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Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE THIRD
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE SOVEREIGN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION
OF INDIA

BUDGET SESSION

VOL. I

No. 4

The 4th March, 1963



सत्यमेव जयते

1963

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
SHILLONG

Price 10 annas

STATES OF THE UNION OF INDIA

(Budget Session)

Vol. I

1961

THE UNION OF INDIA

1961

1961

1961

THE UNION OF INDIA

THE UNION OF INDIA

CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

BUDGET SESSION

VOL. I

No. 4

The Union, 1961



सत्यमेव जयते

1961

PRINTED AT THE ARABIC GOVERNMENT PRESS
DUBLIN

Price 10/-

**Proceedings of the Fourth 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 4th March, 1963.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B. L., Speaker in the Chair, ten Ministers, three Ministers of State, three Deputy Ministers and Sixty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re : Water Supply at Aijal

Shri R. THANHLIRA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]. asked :

*1. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount expended each year for subsidising water supply in Aijal since 1954 up to date ?
- (b) Whether there is any project for long term solution of the water problem therefore ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) replied :

(a)—The actual expenditure from 1954-55 to 1960-61 is—

					Rs.
1954-55	..	..	..	..	16,000
1955-56	..	..	..	..	8,000
1956-57	..	..	..	..	29,100
1957-58	..	..	..	..	67,900
1958-59	..	..	..	..	64,600
1959-60	..	..	..	..	1,76,600
1960-61	..	..	..	..	1,84,464
1961-62	..	..	..	..	2,20,000 (Estimated).

(b)—Yes.

Shri R. THANHLIRA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : May I know the total amount expended till this date ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) : It will be found if the whole amount is added.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : What is the total population of Aijal Town ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : The present population of Aijal, I think, quoting from memory, is about 15,000.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : What scheme has been formulated for the supply of water in Aijal Town ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : A scheme is being proposed and the estimated expenditure is to the tune of Rs. 30 lakhs.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : Has the scheme been taken up ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : It has not yet been taken up but it is in the process of being finalised.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : When will the people come to know about the latest position ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : As I have said the whole scheme is in the process of being finalised. Therefore, when it will be finalised, people will know.

Shri R. THANHLIRA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Is it not a fact that a scheme was taken up and the necessary survey had also been made by the Public Health Engineering Department ? May I know whether that scheme has been abandoned or is it going to be resumed ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) : I could not follow, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : You are to put questions only ; you are not to give information.

Shri R. THANHLIRA : I want to know, Sir, whether the scheme which was drawn up and for which the Public Health Engineering Department made initial survey has been abandoned and, if so, may I know the reason for it ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : Previously two schemes were prepared. In case of one scheme, it was objected by the people themselves because filth of the town is suspected to pass by that stream. In the case of the other scheme, it was found that the water source was not sufficient for supply of water to the town population and, therefore, dropped. A final scheme has been drawn up about which I have already explained.

Re : **Veterinary Supervisor Officer**

Shri MAHADEB DAS [Bhabanipur (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : asked :

*2. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any Subdivision in the State where there is no Veterinary Supervisor Officer for the Subdivisions ?
- (b) If so, which are those Subdivisions ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to post Veterinary Supervisor Officer in those Subdivisions ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary) replied :

2. (a)—For supervision at Subdivisional level there is the post of Subdivisional Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer for each Subdivision in the State.

(b) & (c)—Does not arise.

Obituary References

* **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a reference. Since this august House met last our country has lost one of her most revered Statesmen. I refer to the demise of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at the age of 78 years at Sadaquat Ashram, Patna, on the 28th February, 1963.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad was one of the those leaders of our country who fought the struggle for Independence and undergone all sufferings consequent thereof and also shouldered the great responsibility for stabilising our independence and to lead the country for progress and development. As his duties demanded from time to time he made varied contribution and held different responsibilities. He was one of these leaders of the country who commanded love, affection and respect from the people of all corners of India and that is why he held the highest position in our country like the first President of the Republic of India, President of the Constituent Assembly and the President of the Indian National Congress.

It is not possible to include in a statement like this all the activities of this great man.

Born on the 3rd December, 1884, Dr. Prasad received his early education at Chapra later at Presidency College, Calcutta. After a brilliant academic career he obtained degrees of M. A. and M. L. standing first class first. He joined the G. B. B. College Mazaffarpore as Professor of English in 1908 and thereafter practised as a Lawyer in the Calcutta High Court 1911-16 and Patna High Court

from 1916-20. In 1917 he came in contact with Mahatma Gandhi and joined him in investigating into the conditions prevailing in the Champaran Indigo Plantation which later led to the Satyagraha movement of Champaran. In 1921, in response to the call of the Father of the Nation he gave up his lucrative practice and joined the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1921 and was imprisoned. He was the President of the Bihar Provincial Congress Committee and later on became the Member of the Congress Working Committee which position he retained until his election as President of India in January 1950. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1934 and re-elected again in 1939, 1947-48. He was imprisoned seven times for his active participation in the National Movement and was held as security prisoner from 1942-45. He was the Minister for Food and Agriculture, Government of India from 1946-48. He was the President of the Indian Constituent Assembly from 1946-50. In recognition of his sacrifices and selfless service to the Nation, Dr. Prasad was elected the First President of the Republic of India in 1950 and was re-elected for the second term in 1957.

A true disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Prasad dedicated his life not only to secure freedom of the motherland but also for the upliftment of the harijan and backward people of the country. He was one of the founders of the Patna English Daily Newspaper-Searchlight.

A great scholar, he was the author of the book "India Divided", which dwelt on the problem of partition of the country, which bears the stamp of his erudition and scholarship.

With the passing away of Dr. Prasad, the country has lost a great statesman, patriot, a scholar and a noble man. His life was a life of sacrifice and hard work. He was a man of great vision and outlook. He successfully held the reins of administration during his tenure as President of India for two terms and led this great democracy of ours towards political stability and economic development.

I hope this august House will associate with me in expressing our sincere condolence at the sad demise of Dr. Prasad and in praying to the Almighty for eternal peace of the departed soul and also in conveying it to the members of the bereaved family.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Sir, with a heavy heart and profound sense of grief I join with the Leader of the House in paying our respectful homage to the memory of the late Dr. Rajendra Prasad. In Dr. Rajendra Prasad India has lost one of her most beloved sons, a Ratna of Bharat, in whom India's culture and traditions were symbolised in all their perfections and purities. He has left behind a tradition of uprightness, patriotism and sacrifice. As a true disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, truth, non-violence and service to the humanity and underdogs was a creed of his life. At times he expressed his desire to retire from politics to devote himself entirely to the cause of his creed and ultimately he did it. His manifold and varied

contribution during the country's struggle for Independence has been referred to by the Leader of the House. His qualities of leadership cannot be recounted within a brief compass. He was a scholar, educationist, patriot and politician not for power but for serving the country. By his devoted service to the nation he raised the status of our country in the international sphere. As the President of the Constituent Assembly he symbolised the hopes and aspirations of millions of his countrymen. When the Constitution came into force in 1950 it was, as if in natural course of events, he became the first President to see that the Constitution takes its proper course.

May his spirit of service to the country, his devoted patriotism be an eternal source of inspiration for us. May his soul give us light at this darkest period of our history.

Sir, I, on behalf of myself and my colleagues on this side of the House, pay our respectful homage once again to the memory of the great leader.

Shri R. THANHLIRA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, please allow me to associate myself on behalf of my Hon. friends from the autonomous districts who are here and, if you allow me, also on behalf of the people of my district, with the feelings and sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and the other hon. Members on the passing away of Rajendra Babu, the first President of the Republic of India. As the previous speakers have already referred to the noble qualities of his and also the invaluable and outstanding services and sacrifices rendered by him for the cause of the nation, I do not think it would be necessary for me to recount them over again. I for one, Sir, had the chance of meeting him on a few occasions when I was a Member of Parliament. I was simply touched by his simplicity, friendliness to all and unassuming character despite his high position. To me, he was the embodiment of kindness, love and service to others. Who could help liking such a person, Sir? It is true that few people living in a remote area like my district ever had a chance to see him. But all the same, his name was on the lips of everyone and we all felt near and dear to him. It is, therefore, no wonder that his death was deeply mourned in this country and abroad. Now he is dead, but he will remain a living example and inspiration to millions of people. Sir, I have no doubt that his soul would rest in peace as he richly deserved.

Mr. SPEAKER: I whole-heartedly associate myself with the feelings expressed by the Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Thanhlira and I want to add a few words to their observations.

In the land of Bihar, great men were born in the past. More than two thousand and five hundred years ago Lord Buddha took his birth there. There Emperor Asoka was born some four hundred years before Christ. In this land of holy Magadha in our age Babu Rajendra Prasad was born.

Babu Rajendra Prasad earned unique distinction in his studies. He was always at the top in all the examinations whether in schools or in colleges. He was a successful teacher. He choosed the career of a

lawyer and began his life as an advocate of the High Court. In the legal profession he proved to be an able lawyer. But destiny compelled him to leave the profession he choosed. He came in contact with Gandhiji in his twenties during the Champaram Satyagraha. Since then he followed Gandhi literally. He imbibed the spirit of non-violence in words, thoughts and deeds. He was an earnest believer in constructive works as envisaged by Gandhiji. The Sadaquat Ashram of Patna which later on became the pivot of all political activities of Bihar was founded by him. From a humble cottage of this Ashram he carried on his activities, political, social and constructive.

He was one of the most front-rank leaders of India's struggle for Independence under the Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. It is difficult to find a second man in India to-day who followed Gandhi more closely than Rajendra Babu.

Rajendra Babu adorned the Chair of the President of the Indian National Congress on four occasions. Whenever there came a crisis in the life of the Congress he was called upon to shoulder the burden of the President. After the Tripuri Session of the Indian National Congress Shri Subhas Chandra Bose resigned his presidentship and the Congress was divided into two factions groups and in that critical hour everybody's eyes fell on Rajendra Babu for steering the wheels of the chariot of the Congress. Dr. Rajendra Prasad proved worthy of the trust and under his able leadership the crisis could be averted. In 1947 when Acharya Kripalani resigned his Presidentship of the Congress Rajendra Babu was called on once again to hold the reins of the Congress. He was the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee for more than one term.

Rajendra Babu was one of the foremost social workers. The service he rendered towards the distressed humanity during the Bihar earthquake days would be written in letters of gold in the history of the world.

At the time when the country was facing an acute food scarcity Rajendra Babu joined the interim Cabinet of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as its Food and Agriculture Minister. He performed his duties very efficiently.

When the Constituent Assembly met to hammer the Constitution of India the choice of its Presidentship fell on Rajendra Babu. His able guidance gave birth to one of the greatest democracies of the world.

After India became a Republic, Babu Rajendra Prasad was elected its President which post he held for twelve long years. As the President of the Indian Republic, Dr. Rajendra Prasad could establish very many good traditions and he could keep the position of the President high and aloft.

Last year after the general elections he retired from the Presidency of the Indian Republic. He came back from New Delhi to Patna to his dear old Sadaquat Ashram and there he breathed his last.

After retirement also Rajendra Babu was not sitting idle. In spite of his ill health he showed keen interest towards the promotion of the cause of world peace. During the last Chinese aggression days also he was very active. He threw very many valuable suggestions for successfully carrying on the War efforts.

He began his days works with prayer and spinning. Spinning was a regular routine with him. The Rashtrapati Bhavan was donning with the humming sound of the Charkha during his regime.

He was secular in action, outlook and thought, but he observed the Hindu religious rites with great orthodoxy.

We remember him today for all his contributions in various fields of activities of life with all humility and gratefulness. Rajendra Babu's death is an irreparable loss to us all. With his death we miss from our midst another great general who led us from victory to victory in our struggle for Independence. In him we have lost a great leader who guided the destiny of India in securing a rightful place in the comity of Nations. In him we have lost a personality who personified in himself the rich Indian heritage and everything that is best in Indian life.

But death is inevitable. Nobody can escape it however high he may be. Babu Rajendra Prasad has surrendered to this inevitable law of God and Nature. We pray to God for the eternal peace of his soul and beseech of God Almighty to give us the courage and the strength so that we may follow him in every walk of our life and may fulfil the mission which has been left unfulfilled. By implementation of the vow only we can prove worthy as his successor and honour him the best.

I shall now move a resolution, after which the hon. Members will please stand up and observe two minutes silence by way of its acceptance. The resolution is :—

"This House deeply condoles at the sudden demise of Shri Rajendra Prasad who was the first President of India and one of the foremost fighters and architects for the freedom of the country, and astute lawyer and scholar of outstanding merits and who was a talented leader, statesman and administrator. As a mark of honour to the great departed soul the House do stand adjourned without transacting any business for the rest of the day."

(The House stood up in silence for two minutes).

A copy of the proceedings of the House will be forwarded to the members of the bereaved family.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 5th March, 1963.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.

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