

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

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 2 P.M. on Wednesday, the 9th December, 1959.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, B.L., Deputy Speaker, in the Chair,  
nine Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and eighty five Members.

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**Election of Speaker**

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** To-day the only item is the Election of the Speaker of the House.

As regards the election of Speaker of the House four nomination papers were received by the Secretary under sub-rule (2) of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly and I shall read out the particulars of these nomination papers as required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 7 thereof.

Nomination paper No.1 in favour of Shri Hiralal Patwari—Proposed by Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah and seconded by Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar and received on 8th December 1959.

Nomination paper No.2 in favour of Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury proposed by Shri Siddhinath Sarma and seconded by Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha and received on 8th December 1959.

Nomination Paper No.3. in favour of Mr. Jor Manik Siem proposed by Shri Hareswar Goswami and seconded by Shri Gourisankar Bhattacharyya and received on 8th December 1959.

Nomination paper No.4 in favour of Shri Hiralal Patwari proposed by Shri Tajuddin Ahmed and seconded by Shri Pakhirai Deka and received at 12.12 P.M. on 8th December 1959.

This nomination paper has been held invalid as it was received after the due time and was not dated.

As regards nomination papers Nos.1 and 3 which are in favour of Shri Hiralal Patwari and Mr. Jor Manik Siem respectively their respective proposers having withdrawn the same yesterday, Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury being the only candidate duly nominated, I declare him to have been elected unopposed as Speaker of this august House.

Friends, it is great pleasure to me, to repeat again, it is indeed a very happy occasion for me to-day to declare to the House that Shri Choudhury has been elected unopposed as Speaker of this House, and I have no doubt

that we will have in Shri Choudhury an august person to be the Speaker of this House, and I now request the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition to conduct him to the Chair.

(Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury was conducted to the Chair by the Leader of the House, Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha accompanied by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya on behalf of the Opposition.)

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to convey to you my greetings and felicitations on your being elected as the Speaker of this august House. I am very glad, Sir, that the election has been unanimous. This itself shows the amount of confidence which you command not only from this side of the House but also of the Members sitting opposite. I have no doubt in my mind that this honour has gone to a worthy person. I feel grateful to all the Members of this House, more particularly, the Members of the Opposition, for setting up a healthy convention in electing the Speaker of the House unanimously.

You are a man of vast experience in various fields of public life. Besides your experience as a Member of this House for more than one term and working for some time as a Parliamentary Secretary and also as a Minister of the Government of Assam, you held the high post in the State as the President of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and also as the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee. The nature of your present responsibility will be to some extent different but nevertheless with all your past honours, achievements and experiences I have no doubt that this House will always get the best guidance from you. In fairness to your predecessor I must say that in spite of his young age, he conducted the proceedings of this House in so dignified and just manner that it received wide appreciation. Sir, you as the Speaker, the guardian of the rights and privileges of this House, have a very onerous duty. I need hardly mention the necessity of proper and effective functioning of the Legislature for the success of democracy. For democracy, Legislature is a sacred institution. For Assam, the Assam Legislative Assembly is an institution where representatives of about a crore of people meet to discuss the burning problems of the State to find out ways and means for solving them for the best interest of the people.

With you, Sir, in this august Chair we all hope and believe that the rights and privileges of every Member of this House will be safeguarded and you will maintain an even balance and uphold the prestige and dignity of the House.

On behalf of the Party which I represent and also as the Leader of the House and myself, I offer you full co-operation in the discharge of your onerous and responsible duties of the Speaker of this House and I hope that the same co-operation would be forthcoming from all parties and every individual Member of this House.

With these words, Sir, I again convey to you our greetings and felicitations on your assumption of the office of the Speaker of this House and we wish you all success.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I offer you my respectful congratulations on your being unanimously elected to this exalted, responsible and delicate position. I do hope and trust that you will carry forward the high traditions that

have been established by your predecessors. Those of us who have seen your work inside and outside this House know your cool judgment, serenity of disposition, extraordinary spirit of accommodation, strong sense of humour and remarkable contribution to the evolution of rule by Committees, especially as the Chairman of several Select Committees. I have no doubt whatsoever that you will give able guidance to this House.

You are the custodian not only of the rights and liberties of this House, but of the whole country. Rights and liberties of the common man are safe as long as the rights and liberties of this House remain intact. The executive by its very nature is prone to be impatient. You shall have to see that your authority and the authority of the House is respective by the Executive.

While I do not support blind imitation of all the conventions of the British Parliament, I do feel that there is a healthy convention in England that whenever a Speaker is chosen, he ceases to belong to any party. This convention was introduced in India by the great Indian Speaker, late Vithalbhai Patel. When he was elected Speaker of the Indian Legislative Assembly, he asked his erstwhile leader Pandit Motilal Nehru, to erase his name from the Congress Party. Unfortunately, this convention has fallen into disuse. I am, however, not suggesting that you should abandon your ideology or political conviction. But I hope that you will henceforward detach yourself from participation in Congress Party proceedings and campaigns though you had once occupied the exalted position of a General Secretary of that great organisation. From today you shall cease to be a party man in the general sense of the term. I shall expect you rather to be more solicitous of the rights of the Opposition particularly in view of the mammoth majority of the Government party. I have no doubt that you will do so according to your lights, but I have laid particular stress on this because it is the essence of parliamentary work that people who differ even strongly should have full opportunity to express their opinions fully, and at the same time to bear no malice or ill-will against each other.

I wish you a very glorious career as Speaker of this House and I assure you that you will have our willing, spontaneous and loving co-operation in the discharge of your onerous duties.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Sir, I, on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, congratulate you and through me the Leader of the Opposition has expressed his profound regret for not being able to congratulate you personally as he is very ill, on your being elected as the Speaker on this august House unanimously. We are glad at long last a convention has been created for electing a Speaker without any contest through mutual discussion between the party leaders. This is what it ought to be. For the office of the Speaker is a most responsible one and the person elected to this office should enjoy everyone's confidence.

Sir, from today you do not belong to any party and you will have to treat every Member of this august House on equal footing irrespective of his or her party affiliation or creed. The dignity of the House mainly rests on you and you are the custodian of the rights and privileges of this House. This high position can only be upheld if the occupant does not

care for anybody's favour however highly placed he may be. In this House there is none who is higher than you.

Secondly, Sir, our democracy is still in its infancy. We have a great task before us in making everybody feel that our democracy is not at all formal but very real. For that we shall have to create healthy democratic conventions so that people may feel the real taste and essence of democracy. This task becomes very difficult when the House is not equally poised and the opposition's numerical strength is not considerable and its just demands are likely to be drowned by the chorus sound of an overwhelming majority. It is then, Sir, it will be your sacred duty to uphold the right of those who are numerically weak but just in their demands.

Sir, you are a tried soldier of the freedom's struggle and you have gone through various and varied experiences in your political life. You have been able to prove your merit in various fields of activity and I have no doubt under your stewardship we shall be able to continue to develop the democratic traditions which this House has set up up till now. We wish you all the best in this great endeavour and assure our full co-operation.

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Sir, I also would like to offer my congratulations to you on your being elected unopposed to this exalted and delicacy and highly honourable position.—a position of great responsibility in democratic countries different parties with different ideologies grow in the hands of the people. Though the ruling party commanding the confidence of the major section of the people rules, still other parties should also be allowed to grow. At a time, Sir, when military dictatorship is raising head in different parts of the world we should endeavour to uphold the democratic traditions in India. So, Sir, I hope that all the political parties whatever their strength might be here will get equal opportunity and as well as the independent Members will get the same consideration at your hand in this central institution.

### **Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):**

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय !

आपके अप्रतिद्वंद्वित रूप से इस विधानसभा के अध्यक्ष निर्वाचित होने से हमें अपार प्रसन्नता है। इसके लिये हम आप को हार्दिक वधाई देते हैं। जहाँतक इस प्रान्त के सवालालत हैं, मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि यहाँ किसम किसम के संप्रदाय हैं, विभिन्न भाषा और धर्मके लोगों का यहाँ बसबास है। इसलिये हमारी जिम्मेदारी भी बहुत है। अलावा इसके, एक ओर पाकिस्तान और दूसरी ओर चीनीओं की समस्याएँ हमारे सिरपर मंडारी रही हैं। इस हाल में आप के चुने जाना हमारे लिये गौरव की बात है। हमें पूरी आशा है कि आप की देखरेख में हमारी सारी समस्याओं के समाधान होने में बहुत बड़ी सहायता होगी।

आप की विचार धारा से हम भली-भाँति परिचित हैं। हमें आशा ही नहीं बल्कि पूरा विश्वास है कि आप अपनी शासन-पद्धति और उदार विचारधारा से सदन की प्रत्येक पार्टी और व्यक्ति को प्रसन्न कर सकेंगे। साथ ही आप हरेक के हक़ों की रक्षा कर सकेंगे।

**Shri MOHENDRA MOHON CHOUDHURY (Speaker)** : Hon'ble Friends, you have to-day elected me to a very dignified office. This office had been occupied before me by many eminent and esteemed leaders of our State. In their comparison I feel very small. I am very conscious about my limitations and failings. I am fully aware that by myself I won't be able to keep upto the standard my predecessors in this office had built. But I am confident that the co-operation and assistance you all have so kindly extended to me will lighten my burden and will give me courage and strength to discharge the responsibilities which you have so kindly bestowed on me. As the Speaker of this House it has become an obligation on me to safeguard the rights and interests and privileges of the hon. Members individually and the House collectively and to keep upto the traditions as far this House has built, free from all considerations. I shall always endeavour to treat all Members irrespective of their party affiliations on equal footing and it shall always be my duty to see that nobody in this House can ever accuse me against any discriminatory treatment.

I have heard with all attention the blessings you have showered on me and the kind words you have uttered about me. In my political life I have been playing the role of the ball in a football match kicked from one position to the other, sometimes with my consent and sometimes against it. I do not yet know whether I have accepted this Office willingly or not, but this much is certain that circumstances had so conspired that I found no other alternative than to accept it. I find my burden lighter and my heart feel relieved after hearing your benedictions and advices. I hope I shall never be deprived from your co-operation and good will so long I am in this Office.

Once again I express my sense of gratefulness to you friends for this signal honour you have conferred on me by electing me unanimously to this High Office.

Now the allotted business for this House is over and I adjourn the House till 10 A.M. tomorrow.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 10th December, 1959.

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

1. The Anatomy of the Human Body
2. The Principles of Anatomy and Physiology
3. The Elements of Zoology
4. The Principles of Botany
5. The Principles of Geology
6. The Principles of Meteorology
7. The Principles of Astronomy
8. The Principles of Natural Philosophy
9. The Principles of Mathematics
10. The Principles of Logic
11. The Principles of Ethics
12. The Principles of Political Economy
13. The Principles of Law
14. The Principles of History
15. The Principles of Education
16. The Principles of Medicine
17. The Principles of Surgery
18. The Principles of Veterinary Medicine
19. The Principles of Agriculture
20. The Principles of the Arts and Crafts