayat institutions and the men and women manning these institutions. A number of seminars and discussions have been undertaken to this end and training programmes have been launched. The establishment of Panchayat Raj is of great significance in the life of the nation and I am confident that the inherent good qualities of the people will come to the forefront under an enlightened leadership to make these institutions a success and realise the hopes built round them.

During the 3rd Plan period, it is hoped to take up more blocks which would cover the entire State with Development blocks and also convert all the blocks in the hill areas to multi-purpose blocks. In the light of experience gained, the content of the Community Development programme has undergone a great deal of alteration, both in operational emphasis and expenditure pattern, to ensure maximum possible development in all spheres of rural life. With the establishment of Panchayat Raj, a great deal of responsibility has been shifted to the elected representatives of the people in regard to the planning and implementation of the programme and it is hoped that the maximum utilisation of the local material resources and manpower should result from the active participation of the people.

25. Most of the members of this august Assembly have been associated with the preparation of the State's Third Five-Year Plan and therefore, I will make only a brief reference to it. The draft plan envisaged an outlay of Rs. 150 crores and after discussion with the Planning Commission, an outlay of Rs. 120 crores has been ultimately approved. To this will be added further amounts for schemes in the Central sector. Over and above this, Government of India is expected to invest large sums in industrial projects in the State.

26. In order to expedite the implementation of various development schemes and also reduce unnecessary work, comprehensive delegation of financial powers has been made to administrative departments, heads of departments and other subordinate authorities. Steps have also been taken to attach Financial Advisers to the spending administrative departments and Finance and Accounts Officers to the major heads of departments for assisting them in the proper discharge of their increased responsibilities consequent on enhanced delegation of powers.

27. In order to remove the long-standing grievances of the people in the area east of the Subansiri river comprising of the mauzas of North Lakhimpur Subdivision, some mauzas of Dibrugarh sadar and the Markangselek transferred area, my Government are actively considering the establishment of a proper administrative set-up there to afford the normal facilities available in other areas of the State.

28. The Finance Minister will be reviewing in greater detail the activities and achievements of the administration, the economic and financial trends as well as the future programmes and their financial implications. This House will have the opportunity of discussing them and passing the necessary financial Bills. There will be other important Bills which the House will have opportunity to discuss. In conclusion, I can only emphasise that within the limitations of finances as well as manpower, my Government have tried to make the fullest use of available resources to bring about all round improvement to all sections of the people. Placed as we are with problems of difficult borders, varying internal tensions and limitation of resources, there is no other alternative before us than to shed the differences which are of minor significance in the broad perspective of the life of the nation and its future. In this vast country there is a multitude of differences between various areas, differences of culture, of religions and of outlook, but the essential unity of the people is supreme. As we look around, forces of disintegration appear to be raising their head. These have to be firmly dealt with and discouraged. It is the duty of all of us to bring good influence to bear upon such trends and convert them to those of consolidation and national harmony. I would earnestly appeal to this House as well as to all sections of the people to forge complete unity of purpose and march and toil together hand in hand with the object of reaching the goal of a prosperous and smiling Assam.

JAI HIND.

(After finishing the address, the Governor left the Chamber at 10:41 A.M.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Under rule 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I hereby report to the Assembly that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech, a copy of which was already laid on each Member's Table.

I have received notice of a motion from Shri Chatrasing Teron which is as follows—

“That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on 23rd February 1961.”

I hereby fix in consultation with the Business Advisory Committee on 25th February, Saturday, 27th February, Monday, 28th February, Tuesday as the dates for discussion of the motion or matters referred to in the Governor's address on 3rd March, Friday for Government reply on debate.

Notices of amendments to the motion or the address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 12 noon tomorrow the 24th February.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Members of the Assam Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on 23rd February 1961.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on 23rd February 1961.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9 A.M., on Friday, the 24th February 1961.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

