



Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Assam Legislative  
Assembly assembled after the Third General Election  
under the Sovereign Democratic Republican  
Constitution of India.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M.  
on Monday, the 22nd February, 1955.

PRESENT

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B. L., Speaker,  
in the Chair, Nine Ministers, Two Ministers of State, Two Deputy  
Ministers and Sixty-four Members.

Oath of Allegiance by new Members

Mr. SPEAKER: I welcome the new Members and I call  
their names, one by one for taking the oath.

(Shri Ch. Chhunga and Shri Dhaniram Talukdar were sworn  
in as Members of the Assembly).

Hon. Members, the Governor will address the House today at  
10.10 A.M. He is coming by the Main Gate at 10.8 A.M. Myself,  
the Deputy Speaker and the Secretary will be going to receive him  
at the Gate. The instructions as to how to receive the Governor  
in the House have been laid out on the Members' tables. As  
soon as he comes, we should comply with these instructions.

With your permission now, I leave the House to receive  
the Governor at the Main Gate and in the meanwhile the copies  
of the Governor's Address will be distributed to you.

## ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR

## GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,

I am glad to have this occasion again for addressing this august Assembly. The Finance Minister will place before you the detailed budget proposals for the next year and will review the economic trends. I shall refer briefly to the events of the past year and the future programme of my Government. Before I do so I would recall the example set and inspiration which all of us must draw, specially during these difficult times for our Country, from our beloved departed leader Jawaharlal Nehru.

The situation on our north continues to be a matter of grave concern requiring constant vigilance. Though the situation on our border with East Pakistan has been comparatively better on the whole, in the Lathitilla-Dumabari Sector of the Cachar District, Pakistan forces resorted to occasional firing from the 19th December, 1964 and started heavy intermittent firing towards our posts from the 26th December, 1964. This continued till the 1st January, 1965. The dispute regarding demarcation of the boundary in this area is pending with the Central Governments on both sides. The joint demarcation of the Assam-East Pakistan boundary has been almost completed in the Districts of Cachar, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, Goalpara and Garo Hills except two disputed areas in Cachar District. Demarcation of the boundary in the Mizo District-Chittagong Hill Tracts sector which is being done by the Central Survey Departments of the Governments of India and of Pakistan is also in progress. The construction of border roads for the improvement of communications in certain border areas is steadily going ahead

In order to check Pakistani infiltration, a scheme for keeping watch over the border areas by the police is under preparation. Instructions have been issued to the District Officers for the removal of encroachment and prevention of encroachment into reserves and waste lands by Pakistani infiltrants. With a view to ensure that due care is taken and adequate opportunity is given to the person concerned before deciding as to whether he is a Pakistani or not, the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964 was promulgated by the Government of India on the 23rd September, 1964. Four Tribunals covering the whole State have been constituted with effect from the 8th October, 1964. Constitution of two more Tribunals is under consideration.

Recently reports have been received that members of Rani Gaidulu's gang have been active in the North-Cachar Hills. Precautionary measures have been taken by the Government.

The law and order situation in the State was generally satisfactory. There were, however, unfortunately three incidents where the police had to open fire. One of these occurred at Baladhan Tea Estate on the 25th May, 1964 and another at Nahorani Tea Estate on the 19th September, 1964. As a result of these two firings, one person died at Baladhan and two at Nahorani Tea Estate.

An incident took place in the Rongkhang Forest Reserve in United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District during June, 1964. About 5,000 Mikirs, armed with spears, bows and arrows, attacked the Garo settlers violating orders promulgated under Section 144, Cr. P. C. The Police went to the spot with a Magistrate and when attacked by the mob with arrows followed by gun-fire,

had to open fire in self-defence. In this incident six persons were injured. Seventy-two cases have been registered and all these are still under investigation.

The activities of the Anti-Corruption Branch met with noticeable success during the year 1964. A State-wide enquiry has been undertaken by this organisation and this is yielding good results.

One Head of Department was dismissed and fifteen other officials were punished in consequence of action taken on reports submitted by the Anti-Corruption Branch. Three persons were convicted in a criminal case instituted by the Anti-Corruption Branch.

A State Vigilance Commission has been constituted with a retired Judge of the Allahabad High Court who has taken charge on the 22nd September 1964.

Two hundred and two inquiries were registered by the Anti-Corruption Branch during the year 1964. Altogether 163 inquiries were disposed of during the year. Out of these cases, 100 were reported baseless, false or un-substantiated, while departmental action was suggested in 59 cases and in consequence of 4 inquiries, 5 criminal cases were registered.

This time, last year, I had mentioned about the grave anxiety of my Government at the large influx of refugees from East Pakistan. The number of such refugees that have entered Assam up to the end of December last is 1,73,710. About 1,20,000 of these people are accommodated in 30 camps in the districts of Garo Hills, Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong, Darrang, Lakhimpur and Cachar. The rest are living with their friends and relatives outside the

camps or have made their own arrangements. Cash doles, at a scale prescribed by the Government of India are given to the camp inmates except those in Garo Hills and Matia Camp in the Goalpara District. Here free ration is being supplied. Medical units or dispensaries have been provided to all the camps and schools have been set up up to the primary standard in the camps. Blankets have been distributed among the refugee families and everything possible is being done to make the life of these unfortunate people as comfortable as practicable. The total expenditure incurred in providing relief to the refugees during the current financial year up to the end of November 1964, is Rs.1,48,43,600. Adequate provision is also being made in the budget for the year 1965-66 for this purpose.

As regards rehabilitation, our assessment is that we can absorb approximately 15,000 families in the State. The Central Government have not so far taken any steps for the removal of the remaining refugees. Schemes for the rehabilitation of refugees on agriculture, land and industries in Assam have been formulated and action is being taken to implement them. The total expenditure on rehabilitation of new migrants up to the end of November, 1964, is Rs.3,50,000. In the budget for the year 1965-66, suitable provision has been made for the purpose.

The Civil Defence and Home Guards Organisation has continued to function as in the past year. The North Bank areas and Dibrugarh Subdivision have been excluded from the purview of the State schemes and have been included in a special scheme under the Government of India. As a consequence, the strength of the Home Guards is likely to be reduced from 25,300, the figure originally allotted to the State,

to roughly about 16,000 (both rural and urban). Home Guards are now considered to be an all-time stand-by disciplined force to come to the help of the community at large whenever any emergency occurs. With this end in view the Government of India have arranged the Home Guards on a uniform pattern for the whole country and on a long-term basis. The number of Home Guards so far trained is 13,006. Training facilities in suitable training centres have already been provided. The Government of India have agreed to bear the entire cost of civil defence in approved A. R. P. towns and to reimburse the whole expenditure on the Home Guards Organisation of the State.

The schemes undertaken for the development of Tribal Areas and for the welfare of the Backward Classes are being continued in regard to education, provision of medical facilities, water supplies, improvement of communications, etc. The special schemes undertaken in the Mizo District are also progressing well. After Mautam the Mizo District has been facing acute scarcity of food due to failure of crops. The entire cost of transport of rice is being subsidised by Government and the affected people have been provided with test-relief works. Normally the Government of India sanction Rs. 25 lakhs annually for Border Relief programme in three Districts. In view of the food situation in Mizo District they have agreed to raise the current year's allocation to Rs. 35 lakhs. The Government are pressing them to agree to this amount for the next year also.

The various schemes for improving agricultural production are being continued and intensified. As a

result of the promotional measures and favourable weather conditions agricultural production this year is expected to show considerable improvement in comparison to previous years. The plan for the next year includes taking of measures for popularisation of the use of fertilisers, increasing availability of improved seeds for distribution to cultivators and development of irrigation facilities. With a view to enlisting people's participation in the drive for agricultural production, some of the schemes under the plan are being transferred to the panchayats and the expenditure is being contributed to them as grant-in-aid. It is also proposed to organise demonstrations and impart training to progressive farmers in the use of fertilisers and adoption of improved agricultural practices. The Package Programme in the District of Cachar and the Rice Package Programmes in the other districts have overcome the initial difficulties and are progressing satisfactorily.

Flood and other natural calamities are a normal feature in this State and the year that has passed has been no exception. On the 4th April, 1964, a cyclone passed over Gauhati, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Sibsagar Subdivisions and Nowgong District causing extensive damage. Eight persons were killed and 26 injured.

There were three successive floods in the months of April, June-July and August. The flood in April was unusual and affected the district of Cachar. As a result of these floods an area of 2,849 sq. miles comprising of 2,979 villages with a population of more than ten lakhs was affected. Altogether 8 human lives and 1,160 heads of cattle were lost. More than 6,000 houses valued at



about Rs. 6 lakhs were damaged or destroyed. About one lakh fifty-five thousand acres of cropped area was damaged and the extent of such damage is estimated at about Rs. 1 crore 90 lakhs. Besides this flood certain areas were also affected by erosion.

Government sanctioned gratuitous relief, test relief, rehabilitation loan, seed loan and agricultural cattle loan amounting to more than Rs. 21 lakhs.

The Assam Flood Control Board is continuing its activities and is devoting attention to matters connected with flood control measures. The Flood Control and Irrigation Wing of the Public Works Department is continuing its programme. It has taken up a number of schemes which will take time to implement and it is hoped that in due course they will be able to render the relief expected of them in regard to control of flood and improvement of agriculture by providing adequate facilities for irrigation.

For the year 1964-65, the annual plan allocation is Rs. 290 lakhs. The Flood Control Board, on the recommendation of the technical committee approved of 16 new schemes with a total estimated cost of Rs. 164 lakhs. Extension of Dibrugarh Town protection works is continuing further down stream up to Tinkhong at a cost of about Rs. 30 lakhs. For the year 1965-66, the allocation is Rs. 280 lakhs. The additional benefit after completion of the programme for 1965-66 is expected to be 2,20,000 acres.

A Chief Engineer of the Eastern Region Central Water and Power Commission has been appointed as

Regional Officer by the Government of India and is functioning as a Liaison Officer between the Central and the State Governments mainly for purposes of investigation of long term projects.

The Public Works Department has also been doing very useful work in regard to its construction programmes particularly in regard to roads for the improvement of communication in inaccessible areas.

The supply position of certain commodities, *viz.*, pulses, mustard oil, dal, etc., which are generally imported from outside the State has not been satisfactory and has been the cause of considerable concern for the Government. All these commodities are de-controlled and as such generally move through normal trade channels. The supplies became extremely difficult during the latter part of the last year due to high price in the producing states and the restriction imposed by them on the export of these articles. Nevertheless, limited supplies were maintained though at inordinately high prices. There seems to be no prospect of any fall in the price level till the next crop is harvested as the upward trend of price in the exporting market outside the state still continues.

In order to keep control over rising prices, the State Government introduced a voluntary price regulation scheme in 1962, which is still in force. Price Vigilance Committees have been set up at Subdivisional, Anchalik and Gaon-Panchayat levels. The object is to maintain a reasonable price level on voluntary basis by enlisting the co-operation of all concerned. Power has been conferred on the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers under the Defence of India Rules for the fixation of wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities

whenever necessary. Government have also issued instructions that hoarding would be properly dealt with.

In order to give relief to the people in the border areas of the hill districts, a sum of Rs. 21,87,000 has been sanctioned for the year 1964-65 for subsidising the cost of transport to those areas. During the Kharif year 1964-65, commencing from the 1st November, 1964, paddy is being procured solely through the Co-operative Marketing Society. The Apex Co-operative Marketing Society will function as the sole whole-saler of rice in Gauhati, Shillong, Nowgong, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Silchar. In these areas no individual whole-saler will be allowed to function. Co-operatives have taken over the entire trade from procurement stage to milling and their performance during the current year has been very satisfactory. On the whole, the supply position in regard to rice and paddy continues to be satisfactory.

In the field of education, the Government is following its policy of all-round expansion and improvement of standards in the different spheres beginning with primary schools, training facilities for teachers, funds for new buildings, facilities for improvement of secondary schools, provision of grant-in-aid, adequate funds for scholarships and stipends, production of text-books. Schemes for the expansion of technical education and activities of the N. C. C. are all proceeding according to programme within the limits of our resources. A Sainik School has already started functioning at Goalpara. A Directorate of Sports and Physical Education has been created and a Director has also been appointed. This is intended to expedite all schemes connected with improvement of physical education and sports.

In order to expedite measures on reform of prisons the Jail Department has been separated from Health Department and will be a part of the Social Welfare Department. An open air Agricultural-cum-Industrial Colony at Jorhat has been started on 2nd October, 1964 on 175 bighas of land. The object is that non-habitual adult convicts whose term of imprisonment is five years and above and who had served half of their term and had agriculture or cottage industry as their main occupation before imprisonment, would be employed in this colony. This is a wall-less prison outside the jail based on trust with minimum security measures. Convicts, here, will share the profit out of the income of the colony.

Much depends on the successful implementation of the various schemes connected with Co-operation. It is proposed to set up three co-operative rice mills in addition to the five mills already established in the co-operative sector. It is also intended to set up an oil extraction plant in one of the existing rice mills. The working of the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill has shown some improvement. Preparatory steps have been taken for importing the machinery required for the proposed co-operative jute mill at Silghat. The consumer co-operatives set up at various places are functioning well.

Measures taken by Government for providing medical relief and health facilities to the people have been progressing and whatever possible is being done by Government within the limits of its resources. The difficulty of finding the requisite number of qualified doctors is however still there.

The employment situation in the State has shown definite signs of improvement during the past year and

the different welfare schemes of the Department of Labour are progressing satisfactorily.

The draft Fourth Five-Year Plan has been prepared and is under active consideration of the Government.

The State Transport Organisation has introduced a passenger service between Aijal and Lungleh, a distance of about 130 miles from the 5th December 1964, with the help of jeeps. This road passes over difficult hilly tracts and the facilities provided are expected to be of great assistance to the inhabitants of the Mizo District. The Howli-North Salmara route has also been opened to traffic. This covers a distance of 39 miles. Elsewhere, the organisation has continued its operations and has improved its fleet of motor vehicles to the extent it has been possible within its resources. A central workshop is under construction at Gauhati.

For the development of industries, my Government, as the House is aware, has taken up a number of schemes. On the major industries side, the work of Assam Cements, the Assam Gas Co., Spun Silk Mill and of the Ceramic Plant is progressing satisfactorily. In regard to cottage and small-scale industries also, the schemes taken up by the Government have been progressing well.

The Assam Small Industries Development Corporation has already started one Jax Board factory at Tinsukia Industrial Estate and one match splint and veneer factory at Bijni. Government is also rendering financial assistance to the small-scale industries in the form of loan and grant-in-aid. The Assam Government Marketing Corporation is doing good work and the schemes under removal of untouchability are progressing well as also those under Article 275 of the Constitution for the hill districts.

The Sericulture and Weaving Department as well as the Khadi and Village Industries Board are doing useful work.

The Community Development programme now covers the entire rural population of the State and Panchayati Raj is functioning in all the plains districts. The Panchayati Raj institution has been made the principal agency of Community Development and all developmental expenditure and schemes which can be handled at the block level are being routed through Anchalik Panchayats. Steps are also being taken to augment the resources of the Panchayats and to make the Panchayats participate in agricultural activities to a greater extent.

Separation of the Executive and the Judiciary which was effected in the districts of Kamrup and Lakhimpur from the 26th January, 1964, has been extended to the districts of Cachar and Nowgong from the 2nd January, 1965.

The State Electricity Board, as the House is aware, has undertaken some very important schemes for the development of power and two of the major projects, viz., Uiam Hydro-Electric Project, Stage I and the Namrup Thermal Project are expected to be commissioned during March, 1965. The Gauhati Thermal Project has already been inaugurated on 27th December, 1964 by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Uiam Hydel Project, Stage II, will be commissioned during 1966. The installed capacity in the State will increase from 28,900 K. W. on 1st April 1964 to 161,000 K. W. by the middle of 1965 thus registering an increase by 457 per cent in a year and a half.

The problem of power shortage is thus being tackled successfully and it is hoped that the availability of adequate power will encourage the development of industries and improvement of agriculture.

The Economy Committee constituted last year has submitted a number of valuable reports to the Government. On a few of these reports the Government has already taken decisions which will result in savings. A number of other reports are under consideration and the impact towards economy should be fairly substantial after firm decisions are taken and gradually implemented.

The Administrative Reforms Committee set up by Government has already started work.

The Government have also announced its decision on the recommendations of the Pay Committee and the revised scales of pay and other benefits have been given effect from the 1st April 1964.

During this Session, my Government propose to place before you, the following Legislative measures in addition to those on financial matters—

1. The Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1965.
2. The Dibrugarh University Bill, 1965.
3. The Bengal, Agra and Assam Civil Courts (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1965.
4. The Assam Consolidation of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1965.
5. The Assam Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1965.

6. The Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1965.

7. The Assam Bhoodan Bill, 1965.

Activities of the Government in the Departments of Veterinary, Fishery, Forests, Town and Country Planning, Excise and Social Welfare continue to be satisfactory.

I have reviewed in brief the problems my Government had to face during the past year, their activities and their future programmes. The progress achieved so far has been re-assuring despite the natural and other difficulties that we have had to face. The year that has passed has been one not free from difficulties and we also know that we have difficult times ahead of us. 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 with the object of reaching the goal of a prosperous and smiling Assam.

**J A I H I N D**



**Mr. SPEAKER:** I thank the Governor for sparing a few minutes in addressing the House. The Governor will now leave the House escorted by the Deputy Speaker and the Secretary.

(the Governor then left the Chamber)

**Announcement by the Speaker that the Governor had been pleased to make a speech and to lay a copy of the speech on the table under rule 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly**

**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 to-day, a copy of which has already been laid on each Member's table.

**Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address**

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have received notice of a Motion of Thanks from Shri Mohi Kanta Das, M. L. A., seconded by Shri Mohananda Bora, 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 on the 22nd February, 1965.”

I hereby fix 24th February, Wednesday, 26th February, Friday, 27th February, Saturday, 2nd March, Tuesday and 3rd March, Wednesday, as the dates for discussion of the Motion on matters referred to in the Governor's Address.

Notices of amendments, if any, to the Motion on the Address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 5 P.M., to-day.

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 23rd February, 1965.

SHILLONG

The 3rd August, 1965

R. C. CHAUDHURI,

Secretary,  
Assam Legislative Assembly.

