

102. Die deutsche Literatur des 19. Jahrhunderts

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Monday, the 24th February, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers and sixty-six Members.

Complaint about the arrangement of lights inside the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Members of the House will please await the Governor's arrival in a few minutes—the Governor will arrive at 10-10 a.m.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, may I point out that the light just in front of us puts us in an inconvenient position to look at the faces of the Members on the other side. This light is very disturbing for us and so the arrangement does not seem to be happy.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): Sir, we are also feeling the same inconvenience for the light just in the front of us.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, I find that the inconvenience for this light arrangement is mutual and I will see that the Members can see each other's face properly. I do not know what better arrangement can be done. However, I will look into this.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Sir, that light reflects in such a way that we can see the backs of the Members but not their faces.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will now take leave of the House to go out to escort the Governor.

(The Governor was escorted to the Assembly Chamber).

Address by the Governor
The Governor (Shri Saiyid Fazl Ali)

MR. SPEAKER AND HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

I am very happy to be able to welcome you to this session of the House within a short interval which has elapsed since I addressed the House last on the 8th June, 1957. You will be discussing the budgetary proposals of Government and other business into the details of which I need not go at this stage. A Vote on account for one month, namely, April has however become necessary because there was delay in the receipt of approval to the annual plan ceiling from the Planning Commission. As a consequence to prepare the budget so as to enable Hon'ble Members fully to discuss the Budget and yet convey decisions within this financial year was not possible.

2. We are assembling here today under the shadow of what is indeed a very grave national loss. Our Nation is grateful to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad for his lifelong patriotism, high-mindedness, erudition and his sagacious leadership. The void created in the administrative, political and cultural life of the country by his death cannot be easily filled. And while bowing our heads in sorrow to mourn his passing away, we ought to treasure and cherish the ideals for which he stood and endeavoured to live up to them.

The House will also share with me the regret and sorrow caused by the passing away of Shri Harison Momin on 23rd January, 1958, a Member from the Garo Hills. Let us pray for the peace of his soul and convey our condolence to the bereaved family.

3. The period I am reviewing has not been easy. We have passed through difficult times with anxiety and concern but there have also been hopeful developments. As you are all aware, the country has been going through a period of difficulty which may be characterised as threefold. First of all there is a shortfall of visible resources to finance the Second Five-Year Plan and secondly an acute shortage of foreign exchange needed mostly for the import of food and capital goods from abroad. Lastly, there has been some inflationary pressure reflected particularly in increased prices of foodstuffs. This situation has highlighted the difficulties which an underdeveloped economy has to face in the shape of current shortages and sacrifices when it embarks on a plan of development and industrialisation involving long term capital investment. Instead of being a damper on our spirit and activities these difficulties should be a spur. The country generally has shaken off any sense of complacency which might

have been generated after the success of the First Plan and responded bravely to overcome whatever difficulties may face us in the fulfilment of the Second Five-Year Plan. A magnificent effort has been made to mobilise internal resources and reduce our reliance on foreign exchange imports. The stringent fiscal and other measures adopted have halted the rise in prices. Many friendly countries have come forward with noble and generous offers to help us so far as foreign payments are concerned. Although we are far from solving all the difficulties, the stability of the economy and credit at home and abroad have been preserved. It seems that the corner has been turned and we can look forward to the future with confidence and hope.

The repercussions of the All-India economic trends have been felt fully in Assam. The food position continued to be difficult but did not become critical as supplies from the producer continued to flow although at increased prices at times. The assistance given by the Government of India by way of supplying foodgrains enabled the State Government to run fair price shops for rice and generally to maintain the availability of food supplies at relatively steady level of prices throughout the year. Supplies of other essential commodities were maintained more or less at satisfactory levels depending upon the availability of transport.

4. The reported decision of the Government of India to locate the refinery for processing Assam's oil outside Assam created great dissatisfaction throughout the State and therefore the decision of the Central Government announced a short while ago, to locate the first Oil Refinery in Assam, has given all-round satisfaction in the State and should be particularly gratifying to this Assembly which passed a unanimous Resolution demanding the location of the refinery in Assam. The signing of the agreement for production and transport to the refinery of Assam oil through a rupee Company in which Government will participate is also welcome. This will result in increased activity in the industrial sphere in Assam with a healthy impact on employment and revenues of the State. The transport needs of the State are also receiving due attention of the Government of India as will be seen from the creation of a new Railway Zone with headquarters at Pandu, steps taken for the stabilisation and improvement of the traffic capacity of the Assam Rail Link and a decision to start work on the Brahmaputra Bridge between Pandu and Amingaon. These events bring nearer realisation the fondly cherished aspirations of everyone in Assam for the development of the State. We are thankful to the Union Government for the appreciation of these aspirations.

5. I need not go into details of the developments in the Naga Hills. As you are aware, the new Central Administration for the Naga Hills-Tuensang area was ushered in from the 1st December 1957. Ever since the Kohima Convention a few months earlier there had been an easing of the strain on the forces of law and order and this improvement has been well-maintained. I hope the Naga brethren will continue to receive the good-wishes and co-operation of the people of Assam from whom they stand at present separated so far as administration goes.

6. Fortunately, the State was free from disastrous floods and erosion as in previous years although crops have been adversely affected by uneven rainfall and drought in several areas. The Flood Control and Irrigation Department which has completed over 1,300 miles of dykes and embankments in the State protecting vast areas has been largely responsible for reducing the incidence of floods in the State. On the other hand while the bunds have been effective in reducing inundation there have been complaints that the embankments have had an adverse effect in excluding flood irrigation and consequent deposit of silt, drying up of fisheries, changing of crop patterns and adversely affecting retting of Jute. Government have considered it desirable to go into the matter in complete detail and accordingly, a Drainage and Embankment Projects Reviewing Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Shri B. Bhagawati, M.P. In order to achieve complete co-ordination between the Embankment and Drainage and Agricultural Projects this wing of the P. W. D. has been placed under the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture.

7. The food situation in the coming year will need close attention as in the year that has passed. Several areas of the State which contributed surplus of paddy have been badly affected by drought reducing the possible overall availability during the coming year. There has been no reduction in the harvest prices of paddy and rice. To meet the situation that may arise, the Government of India have already allotted 16,000 tons of rice for the first-half of the year. The State Government have also started local procurement of paddy in order to build up a buffer stock. It is hoped that with stocks built up locally and assistance received from the Central Government it will be possible to continue supplies of rice to the vulnerable section of the population at reasonably cheap prices to avoid distress. The Government of India have been making generous allotment of wheat to the mills in Assam

and also giving a quota to Calcutta Flour Mills for supplying the finished product to Assam. The prices of wheat products have considerably come down owing to the Central Government releasing imported wheat from Assam depots. The prices of atta, however, did not come down equally in one District due to the fact that inadequate milling capacity there necessitated milling of wheat in other Districts. In view of the All-India shortage of rice and very limited prospect of getting imported rice from abroad the general public can contribute to meeting the food shortage by changing their food habits a little and consuming more wheat and subsidiary foods in place of a certain proportion of their quota of rice. Although the incidence of floods was less than in previous years, to meet the distress in the rural areas, over Rs. 4½ lakhs were distributed as gratuitous relief and nearly Rs. 15½ lakhs as Agricultural and Rehabilitation loans. Over Rs. 3 lakhs have been sanctioned for test relief works also to provide purchasing power in distressed areas. My Government will continue to take all necessary steps within their means to avert distress.

8. At the beginning of my address I referred to the economic difficulties the country has been facing. The main difficulty has been caused by the relatively small production of foodgrains. Apart from keeping prices high this has also contributed to the increased difficulty regarding foreign exchange as the Government of India have had to make arrangements for heavy imports of food. In order to save the Second Five-Year Plan and fulfil the targets as far as practicable the growing of more food therefore assumes the highest priority. The additional food production target for Assam during the Second Five-Year Plan period has been finally fixed at 4.51 lakh tons. It has been found by the Agriculture Department that this target is rather on the high side and a reduced target of 3.78 lakhs or 22 per cent increase over the basic production in Assam has been suggested. To achieve even a target of 3.78 lakh tons will require very concentrated effort mainly by the personnel of the Agriculture, Community Development and Panchayat Departments. Apart from the loans and credits distributed by the Co-operative Department, these two Departments of Agriculture and Community Projects have also taken responsibility for the distribution of Rs. 39 lakhs as short-term loans to cultivators before the end of the current financial year at rather short notice. Apart from the Panchayats and Community Projects, my Government have felt the need of

organising the tillers fieldwise and educating and entrusting them with responsibilities for the development of agriculture in their respective fields, and for that purpose my Government hope to formulate suitable schemes in due course. My Government are looking into the organisational and manpower difficulty of the Agriculture Department and taking measures to energise and bring about the maximum co-ordination between all the allied Departments. It is hoped that with the concentrated efforts of all, the targets fixed will be substantially achieved. The efforts of the official Departments, however, can only go a certain way and not all the way. It is necessary to enthuse every cultivator and secure his active co-operation. In this task the Members of the Assembly, Members of Local Bodies and all public men and women generally can play a significant role. My Government have also felt that test relief and self-help work should from now onward be directed towards productive activities as far as practicable.

9. I have already referred to the easing of the law and order situation in the Naga Hills. So far as the plains districts bordering on the Naga Hills are concerned all precautionary measures are being maintained. Apart from one regrettable incident of armed dacoity with murder reported from a village near Dhansiri and some reports of illegal extortion of money no other major act of lawlessness has come to notice. It is hoped that our Security Forces will be able to hold in check depredations by those Nagas who are misbehaving. The general crime position in the State did not show much variation. The morale and discipline of the Police force were satisfactory. The Police officers and men of the State gave an excellent account of themselves in handling the vast concourse of persons and the traffic problems caused by the concentration of vehicles during the last Congress Session. They have received unstinted praise for their efficiency and courtesy from distinguished national leaders as well as other visitors who had the opportunity to watch the police at their work.

10. Twenty-seven border incidents were committed by Pak nationals during the period from the 8th June 1957 as against 46 reported in 1956. On two occasions there were exchanges of fire. Recently the Pakistan Government started an operation all along the East Pakistan and Assam border through their regular troops with the avowed object of preventing smuggling. This operation has resulted in almost absolute

cessation of trade including border trade in unilateral violation of the Indo-Pak Trade Agreement. There has also been an increase in raids and trespasses into Indian territory and kidnapping of Indian nationals. Strong protests have been lodged with the East Pakistan Government and the Central Government have been kept informed of all such cases.

11. My Government has been much concerned with the strain which the administrative machinery is undergoing in an effort to cope with the ever-increasing functions of Government. I made a brief mention of the activities of the Organisation and Method Division in this behalf, in my last address. My Government are convinced that reforms and re-organisation as well as considerable strengthening of the administrative machinery are necessary. It is proposed to re-organise the Secretariat Departments to fall into a more rational pattern with reasonable work-loads in each Department. This is to be followed up by a searching enquiry into the working of each Department, improvement of the structure and organisation as well as in procedures so that disposal of business is more prompt and efficient. One of the most important aspects that has been taken up for examination is the revision of the organisational and procedural aspects relating to sanction of expenditure in the Finance Department. Training of large number of personnel in the Secretariat Training School is continuing. Regular training in Stenography and type-writing has been taken up. For the offices of Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers a training scheme has been started under the aegis of the Commissioner of Plains Division which has already proved its usefulness and is being continued. In a meeting of the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers with the Secretaries and the Heads of Departments held in September 1957 almost the entire ground of administration including the impact of development activities was covered. It is proposed to implement gradually the recommendations of that Conference. On the top of other training schemes provision is being made to establish an Administrative Training School for All-India Services Officers posted to Assam and the State Services.

12. I had touched earlier upon the difficulties that the Second Five-Year Plan has been facing. We are now coming to the end of the Second Year of the Plan and are about to enter the third year. The overall question of internal and foreign resources and curbing the inflationary tendency, have been engaging the attention of the Planning Commission and the

National Development Council. The Government of India's decision regarding the hard core of the Plan consisting of the iron and steel plants, coal, transport and ancillary power is that, these will have to be proceeded with on top priority basis. In view of the difficult food situation there has been a shift of emphasis to agriculture—particularly on growing of more food. Short-fall in the internal resources and the shortage of foreign exchange is likely to affect adversely some schemes of the State Plan. For the first year of the Second Five-Year Plan, the Planning Commission had fixed a ceiling of Rs. 10·33 crores to which was added Central sector schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 143·71 lakhs. So against an overall approved outlay of Rs. 11·77 crores, expenditure in 1956-57 was of the order of Rs. 11·34 crores. The Annual Plan for 1957-58 was fixed at Rs. 11·1 crores by the Planning Commission out of which a sum of Rs. 3 crores was to have been raised by the State Government as their share of resources. In addition, Central sector schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 3·1 crores were taken up during the year 1957-58. Against an overall outlay of Rs. 14·21 crores, expenditure as recently estimated is expected to be Rs. 13·46 crores. It will be seen that the performance in respect of the financial targets has been quite satisfactory. It is expected that when the shortage of trained personnel and essential materials is reduced, the tempo of implementation will improve. For the Annual Plan for 1958-59 detailed discussions were held between the Planning Commission and Central Ministries and the representatives of the State Government. The ceiling of expenditure fixed now stands at Rs. 10·7 crores to which should be added approximately Rs. 2·64 crores as being Central share of expenditure on Centrally sponsored schemes. The provision that is being made in the Budget which will be presented before you follows the ceiling of expenditure indicated by the Planning Commission. The State Government have been asked to raise resources to as much as Rs. 6·2 crores for financing the Annual Plan for 1958-59.

13. In my remarks in connection with the growing of more food, I mentioned about the Community Development and National Extension Service programmes. During 1957-58, 9 new blocks were started. Taking into account blocks started so far, the total number stands at 62 covering an area of over 20,000 square miles and a population of 34 lakhs. In percentages, the coverage would be 41·81 per cent of the total area of the State and 37·9 per cent of the population. The target for the Second Five-Year Plan period stands at 125 blocks less 8 to 10 blocks which would have fallen in the Naga Hills. The year

under review has seen normal progress under different heads in the Community Development programme. The emphasis will be an increased production in the areas covered by the Community Projects. The Study Team for Community Project and National Extension Service Blocks headed by Shri Balwantrai Mehta, M.P., has submitted its report. One of the central themes in the Report is democratic decentralisation through Block Panchayats. It is the intention of my Government to fall in line with that recommendation as far as possible.

14. The Umtru Hydro-Electric Project was switched on the 9th July 1957. The Government have also acquired the Gauhati Electric Supply undertaking almost simultaneously with the inauguration of the Umtru Projects. The generation of Umtru power and the acquisition of the Gauhati Electric Supply undertaking have greatly relieved the power shortage in the Gauhati area and the consumption has increased nearly to double within the short period of 5 to 6 months since the Gauhati undertaking was taken over. Apart from the Umtru Project, 15 new Departmental power stations have been opened and 3 private undertakings have been acquired and improved. In addition, work is in progress on 4 new stations, besides extensions to several others. As the future of private electric supply undertakings does not appear to be very bright, the State Government will have to step in more and more in the field of power generation.

15. Along with its efforts to establish Major Industries and generation of power it is the intention of my Government to concentrate its efforts for the development of small-scale and cottage industries, including Weaving and Sericulture, Khadi and Village Industries. Assam with its rural and agricultural background and fine tradition of weaving and other cottage industries both in the hills and plains offers almost unlimited potentialities for development in this line. In fact my Government's policy is one of integrated development of large, small and cottage industries as well as agriculture so that the fruits of development are enjoyed evenly by the largest section of the population. In order to give Cottage Industries, Khadi and Village Industries their due importance and expedite development my Government intend to constitute a full Secretary's charge of these Departments.

16. The development schemes in the field of Agriculture, Cottage and Small-scale Industries are largely linked with the Co-operative movement which has been making steady strides. So far as Rural Credit is concerned it is proposed to make available more than 2 crores of rupees as short-term, medium-term and long-term loans by the end of Second Year of the Plan. The co-operative credit structure has been re-organised setting up necessary credit organisations in the different rungs of the ladder. The Co-operative Movement is being expanded among the handloom weavers in the Hills districts and in the Community Development areas. In addition to the Assam Co-operative Training Institute at Joysagar, another training institute has been opened at Tezpur.

17. So far as autonomous districts are concerned it has been a matter of satisfaction that there has been increased understanding and as a result better co-operation is forthcoming.

My Government proposes to set up an Advisory Council for the Autonomous Districts to consider their special problems and to advise Government thereon.

It is also the policy of my Government to assist the District Councils to function effectively and for that purpose consider such amendment of the Sixth Schedule as may become necessary. I had earlier mentioned about the action taken by the Pakistan Government in practically closing down economic activities on their border. The sudden stoppage of border markets has caused immense difficulties to our people in the border areas who have been faced with the serious problem of loss of livelihood due to stoppage of the marketing of their agricultural produce. My Government are fully aware of the situation and are taking action for speedy supply of essential foodstuffs at subsidised prices through fair-price shops and have also arranged subsidised transport for carriage of produce like pan leaves, oranges, etc., from the border of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills to Gauhati from where they can be re-transported to other marketing centres. My Government have also sanctioned agricultural loans and test relief works as measures of short-term relief. For long-term development, schemes for subsidising minor irrigation, terracing and contour-bunding, etc., have been taken up in right earnest and I hope that the various measures taken will go a long way towards relieving the distress of our brethren in the border areas and placing their economic life on a sounder

footing. In order to examine closely to what extent the measures that have been adopted so far have gone to rehabilitate the economy of the border people and also to consider what more positive measures could be taken in this regard, my Government is considering the appointment of a Committee. My Government is anxious that the dislocation caused to the economy of our industrious border people as a result of Partition is brought to an end as soon as possible.

18. The problem of rehabilitation of the displaced persons from Pakistan continues in spite of the fact that nearly 6 crores of rupees have so far been advanced as loans and various other schemes have been in operation. About 40,000 acres of land have so far been made available for settlement of displaced persons and some more land is being reclaimed with the help of the Central Tractor Organisation in Cachar District. Due to general paucity of land, rehabilitation schemes will have more emphasis on industries of all description and training of displaced persons in various vocations to enable them to take advantage of the industrial schemes. My Government are taking necessary steps in the matter and sponsoring such schemes.

19. No new tax was imposed during the financial year 1957-58, but revenue was substantially augmented due to tightening up of the administrative machinery and simplification of some existing taxation measures. As a result of the award of Second Finance Commission, Assam's annual share of the Central revenues transferred to the State will increase by an additional sum of Rs. 4.44 crores approximately. In effect this will reduce Central assistance to Assam's plan expenditure correspondingly. Against this the State Government has been required to make larger funds available annually towards the financing of the Second Five Year Plan. My Government will have to explore all possible means of increasing resources including intensification of the small savings drive to improve the position regarding capital receipts. The details of the steps proposed to be taken by my Government will be given to the House by the Finance Minister.

20. The wasteful empty running of coal trucks from Gauhati to Shillong is proposed to be substantially reduced by giving them a part of the goods traffic of the State Transport. This measure, it is expected, besides the prevention of waste, will reduce the transport cost of Khasi coal.

21. Closure of some uneconomic and mismanaged tea gardens which has resulted in difficulties to the employees is receiving the attention of my Government. It is the intention of my Government to take some effective measures in this respect with the help and co-operation of the Government of India.

22. My Government have been giving relief to political sufferers for some years. It has, however, been felt that more is required to be done for their rehabilitation and this is receiving the attention of my Government.

23. There is a heavy legislative programme before you. About half of the Bills, however, are of a financial nature. In addition to the legislative programme you will have occasions to discuss the various matters I have indicated, and I am sure that your deliberations and decisions will be conducive to the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of this State.

24. In my address I have made no attempt to make a comprehensive review of the activities and policies of my Government in the variegated field of administration and development except drawing your attention to some salient features. In all nation-building departments like Education, Medical and Public Health, Labour Welfare, Transport, etc., over and above routine activities, development according to the Second Five Year Plan is proceeding apace. I do not wish to burden you with details here.

25. Before I conclude, I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the services rendered to Assam for many years by Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi, which has also received recognition by his elevation to Governorship. I also wish to repeat my appeal which I made before this House last year, for unity and co-operation of all sections of the people for building up the prosperity and happiness of the State and I wish you, Members of the Legislative Assembly, God speed in your labours.

J A I H I N D

Motion of Condolence on the death of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and of Shri Harrison Momin

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise to make a reference to the great loss India has suffered by the sad demise of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, an illustrious son of India, who passed away on Saturday the 22nd February last. Maulana Azad was loved and respected not only because he was free India's first Education Minister, but also because he was one of those who took prominent part in the struggle for freedom and was one of the architects of modern India. Besides, he was a scholar, thinker and educationist of eminence.

Maulana Azad's parts in the struggle for freedom of our country and sacrifice for the cause of India's independence are unique. He was an embodiment of national amity, secularism and courage. The nation will remain ever indebted to him for all that he had done for the attainment of independence for the country more particularly, at the time of the Cripps Mission and the Quit India Movement. No difficulty and problem, either in the pre-independence or post-independence period could perturb him.

Born in Mecca in 1888, Maulana Azad had his education in Theology in the famous Al Azhar University, Cairo. His translation of Quran into Urdu, his literary activities and interpretation of Quran earned for him world-wide fame. Maulana Azad started his career as a journalist and edited the famous Urdu newspaper 'Al Hilal' in Calcutta for supporting the cause of Indian National Congress, which under his guidance had become the torch-bearer of the resurgent India. For his revolutionary writings in the newspaper, the youthful editor of the 'Al Hilal' was interned by the British Government at Ranchi in 1914.

Maulana Sahib first met Mahatma Gandhi in 1921 and later became one of his staunchest supporters for the cause of non-violent revolution for India's Independence. He became the President of the special session of the Congress in 1923, while he was only 35 years of age. He also held the office of the President of the Congress for seven years, following 1939, during the most crucial period in the nation's history. The courage far-sightedness and the acumen with which he conducted negotiations with Mr. Cripps and the British Cabinet Mission demonstrated Maulana's sagacity, ability and would

always remain as a glorious record of Indian statesmanship. He suffered incarceration in the hands of the alien masters several times and social ostracism in the hands of communalists, but these ordeals did not for a moment make him swerve from his duty or dampen his indomitable fire of patriotism.

Free India chose Maulana Azad to guide her destinies since 1947. During this period, education in India has made rapid strides, so much so that the Union Budget allocation for education rose to Rs.30 crores from a meagre amount of Rs. 2 crores

We from Assam had on many occasions the privilege of securing his advice and guidance whenever we were in need of the same. His willingness to hear us at all times, his sympathy for the people of Assam, and his eagerness to help this State were a source of strength to us and we cannot forget the confidence which his words inspired in us.

Sir, it is impossible to express in these few words the quality of the great personality of which our country has been deprived of by the cruel hands of death.

With your kind permission, Sir, I would like to make a reference and to pay my respectful homage to our esteemed colleague, Shri Harrison Momin, who left his mortal coil at Tura on 23rd January 1958. Shri Momin was a member of this August House since 1951 and had contributed immensely towards its deliberations.

Shri Momin was an ardent educationist for whom the cause of Education was supreme in life. He devoted his entire energy for the spread of education in the Hills because he was confident that the all-round development of our brethren in the hills cannot be brought about unless they are given proper education.

Born in Tura in 1892, Shri Momin had his early education at Shillong. After passing his Matriculation examination from the Shillong Government High School he went for higher studies at Serampor College. Later he obtained Teachers' training diploma from the Dacca University and returned home to join the Education Department of the Assam Government.

Shri Momin was first elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1951. After the successful term in the Assembly

Shri Momin was re-elected for the second term in the last General Election of 1957 from Dainadubi Constituency of the Garo Hills District. Shri Momin fruitfully contributed to the proceedings of this House and he was always looked upon as a champion of the cause of justice. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Garo Hills District Council. Today, with the passing away of Shri Harison Momin, we have lost a valued colleague. Sir, I offer my heartfelt homage to the departed souls. I have no doubt the Honourable Members will join me in paying our humble homage to them and in praying for their souls' eternal peace.

It is in the fitness of things to show our respect to the departed souls and therefore with your kind permission, Sir, I beg to move that the House be adjourned for today and the transaction of business of the House be kept suspended for tomorrow as well.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we from the Opposition associate ourselves with the feelings just now expressed by the Leader of House on the sad and sudden demise of the illustrious son of India in Maulana Azad and the veteran Legislator of this House the Late Shri Harison Momin.

Sir, Maulana Azad is no more to-day, but he has left to us by his astute leadership, during the various national movements of our country under the leadership of the Father of the Nation, the Independence from foreign yoke. Azad was known to us as a scholar, a valiant fighter and an able administrator. Now after his death we feel more for him because in the leadership of the country to-day we feel the void of our elder statesmen, and therefore, to-day it has become our utmost duty not only to remember how Azad built up his career but also to be inspired by his noble deeds. We have to remember how he dedicated his whole life to the service of the country and how at the moment when the virus of communalism was eating into the vitals of the country he was the man who tried to bring about more understanding and communal harmony and a secular State. Sir, to-day we feel very much at his death. We pray his noble soul may rest in peace.

We have also felt the sad demise of late Harrison Momin very much. He was a man of character and integrity, and in his own way tried to serve the people utmost. We can only be inspired by his noble ideals. I hope along with the others his soul will rest in peace.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we associate ourselves with the feelings and sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, with the demise of Maulana Azad, India has lost one of her illustrious sons. He was a great scholar, a profound philosopher, a historian and above all a patriotic fighter for freedom. He had dedicated his life to the service of the country. He had suffered immensely in the hands of the imperialist power in his service to the country, but he had always kept himself firm, and in a most unswerving way, kept up his policy. Therefore, to-day when India needs his services most, his loss is really a calamity to the country. Maulana Azad was not only a scholar of great eminence imbued with an insight into the present state of affairs, but he had also a strong insight into the future. Therefore, we find in his writings a seer's probe into the future enriching the best of the past and always basing himself on the present situation. While we to-day mourn his death, we should not forget the great contributions that the great Maulana had made for the the cause of the country.

We also mourn the death of Shri Harrison Momin of Dainabubi of Garo Hills who was a very amiable personality, an educationist, and, above all, a lover of his people. His modesty and sincerity and his strong feelings for the down-trodden people, particularly, of his area, gave us to understand that in him we had a great friend of the poor. And, therefore, while we mourn his death here to-day, we should also try to enrich ourselves with this lofty ideals and feelings which he had in him.

With these few words, Sir, I again, on behalf of this side of the House, associate myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House and also the Leader of the Opposition.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunjee Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the expressions which have been made on the floor of this House on account of the deaths of two great personalities. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was a great leader of India. He pictured prominently specially at the time of the transition period when there was a great deal of correspondence and negotiation between the Congress which led India on towards the goal of freedom and Great Britain. He appeared several times before the Cripp's Mission and the British Cabinet Mission. At that time, he figured prominently

as one of the great men in India. He fought for the unity of India and also for the independence of India. At that time we were very much impressed by the untiring devotion and zeal of this great man who wanted to combine the different communities in India and lead the country on its onward march to freedom. His achievements as the Education Minister of independent India need hardly any repetition. He was able to obtain more money for the Education Budget of India.

I also feel greatly for the death of my late lamented friend, Shri Harrison Momin, whose friendship I had the honour to enjoy for several years. He was an amiable gentleman and a great lover of his own people in the Garo Hills. I had admired him much during my association with him. I wish his family the blessings of God.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBORUAH (Amguri):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed on the floor by the Leader of the House at the demise of Maulana Azad. The great sacrifices made by him in his efforts to shake off the painful shackles of the foreign domination, will be remembered by us all and also by the future generations with honour and gratitude.

I also express my sorrow at the demise of late Harrison Momin who was once a Member of this August House and who tried, in his own way, to serve his people.

With these few words I again associate myself with the sentiments and utterances of the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other Members of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I entirely associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other Friends. Indeed, we have met to-day in the shadow of a national calamity. In the death of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad India has lost one of her great men, great in war as well as in peace. Maulana Sahib dedicated his life at an early age to the cause of India's freedom, and it was only fitting that it was during his stewardship of the Indian National Congress that people of this country should have fought and won their last war of independence. At a time when communal passions threatened to tear asunder this country, it was to a great extent Maulana Sahib's courageous wisdom that kept India along the path of national unity. Maulana Sahib was an ardent believer in social justice and it is well-known that he was one of the sponsors of the resolution setting before the Government and the country the goal of a socialist pattern of society. Indeed Maulana Sahib, much more

than anybody else amongst the great statesmen of the world, fulfilled Plato's ideal of a philosopher-king or that of a scholar-statesman of the great Chinese Sage, Confucius. We mourn his death as a national loss, but we are sustained by the feeling that his life will ever remain a shining star beckoning India to follow the path of national unity and social justice.

In the death of Shri Harrison Momin, the House has lost a much valued Member. He was an amiable and friendly gentleman who was held in high esteem by all sections of the House. Mr. Momin, before he was elected to the Legislative Assembly, was a devoted public servant in the Education Department. He was well known for his devotion to duty, exemplary character and true Christian faith. We all mourn his loss. I shall now move the resolution expressing our sorrow. After I have moved it, the hon. Members will rise in their seats and observe silence for two minutes. I shall now move the resolution expressing our sorrow:

The House deeply mourns the death of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Union Minister for Education, who was one of the architects of Indian Independence and a great leader of the Nation. The House also deeply mourns the death of Harrison Momin, M.L.A. who was a respected and valuable Member of this House, and this House conveys its heartfelt sympathy to the members of their bereaved families.

(This was accepted by the House, all Members Standing in Silence for two minutes.)

As the Leader of the House proposes, the House will be adjourned today and remains adjourned tomorrow. The House will meet on 27th February, Thursday, at 10 A.M. The business of the 25th will be taken over to 28th because that is a day for Government business and the programme for 27th will continue as it is because that is a day for private members' business and I do not want to disturb it.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 27th February 1958.

Shillong:

The 25th September, 1958.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary Legislative
Assembly, Assam.

Changamni

