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

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M., on Tuesday, the 6th March, 1956.

PRESENT

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the two Parliamentary Secretaries and fifty-six Members.

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**Oath of Allegiance**

The following newly elected Member took oath :—

Shri Barelong Terang.

**Governor's Address**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Ministers and Members of the Assembly will please wait for the Governor's arrival in the Assembly Chamber for delivering his speech.

(The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Secretary of the Assembly then left the Chamber to receive the Governor).

(The Governor arrived and addressed the House as follows) :

MR. SPEAKER, MY COLLEAGUES AND MEMBERS  
OF THE ASSEMBLY,

A year has gone by since I had the occasion to address you last. It has been an eventful year and there have been more occasions than one causing anxiety and concern. It has also witnessed the departure by death of three eminent citizens, one of All-India renown, and I have the melancholy duty of referring, first of all, to the great loss sustained by the country thereby. The late Shri Mavalankar was a redoubtable figure in the fight for freedom and a public man of highest calibre with a towering personality, amiable disposition and immense organising capacities, besides being the Speaker of the Lok Sabha with conspicuous distinction. Both in the fields of public activities and Parliamentary Government, his contributions throughout have been great and outstanding and the loss sustained by India by his sudden and untimely death is, indeed, irreparable. The late Shri Rohini Kumar Choudhuri was another public man of eminence. He served the country in various capacities and for a long period, particularly as a Minister of the Government of Assam, a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, the Constituent Assembly and lastly the Lok Sabha until his death. The long and distinguished service that he rendered to the country in various spheres won for him wide popularity and respect amongst all sections of the people. His sudden and untimely departure at a critical juncture of the country was received by all with profound sorrow and the void left by his death cannot be filled. The late Shri Khorsing Terang also rendered signal service to the country as a Member of this House and also as the Chief Executive Member of the Mikir Hills District Council. He passed away suddenly while attending the last November session of this House. His departure has caused a void, particularly amongst the leaders of his community, which also cannot be filled up. I am sure you will associate with me in paying tribute to the memory of the departed souls.

It is my Government's clear opinion in the interest of national security and unity of India, that the entire region to the north-east of East Pakistan needs an integrated administration from various points of view and should ultimately form one administratively homogeneous unit so that it can be developed as a self-sufficient economic zone under a plan. The hills and plains of Assam are economically so interdependent on each other that it will serve the best interest of the hills and plains

if this region can be developed as an economic unit as the inhabitants of each area are vitally dependent on each other for the development of the region. The encouragement of such integrated development of the region seems essential in order that it may play its role in serving as a strong bulwark for defence of the north-eastern corner of the Indian Republic.

In view of the geographical position, this frontier State will have to play a vital role in the development and reconstruction of the country as a whole. The State Government are of opinion that national unity, solidarity and security of India are most essential factors and are the overriding considerations to be borne in mind in any scheme of reorganisation of the States in India. Language is no doubt one of the many factors that needs to be considered but it is certainly not the most important as far as the region to the north-east of India is concerned. It is gratifying to note that the members of the States Reorganisation Commission have accepted the view of the State Government and in the interest of national unity, security and solidarity have rightly rejected the proposal for inclusion of Goalpara in West Bengal as it did not seem sound. The Commission also did not accept any other proposals for disintegration of the present State of Assam.

This Government welcome the recommendation of the States Reorganisation Commission for merger of Tripura in Assam in the national interest provided the people of Tripura are generally in favour of such a merger. If at any time, in the national interest and in the interest of unity and solidarity of India, the people of Manipur State in general agree to integration with Assam as one political administrative unit, the Government of Assam will welcome such merger and assure them to take all steps for the development and protection of the interest of minorities and the tribals living in Manipur State as has been stated in the last session of the Assembly.

### Natural Calamities

Assam is a riverine country and subject to annual floods, at times very devastating as in 1954. Before the unfortunate victims of this flood could make a recovery, there was another flood, though less devastating, and it caused considerable damage. The Brahmaputra, Aie and Barak were in spate from July 22, 1955, causing high floods in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Darrang, Nowgong, Kamrup, Goalpara and Cachar covering a total area of about 5,400 sq. miles against 12,000 sq. miles of the preceding year. To render timely and adequate relief,

boats were sanctioned for relief work and rice was stock-piled well ahead of the floods and in anticipation of them. The damage caused by the flood to private properties under different categories alone amounted to about Rs. 3.2 crores. The loss caused to the Public Works Department and National Highways stood respectively at about Rs. 1.3 crores and Rs. 19 lakhs besides the loss caused to the Railways. Besides the aforesaid losses, the Railway communication to Assam was disrupted for a considerable period. So was the case with telegraphic and telephone connections. The damage to Ahu, Jute and Sali respectively was about 15, 30 and 75 per cent of the standing crops. Besides the issue of Distress Loans and supply of Sali seeds or seedlings at concessional rates or free of cost to deserving cultivators, relief and rehabilitation of the affected people cost the State Government about Rs. 25.9 and Rs. 12.7 lakhs respectively. The collection of land revenue and use of coercive measures were stayed and considerable amounts both under land revenue and local rates will have to be remitted in due course. The local authorities have also been helped with allotments of funds for repair and reconstruction of properties damaged by the flood.

The Central Government have been liberal in assisting the State Government in the matter of rendering adequate relief to the unfortunate victims. The Chairman of the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust Fund was most helpful with a timely grant. The Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee also visited the State and offered his advice and suggestions. The local Congress organisations and Relief Committees and many other local public workers and organisations rendered yeoman's services to the victims. Government acknowledge with thanks the help received from agencies both inside and outside the State and their invaluable services in the cause of the flood-affected people and are grateful for such services.

### Flood Control

Effective control of floods was mentioned by me in my last address as the key to the economic stability and prosperity of the State. The Government have always been alive to the urgent need of such effective control and persistent endeavours have all along been made to that end. Such endeavours involve two phases: short-term and long-term. The short-term scheme of construction of embankments and providing other protective measures has made considerable and consistent headway;

Before the First Five-Year Plan, the entire length of embankments in the State stood at 163 miles. During the first four years of the Plan, a total length of 861 miles was added and another length of 376 miles has been programmed for completion during the current year. The programme of construction of such embankments will be continued during the Second Plan period with increased tempo as before and some 2,000 miles are expected to be added. The various irrigation schemes under the Grow-More-Food Scheme have also contributed towards flood control besides increasing the cultivable area and affording protection to inundated fields. Besides construction of embankments, protective measures were taken up to prevent erosion of towns. Such measures have covered a dozen towns and the plan is to cover another 14. Of such measures, Dibrugarh provides the outstanding example. The work there has effectively protected the town notwithstanding the fact that the flood level there was the highest during the last season. The work has since been further strengthened and augmented giving added confidence to the people standing on the verge of losing their holdings and business. Added to it, a six-mile long dyke is being built along the river-front and the drainage of the town is also being re-oriented. The temporary measures taken to save the town of Palasbari gave effective protection during the last flood.

As most of the rivers causing floods in Assam have their sources beyond the State border, arrangements were made with neighbouring Governments to obtain information of rainfall and flood discharges at source and regular information over the wireless was received. Such information has been found to be most helpful. The co-operation of China, Bhutan and North-East Frontier Agency in this respect has been most gratifying and Government acknowledge with thanks the help so far rendered. Until floods are effectively controlled timely flood warnings will be of invaluable help and arrangements are afoot to transmit these warnings throughout the State.

Effective flood control also involves considerable planning and execution in a systematic and comprehensive manner as parts of a long-term programme. The essential pre-requisite of such long-term planning is to collect relevant data on all the rivers contributing to floods. The steps taken for the collection of hydrological and other relevant data were referred to in my last two addresses. The hydrological investigations include recording of rainfall, river discharges and silt observations while

other data include preparation of up-to-date plans of the river system, longitudinal and cross sections of the river channels from the foothills and spot levels, of the entire riverine tract measuring about 20,000 square miles. The investigations carried out by the Survey of India, Central Water and Power Commission through their Assam Investigation Circle and the State P. W. D., have been making considerable progress. Aerial photography of more than 80 per cent of the riverine tract has already been taken and it is expected that by the end of 1956-57 the essential data for most of the rivers in Assam will be collected. Because of these persistent endeavours we are gaining ground from year to year and the goal of effective flood control contributing to the economic stability and prosperity of Assam is not far.

Besides taking measures, both short-term and long-term, for effective control of flood, Government have all along been alive to the need of exploitation of the abundant water resources of the State for beneficial and industrial purposes. In this context, Government have decided, after making a comparative study, to carry out detailed investigation during the Second Five-Year Plan of four river basins, namely, Kopili, Barak, No-Dehing and Subansiri and the responsibilities have been entrusted to the Central Water and Power Commission. Should such investigation indicate any project to be technically or otherwise sound, it may be possible to take up at least one river valley scheme during the Plan period. The Umtru Hydro-Electric Project has made good progress. It is expected to be completed according to schedule and to give power by January, 1957. As this river basin has potentialities of further development, a comprehensive study is being made for another phased development of the basin. All these projects when completed will also add to the prosperity of the State and thereby help to eradicate poverty, want and disease.

### Food

With the usual emphasis on the need to step up food production, the State has become surplus in rice through implementation, with public co-operation and in spite of the many natural calamities, of the various schemes under the Grow-More-Food Campaign launched in 1942-43 and subsequently merged in the First Five-Year Plan. Under this Plan a target of 225,000 tons of additional foodgrains was fixed by the Government of India. During the first four years of the Plan, the target achieved was 331,000 tons and another 90,000 tons are expected during 1955-56 bringing the total to 421,000 tons.

During the Second Five Year Plan period, the production of foodgrains is expected to be increased by about 120,000 tons. Spring paddy which was hardly grown in the State before, fruit plants and grafts, black pepper and cashew nuts and also the Japanese method of cultivation are gaining increasing popularity. The development of pisciculture has received due attention. The economy of an agricultural country like Assam is intimately connected with the cattle population both as an aid to agriculture and a source of nutriment. Much has been done to improve the breed by scientific methods of artificial insemination, mass vaccination and establishment of hospitals and dispensaries.

As anticipated last year, the food position throughout the year 1955 remained quite satisfactory. The removal of controls on foodstuffs did not, however, relieve the State Government of the responsibilities for maintaining the flow in sufficient quantities of imported foodstuffs and their availability to consumers at reasonable rates. The task was, however, not in the least easy because of the transport difficulties, but in spite of difficulties, the prices of imported foodstuffs remained fairly steady. The movement of essential commodities is difficult, particularly during the monsoons, because of breaches on the Assam Rail Link and paucity of steamer space. The restoration of direct goods traffic between Assam and India through East Pakistan on an agreed basis was very welcome to the Government and they note with satisfaction that the arrangement is working satisfactorily so far. To relieve the headaches occasioned by annual breaches on the Assam Link, Government have suggested to the Railway Board to take steps for constructing a second and more stable line of Rail communication and to strengthen the existing line by long-term flood protection measures.

#### **Autonomous Districts and Tribal Areas**

With the transfer of control over Unclassed State Forests, the District Councils can now be said to have assumed almost all the powers and functions as envisaged in the Constitution. The necessary arrangements for the implementation of the scheme under the Assam Mizo District (Acquisition of Chiefs' Right) Act have been well under way and acquisition is expected to proceed apace in order to be completed during the next financial year. The increased tempo of development works carried on in the different fields referred to by me on the last occasion has been maintained throughout the year and it is hoped that the allotment by the Centre of Rs.2 crores 7 lakhs for the current year under Article 275 including Rs.66.4 lakhs

for Plains tribals will be fully utilised. Thus the total expenditure during the current Plan period against grants under Article 275 is expected to stand at about Rs. 4.3 crores against the ceiling of Rs. 4 crores fixed by the Planning Commission. In addition, expenditure against the general programme of development under the Plan for the State as a whole and outside the same is also being incurred in and for the benefit of these areas. For the all-round development of these areas and to bring them to a level with other areas at the earliest opportunity, a programme of expenditure within the ceiling of Rs.10 crores as fixed by the Planning Commission for the Second Plan period has been finalised, including Rs. 50 lakhs earmarked for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes. It is worth mentioning that this ceiling of Rs. 10 crores is against the All-India ceiling of Rs.58 crores fixed for the welfare of the Backward Classes. As the ceiling of expenditure against that programme was cut down by the Planning Commission, a supplementary demand for an additional amount of Rs. 2 crores has since been placed before the Commission for consideration. In addition, it is expected that the State Government will get a substantial share for the implementation of centrally sponsored schemes, namely, Intensive Development Blocs in the Tribal Areas, Tribal Research Institute, etc., out of the bloc grant of Rs. 32 crores placed at the disposal of the Home Ministry during the Second Five Year Plan period.

The scheme initiated in 1953-54 at a total cost of Rs. 44 lakhs with loan assistance from the Central Government for rehabilitation of distressed families in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Naga Hills, through construction of roads and test relief measures continued to be in operation during the year and will continue in Naga Hills, during the next year. The transport subsidy scheme for supply of rice to the border people of Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and essential commodities to the people of Lungleh Subdivision was continued during the current year at a cost of about Rs. 8 lakhs. This subsidy scheme for the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills was however substituted by a more permanent scheme of construction of feeder roads, etc., with the amount available for subsidies and it will be continued during the next year. The pilot scheme for scientific control of Jhum Cultivation in Garo Hills, having proved successful, was extended to six other centres in Mikir Hills, North Cachar Hills and Mizo District. Another scheme for free and subsidised distribution of clothes to the comparatively needy



people in the Mikir Hills and Garo Hills was sanctioned during the current year at a total cost of Rs. 1 lakh along with facilities for introduction of weaving and spinning.

In the field of education, the Government while maintaining the existing Government L. P. Schools are giving liberal financial assistance to help the District Councils to discharge their responsibilities in that regard. At the Secondary stage, the grant-in-aid system has been mainly relied upon for consolidation and improvement. Provincialisation has, however, not been ruled out and action has already been taken to provincialise two M. E. Schools, one in Jowai and the other in Naga Hills. To provide qualified Headmasters to M. E. Schools, additional posts in Class II A. S. S. have been created. Training centres for Basic School teachers are being started in all the Hill districts. Four Multi-purpose Schools are being allotted to these districts out of the fifteen sanctioned for this year for the State. Crafts being a compulsory subject in almost all Secondary Schools, facilities for improved teaching are being provided. Having regard to long distances and sparse population, the provision of hostel facilities is an indispensable necessity and 35 Schools have already been provided with such facilities. Teachers have been trained and are being trained to teach Hindi in the Secondary Schools, and some trained teachers have already been posted to Schools in tribal areas. The Khasi language occupies an honoured place and it has been recognised by the University up to the degree standard. It has also been included as one of the subjects in the syllabus for the competitive examination for recruitment to the State Civil and Police Services. Other tribal languages will no doubt come to occupy the same position in course of time and this is the sincere desire of Government for the fulfilment of which they will continue to render every possible help. The policy hitherto followed is one of consolidation, improvement and expansion of education facilities in these areas. To provide the necessary link for more intimate contact between the people of the hills and the plains and also for facilities in trade, commerce and employment, etc., the policy of the Government has been to encourage learning of hill languages by the students of the plains and of Assamese and Hindi by the students of the hills without any pressure or compulsion. So far, provision has been made of the schools in the plains areas. Government have always been alive to the urgent need of bringing the tribal citizens educationally and otherwise to the level of others in the country

and also to provide for more intimate contacts between the two. No opportunity has been lost to achieve an all-round development of these areas and of the inhabitants thereof and also to develop a more intimate contact between the people of the Plains and the Hills.

The situation in the Naga Hills district, as may be known to the House, has been causing Government some amount of concern for some time. It is well-known that certain misguided elements have been trying for a long time to create serious difficulties for the State Government in parts of the district under the leadership of some persons who believe in violent methods and subversive activities and who also make the fantastic claim that the Naga people are not Indians and that the Naga areas are not a part of India. The State Government have been consistently dealing with subversive elements, bent on creating chaos and confusion, with firmness and determination. Due to the effective measures which the administration has been taking for quite a long time, the activities of the subversive elements remained under control and they were prevented from misleading the common people and from persuading them to deny co-operation and assistance to the Government in their activities. The subversive elements shifted their activities from one area to another according to circumstances. Some time back, the miscreants made attempts to create trouble for the administration in the Tribal Areas outside the Naga Hills district. Strong and effective measures had to be taken to counteract their activities in those areas. It was apprehended that sooner or later some of the scattered bands of gangsters might attempt to start their subversive activities in various parts of the Naga Hills district and also in the bordering regions of the neighbouring plains districts. Precautionary measures were initiated by the State Police against any such possible attempts on the part of the armed gangsters, by intensifying patrolling on the bordering regions, opening of additional check-posts and dealing with persons according to law who were reasonably suspected of being directly or indirectly associated with subversive activities. The situation continued to be effectively under check and the miscreants failed to create any confusion or chaos or to enlist the support of the common people to any appreciable degree in their nefarious activities. All attempts to deny the people's co-operation to the administration and to persuade them to dissociate from the developmental and welfare activities of the Government also failed.

Simultaneously with the initiation of strong measures for maintenance of law and order, the Government intensified their various activities for the development of the district with a view to secure the maximum well-being of the people of the Naga Hills within the shortest possible time. It requires no special mention that the conditions in which the common people in the Naga Hills live are, in many respects, very difficult and there is great urgency to initiate and implement welfare measures for the amelioration of their conditions and to make available to them the benefit of a progressive and sympathetic administration based on the welfare and development of the people it is required to serve. The State Government, therefore, gave top-most priority to the need to start and implement development projects for the benefit of the people of the district in various fields of activities. The condition of communications inside the district being poor, the development of communications necessarily received special attention. It may be of interest to the House to know that since the attainment of Independence, the State Government could construct 505 miles of jeepable road in the district with another 73 miles of such road being still under construction. Roughly about 100 miles of motorable road have already been constructed with another 200 miles of motorable road being under construction with speed. In the year 1955-56, the expenditure on the development of communications alone is expected to be of the order of Rs.40 lakhs roughly. Self-help projects initiated with the willing co-operation and contribution in kind from the villagers concerned are expected to involve an expenditure of Rs.77,840 during the year. The provision of water supply in various parts of the district will account for an amount of Rs.77,000 approximately. In the field of education, arrangements have been made for opening more L. P. Schools, appointment of additional teachers in the existing schools, improvement of school buildings and hostel facilities, etc. Special scholarships to deserving students reading in the various schools have been given on a liberal scale and a well-conceived scheme for the spread of Basic education in the district has also been started with the help of the Hindustani Talimi Sangha with liberal financial assistance from the Government. The House might be aware that two National Extension Service Blocks were started in the district in 1953-54, work under which in different directions was carried on with encouraging results with the willing and spontaneous co-operation on a wide scale from the people concerned. In view of the increased tempo of development activities both under the N. E. S. Block as well

as outside, the people started realising the futility and absurdity of the methods and ideology adopted by the extremist elements and the consciousness started growing everywhere that it was in the best interest of the people themselves to extend their willing co-operation to the administration and to play their own part in the speedy implementation of development projects designed to secure their own well-being. In view of the great response from the people themselves and to expedite the process of their development in various respects according to a reasonable standard, the State Government after great efforts succeeded in starting three additional N. E. S. Blocks in the district in 1955-56. The total area covered by the five N. E. S. Blocks is 2024 square miles with a population of 151,011 coming within their purview against the total area of 4276 square miles and a total population of 205,950 in the whole district. The five N. E. S. Blocks cover about 50 per cent of the entire area of the Naga Hills district and are serving about 70 per cent of the total population.

The success of the development schemes together with the firm and systematic measures undertaken by the State Government for maintaining law and order and for protecting the lives and property of loyal elements contributed to the growth of a strong and well-based movement, particularly in the Kohima Subdivision for over-throwing the extremist elements from their positions of advantage in the political field. Some of the leaders who were associated with the extremist elements in the past changed their views about the approach to the political problems facing the district and began to organise and rally support for a movement to extend co-operation to the administration in every sphere. Important villages in the early part of January under the guidance of village Gaonburas and Elders, started passing resolutions openly disowning the extremist leadership and directing the people not to associate themselves with any terrorist activities or to extend any help directly or indirectly to those who while professing faith in the creed of Non-violence were actually trying to create chaos and disorder by resort to violent methods. A movement had been started to organise non-payment of taxes due to Government which collapsed in due course and the villages started paying up their dues to the local administration as usual through the Gaonburas appointed for the purpose. Due to this growth in the strength of the movement against the extremist leadership in the district and the failure of the campaign to deny co-operation to the Government followed by enormous increase in the people's co-operation and assistance to the administration, the

subversive elements became extremely shaky and frantic. In a desperate bid to maintain their hold on the people and their influence, a terrorist campaign was started from about the middle of December. Loyal villagers were terrorised against co-operation with Government, armed gangsters visited different localities, collecting by force contributions from the people in cash and kind and forcing youngmen to enlist as volunteers for work in the terrorist organisation. Communications to the various areas were threatened and attempts were made to raid police outposts and administrative centres. Government officers engaged in development works were given warning against continuation of association with the administrative machinery on pain of dire consequences. A Gram Sevak working in one of the N. E. S. Blocks in the Mokokchung Subdivision was actually murdered and it is believed that it was due to his association with Governmental activities and his refusal to have any connection with the extremist gangsters.

It became, therefore, necessary for the Government to intensify their operations against lawless elements and for the purpose the strength of the Police force engaged in dealing with the terrorists was substantially raised, additional officers posted and new out-posts opened. The situation continued to be under check till about the middle of January by which time the momentum gained by the movement sponsored by the Liberal Group of political leaders against the extremist section which was openly supported by the people of important villages that used to be strongholds of the extremist group in the past, made the position of the extremist group of leaders extremely critical. Under the lead of the villagers of Kohima village, a general assembly of the people of several other important villages was due to be held by the end of January to organise the movement against the extremist group on a wider scale and to declare openly the readiness of the people to co-operate with the Government and to assist the administration against any terrorisation of armed gangsters. The extremist armed terrorists finding themselves in a desperate position decided to launch a violent campaign against the administration and to force the people to lend support to their movement started intimidation, forcible collection of contribution, and conscription of volunteers, on a large scale. Haunted by the emergence of the Liberal Group of leaders and their failure to make the people refuse co-operation and assistance to Government, the terrorists in their bid to retain their hold on the organisation decided to do away with members of the Liberal Group by resort to heinous crimes including murder.

One of the leaders of the Liberal Group, T. Sakhrie, was actually kidnapped at night from his home at some distance from Kohima and murdered in a most brutal manner in order to terrorise the rest of the leaders into submission to the extremist group. As a result of that brutal murder, the morale of those who were organising the movement against the gangsters naturally suffered some setback and more and more people in different parts of the district approached the local administration for adequate protection against victimisation by desperate and unscrupulous members of terrorist gangs. To restore people's confidence and to maintain an effective reserve for use in case of emergency against armed gangsters, entrenched in their hideouts in thick jungles with arms and ammunition, the State Government decided to call in units of the Regular Army to stand by for the purpose of giving aid to the civil administration according to necessity.

By the 31st January, units of the Army took their positions in Kohima, Wokha and Mokokchung. After the Army units took their positions releasing thereby more Police forces for active operation against gangsters and with a view to crush effectively the violent movement and campaign of terrorisation started by hostile armed gangs and to enforce rigidly the laws and regulations in force, the Police force stationed in the district, reinforced by further reserves and under the command of additional high Police officials, started operations against the gangsters from the 31st January. The Police columns with the full co-operation of the people have moved into the interior combing out villages, searching suspected hideouts, arresting persons found in possession of illicit arms and ammunition and suspected to be associated with the armed campaign. Warrants have been issued against 8 gangsters in connection with the murder of the Liberal leader, T. Sakhrie. A warrant of arrest has also been issued against A. Z. Phizo, the President of the Naga National Council, under sections 148/364/458/302/120B I.P.C., and a reward of Rs.5,000 has been declared for his arrest or for furnishing information leading to his arrest. So far 197 arrests have been made in connection with various offences and 82 convicted including 15 persons convicted under the Arms Act, and sent to Jail with sentences varying from 1 to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment. A large quantity of illicit arms and ammunition has been seized and the persons found in possession taken into custody. The Police operations, started in some strength with the Military units standing by to render any aid that may be needed, have so far achieved encouraging results. The armed gangs appear to be on the

run and it has become necessary for them to scatter themselves in smaller groups. Contact with the Police columns advancing into the interior has so far been avoided and a Police patrol shot dead a notorious armed gangster who is involved in six criminal cases including the one for the murder of the Gram Sevak of the N. E. S. Block in the middle of December.

The relevant sections of the Cr. P. C. which was not in force in the district in the past, which empower the Police and the magistracy to take preventive action against gangster engaged in unlawful and violent activities, have since been extended to the district by means of a Regulation with the assent of the President of the Union. The entire district excluding the Dimapur police station has been declared a disturbed area under the Disturbed Areas Act to enable the members of the Police force to take quick and strong action against gangsters engaged in violent activities. Orders under section 141, Cr. P. C. have been promulgated and duly enforced in areas where the gangsters started and continued their nefarious activities.

Due to the strong measures taken by the State Government against lawless elements and armed hostiles and due to the uninterrupted progress of the comprehensive development schemes which are being implemented in the district, the morale of the people in the different parts of the district has risen rapidly and more and more people of the villages are coming forward to aid the civil administration in the maintenance of law and order and in apprehending the gangsters engaged in unlawful activities or those against whom warrants of arrest have been issued followed by proclamation and attachment warrants. Many villages have taken an oath of loyalty to the administration in the customary tribal way and in two cases the villagers in their efforts to apprehend the absconders belonging to their villages have disposed of their properties in the customary manner. Illicit arms and ammunition kept concealed in some villages by gangsters have been surrendered to the Police by the Gaonburas with the assistance of the villagers. All Government Gaonburas are actively aiding the Police forces and are enforcing their authority in their respective villages by punishing people for failure to furnish information to the authorities in time about activities of gangsters according to the customary law. The confidence of the people having returned enormously, the facilities available for education in the Government institutions are attracting more and more students and in Mokokchung, in particular, the enrolment of students has gone up from 226 in 1954 to 914 in

February 1956. Many students reading in some schools in the Plains areas have returned to Mokokchung for admission in the Government High School there. Due to this phenomenal increase in enrolment, Government had to sanction additional buildings for the school at a cost of Rs.10,000. Additional teachers have also been arranged to cope with the rush of students in the school by providing necessary facilities for teaching.

The State Government are determined to effectively maintain law and order in the district and to ensure that the continued progress of the development schemes is maintained without any interruption. Judging by the great response from the people themselves and by the improvement in the morale and increase in the popularity of the Liberal Group of leaders who are maintaining constant touch with the different villages and in the context of the desperate position in which the extremist elements wedded to subversion and terrorisation have found themselves of late, the State Government hope that this apparently last bid of armed gangsters to create confusion and chaos in the district with the hope of retaining their hold on the masses as a result thereof, will be finally curbed and this threat to law and order and peaceful and orderly life effectively wiped out as a result of the measures which the State Government have already undertaken and which they are determined to push forward with vigour. I can also assure that the State Government are determined to provide adequate protection and security to the loyal people in the district who have refused to aid the gangsters in any way and who have readily extended their help and co-operation to the administration, with all the resources at their command.

### **Displaced Persons**

The influx of displaced persons adding to the number already in Assam continues. Proper rehabilitation depends on a knowledge of the size of their population and their needs. To determine these in the background of existing resources, it has been decided after consultation with the Government of India to undertake a statistical survey. In the meantime, the usual processes of relief and rehabilitation of these unfortunate persons have been continued. Gratuitous relief and grants for marriages and sradhs, etc., are being given and the rules governing grants of stipends and free-studentships, etc., have also been liberalised. The scheme of rehabilitation in operation embraces a large number of trades, professions and callings. Quite a large number of displaced students are



receiving vocational and technical training in the various Technical and Commercial Institutes and also in hand paper-making, book-binding and printing. Women and girls are also receiving training as dhais, in weaving and allied subjects. The newly started Technical School at Arunachal has started functioning. The construction of refugee markets in the various towns has made good progress. The Destitute Homes are being maintained as usual. Production-cum-Training Centres are being opened in various places and a number of housing schemes are under contemplation. Steps are being taken in consultation with the Central Government to provide extra seats for education at University level. A scheme of financial assistance to industrialists subject to the condition of their employing a good number of displaced persons has been sanctioned. Rehabilitation of displaced persons depends on the co-operation of the different organisations and it is gratifying to note that this co-operation has not been lacking.

### **. Prohibition**

The history of total prohibition of opium goes back to years before Independence and Assam has thus the distinction of being the first State in India to adopt total prohibition and also of forestalling the Constitutional Directive. To give effect to this Directive, the ground was first prepared by taking certain measures for partial prohibition and total prohibition of liquor was introduced in the Barpeta Subdivision under the Assam Liquor Prohibition Act, 1952. Some time after, the Act was extended to the north portion of Kamrup district and then again to the South portion with effect from 26th January 1956. Thus total prohibition of liquor is in force throughout the whole district of Kamrup and the question of including some portion of the adjoining districts of Nowgong and Goalpara is under active consideration according to the policy of extending total prohibition throughout the State in stages. For proper implementation of the Act, the Excise staff has been strengthened and to help raids to suppress illicit distillation, the services of one Armed Section of Police have been placed at the disposal of the Excise Department. In addition to this and to mobilize public opinion against addiction, a Prohibition Committee consisting of officials and non-officials has been set up and also an honorary organisation for purposes of propaganda. Arrangements have also been made to provide such facilities as free cinema shows, free tea and milk to wean away the addicts, particularly the sweepers. Vigorous propaganda against the evils of drinking is being carried out by

means of posters and films. Propaganda through dramatic performances is under consideration and prizes have been declared to encourage writing of dramas on the subject.

With a view to extend total prohibition of liquor gradually throughout the State, the non-prohibited areas have also been subjected to certain controls involving an estimated loss of about Rs. 27 lakhs per annum.

### **Land and Land Reforms**

Notwithstanding the sincere efforts of Government, it has not been possible to acquire all the zamindari estates notified to be taken over because of the stay order obtained by five big estates from the Supreme Court. Except these estates and the two under the Court of Wards, the other estates covering a total area of about 2·3 lakh acres were taken over from the 15th April 1955. The Assam Adhiars Protection and Regulation Act, 1948, was amended in November last to give greater security to the adhiars against ejection and also to provide for reduction of the share of crop payable to a landlord. The Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy Act, 1955 has been brought into force with effect from 1st August 1955. Necessary legislation was enacted in the last session of the Assembly to provide for new and simpler principles for determination of fair rent and for protection against ejection of tenants. With a view to provide for fixation of a ceiling on landholding by a family and to allot the excess to landless persons, the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill was introduced in the last session of the Assembly. This Bill also provides for establishment of a Land Reforms Board. Necessary legislations to facilitate donation of land to Bhudan Yajna and for management of temple lands is under consideration. The temporary ban on the conversion of annual land into periodic has since been withdrawn. Sarkari waste land, where available, is being increasingly settled with flood or erosion affected people and other persons either landless or with uneconomic holdings. It will be thus noticed that Government have spared no pains to give necessary protection to tenants and also to provide land to the landless people and also those without economic holdings to evolve a socialistic pattern of society.

### **Community Projects and N. E. S. Blocks**

With the inauguration of three new N. E. S. Blocks towards the latter part of 1955, the total number of blocks in

this State stood at 35. These cover an area of about 1,000 square miles including nearly 6,000 villages with about 18 lakhs of inhabitants. Thus, by the end of 1955 about 20 per cent of the villages in Assam had come under the programme. Preliminary work has been started in the four more N. E. S. Blocks allotted during 1956. In view of the very creditable performance in Assam in the field of community development, 8 N. E. S. Blocks were allowed to be converted into C. D. Blocks against the normal quota of 6 and this conversion took effect from 1st April 1955. In view of the very low density of population in the tribal areas, the population coverage for N. E. S. Block was reduced from 66,000 to 25,000 per block on the representation of the State Government. Achievements in the various fields of activities covered by these blocks have been very substantial and public co-operation has also been very encouraging, particularly in the field of communication. Over 2,000 miles of new village roads were constructed and nearly 1,500 miles of existing roads repaired by the villagers with voluntary labour. It is proposed to cover the remaining area of the State with N. E. S. and Community Project within the next five years.

### Industries

In the field of industries, both Cottage and Major, the objectives have been consolidation, improvement and expansion. Very great importance has all along been attached to the need of developing the various cottage industries with a view to provide employment to the unemployed and subsidiary occupations to others. Training in the use of modern tools and equipments is the most important part of any such programme of development. The Gauhati Institute has been rendering very useful services in this respect along with the Barpeta Institute for training in Blacksmithy and Carpentry and Soap manufactures. The existing schemes of hand-made paper making, bee-keeping, furniture and umbrella handle-making are aiding the process. Government have also been encouraging training outside the State with the grant of stipends. Grants-in-aid have also been distributed to individuals engaged in the various crafts and industries. Khadi Production Centres and Schemes are being opened under the aegis of the State Khadi and Village Industries Board. Loans repayable in easy instalments have been given to small scale industrialists and the Aid to Industry Bill, 1955 was passed to enable them to get money at a cheaper rate of interest. Provision has again been made for loans to small artisans on personal

sureties only. Sericulture and Weaving activities have been encouraged by granting financial and technical assistance, offering training facilities and demonstrating modern methods, etc. Intensive propaganda and offer of marketing facilities have not been lost sight of. Two teams of Japanese experts were brought to this State to help the development of cottage and small scale industries. On the basis of the scheme submitted by one of the teams for developing saw milling, wood craft, bamboo and cane work in Assam, Government have decided to start a Training-cum-Production Block. The detailed scheme submitted by the other team for a full-fledged Cottage Industries Training Institute involving an expenditure of Rs. 42 lakhs is under active consideration of Government. A sum of Rs. 30 lakhs is expected from the Central Government for this scheme.

Assam abounds in raw materials with good prospects for establishment of large scale and major industries. *Ad-hoc* enquiries conducted with this end have indicated the possibilities of establishing several industries. On the basis of the availability of raw materials and local demand for products within the State, the Government have selected parties for the establishment of a Cement Factory at Cherrapunji, a Fruit Preservation factory and a Jute Mill in Kamrup. In addition the Government have issued a Policy announcement indicating the nature and extent of State support to private enterprises and have invited proposals from intending parties for establishment of a number of industries—paper, pulp, textile, re-rolling mills. The response has been very encouraging so far and some of these industries are expected to be established during the Second Five-Year Plan either with or without State participation. Investigations as regards possibilities of starting a Chip-Board Factory and a Match Factory (Cottage scale) are proceeding and the primary indications are that there are possibilities in this direction.

The Shellac Factory at Chaparmukh is working satisfactorily. A co-operative Sugar mill has been organised with an authorised capital of about Rs. 2 crores and installation of machinery is expected to be completed towards the end of 1957. The Cotton Ginning mill at Phulbari is expected to start work from the next season and a second Ginning mill has been taken up at Diphu. A Tile factory for manufacturing roofing tiles has been started at Gauhati with provision for imparting training in tile-making.

### The Five Year Plans

The First Plan is nearing its end and the Second one is just round the corner. In my last address, I indicated the size of the first State Plan to be Rs. 23·7 crores which has since been found to stand at Rs. 20·8 crores owing to re-classification of certain schemes as falling within the Central Sector. This sum does not, however, include expenditure on the large volume of development works under the Central Sector or outside the Plan and financed from State revenues. The total outlay on development in all the sectors and from various sources during the Plan period and at the end thereof is expected to stand at Rs. 39·5 crores. This outlay is exclusive of the expenditure incurred on maintenance during these years of development schemes completed up to 1950-51 and indicates the extent of fresh developmental activities during the Plan period. The expenditure on the State Plan has been stepped up from Rs. 3·35 crores during the first two years to Rs. 3·11 crores in third year and Rs. 6·2 crores (revised) in the fourth year with Rs. 8·19 crores to be spent during the current year. It will thus be appreciated that every effort is being made to maintain the increased tempo of expenditure to achieve to the fullest possible extent the financial targets of the Plan period. The leeway in the receipt of Central assistance during the first three years of the Plan has been made up at the insistence of the State Government which has to depend largely for such assistance for implementation of the Plan. Because of this insistence, a sum of Rs. 5·15 crores was received by way of Central assistance during 1954-55 and it is expected that sufficient grants will be made during the current year to make up the remaining shortfall in Central assistance so far. The printed publication of the State Government on First Five-Year Plan gives necessary details as to the programme envisaged and the level of development likely to be achieved at the end of the period. It is, therefore, not necessary for me to go into details. However inadequate the First Plan may have been in the content of the requirements of the State as a whole, it has yielded certain important results and has also helped to lay the foundation for a bigger and properly balanced Second Five-Year Plan. The deficit in the food production has been made up and what is more, it has been possible for us to make available the surplus for consumption in other areas. Road building, particularly in the border areas of the hill districts whose economy was disrupted for lack of communications as a result of partition, has made substantial

progress. To make up the shortfall in the availability within the State of technical personnel, a large number of Training institutions have been established and the existing ones considerably expanded. Flood control and power development, embankment and drainage and protective measures against erosion have made considerable and satisfactory progress. In addition to the Umtru Project, 14 small Town-cum-Rural Electrification Schemes were decided upon, of which 7 are already in hand. Rural water supply and establishment of social welfare projects have gained momentum and public participation either in the shape of financial assistance or voluntary labour has been considerable and most praiseworthy. A very large programme for welfare of backward classes, particularly scheduled tribes of hills and plains areas, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 4 crores is an important feature of the Plan. This programme is in addition to the general programme of development both inside and outside the Plan covering such areas as well. The collection of statistics so necessary for all development purposes has received due attention. A new Department of Town and Country Planning has been set up with a qualified Town Planner.

The preparation of the Second Five Year Plan was taken in hand towards the end of 1953 and elaborate steps were taken for both extensive and intensive consultations with the public. The draft plan thus prepared envisaged an expenditure of Rs. 290.7 crores. Compared with the First Five Year Plan, it was indeed gigantic on the face of it but then having regard to the comprehensive needs of the State and the necessity to achieve the minimum economic targets of *per capita* income and employment of this Plan the greatest emphasis was laid on such crying needs as communications and transport facilities expanded and diversified agricultural programme, flood control, utilisation of the vast natural resources and establishment and expansion of Training Institutes and Research Centres, etc. The size of this Draft Plan which received the general approval of all was, however, reduced to that of Rs. 46.6 crores by the Planning Commission. The utter inadequacy of this in the context of the vital needs of the State was stressed by the Chief Minister and the Ministers of Finance and Planning before the Planning Commission. As a result of the insistence and various parleys from time to time, the Planning Commission ultimately fixed a ceiling of Rs. 59.39 crores for the Second Plan. The details of the revised Plan as approved by the Planning Commission have already been presented in a summary form to

all the members of the House. Under the revised Plan, it will be possible to step up and diversify agricultural production, set up a River Research Station and Soil Testing Laboratory, raise the *per capita* consumption of electricity and electrify 19 new towns and 57 villages, etc. The Plan as revised does not include establishment of large scale industries but the Planning Commission have agreed and made provision in the Central Sector for participation in the projects for a Spinning mill, a Jute mill, a Sugar Factory and a Spun silk mill. Provision has also been made in the private Sector for certain industries. Inasmuch as the revised Plan falls far short of the immediate needs of the State, a supplementary plan of about Rs. 40 crores has been submitted to the Planning Commission for further consideration with a view to make up the gap at least to a modest extent and the results are awaited. Some expenditure on the much needed bridge over the Brahmaputra has, it is understood, been provided for in the accepted plan of the Railways. The Ropeway project from Shella to Amingaon submitted by the State Government is, it is understood, under the examination of Central experts.

### Law and Order

Except for the incidents mentioned hereunder and the subversive activities of armed gangsters in Naga Hills, the law and order position throughout the State was satisfactory. The proposal for inclusion of Goalpara in West Bengal released a wave of emotion culminating in certain unfortunate incidents. Fortunately, however, no one was killed and only a few received injuries. The situation was promptly brought under control and relief was distributed by Government amongst the needy. The tension created by the Goalpara incidents in some other parts was kept under control. There was another incident in the Railway township at Lunding over an alleged assault by the Railway Police on a ticketless traveller. The Police had to open fire on a riotous mob which chased a police party and attacked the thana in spite of warnings. Two persons died and several received injuries. A first class Magistrate held a judicial enquiry into the incident under the orders of the District Magistrate and found the firing to have been justified. The Railway Police Officer alleged to have assaulted the ticketless traveller is under suspension pending disposal of the complaint against him.

The general crime situation recorded an improvement and serious crime underwent a marked fall under all the heads. The presence of the Village Defence Parties proved to be a

stabilising factor. The level of crime in Assam per 100 square miles and per thousand population is much lower than in the neighbouring States of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa notwithstanding its composite population. The River Police Force has been reorganised with the provision of powercrafts in certain districts.

### **Border Problems**

There were 47 raids against 46 of the previous year by Pakistani nationals. The demarcation of boundaries in Goalpara-Rangpur, Garo Hills-Mymensingh and in Patharia sectors is in progress. As a result of decisions taken at the Chief Secretaries' Conference, the 16 inter-dominion ferries on the Cachar-Sylhet border closed since 1952 have been reopened. The Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement which took effect from the 1st September 1955 has been most welcome to Assam as providing revival of border trade and easing the economic condition of citizens inhabiting the border areas to mutual advantage of the people of both the countries.

### **Economic and Financial**

Notwithstanding the devastating flood of 1954 and another flood less devastating during the year, the economy of the State as a whole continued to be stable. The tea industry unlike the previous year faced a period of much less prosperity. The prospecting operations of the Assam Oil Company continued to meet with success. With the expanded facilities for technical and vocational education, the employment position can be said to have eased to some extent but not to the extent of full employment. This has been a cause of concern to Government. I mentioned in my last address that Government were seriously exploring all possible avenues to augment their resources to finance the various welfare and development schemes. Attempts in this direction have not been lacking and the rate of carriage tax on tea and excise duty on country spirit has been raised. Sugar and matches have been taken out of the list of exempted articles under the Assam Sales Tax Act and the rate of tax on certain taxable items has been raised. Again, decision has been taken to increase the rates of tax on petroleum and petroleum products and on motor vehicles. The recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission were closely examined and efforts are being made to implement the recommendations as far as possible to augment the revenues of the State. The details of the results obtained so far or proposed to be obtained from the indications given above will feature prominently in the Budget Speech



of the Finance Minister and Financial Statement. All I need say is that no opportunity is being lost to find additional revenue to finance the various nation-building activities. The State Financial Corporation has started functioning and has received numerous enquiries seeking provision for loans. Steps are being taken through due publicity to popularise the introduction of the decimal system of coinage.

### **Legislative Programme**

As in last year, the Legislative programme is small. The Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill seeks to provide for sale of liquor to permit-holders and for issue of liquor for religious purposes. With a view to find additional resources for financing the Second Five Year Plan, the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill proposes to levy a tax on the sales of sugar and matches and also to provide for the levy at source of these commodities and also of cigarettes and cigars, etc. As usual, the Assam Finance Bill fixes the rates of taxation on agricultural income. The Assam Municipal Bill aims at a thorough review and overhaul of the existing Act to keep pace with the progress of municipal laws and administrations in other States.

### **Conclusion**

It is not possible for me to refer to the numerous welfare and developmental activities of Government in the various fields of administration. Neither need I do so as a more detailed picture will be available to the House from the speech of the Finance Minister. It will suffice to say that significant advances have been made in all directions and all efforts have been steadfastly directed towards the stupendous task of creating a Welfare State free from disease, poverty, want and ignorance. In the march towards this goal, the Government have also earned the distinction of being the first in certain matters and the Provident Fund Scheme for the tea plantation labour provides an instance. In a democratic country, the success of Government measures towards the goal of a welfare State and however well-organised they are must, to a very large extent, depend on the support and co-operation of the public. This co-operation, I am happy to say, has been substantial with an abundance of good-will. We are progressively advancing towards a Welfare State and I firmly believe that nothing will detract us from achieving the goal which has been before the nation

**JAI-HIND**

### Motion of thanks to Governor's Address

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Under Rule 24(2) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby report to the Assembly that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech, a copy of which is laid on each Member's table. I have received notice of a Motion from Shri Bimala Kanta Borah, M. L. A., which is as follows:—

“That the members of the Assam Legislative Assembly, assembled in this Session, are deeply grateful to the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House, assembled on March 6, 1956.”

I hereby fix 8th March, Thursday, 9th March, Friday and 12th March, Monday (till 12-30 P.M.) as the dates for discussion of the Motion or matters referred to in the Governor's Speech.

Notices of amendments to the Motion or the address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 12 noon on Wednesday, the 7th March, 1956.

### Panel of Chairmen

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The following Members will form a Panel of Chairmen for the present Session, 1956:—

1. Maulavi Faiznur Ali ;
2. Maulavi Muhammad Umaruddin ;
3. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarma ; and
4. Mrs. Usha Barthakur.

**Announcement by the Speaker regarding the number of days allotted for Private Members' Business.**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In pursuance of Rule 22 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby allot, in consultation with the Leader of the House, the following days for Private Members' Business during the current Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly:—

3rd April, Tuesday	}	Motions and Resolutions.
5th April, Thursday		
6th April, Friday		

12th March, Monday	}	Motions and Resolutions (if time permits after disposal of Government business for those days).
19th March, Monday		
2nd April, Monday		

**Statement by the Leader of the House about the course of Government Business.**

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I desire to make a Statement about the course of Government business during this Session.

2. The Government business which is to be taken up to-day is shown in the agenda which has been placed on each Member's table. I need not detail them again.

If the Motion for referring the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956, is accepted by the House to-day, we propose to present the Report of the Select Committee on this Bill on 19th March and then to move that the Bill, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration. The second and the third readings of this Bill will be taken up on the 31st March and 2nd April.

3. 8th, 9th and the first half of the 12th March will be devoted on discussion of the Governor's Address and matter referred to therein.

4. We propose to present the Budget for 1956-57 on the afternoon of the 12th March.

5. On the 13th, 15th, 16th and 17th March, we propose to take up the following Government business:—

- (1) Presentation of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for 1955-56 ;
- (2) General discussion of the Budget and discussion, if any, of estimates of expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State.

6. On the 19th March we propose to lay before the Assembly the Report on the working of the Assam Public Service Commission for the year 1953-54 together with a memorandum explaining as respects the cases, if any, where the advice of the Commission was not accepted and the reasons for such non-acceptance as well as certain notifications under Section 296 of the Assam Municipal Act, 1923.

On that day we also propose to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Bill, 1955 and then to move that the Bill as reported at by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. We also propose on the same day to introduce the following Government Bills and then to move the Motions for their consideration:—

- (1) The Assam Finance Bill, 1956;
- (2) The Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1956;
- (3) The Assam Deputy Speaker's Salaries and Allowances Bill, 1956;
- (4) The Assam Prisons (Amendment) Bill, 1956 (Provisional);

- (5) The Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) (Extension to Assam Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1956 (Provisional); and
- (6) The Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) (Amendment) Bill, 1956 (Provisional).

If the Motions for consideration of these Bills are accepted by the House on that day, we propose to have the Bills considered clause by clause and then passed either on 31st March or on 2nd April.

We also propose to introduce the Assam Municipal Bill, 1956 and the Assam Rent (Summary Procedure) Bill, 1956, on the 19th March and to refer both the Bills to Select Committees, after which we propose to move certain Government Resolution for re-appropriation of funds, copies of which will be circulated to the hon. Members as soon as the Resolutions are ready.

7. On the 20th March, we propose to take up the following Government Business:—

- (1) Motions for election of Members to various Boards and Committee; and
- (2) Discussion, if any, of Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1955-56.

8. 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th and 29th March are proposed to be devoted on Voting on Demands for Grants.

The Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 1956 and the Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 1956 are proposed to be introduced on the 22nd and 29th March, respectively, and all the three readings of the Bills are proposed to be taken up on those days.

9. Any Government Business which remains unfinished on previous days will be taken up on the 2nd April.

## The Committee on Petitions

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Under Rule 84(1) of the Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a Committee on Petitions relating to Bills for the current Session of the Assembly:—

1. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarma,
2. Maulavi Mahmud Ali,
3. Shri Sarju Prosad Singh,
4. Pu Lalmawia, and
5. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, Deputy Speaker, who under the rule will be the Chairman of the Committee.

## The House Committee

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Under rule 167 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I nominate the following Members to constitute a House Committee for the Budget Session of the Assembly:—

1. Shri Mal Chandra Pegu,
2. Shri Sarju Prosad Singh,
3. Shri Harihar Choudhury,
4. Shri Purandar Sarma,
5. Shri Hareswar Goswami, and
6. Shri Sashadhar Ghosh.

### The Committee of Privileges

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Under the rule 139(1) of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby nominate the following Members to constitute a Committee of Privileges for the current Session:—

1. Mr. A. Alley,
2. Shri Akshoy Kumar Das,
3. Shri Hem Chandra Hazarika,
4. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury,
5. Mrs. Usha Barthakur,
6. Shri Pratap Chandra Sarma, and
7. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, Deputy Speaker, who under the rule will be the Chairman of the Committee.

### Message from the Governor regarding assent to Bills

**Mr. SPEAKER:** (1) Information has been received from the Secretary, Legislative Department that, under the provisions of Article 201 of the Constitution of India, the President has assented to the following Bills which were passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly at its meetings held in the Winter (November) 1955 Session:—

1. The Assam Requisition and Control of Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1955.
2. The Assam Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1955.
3. The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

(2) Information has also been received from the Secretary, Legislative Department that the Governor of Assam has also assented under the provisions of Article 200 of the Constitution of India the following Bills which were passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly at the meetings held in the Winter (November) 1955 Session :—

1. The Assam Disturbed Areas Bill, 1955.
2. The Assam Appropriation (No.IV) Bill, 1955.
3. The Assam Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1955.
4. The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1955.
5. The Assam Rural Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 1955.
6. The Assam Repealing Bill, 1955.
7. The Assam Aid to Industries (Small and Cottage Industries) Bill, 1955.
8. The Assam Urban Areas Rent Control Bill, 1955.

### **The Assam Contingency Fund (Augmentation of Corpus) Ordinance, 1956**

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay out copies of the Assam Contingency Fund (Augmentation of Corpus) Ordinance, 1956 under Article 213(2) of the Constitution of India.

### **The Assam Appropriation Ordinance, 1956**

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay out copies of the Assam Appropriation Ordinance, 1956 under Article 213(2) of the Constitution of India.



**The Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956**

(Introduction and Motion for reference to Select Committee).

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have received the following message from the Governor of Assam, dated Raj Bhavan, Shillong, the 25th February, 1956:—

“I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,  
Governor of Assam.”

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956. The need for the introduction of this Bill has been explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, so I do not propose to make a speech.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956, be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have received the following message from the Governor of Assam, dated Raj Bhavan, Shillong, the 25th February, 1956:—

“I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956 be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,  
Governor of Assam.”

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956, be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following Members:—

- (1) The Minister-in-charge,
- (2) Maulavi Muhammad Umaruddin,
- (3) M. Moinul Haque Choudhury,
- (4) Shri Lila Kanta Bora,
- (5) Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa,
- (6) Mr. A. Alley, and
- (7) Shri Ranendra Mohan Das.

Four Members will form the quorum. The Report shall have to be submitted on or before the 19th March, 1956.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) Bill, 1956, be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following Members:—

- (1) The Minister-in-charge,
- (2) Maulavi Muhammad Umaruddin,
- (3) M. Moinul Haque Choudhury,
- (4) Shri Lila Kanta Bora,
- (5) Shri Debeswar Rajkhowa,
- (6) Mr. A Alley, and
- (7) Shri Ranendra Mohan Das.

Four Members will form the quorum. The Report shall have to be submitted on or before the 19th March, 1956.

(The Motion was then put by the Chair as a question before the House and was adopted).

**Motion of Condolence on the death of Shri G. V. Mavalankar, Shri Rohini Kumar Choudhuri and Shri Khorsing Terang**

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make some reference to the untimely and sad death of three of the prominent citizens of India. Although reference has already been made by the Governor yet it will be worthwhile referring to them, to condole their death and to say something in regard to them.

Recently, we have lost late Shri G. V. Mavalankar, the first Speaker of the Parliament in the Indian Republic and he was a towering personality, who took a prominent part in the struggle for Independence and was of amiable disposition. We have lost in him a great public man of India and it will be very difficult to fill up the void caused by his death at this time of the year.

Secondly, we have lost one of our brilliant politicians in late Shri Rohini Kumar Choudhuri, who was associated with this House as well as Parliament and also was a Minister of the State who was entrusted with very important portfolios and in him we have lost a man of towering personality as far as Assam was concerned and he made his name as a debator not only in this House but also in Parliament, who could speak on any subject.

The third loss is in the person of late Shri Khorsing Terang. As you know, when he came to attend the last Session of this Assembly, he fell ill and was anxious to go back to his home, but on medical advice he could not go because the nature of heart trouble he suffered from was acute. He was in the Civil Hospital, Shillong, but he was advised to go to the Welsh Mission Hospital for better treatment but he declined to go there. I made personal enquiries of him. He was a personal friend of mine, who was a leader of the Tribal group. He was associated with the progressive trends and ideas of the Congress Organisation for the upliftment of the undeveloped scheduled tribes and their areas and he showed very noble example in associating with, and working for the Congress Organisation, in order to serve the best interest of the country.

I therefore, propose to move this Resolution that: This Assembly deeply condoles the death of Shri G. V. Mavalankar, the first Speaker of Parliament of Independence India, Shri Rohini Kumar Choudhuri, M. P., and Shri Khorsing Terang, M. L. A., and deploras the great loss sustained by the country on their demise and conveys its heartfelt sympathy to the members of their bereaved families.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House also feel deeply grieved at this sad occasion when we have to mourn the death of so many illustrious persons of our country.

In G. V. Mavalankar we have lost not only a great patriot but also one who has contributed most to the growth of parliamentary institutions and parliamentary procedure in our country.

We have also lost a great fighter in the late Rohini Kumar Choudhuri who once adorned this House as a Minister and a Member and who also during a short space of time made himself famous in Parliament.

In the death of late Shri Khorsing Terang the most lovable man in this House, we have lost a great friend and a great leader of the tribal people.

We associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and send our heartfelt condolence to the members of their bereaved families.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Mavalankar was a great personality that we had in our midst. His example as a Speaker is worth following by all. Everyone who performs the duty of a judicial nature will have to follow his great example. In him we find a great and virtuous man who rendered service to the poor, oppressed and the down-trodden unostentatiously. His is a shining example of selfless service to all. The loss to India at this time is so great that we can hardly imagine. I came in contact with him and felt the magic touch of his great personality and I found in him a Speaker who is an ideal to us all. I really feel that a great soul has passed away from the horizon of India.

In Rohini Kumar Choudhuri we have lost a friend, a comrade and a colleague from 1921, of outstanding merit. He was a genius and a patriot who had served his country in various ways without fear or favour. In him we have lost a great friend of the refugees. In spite of his being misunderstood by some, he stood by them as a rock and regarded them as friends who need our sympathy. Even those who differ from him will admit that he was a great statesman. He was an able speaker in the Central Assembly. When he rose to speak, very few could sit in silence. Often the House roared

with laughter at his wit and humour. Everyone in Parliament knows who was Rohini Kumar Choudhuri. He left a great impression in Parliamentary work. In him I have lost a personal friend. I agree with the Leader of the House that he was a great politician and a great statesman.

In Khorsing Terang we have lost one of the most lovable persons who happen to be here with us. He was very fat—every one knows that, and when you laugh at him he will laugh with you. In spite of provocations when he should have been angry, he never was. On the last day when he fell ill after coming from Gauhati, some one 'phoned to me that I should go to him and as soon as I saw him, I found that death was imminent. In him we have lost a great friend and a great tribal leader who was loved and respected by all.

So, as a mark of our association with the resolution moved by the Leader of the House, I think we will all stand in silence for two minutes in respect of the departed souls.

(The House stood in silence for two minutes.)

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### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 8th March, 1956.

Shillong,

R. N. BARUA,

The 7th September 1956.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly,  
Assam.

## AGENTS IN INDIA

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  8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
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  11. Messrs. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta.
  12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
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  14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
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