

Legislative Assembly
Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

MARCH SESSION

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The 16th March, 1973



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**Proceedings of the Fourth Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the Fifth General Election
under Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitu-
tion of India**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Dispur (Gauhati) at 9 A. M. on Friday, the 16th March, 1973.

PRESENT

Shri R. C. Barooah, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, 11 (eleven) Ministers, 3 (three) Ministers' of State and 82 (eighty-two) Members'.

Mr. SPEAKER—Hon'ble Members present, the Governor is addressing the House to-day at 9-10 A.M. He is coming by the Eastern Gate of the Assembly premises at 9-05 A.M. Myself, Deputy Speaker and the Secretary will be going to receive him at the Gate. The instructions as to how the Governor is to be received in the House have been laid on each Member's table. As soon as he comes, I think, we should comply with these instructions.

With your permission now, I leave the House to receive the Governor at the Gate.

(Hon'ble Speaker then left the House and came again escorting the Governor)

**Address by the Governor under Art. 176(i) of the
Constitution of India**

Mr. SPEAKER—I now request the Governor to address the House.

শ্রীগোবী শংকৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য—

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজিৰ এই অধিবেশনত ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই ভাষণ দিয়াৰ কোনো প্ৰয়োজন আমি নেদেখোঁ। কাৰণ বছৰৰ পিছত বছৰ ধৰি অধিবেশনৰ আদিতে বাজেট উত্থাপন নকৰা বাজেট অধিবেশনত ৰাজ্যপালে ভাষণ দিয়াৰ নিদৰ্শন দেখুৱা হৈছে। ভাষণ দিয়া সম্পৰ্কে তেখেতৰ সাংবিধানিক অধিকাৰ আছে সঁচা; কিন্তু আজিৰ সদনত ৰাজ্যৰ বাজেটখনো উত্থাপন কৰিব লাগিছিল। যদি ৰাজ্যপালে আজিৰ সদনত ভাষণ পাঠ কৰিবলগীয়া হয় তেন্তে আমি সদনত থকাটো সম্ভৱ পৰ নহব। কাৰণ আমাৰ যি নিয়মাবলী আছে সেই নিয়মাবলীৰ ১৩৯ ধাৰা অগ্ৰাহ্য কৰা হৈছে। যেতিয়ালৈকে মাৰ্চ মাহৰ ভিতৰতে বাজেট দাখিল কৰা হ'ব বুলি চৰকাৰে নকয় তেতিয়ালৈকে ৰাজ্যপালৰ প্ৰতি সন্মান, শ্ৰদ্ধা আৰু ভক্তি দেখুৱাই কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছে। যে ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণ দিয়াৰ কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাই। যদি ইয়াৰ ব্যতিক্ৰম হয় তেন্তে আমি ইয়াত থকাৰ কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER—Is it a point of order.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : This is a point of order. The effect that the Governor is not necessary here to address the House today.

Mr. SPEAKER : I shall request the House not to disturb the Governor. I will follow the programme of the House.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : I am raising a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER : I point out Article 176 of the constitution. Under this Article, the Governor is entitled to address the House and there is no connection between the Governor's address and the budget.

* **Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA :** But we do not agree to this. There was no emergency to attempt to place the vote on accounts without placing the actual budget. Sir, I remember that we met the Governor in the month of October and requested him to convene an emergent session of the House to discuss the situation that had arisen at that time but the Governor replied that no such situation as to convene an emergent session had arisen at that moment. Now, this is a budget session and the Governor has no moral, legal or Constitutional right to address the House and to deprive us, the Members of this House and the public in general of knowing the real facts as regards the financial position of the State as well as the administrative lapses that have taken place during the last disturbances and the chaotic situation prevailed in the State. By doing so, we feel that the Governor is depriving us of our legitimate right that has been granted to us by the Constitution of India. Now, in spite of this, if you allow the Governor to address the House, then with all respect to you, we are very much sorry, on this auspicious occasion, to say that we will be compelled to leave the House in protest.

Mr. SPEAKER : No, no, I won't allow. Please take your seat.

Shrimati RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI : No, Sir, If the Governor addresses this Assembly we will say that the Governor will encourage the mistakes and irregularities that they are committing deliberately.

Mr. SPEAKER : If you want to do it, you will have to do it by bringing in a substantive motion.

Shrimati RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI : We must know the actual budget and the actual policy of the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER : I will not allow any discussion on the matter. I am now requesting the Governor to address the House.

শ্রীসোনেশ্বৰ বৰা : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বছৰি বছৰি এনেকুৱা হৈ থাকিলে পাঁচ বাজেট নিয়মিত ভাৱে আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ কেতিয়াও সুবিধা নহ'বগৈ। গতিকে জ্যপালে এনেদৰে বাজেট অধিবেশন উদ্বোধন কৰাটো অনাৱশ্যক। গতিকে ৰাজ্যপালে ভাষণ দিব নোলাগে।

(এই স্তৰতে ৰাজ্যপালে ভাষণ দিবলৈ চঠিয় হয়।)

Mr. SPEAKER : Under the provisions of the Constitution of India, the Governor will address the House.

শ্রীগৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য : তেনেহলে আমি ইয়াত থাকিব নোৱাৰিম। যদি আমাৰ অসন্মত ৰাজ্যপালে ভাষণ দিয়ে তেন্তে আমি সেই ভাষণ শুনিব নোৱাৰিম আৰু আমি সদন কক্ষ ত্যাগ কৰিম। আমি আমাৰ অসন্মত ৰাজ্যপালে ভাষণ দিয়াৰ কাৰণে তাৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰি সদন কক্ষ ত্যাগ কৰিলো। (বিৰোধী দল সদনৰ বাহিৰলৈ ওলাই যায়) আৰু ৰাজ্যপালে ইংৰাজীতে ভাষণ পাঠ কৰে।

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

GOVERNOR OF ASSAM

Shri Braj Kumar Nehru.

SPEAKER

Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah, B. L.

DEPUTY SPEAKER

Shri Golok Chandra Rajbanshi, B. L.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

1. Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha, ... Appointment, Home Political, Chief Minister. Finance, General Administration, Secretariat Administration, Flood Control and Irrigation, Matters relating to Election information, and Public Relations, Planning and Development, Statistics, General Co-ordination of all Departments and any matter not allotted to any other Minister.
 2. Shri Syed Ahmed Ali, ... Law, Relief and Rehabilitation, Minister. Municipal Administration, Town and Country Planning Panchayat, including Community Development, Parliamentary Affairs, Registration and Stamps.
 3. Shri Paramananda Gogoi, ... Revenue and Forests. Minister.
 4. Shri Gajen Tanti, Minister ... Labour and Co-operation.
 5. Shri Mohammed Idris, ... Industries including Cottage Industries, Power Mines and Minerals Sericulture and Weaving, Trade and Commerce and Wakf Property. Minister.
 6. Shri Mahitosh Purkayastha, ... Supply, Printing and Stationery, Minister. Khadi and Village Industries, Political Sufferers and Excise.
- Dr. Lutfur Rahman, Minister P. W. D. (R.&B.)

8. Shri Upendra Das, Minister. .. Agriculture and Fisheries
9. Shri Uttam Chandra Brahma, ... Social Welfare, Welfare of Backward
Minister. Classes and Soil Conservation.
10. Shri Harendra Nath Taluk- ... Education, Students and Youth
dar, Minister. Welfare, Cultural Affairs, Trans-
port and Tourism.
11. Shri Chatrasing Teron, ... Health and Family Planning, Tribal
Minister. Areas Department.
12. Shri Joy Bhadra Hagjer, ... Live stock and Veterinary, Jail and
Minister. Minority Affairs.

MINISTER OF STATES

- Shri Hiteswar Saikia ... Home, Health and Family Planning,
Education, Information and Public
Relations, Youth Welfare and
Cultural Affairs.
- Shri Bishnu Prasad ... Flood Control and Irrigation, Power,
Industries, Trade and Commerce.
- Smti. Swarna Probha Mahanta ... Social Welfare, Sericulture and
Weaving.

MEMBERS OF ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1972

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| 1. Shri Abdul Hamid Majumdar | 10. Shri Ataur Rahman |
| 2. Shri Abdul Hannan Choudhury | 11. Shri Atul Chandra Saikia |
| 3. Moulana Abdul Jalil Choudhry | 12. Shri Ayodhya Ram Das |
| 4. Shri Abdul Muqtadir Choudhury | 13. Shri Badan Chandra Talukdar |
| 5. Shri Abdul Rahman Choudhury | 14. Shri Bahadur Basumatari |
| 6. Shri Abul Hussain Mir | 15. Shri Balabhadra Das |
| 7. Shri Abul Kasem | 16. Shri Bazlul Basit |
| 8. Shri Ambarish Chandra Lahiri | 17. Dr. Bhumidhar Barman |
| 9. Shrimati Anandi Bala Rava | 18. Shri Bijoy Chandra Sarmah |

19. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique
20. Shri Biren Ram Phookan
21. Shri Bishnu Prasad
22. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya
23. Shri Chandra Bahadur Chetri
24. Shri Charan Narzary
25. Shri Chatra Gopal Karmakar
26. Shri Chatrasing Teron
27. Shri Debendra Nath Bora
28. Shri Dhaniram Rongpi
29. Shri Dhruba Barua
30. Shri Digendra Chandra Purkayastha.
31. Shri Dipak Moormoo
32. Shri Dulal Chandra Barua
33. Shri Dulal Chandra Khound
34. Shri Gajen Tanti
35. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya
36. Shri Ghana Kanta Boro
37. Shri Giasuddin Ahmed
38. Shri Girindra Chandra Chaudhury.
39. Shri Golap Chandra Barua
40. Shri Golok Chandra Patgiri
41. Shri Golok Chandra Rajbanshi
42. Shri Govinda Chandra Bora
43. Shri Gunendra Nath Pandit
44. Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar
45. Shri Hashimuddin Ahmed
46. Shri Hiranya Bora
47. Shri Hiteswar Saikia
48. Shri Idris Ali Fakir
49. Shri Indreswar Khaund
50. Shri Jagadish Das
51. Shri Jagannath Sinha
52. Shri Jalal Uddin
53. Shri Janakinath Handique
54. Shri Jay Chandra Bora
55. Shri Joybhadra Hagjer
56. Shri Kabir Chandra Roy Pradhani
57. Shri Kandarpa Kumar Das
58. Shri Kehoram Hazarika
59. Shri Khogen Gogoi
60. Shri Koshewar Bora
61. Dr. Krishna Kanta Lahkar
62. Shri Kshirode Chandra Saikia
63. Shri Lakshmi Kanta Saikia
64. Shri Lakshya Nath Doley
65. Shri Lila Kanta Bora
66. Shri Lila Kanta Das
67. Dr. Lutfur Rahman
68. Shri Mahammad Idris
69. Shri Mal Chandra Pegu
70. Shri Malia Tanti
71. Shri Manabendra Nath Sarma
72. Shri Mathias Tudu
73. Shri Mahammad Umaruddin
74. Shri Mohitosh Purkayastha

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| 75. Shri Nagendra Baruah | 96. Shri Santi Ranjan Dasgupta |
| 76. Shri Narad Kumar | 97. Shri Santosh Kumar Roy |
| 77. Shri Nurul Haque Choudhury | 98. Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha |
| 78. Shri Nurul Islam | 99. Shrimati Satyavati Goswami |
| 79. Shri Paramananda Gogoi | 100. Shri Shubhankar Singha |
| 80. Shri Pitsing Konwar | 101. Shri Soneswar Bora |
| 81. Shri Prabin Kumar Chaudhury | 102. Shri Sudersan Das |
| 82. Shrimati Pranita Talukdar | 103. Shri Suranjan Nandy |
| 83. Shri Premodhar Bora | 104. Dr. Surendra Nath Das |
| 84. Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi | 105. Shri Surendra Nath Das |
| 85. Shri Pushpadhar Chaliha | 106. Shrimati Swarna Probha Mahanta. |
| 86. Shri Rajendra Nath phukan | 107. Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur |
| 87. Shri Ram Chandra Sarmah | 108. Shri Syed Ahmed Ali |
| 88. Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah | 109. Shrimati Tarulata Bora |
| 89. Shri Ramesh Chandra Saharia | 110. Shri Tarun Chandra Chutiya |
| 90. Shrimati Rebati Das | 111. Shri Tulsi Das |
| 91. Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki | 112. Shri Upendra Das |
| 92. Dr. Robindra Kumar Goswami | 113. Shri Upendra Nath Sanatan |
| 93. Shri Romesh Mohan Kouli | 114. Shri Uttam Chandra Brahma |
| 94. Vacant | |
| 95. Shri Sai Sai Terang | |

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

1. Shri Ataur Rahman.
2. Shri Puspadhar Chaliha.
3. Smti. Renuka Devi Barkataki.
4. Shri Giasuddin Ahmed.

Secretary,
Shri P. D. BARUA, B.A., LL.B.

Chief Reporter, *cum*-Editor
of Debates.
Shri L. K. SAIKIA, B. A.

(The Opposition Members, except the Communist Group and **Shri JANAKINATH HANDIQUE** staged a walk out at 9. 14 A. M.)

The Governor begins his speech.

Mr. SPEAKER and Hon'ble Members,

I am really happy to have this opportunity of addressing this august House on this momentous occasion of its first session at the temporary Capital of Assam. As the House is aware, following reorganisation of the State of Assam and creation of the State of Meghalaya it became imperative for the Assam Government to make arrangements for their functioning from a suitable place within their political and constitutional Jurisdiction. The State Government, accordingly made a declaration on the floor of the House on 7th June, 1972 that it would be their endeavour to hold the Budget Session of the Assembly at Gauhati.

It is heartening to note that State Government have been able to fulfil their assurance by making temporary arrangements for holding the Session of the Assembly at Dispur.

Temporary Capital

The arrangements made provide for the temporary functioning of the Assembly and the Secretariat at Dispur and the construction programme was designed to build within a short time, the required number of Assam Type buildings. These buildings will ultimately cater to Government's other requirements for office and residential accommodation of which there is already acute shortage besides meeting to some extent, the rapidly growing needs of the greater Gauhati area. The Master Plan for a small but modern township at Dispur provides for a sizeable residential colony besides the Secretariat and other buildings.

A serious effort has been made to provide the minimum necessary facilities for functioning of the Assembly and the Secretariat without any undue difficulty. Obviously however, there will be many deficiencies and short-comings in different directions. The State Government hope that considering the background in which the Project had to be undertaken and the limitations from which it would inevitably suffer, Hon'ble members and all those who have to work at Dispur will kindly put up with such difficulties as they may have to face.

In conformity with Government's policy to maximise employment opportunities for the educated unemployed, a large number of unemployed young men have been involved in the construction work. Unemployed engineers are being especially encouraged to involve themselves in a big way in this construction programme. It is the Government's desire to have all works under this construction programme executed, as far as practicable, through the agency of unemployed youths. In that back ground, all possible facilities by way of timely supply of scarce materials, regular payment of bills etc. have been provided so that full advantage can be taken of this opportunity

[16th March]

for self-employment and also acquire valuable experience of profitable building work. Arrangements have also been made to ensure utilisation of the products of local industries and use handloom products to the maximum possible extent.

The State Government also propose to adopt the same policy, in respect of other construction programmes as far as practicable in future.

It is gratifying to note that the challenge posed by this great undertaking has been courageously faced by all concerned and considerable progress already achieved through hard and determined work despite severe constraints.

As known to the House, it was also indicated by my Government that the location of the State's Capital would be finalised on the basis of Project Reports to be prepared for the Silghat and Chandrapur areas. The Government of India was requested to constitute a Technical Team of Experts for detailed examination of these two sites and an independent Expert Team is due to take up that work soon.

Medium of Instruction and incidents

The controversy over the medium in the University stage had caused serious concern during the last few months. In view of the extreme importance of this matter and its highly sensitive character, this House had also taken the matter into consideration and a serious attempt was made through a unanimous Resolution passed on 23rd September, 1972 to provide some guide-lines for a suitable approach to this problem. That Resolution, which will come before the House, did not however end this controversy and the agitation thereon was intensified which necessitated a review of the entire question by my Government. After series of discussion, the State Government formulated their stand on the subject, and it was clarified in the Chief Minister's statement on November 11, 1972. Although the Chief Minister's Statement led to an easing of the tension and the controversy, by and large, ended, a sense of grievance and misgivings continued to be expressed particularly in the Cachar District. The issues involved are being subjected to further discussions and negotiations with leaders of public opinion in Cachar and it is hoped that a satisfactory solution on this delicate issue will soon be found to satisfy the hopes and aspirations of different sections of people inhabiting the State.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the medium controversy and agitations thereon disturbed the law and order position in some parts of the State. Passions had been roused and violent incidents took place in certain parts of the State. Anti-social elements also exploited the situation and many houses were burnt, properties damaged and destroyed. A number of valuable lives were lost and assault and injury caused to many others. Severe hardships had been caused to many people and normal life seriously affected in many parts of the State during this period.

In all 33 deaths took place in course of the disturbances under different circumstances including three deaths due to Police firing. We sincerely mourn these unfortunate deaths and convey our condolences and

sympathies to the bereaved families. We also express our sincere grief and sympathy to those who had otherwise to suffer during the disturbances.

My Government dealt with the situation with courage and firmness and took all necessary steps to maintain peace and tranquility.

A large number of persons were arrested in connection with specific offences and the preventive sections of law duly applied to take into custody many others. As many as 90 persons were also detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

In order to intensify police measures, additional battalions of armed police had to be brought from outside the State. Despite strict measures taken by my Government, a number of major incidents took place which caused serious public concern. Two such incidents, one at Kharupetia and the other at Hojai on 5th October, 1972 and 7th October, 1972 respectively, leading to the death of two students, raised considerable public controversy. As these incidents were matters of great public importance, the State Government appointed a Commission headed by a High Court Judge under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 to hold enquiry into the circumstances and other allied matters relating to those incidents. The scope of this enquiry was subsequently extended to include some other major incidents in Golaghat and Dibrugarh areas as well. A few more incidents have also been brought within the scope of suitable enquiries by three more Commissions.

The State Government have also appointed a Committee headed by the Chairman of the Board of Revenue to hold enquiries into administrative lapses, if any, in maintaining law and order in the districts and providing protection of life and property.

It is hoped that the results of these enquiries will throw new light on incidents that took place during the disturbance and enable my Government to take effective steps to prevent recurrence of such events.

Relief Measures

In view of hardships caused during the disturbances, my Government had to undertake relief measures on a fairly wide scale. Cash grants were paid to some of the families of those who lost their lives during the disturbances. For the families affected by arson and looting, the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers were authorised to sanction immediate gratuitous relief besides rehabilitation assistance upto Rs. 750 (Rupees seven hundred and fifty) per family. The District and Subdivisional Officers were asked to send their recommendations for immediate action by Government in respect of those cases where higher amount of rehabilitation assistance were considered necessary. They were also directed to open relief camps wherever necessary and issue rations at the same rate as prescribed for Bangladesh Evacuees in 1971. Altogether, 26 relief camps were opened to accommodate about 11,000 inmates.

It was gratifying to note that in many cases the local people of the affected areas took the initiative in actively helping the recens

truction of houses with donations of materials and voluntary labour. More than 13 lakhs of Rupees have already been placed at the disposal of district officer for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people. The progress of rehabilitation of affected families has also been satisfactory.

Although the process of rehabilitation of affected families reached, by and large, a final stage following return of normalcy all over the State, the return of students who left their institution took more time and my Government had to make special efforts and arrangement in that connection. Attendance of Bengali students in the Engineering and Medical colleges recorded in particular an appreciable fall. Although attendance in the engineering and other institutions steadily rose, improvement in the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, was not upto expectation. As a special measure of help and encouragement to returning students, my Government appointed Liaison Officers at Gauhati and Dibrugarh and the District Administration was directed to give all necessary assistance to the returning students. Appeals had been issued from the Government as well as public organisation for the expeditious return of the displaced students to their respective institutions.

My Government sincerely hope that the displaced students will find it possible to resume their academic activities in their respective institutions in Assam without further delay,—

While the situation was returning to complete normalcy and attendance of students was appreciably rising, an unfortunate incident in the Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh concerning some returning students from Tripura caused a set-back to that process. Strong measures were immediately undertaken by the administration and 29 students of the College arrested. The College Authorities suspended a number of students and removed some of them from the Student's Union and monitorship.

This deplorable incident was condemned immediately by many public and student organisations like the All Dibrugarh Student's Union, the Student Members of the Dibrugarh Peace Committee, the Assam Medical College Teachers Council, the Dibrugarh Bar Association and the Dibrugarh District Journalists Association. This reprehensible action on the part of a few misguided elements created great resentment and public indignation was immediately expressed in no uncertain terms. Security measures were tightened all over and the State Government intensified all possible measures to expedite the return of the displaced students to their respective institutions in Assam.

Our border with Nagaland caused some anxiety during recent months. As known to the House, four Interim Agreements were signed by the two Chief Secretaries of Assam and Nagaland Governments between March and May, 1972 covering the border areas between the Gekki Reserve Forest in the East and the Doyang Reserve Forest in the West. These Agreements were entered into for maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas.

These agreements led to a considerable lessening of tension and border were appreciably reduced, Subsequently however there were reports of some violations of the Interim Agreements from about the later part of October, 1972. My Government kept the Government of India

duly informed and the Adviser to the Home Ministry on Assam-Nagaland Boundary also paid a visit to those areas in February, 1973.

On 8th March, 1973 thereafter, the Chief Ministers of Assam and Nagaland met at Chumukedema in Nagaland, and besides discussions between them, there was a discussion at the official level in the presence of the Chief Ministers. It was agreed that the Interim Agreements should be adhered to and any difficulty in the working thereof should be immediately looked into and removed. It has also been proposed to have further discussions between the two Chief Ministers some time in April, 1973 at Kohima.

It is the sincere desire of my Government to resolve problems with the neighbouring States through mutual discussion and understanding. The officials of the Assam Government have been holding discussions with the Arunachal Pradesh Authorities for speedy demarcation of the boundaries between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. This demarcation was earlier agreed upon and the Survey of India entrusted with the work in collaboration with the officials of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Although progress of demarcation was not upto expectation for some time, steps have been taken already to ensure early demarcation of the boundaries.

State Finance

Soon after the present Government assumed office, an unprecedented financial crisis overtook the State due to a major change in the policy of granting overdrafts from the Reserve Bank to the State Governments. The genesis and gravity of that crisis was fully described in the Finance Minister's last Budget Speech. Although the financial crisis had posed serious threats to implementation of important development programmes and to the smooth running of the administration as such, I am happy to be able to tell the House that the position could be stabilised to some extent within a short time because of strenuous efforts made by my Government in that behalf. Strict financial discipline, was enforced, all possible economy effected in public expenditure and top priority was also given to avoidance of wasteful spending. However, the position continues to cause anxiety and constant vigilance requires to be maintained.

Royalty

The House may be glad to learn that as a result of persistent efforts made by my Government, the rate of royalty on crude oil produced in the State has been raised from the now prevailing rate of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per tonne. The enhanced rate of royalty will be effective till 31st March 1979.

Anti Corruption measures

During 1972, the Anti-Corruption Branch held enquiries into 786 cases, out of which 117 cases were disposed of during the year. In 99 of these 117 cases, the allegations could not be substantiated. Departmental action was recommended in 17 cases involving 26 gazetted and 14 non-gazetted officers. At the end of 1972, 669 cases were pending for enquiry with the Branch. Pre-occupation of the

police officers with law and order duties during the last quarter of 1972 stood in the way of speedier completion of enquiries. The State Government are actively considering some proposals to further improve the working of the Anti-Corruption Organisation and it is hoped that concrete steps towards that end will be possible within a short time.

Police

The need for modernising the Police Force and looking after the welfare of the police personnel cannot be over-emphasised. The Assam Police Commission made many important recommendations in that behalf, and a scheme was also submitted. The scheme submitted by the Police Commission is under examination and a Special Cell has been created for the purpose. As the overall financial implications of the Commission's recommendations would be very high, the State Government are taking up schemes according to priority and plan a phased implementation of their recommendations.

Flood and natural calamities

There were two waves of major floods in 1972. The first wave came in the later part of June, the worst affected districts being Nowgong, Kamrup and Cachar. Lakhimpur, Darrang, Sibsagar and Goalpara districts also experienced these floods which caused serious damage to crops and properties besides causing suffering to lakhs of people. The embankment from Kharikotia to Jogijan in Nowgong District was over-topped at many places with a large number of breaches. The Army had to assist the Civil Administration in relief and rescue work in the Nowgong District and 21 persons lost their lives in this district. The Second wave of floods came in the last week of July. In this wave, almost all the rivers in the Brahmaputra Valley were in high floods and most of the rivers over-flooded their banks. Due to over-topping of the embankments, a large number of breaches also occurred. The worst affected districts during these floods were Lakhimpur, Kamrup and Goalpara. For more than 10 days from 26th July 1972 the Brahmaputra was above danger level in its entire length throughout the State. In the Lakhimpur District, the Subansiri, Dikrong and Ranganadi rivers exceeded their previous highest records. All means of communication were badly disrupted for a considerable period necessitating Army assistance in rescue and relief operations and air dropping of food in isolated pockets. This wave of floods also caused severe damage to life and property in the Kamrup District, particularly in the Gauhati Subdivision where due to sudden breach of the Puthimari Embankment at Athara, several villages were badly affected and 18 lives lost. Erosion took place in Fakirganj and Thusipara areas of the Goalpara District. The entire Majuli and some areas of Jorhat and Golaghat Subdivisions together with a part of the Darrang District and large areas of Morigaon Subdivision were also badly affected.

The Hon'ble Members are aware that a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri D. N. Hazarika is presently engaged in enquiring into the causes of breach and damage to embankments.

These two floods affected an area of 27.10 lakh acres with a population of 32.32 lakhs. Crops like Ahu, Jute, Sali, Bao together with Sali seedlings were damaged over an area of 9.34 lakh acres. A large number of dwelling houses were fully or partially damaged. Cattle mortality was assessed at about 16,037. The number of deaths including those missing rose to as many as 116. The total loss to crops, houses, public institutions, cattle, etc., was assessed initially at Rs. 23.60 crores.

Apart from floods, cyclone and hailstorm also affected certain areas of the State. It may be noted that a severe cyclone and hailstorm passed over the Gauhati Subdivision on 18th April 1972 causing serious damage.

At the instance of my Government, the Government of India sent a team of officials to visit the affected areas and the Government of India on their report agreed to sanction Rs. 165.40 lakhs as grant under relief items and Rs. 25.00 lakhs as loan.

As suggested by the Central Team, a State Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister has been constituted to review the flood fore-casting measures, the flood protection system and to draw up comprehensive schemes for the rehabilitation of people affected by natural calamities.

The State Government sanctioned about Rs. 130 lakhs under the relief items in the shape of gratuitous relief provision for drinking water, seed grants, rehabilitation grant, test relief etc. for the assistance of the victims flood and other natural calamities. Cattle loan of about Rs. 12.6 lakhs and rehabilitation loan of Rs. 7.83 lakhs has also been sanctioned under the loan items.

In the early part of the year, scarcity conditions prevailed in Darapathar and Nokhuti areas of the Nowgong District, and the Sarupathar area of the Golaghat Subdivision passed through a period of drought. A sum of Rs. 15,000 as gratuitous relief and Rs. 15,000 as test relief grant had been sanctioned for the relief of the affected people of those areas. An amount of Rs. 5,000 was also sanctioned as gratuitous relief for helping the tribal people of the bordering hills of Cachar in conditions of scarcity caused by earlier loss and damage to crop by cyclone, hailstorm, etc.

Planning Board

As the House is aware, my Government have set up a State Planning Board under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, with which Economists and Administrators are associated as Members. The organisation for the Board is being built up and high level expertise in the fields of Agriculture, Irrigation and Industry, sectors vital to the economy of Assam, is also sought to be provided.

Although Assam has rich resources, due to historic and geographical factors, there obtains a wide disparity between the economic levels of other States and of Assam. This is reflected in the States

national income and *per capita* income. In the matter of social amenities for the people also, there is a wide disparity. Within the State as well, disparities exist between the Plains and Hill areas and between the more advanced sections of the population and others. The Planning Board has taken a view that atleast in a period of 15 years the disparities obtaining between Assam and the rest of India and those obtaining within the State should be wiped out through well conceived and feasible plans. Otherwise, we have accepted the approach to the Fifth Five-Year Plan formulated by the National Planning Commission which provides for growth with social justice, self-reliance, maximisation of employment and provision of social consumption needs, particularly of the weaker sections of the community.

Planning Strategy

Exercises for the preparation of an overall plan frame for 15 years and 5 years respectively, as also similar exercises for different sectors of the economy have already been started. A multi-level approach to planning has been adopted and Sub-divisional Planning Cells initially and Subdivisional Planning Councils and Boards subsequently will be involved in the process of planning at the Sub-divisional level. It is the intention to centre the Subdivision Planning machinery round the Mohukhuma Parishads and the Subdivisional Planning and Review Boards to be formed after elections under the new Panchayat Act. Guidelines for preparation of Sub-divisional Plans have been formulated and the orientation of those to be engaged in this work started. Area studies in the nature of techno-economic surveys for the two hill districts, industrial complex studies for upper and lower Assam and an urban growth study for the Gauhati area are to be taken up to provide a basis for better regional planning.

Although the overall plan frame as also the sectoral exercises will throw up some pattern of distribution of outlay, it is clear that in Assam's conditions the highest importance will have to be given to building up of an adequate infrastructure of communications, transport and power so as to offset the present geographic and other handicap from which the State is suffering. Agriculture will have to be given the greatest importance not only for maximising foodgrains production for the expending population but also to provide a diversified base for setting up agro-industries. In fact, a commission to probe the requirements of agriculture has already been set up and has started functioning. In the industries field, we have to make fullest use of our mineral and forest resources apart from the agricultural resources. Various studies are being taken up with the help of competent consultants for utilisation of these resources. Production of power is visualised not only for the requirements of the State but also for export for which there are favourable circumstances. In fact, with one of the largest power potential base existing in this part of the country it can be exploited to benefit both the State and national economics. For stabilisation of our agriculture, the maximum possible coverage of cultivated area with irrigation facilities as well as protection from floods will be aimed at. Special measures will have to be taken to develop the potential of backward areas of the State and provision will have to be made for stepping up living standard of the backward sections of the population. The basic minimum needs of the

people, particularly in the spheres of primary education, health, rural water-supply, rural roads and rural electrification will be provided in a way so as to progressively bring up the position to All-India standards.

North-Eastern Council and Regional Plan

As the House is aware, the North-Eastern Council was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 7th November, 1972 and for the co-ordinated development of the North-Eastern Region, the Prime Minister announced an allocation of Rs. 50 crores for a regional plan. We welcome the idea of co-ordinated regional development and will play our full part therein. Our view is that while the State Plan proper should provide for all the normal State plan schemes the regional plan provision should be utilised largely for supplementing the central allocations for development of rail, road, air and tele-communications beside, provision of regional, technical and research institutions and our proposals for regional development will be formulated accordingly. Since communications to periphery States in the North-Eastern Region lie mainly through Assam, we will have to play a substantial role in fulfilling the aims of the regional plan. Apart from co-ordination through the regional plan, we have also adopted the approach of entering into bilateral arrangements with neighbouring States for utilisation of natural resources for industrial and other projects for mutual benefit and, I am glad to say that, this approach is also acceptable to the neighbouring States with whom discussions have been held.

Annual Plan 1973-74

Against an annual plan outlay of Rs.40.67 crores for 1972-73, the outlay approved for the 1973-74 plan is Rs.52.97 crores. Besides, an additional outlay is expected for Brahmaputra flood Control, State Electricity Board and preparatory action for the Fifth five-Year Plan, etc. For a more vigorous implementation of the larger plan outlay for the coming year, procedural and other guidelines have been given to the concerned departments. These include advancing of the programme for sanction of schemes, the provision of action calendars, progress reporting and progress review, streamlining of material indenting and stock-piling and reorganisation of departments according to necessity. A full-fledged Irrigation Department to deal with all irrigation work and bifurcation of the Roads and Buildings components of the P.W.D., to give greater importance to building work, have been decided upon. The setting up of a department of Public Enterprises to formulate public sector policies and for constitution and training of managerial cadres and for review and appraisal of performance of the public sector undertakings is under consideration of the Government.

Agriculture

In the field of Agriculture, an important programme taken up during 1972-73 was the emergency Rabi production programme, the main objective of which was to increase food production in the context

of flood losses and to provide a firm base for rapid change-over in the cropping pattern from Kharif to Rabi. As a part of the emergency Rabi programme, the State had undertaken a special irrigation programme of a quick maturing type. Irrigation potential which is quite low in the State is proposed to be developed at a rapid pace. It is expected that with a large measure of central assistance and by a judicious and integrated programme of major and medium flow irrigation projects, lift irrigation schemes and through the installation of deep and shallow tubewells, irrigation facilities would be provided all over the State in about 15 years time. In order to look after all aspects of irrigation in the State it is proposed to set up a separate Irrigation Department as has been indicated earlier.

My Government are continuing to implement the special scheme for development of small, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers (SFDA/MFAL) which was started during 1971-72. Necessary motivation for enthusing people towards this scheme and an organisational frame-work for providing services and inputs required under this scheme are being provided.

Co-operation

In the field of Co-operation, my Government are continuing efforts towards ensuring of the qualitative growth of Co-operatives. As the honourable members are aware, 80 per cent of our villages have been covered by primary agricultural credit societies and there are large number of marketing, consumers, processing and hand-loom weaving co-operatives. Since majority of these Co-operative Societies are weak and dormant, the main task of my Government would be to strengthen and activate them rather than multiply the number of non-functioning societies.

Land Reforms

In any Plan for co-ordinated economic development Land Reforms play a very important role. The Land Reforms programme taken up by my Government includes, among other things, Ceiling on Land Holdings, a progressive Land Settlement Policy, Abolition of intermediaries, Tenancy Reforms and Consolidation of Holdings. During the last Budget Session of the Assembly, the Land Ceiling (Amendment) Bill was passed reducing the ceiling of agricultural holdings from 75 bighas to 50 bighas. In the same Bill the allowable area for orchards was reduced from 30 bighas to 15 bighas. Work of acquisition of lands found surplus under the existing Ceiling Act is in progress. Besides, as the House is aware, with a view to limiting the accumulation of property in other areas, my Government introduced a Bill, to prescribe the ceiling on urban immoveable property, the Bill has been referred to a Select Committee. My Government are considering strengthening of the Land Reform machinery so as to ensure implementation on a time-bound basis.

The new Land Settlement Policy envisaged by my Government is in conformity with the important objectives of raising production and improvement in the economic condition of the farmers. My Government have decided that land available for settlement will be settled, as far as possible, with Agricultural Farming Corporations of landless tillers. The Corporation will arrange supply of agricultural tools and implements, seeds, manures and irrigation needs of the farmers. There will be an integrated plan to raise the income of the farmers well above the poverty line. The main purpose of establishment of the Corporation is to modernise agricultural production in consonance with the principles of social justice. As the hon'able Members are aware, Agriculture Farming Corporations have already been inaugurated in Namdang R. F. (Dibrugarh), Panbari V. G. R. (Golaghat), Bhandara V. G. R. (Sibsagar) and Boginadi P. G. R. (North Lakhimpur).

Industrial Development

My Government's policy is to step up industrial production in a manner consistent with the generation of employment potential and utilisation of the same by the people of the State. As far as major Industrial projects are concerned, preliminary works for establishment of Bokajan Cement Factory, Ashok Paper Mills and Assam Petro-Chemical Project at Namrup have been started.

At Bongaigaon, the work in connection with the Petro-Chemical Complex in the Central Sector is to start very soon while steps towards the creation of a separate company to look after the affairs of the Bongaigaon Complex are being taken. Hindustan Paper Corporation is presently working out the details of the Nowgong and Cachar Paper Mills Projects. The Assam Industrial Development Corporation is currently engaged in planning work in connection with the Sugar Mill in Cachar, Power Tiller Project, Cigarette Manufacturing and a Jute Mill. My Government have also decided to set up some more Sugar Mills in the State and the A. I. D. C. has already applied for licenses for the same. Of the 3 Jute Mills proposed in the State, the Central Government have so far agreed to permit one Jute Mill. At the instance of the State Government the Government of India have taken over the closed Textile Unit of the Associated Industries (Assam) Ltd., at Chandrapur and reopened it, thus benefiting a sizeable number of workers. The State Government, have also taken up with the Government of India the issue of reopening the closed Chemical Unit of the Associated Industries. The Assam Tea Corporation Ltd. set up in 1971-72 has finalised purchase of 2 Tea Gardens already. The question of the taking over of sick tea gardens is under the consideration of my Government. For providing land to large, medium and small smaller industries, my Government have already taken steps for reserving and acquiring suitable plots in different parts of the State. My Government also plan to encourage the establishment of at least 20 small scale industrial units in each Subdivision.

Sericulture and Weaving

The age-old skills of the people in the fields of Sericulture and Hand-loom weaving are being encouraged by my Government. It has also been decided to increase the production of Eriand Muga Silkwith

a view to producing blended yarn with synthetic fibre to be produced out of the Petro-Chemical Complex. In this context a scheme for additional out put of 200 tonnes of silk over a period of six years beginning from 1971-72 has been drawn up. A new development in the Sericulture field, is the increased attention being given to the production of Tasar silk for which there are tremendous possibilities in the districts of North Cachar and Mikit Hills. The Development of Tasar silk will be a boon to the inhabitants of these backward districts.

Mineral Development

In the field of Geology and Mining my Government are engaged in a programme of detailed investigation of mineral and ground water resources throughout the State. Investigation of a number of important mineral occurrences such as kaolin and coal deposits at Siebhetta, base metal at Pancharatna, placer gold in the Subansiri, iron ores in Goalpara District and lime-stone in North Cachar Hills has been taken up. Emphasis is also being laid on coal exploitation in Uper Assam with a view to developing coal-based industries in the region as well as generation of Thermal Power.

Power

In the field of power, the Tinsukia and Dibrugarh Electricity Supply under-takings were taken over by my Government and handed over to the Assam State Electricity Board on 27th September 1972. A number of projects have also been taken up to augment power generation in the State. Besides my Government are lying special emphasis on rural electrification. The rate of electrifying villages is proposed to be speeded up during the Fifth Five-Year Plan and a number of schemes are being prepared for the purpose. The Chandrapur Thermal Power Project is expected to be inaugurated soon. This will add considerably to the power generation potential of the State.

Public Works

As has been indicated earlier the works relating to Roads are being separated from the works relating to Buildings with effect from the 1st April, 1973 to ensure better functioning of the Public Works Department. Besides, the Department has in hand a schemes for investigating and preparing a project report for bridges across the Brahmaputra at Jogighopa-Pancharatna and Silghat-Bhomoraguri.

Transport

The resumption of river services through Bangladesh under the management of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation has opened up new potentialities and my Government are drawing up schemes for the opening of subsidiary services. A number of inland water transport schemes like hydrographic survey, embarking and disembarking facilities, construction and purchase of ferry vessels, terminal facilities for ferry ghats, etc. are going to be taken up during 1973-74.

The Assam State Road Transport Corporation has been renamed as the Assam-Meghalaya State Road Transport Corporation after Meghalaya attained full Statehood and two nominees of the Government of Meghalaya have been included in the Board of Management of the Corporation. During 1972-73 the Corporation nationalised some more routes. A number of buses were purchased and new buildings constructed.

Tourism

My Government are keen to develop tourism in Assam as the area has potential for the purpose. Plans for development of Manas and Nambor Garampani have been drawn up and the matter is being pursued with the Government of India. A scheme for the development of Chandubi Lake as a holiday resort and a rest house at Ngehretre for pilgrims are to be taken up.

Employment

While Agricultural and Industrial Development will to some extent help in easing the problems of unemployment and poverty, my Government are particularly concerned about the unemployment problem and have taken some special steps in this regard. Special schemes involving an expenditure of Rs.72 lakhs were taken up during 1972-73 to tackle the problem of educated unemployed. These schemes provide for the setting up of Poultry, Dairy and Fodder Farms and Service Units. Young entrepreneurs will be associated with these units right from their inception for the purpose of imparting necessary training and expertise to them. After these units are well established and the entrepreneurs gain adequate experience, the units will be handed over to the entrepreneurs. It is also proposed to assist artisans, sericulturists and weavers under this special employment programme. Additional programmes at an estimated cost of Rs.3 crores are proposed to be taken up with Planning Commission for 1973-74.

The Crash Scheme for Rural Employment, initiated during 1971-72 to give relief to the unemployed of the State will continue in the current year as well. This scheme has covered all the blocks of Assam and a sum of Rs. 100 lakhs for plains areas and Rs. 25 lakhs for Hill areas have been provided for in 1973-74. At present every block is offering employment opportunities to 100 unskilled and non-technical persons at a monthly wage of Rs. 100 for 10 months of the year. Another scheme called "Pilot Integrated Rural Employment Project" has been taken up with the help of the Government of India for helping the unskilled and non-technical unemployed persons during the year. This scheme is being implemented at Paschim Nalbari Block since December 1972 with a total fund of Rs. 46.37 lakhs for three years.

Besides these efforts, it has always been the endeavour of my Government to provide job opportunities to as many unemployed youth of the State as possible. This principle has been followed in the construction of the temporary capital project at Dispur and will also be applied to all such projects taken up during 1973-74.

There is a proposal pending before my Government for strengthening of the Employment Exchanges for the benefit of the local unemployed youths of Assam. The idea is to give them quick service and also to furnish the Planners with data and information regarding the unemployment situation prevailing in the State.

To make craftsmen training more popular the amount of scholarship given to the trainees has been raised by the Government from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40. Also instead of one third, one half of the trainees on the rolls will be entitled to scholarships. Steps are being taken to open new trades of tractor-mechanics, printing operators, etc.

My Government are also engaged in drawing up schemes for the provision of house sites to landless agricultural workers in the rural areas. It is proposed to take up the scheme during the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

Democratic-Decentralisation

No democratic set up can be really effective unless the involvement of the people in the administrative system is ensured. To make the people real and effective partners in the administration and to decentralise the administrative system, as the House is aware, the Assam Panchayat Raj Bill, 1972 was passed in September, 1972. Under the new law the present three tier Panchayat raj system will be replaced by a two tier one. The Goan Panchayats and Mohkuma Parishads will now form these two tiers. The Goan Panchayats will be larger in size so that they can be viable institutions designed to work over a much wider field of executive and developmental activities. The Mohkuma Parishads are also going to be given more planning, executive and legislative functions under the new Act to control and co-ordinate developmental activities in the subdivision. Resource positions of these institutions are proposed to be strengthened by this Act and it is hoped that implementation of the Act will make it possible to take administration nearer to the people for meeting their needs and aspirations in worthwhile manner. As has already been mentioned these bodies will also be an integral part of the planning process.

Price Situation

Continuous rise in prices of essential commodities experienced during this year caused concern to my Government. Since a number of essential commodities come from outside the State my Government have been pressing the Government of India for higher allocations to meet the situation and stabilise prices. Besides, the public distribution system was strengthened in order to alleviate the distress of consumers and check rise in open market prices. In conformity with the National Decision, my Government have decided to take over the wholesale trade in paddy and wheat from the next Kharif season.

Procurement

As against the procurement target of 16 lakhs quintals of paddy procurements fixed by the Government of India during 1972-73 a little over 10 lakhs quintals of paddy has been procured so far by

the Food Corporation of India and the Co-operative Apex Marketing Society—the two agents of the State Government. The slight set-back in procurement is due to difficulties and the disturbed conditions in Cachar District and some parts of Brahmaputra Valley.

Flood Control

The Hon'ble Members are well aware of the devastations caused by flood and erosion in the State periodically. The problem of flood and erosion in the Brahmaputra Valley is enormous and complex due to the large number of tributaries, heavy and concentrated rainfall and comparatively unstable geological features. In view of the enormity of the problem, my Government have urged the Government of India to take over full responsibility of works connected with the Brahmaputra basin, as control of this mighty river should be treated as a national problem especially in view of its international implications. The Government of India have already decided in principle to take over the work of the Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission from the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan. Necessary legislation is being drafted in this respect and the views of my Government have already been sent to the Government of India.

Health and F. P.

The extensions of medical facilities has continued during 1972-73. Preventive measures against epidemic diseases as well as adulteration of food are proposed to be intensified. For providing suitable drinking water to the villages a scheme for accelerating the provision of rural water supply facilities has been taken up.

Education

In the field of education, my Government have decided to introduce a new pattern of schooling, namely 10+2+3 with effect from the current year, in line with National Policy. All arrangements for the introduction of work-experience and vocational education in the schools and colleges are being finalised. The introduction of the vocational stream of education is likely to provide practical grounding in the various subjects taught.

In recognition of the literary contribution of literature and to help them to continue their literary pursuits, my Government have granted Literary Pensions at the rate of Rs. 400 P.m. for life to twelve eminent writers of the State.

To provide more Elementary Education facilities and also employment opportunities to the educated unemployed youth of the State my Government are implementing a scheme in collaboration with the Government of India for appointing 5,000 Primary School teachers. My Government have also taken up a scheme for improvement of Science Education right from the Primary state, and to achieve this, a scheme with the assistance of UNICEF and the National Council of Educational Research and Training under implementation;

My Government have also decided to establish a Special Cell in the Education Directorate to look after educational safeguards to the Linguistic Minority groups and for implementation of the scheme, the Government have already sanctioned 100 posts of teachers for Primary Schools and 42 posts of teachers for Middle Schools. Special attention will also be given to the education of the children of Bodo origin, tea garden labourers and ex-tea garden labourers.

Cultural Affairs

In the field of cultural affairs, my Government have taken important decisions during this year in regard to the development and promotion of the film industry in the State. A film development council is being constituted and the Jyoti Chitraban Film Studio is being converted into a registered society. My Government have also decided to establish a film finance corporation and to extend financial assistance to a film distributors' society established in co-operative sector. My Government are also contemplating to build cinema Houses with a view to providing opportunities to the educated unemployed youths. An Artistes Aid Fund in order to provide financial assistance and relief to ailing and otherwise needy artistes and their families will also be created.

Town and Country Planning

The Town and Country Planning Department has intensified its activities and besides being involved in the temporary capital construction at Dispur have under-taken a number of schemes for urban development, drainage and preparation of Master Plans and Development Plans. Master plans for a number of district head quarters have already been adopted by my Government and Master Plans for some other districts headquarters and Subdivisional towns are under preparation

District Councils

Hon'ble Members are aware that following the amendment of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the Government have entrusted to the District Councils of Mikir and North Cachar Hills Districts, functions in relation to agriculture, minor irrigation, roads and buildings and other such important fields with the exception of schemes of a highly technical nature and schemes requiring centralised control owing to their being common to more than one district or for other such reasons. This has been an important step towards self-Government and the District Councils are drawing up and executing scheme in consultation with concerning Departments of Government.

Welfare of Backward Classes

An allocation of Rs. 61.25 lakhs was made in the plan during 1972-73 for welfare of Plains Tribals and various schemes relating

to spread of education, extension of medical facilities, improvement of communication, etc., in areas inhabited by plains tribal has been taken up. The Government are also paying special attention to the development of Scheduled Caste people and an allocation of Rs. 24.75 lakhs was made for this purpose in 1972-73. The State Government have also taken up a scheme for extension of the educational facilities to Other Backward Classes and an allocation of Rs. 21.00 lakhs has been made during the year 1972-73. The Advisory Councils for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Plain Tribes and Other Backward Classes continue to advise Government on a good number of important matters concerning the welfare and advancement communities or castes which they represent.

New Bills

Besides the usual financial and other bills, my Government will place before you the following legislative measures during the current Session—

1. The Indian Electricity (Assam Amendment) Bill.
2. The Tinsukia and Dibrugarh Electric Supply Undertakings (Acquisition) Bill.
3. The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill.
4. The Assam Agriculture Farming Corporation Bill.

Before I conclude, may I assure the House that my Government are sincere in their attempts to meet squarely the challenges of poverty, unemployment and economic upliftment of the masses. A beginning has been made and we shall have to go a long way to achieve our goals,—removal of poverty, achievement of self-reliance and setting up of socialist society, but my Government do not feel that the problems are insoluble and with the co-operation and help of all concerned it is possible to have this new social order which we all have pledged to build.

(The Governor left the Chamber at 10. 12 escorted by the Deputy Speaker.)

Mr. Speaker : Under Rule 13, sub-rule (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I now report that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech. Copies of the speech have been distributed to the honourable Members also.

I have also received the following notices of motions for discussing the Governor's Address from Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharjee and other members of the same group and Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi. The honourable Members may now move the motions.—Shri Handique.

Shri BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE : **Mr. Speaker,** Sir, under rule 13(3) of the rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly I hereby give notice of the following motion :

“That this House do now discuss the Address of the Governor which he has been pleased to make in this House to-day.”

Shri GUNENDRA NATH PANDIT : I second the motion moved by Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique.

Shri PROMODE CHANDRA GOGOI : Under Rule 13(3) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly I beg to move the following motion :

“That this House do now take into consideration the Address of the Governor delivered to-day in this House.”

Shri GIASUDDIN AHMED : I second the motion moved by Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi.

(At this stage those opposition members who walked out entered the House)

শ্রীগৌৰী শংকৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য :—অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজিৰ এই সদনত শ্ৰীমানন্দকৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰিছে তাৰ সংশোধনী হিচাবে মই এটা সংশোধনী দাখিল কৰিছো আৰু সেইটো মই উত্থাপন কৰিছো।

শ্ৰীদুলাল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা :—শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই উত্থাপন কৰা প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

শ্ৰীসোণেশ্বৰ বৰা :—অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্ৰীসন্দিকৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো সমাদৰ বচক প্ৰস্তাৱ আগবঢ়াইছে, তাত মই তলৰ কথা খিনি যোগ দিবৰ কাৰণে সংশোধনী ডাঙি ধৰিছো। কথাটো হল অসম চৰকাৰে পূৰ্ণাঙ্গ নিয়মিত বাৰ্ষিক বাজেট এখন ডাঙি ধৰি বাজেটৰ নিয়ম নীতি আৰু তাৰ পৰিস্কাৰ প্ৰয়োগ সম্পৰ্কে আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ বিধান সভাক সুবিধা দিব নোৱাৰাটো চৰকাৰৰ ব্যৰ্থতাৰ পৰিচায়ক।

শ্ৰীবদন চন্দ্ৰ তালুকদাৰ :—মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীবৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো সংশোধনী ডাঙি ধৰিছে তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

Mr. Speaker : The motions have been moved. I allot 20th March, 21st March, 22nd March, 28th March, and 29th March, 1973 for discussion on the motion referred to in the Address.

Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Under Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I called a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on 2nd March, 1973 in my Chamber at Shillong. The Committee decided that the Assembly commencing on 16th March, 1973 should continue upto 3rd April, 1973 and the draft programme prepared by the Secretary was approved. A copy of the programme has already been circulated to all Members. The Committee also decided that 19th March, 1973 would be a day of recess on account of Doljatra.

I hope this has the approval of the House.

(Voices: Yes, yes)

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA :—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider it necessary to discuss the situation that is prevailing in the State of Assam for the last six months in connection with the medium issue. I suggest that we should allot two days for discussing this vital matter which concerns the entire State of Assam and its future. As it is a very important matter, I feel that we should discuss it and take a definite decision on this issue. We cannot allow this matter to be dragged on like this. Therefore, I would request the Chief Minister, through you, to fix two days in consultation with us, for discussing this matter, and this may be discussed in a secret session. I hope the Government side will consider this suggestion and fix two days for discussing this issue.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA : We do not have any objection to holding such a session, and we are prepared to fix two days, in consultation with the opposition leaders, for discussing this matter.

Panel of Chairmen

MR. SPEAKER : Under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I nominate the following hon. Members to constitute the Panel of Chairmen for the current Session of the Assembly:

1. Shri Ataur Rahman,
2. Shri Puspadhar Chaliha,
3. Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki,
4. Shri Giasuddin Ahmed.

Laying of ordinances.

Now item No. 5.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Contingency Funds Augmentation of Corpus ordinance, 1973.

Item No. 6.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Appropriation Ordinance 1973.

Item No. 7.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Excise (Amendment) Ordinance, 1973.

Item No. 8.

Shri UPENDRA DAS : আই বেগ টো লে ডাউন ডি অসম কৃষি-পান নিগম
অধ্যাদেশ

Item No. 9.

Shri MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Minister, Industries) : Sir, I beg to lay the Indian Electricity (Assam Amendment) Ordinance, 1972.

Item No. 10.

Shri MAHAMMAD IDRIS (Minister, Industries) : Sir, I beg to lay Tinsukia and Dibrugarh Electric Supply undertakings (Acquisition) Ordinance, 1972.

Motion for extension of time for submission of Reports

Item No. 11.

Shri UPENDRA DAS (Minister, Agriculture) : Sir, I beg to move "That this House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report on the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Bill, 1972, till 31st May, 1973".

MR. SPEAKER : The motion moved is "That this House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report on the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Bill, 1972, till 31st May, 1973.

(The motion was adopted)

Submission of Reports of the Select Committees

Shri PARAMANANDA GOGOI, (Minister Revenue)—Mr. speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do agree to the extension of time for the submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Urban Immovable Property (Ceiling) Bills, 1972 till 31st May, 1973.

Mr. Speaker—The Motion moved is that this House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report Select Committee on the Assam Urban Immovable Property (Ceiling) Bill, 1972 till 31st May, 1973.

(Voice: yes, yes)

The Motion is passed

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Minister, Town and Country Planning)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam State Housing Board Bill, 1972 till 31st May, 1973.

Mr. Speaker—The Motion moved is that this House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam State Housing Board Bill, 1972 till 31st May, 1973.

(Voice: yes, yes)

The Motion is passed

Shri BIJOY KRISHANA HANDIQUÉ—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Enquiry Committee on the Report of the Enquiry Commission on the Assam State Electricity Board till 30th June, 1973.

Mr. Speaker—The Motion moved is that this House do agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Enquiry Committee on the Report of the Enquiry Commission on the Assam State Electricity Board till 30th June, 1973.

(Voice: yes, yes)

The Motion is passed.**Laying of Rules and Reports**

Shri UPENDRA DAS (Minister Agriculture)—Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Agricultural Farming Corporation Rules, 1973.

Shri PARAMANANDA GOGOJ (Minister, Revenue)—Sir, I beg to lay the Assam (Temporary Settled Areas) Tenancy Rules, 1972.

Sir I beg to lay the Rules under the Assam Land Revenue (Surcharge) Act, 1970 (Assam Act of X of 1970).

Seventeenth Report of the Committee on subordinate Legislation

Shri GOLOK RAJBANSHI (Deputy speaker)—Sir, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation. The printed copy will be supplied later on as it is not available in the office at the moment.

Obituary References

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA, (Chief Minister)--Mr. Speaker, Sir we mourn the death of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, popularly known as C. R. who was born 1879. After graduation he obtained his B. L. from the Law College, Madras and joined the Bar there. Soon he built up a flourishing practice between 1900 and 1919.

Shri Rajagopalachari first made his mark in all India Politics as a recruit to Mrs. Basant's Home Rule League. He was immediately recognised as a new force in the movement. The year 1919 was a turning point in his life as well as the contemporary history of Indian nation. In that year Gandhiji visited Madras and stayed with Rajaji. It was during this stay that the strong bonds of friendship and understanding between them were developed. Rajaji accepted Gandhiji's 'Satyagraha' and non-co-operation movements whole hearted. At Gandhiji's call, he gave up his legal practice in 1921. He was also one of the signatories to the famous manifesto of October 4, 1921 declaring that it was the duty of every Indian Soldier and Civilian to sever his connection with the British Government and find some other means of livelihood. In the following year when the Swaraj Party became the dominant wing of the Congress, Rajaji devoted himself to the constructive works such as Hindu-Muslim unity, eradication of untouchability, the Swadeshi Movement and prohibition. He was the General Secretary of the Indian National Congress during 1921-22 and served as a member in the Congress Working Committee between 1922-1942 and again during 1943-47. He was imprisoned five times in Congress campaigns.

In 1937 Shri Rajagopalachari became the Prime Minister of Madras Presidency but relinquished office in 1939 along with other Congress Ministers on ideological grounds when India was forced to participate in the world War II. In 1942 he resigned from the Congress due to differences of opinion. However, he assisted Mahatma Gandhi in the Gandhi-Jinnah talks in September 1944. In 1946 he re-entered active life and was member-in-charge of Education and Finance in the Governor General's Council during 1946-47.

In August, 1947, Rajaji was appointed the Governor of West Bengal and in June, 1948 he became the first Indian and last Governor General of the Country and remained as such till January 26, 1950 when India became a Sovereign Democratic Republic.

In May, 1950, Rajaji joined the Union Cabinet as a Minister with -out portfolio. In January, 1951 he became the Home Minister. In 1952 he headed the Ministry in Madras for the second time and stepped out after two years.

In 1954, Rajaji was conferred the Nation's highest honour "Bharat Ratna".

In 1959, Rajagopalachari founded the Swatantra Party. Though he did not hold any position in the party, he continued to be its guiding force till the end.

Rajagopalachari's early years were influenced by the current tendencies of the Indian middle class social reform and self-improvement. Yet like Tilak, he felt uncomfortable among the westernised men who led the Congress then. To him Social reform did not mean blind imitation of the West nor self-improvement denial of his Indian heritage. Consequently, he could join that organisations only after 1917 when, under Mahatma Gandhi's influence, many changes occurred.

Rajagopalachari waged an almost lone battle against the testing of Nuclear weapons and in this context his correspondence with late Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev attracted the world's attention. He was the Principal Spokesman of the three-man Indian delegation sent by the Gandhi Peace Foundation in 1962 to canvas support for the cessation and prohibition of Nuclear tests.

Rajagopalachari was also a writer of great repute. Author of about 15 volumes, he wrote in both Tamil and English.

This elder Statesman and ardent patriot, a profound scholar as well as a versatile writer of the country passed away on the 25th December 1972. We convey our condolence to the bereaved family.

Then Sir, we also mourn the death of Shri Liladhar Barooah, a prominent congress worker and former member of the Rajya Sabha was born at village Silsako near North Gauhati in 1903. He was actively connected with social service activities since his boyhood. He left college in Calcutta 1930 to join the non-co-operation movement and had to undergo imprisonment. He was sent to jail several times for participating in freedom movement.

Shri Barooah was a staunch follower of Mahatma Gandhi and responded to Gandhiji's call for "Dandi March" and participated in the March as one of the active members. He was the Secretary of the Assam Pradesh Congress Constructive Committee and Gandhi Centenary celebration Committee. As member of the Rajya Sabha for a span of six years he always focussed on the State's various problems.

Shri Barooah was associated with various Social and Cultural organisation. He was loved and respected by all sections of the people for his amiable nature and selfless social works.

This prominent congressman passed away on 29th January, 1973. We convey our condolence to the bereaved family.

Then Sir, we are to mourn the death of Md. Nurul Islam. Md. Nurul Islam, an ex-M. L. A. was born at Nowgong in 1899. After taking graduation from the Cotton College, he was qualified for Bar and started legal practice at Nowgong in 1928. Md. Islam devoted most of his time in social upliftment. He was associated with several organisations. He became a member of the Nowgong Municipal Board in 1944 and in 1944-55 he was Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the Nowgong Local Board.

In 1921, Md. Islam joined the non-cooperation movement and actively participated in the freedom struggle. He was a member of the

Nowgong District Congress Committee. In 1952 he was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly and was re-elected in 1957 from Dhing Constituency on Congress ticket.

Md. Islam was a popular leader and was loved and respected by all.

This distinguished Congressman passed away on 8th February, 1973 at the age of 74. We convey our condolence to the bereaved family.

Sir, we also mourn the death of Shri Hariprasad Neog. Born in 1929 at Jorhat Shri Hariprasad Neog, former General Secretary of the Assam Sahitya Sabha and Secretary of the Co-ordination Committee for production of Text Books of the Dibrugarh University and noted literary figure of Assam had his education at Jorhat. After obtaining post graduate degree in Assamese he served as Lecturer in D. R. College Golaghat and Debicharan Barua Girls' College till his joining as the Secretary of the Co-ordination Committee for production of Text Books. It was under his able stewardship that a large number of text books on different subjects in Assamese were prepared and published by the Dibrugarh University this year. Shri Neog was associated with the literary, cultural and public life of Assam. In 1959-63 he was the Assistant General Secretary of the Assam Sahitya Sabha and in 1965 he was elected General Secretary of the Sabha.

This noted literature and former General Secretary of the Assam Sahitya Sabha passed away on 19th February, 1973 at the age of 44.

SHRI GAURISHANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of this side of the House associate with the obituary references made by the leader of the House. With the death of Chakravarty Raja Gopalachari at the age of 93, the grand old man of Indian politics and a classical literature has gone away from us. Raja Gopalachari was a dynamic personality. He had joined the National movement even long before Gandhiji had joined. He was an associate of Annie Besant and an active member of the Home Rule League. He had given tremendous contribution for the awakening of the Indian people against British imperialism. Later on, he joined the Indian National Congress and came to be known as the conscience keeper of Gandhiji. He was a sharp intellect, a devoted patriot, and above all, a clean and bold man. He did not mince matters. When he found that he could not agree with the Congress on certain fundamental principals, he did not hesitate to differ with his colleagues. When Congress, in its eagerness to share power with British imperialism had split into two; Congress was divided into the No-Changers and the Swarajists, Rajaji instead of going over to the Swarajists and becoming a Member of the Legislature chose to be a No-Changer and followed Gandhiji ardently. In 1942, when Congress was hesitating to come to a compromise with the Muslim League on the issue of the Hindu Muslim question, Rajaji chose again to go away from the Congress and tried his best to bring about an understanding between the Quadd-e-Azam and the Mahatma and later on it was mainly due to his efforts that the two leaders met and though painful it was because of the partition of the country, it emanated from this understanding that the British Government had to handover power to the Indian hands. He was not only the prime Minister of Madras, he was not only the

Governor of West Bengal, a Minister in the Central Cabinet but he was also the last Governor General of India. That is not all. In the realm of literature, particularly classical literature his contribution stands unique. He had translated and edited almost all the valuable scriptures of Hinduism including the Mahabharat, the Ramayana, the Upanishada and many more. He was active to the last days of his life. When he found that he could not, with his ideas, be in the congress he chose to form another Party, the Swatantra Party. However much we disagree with his Political views and his way of life, it must be admitted that he, to the last day of his life, remained vigorous, active and healthy both in body and mind. Therefore, there are many things in Rajaji which should imbibe our coming generations. It will be a fitting tribute to his memory if the great and grand qualities of Rajaji are emulated or imbibed.

In the death of Liladhar Barua, an *ex*-Member of the Indian Parliament, a Member of the Rajya Sabha, Assam has lost a great patriot and a staunch fighter for the country's freedom. Even when he was a student he had joined the Dandi March of Gandhiji and he was the only Assamese to be a Member of that grand company, which really was the crusader for India's full independence.

Even thereafter, he had continued his contacts with Gandhiji and his Ashram, and was in this State spreading the tenets of Gandhiji and the ideal of his life. It was in due recognition of his services to the country that he was elected to the Rajya Sabha. As a member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam, whenever issues involving the lives of the Assamese people were raised in the Rajya Sabha, he was bold enough to take up the issues. We remember his role in the days of 1960 when Assam was maligned in that Rajya Sabha, and it was Shri Barua who was bold enough to take up the issue and could assert the cause of the Assamese people in that august House. When he found that there were great differences with his own colleagues during the latest split of the Congress, he chose to leave the Indira group and had joined the Organisation Congress, and till the day of his death, he was the Treasurer of the Assam Branch of the Organisation Congress. We might or might not agree with his political views, but it must be admitted that he was a staunch patriot and great sacrificer for the cause of the country's freedom. In the death of Md. Nurul Islam, you will definitely feel a personal loss, because you remember that we were in the Assam Legislative Assembly for long 10 years. He was a lovable personality and the one who used to bridge the gulf of differences whenever there were any. He was a very polite and a very soft-speaking gentleman, and at the same time, he was very firm in his principles. In these days, when some section of our people were swayed away by the waves of communalism, it was Md. Nurul Islam among many others, who stood as a nationalist and did continue to be a nationalist till the last day of his life.

It was good and proper that the people whom he represented had given him proper tribute and elevated to the place of honour and authority. In the death of Hari Prasad Neog at the young age of only 44, Assam has lost a great, good and promising youth. Many hon'ble members of this House might not be knowing him very

closely, but those who knew him closely cannot forget the great qualities and still greater promises that this youngman had in him. He was not only a sincere and devoted educationist, not only a capable literature but he was also a political thinker. He was, in the last few years of his life, my political associate, and I must say that it was in many occasions, due to his advice, counsel and guidance that I could try to understand the complex and at the same time the synthetic nature of the Assamese society. He was the General Secretary of the Assam Sahitya Sabha but he was miles and miles away from any sort of chauvinism, he was one who knew, understood and propagated that the Assamese society is a composite society, and that it is society where there are many streams and stream-lets, where there are different thoughts. And these thoughts, these trends must continue and live together and they must put their shoulders together, so that the Assamese nationality could be built up as a strong, virile and progressive one. Unfortunately while he was doing all that he could for the country and the society, he could not do anything for his family, and therefore when he died as an employee of the Dibrugarh University, his family has been left behind in great financial distress. It will be a fitting tribute to him on the part of the Government, if the Government take up the issue of maintaining his widow and his children and particularly, take measures to give them proper education because he died at a very young age of only 44 and he could leave nothing for his wife and children.

For his wife and children, I therefore beseech that the Government do take up the matter and give whatever concrete help it can give to the members of the bereaved family. I sincerely condole the deaths of all these persons and again say that we associate ourselves with the obituary references already made.

শ্রীসোনেশ্বৰ বৰা—মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ভাৰতৰ মুক্তি যুদ্ধৰ প্ৰধান নায়ক সিংহ পুৰুষ ৰাজ্য গোপালচাৰী, লীলাধৰ বৰুৱা, মহম্মদ নুৰুল ইচলাম আৰু হৰি প্ৰসাদ নেওঁগৰ মৃত্যুত গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছোঁ। আৰু আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্য ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই আগবঢ়োৱাৰ দৰে মইও এই কেইজনৰ ভিতৰত, হৰি প্ৰসাদ নেওঁগে এৰি থৈ যোৱা তিনিটি কেচুৱাৰ ভৱিষ্যত শিক্ষা আৰু ভৱণ-পোষণ আৰু তেখেতৰ ফুলতে বিধৱা হোৱা পত্নীৰ ভৱণ-পোষণৰ কাৰণে এটা পৰিয়াল প্ৰেঞ্চন আগবঢ়োৱাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছোঁ।

এই কেইজনৰ মৃত্যুত শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰাৰ উপৰিও অসমৰ কেইবাটাও অমূল্য সন্তানৰ নাম উল্লেখ কৰিব খোজে। যোৱা অসমৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সমূহত শিক্ষাৰ মাধ্যম সম্পৰ্কীয় আন্দোলনত শ্বহীদ হোৱা মোজামিল হক, অনিল বৰা, বলিন ৰাজখোৱা, প্ৰমোদ বৰা আৰু নৰেন মহন্তৰ অকাল মৃত্যুত এই সদনে শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰে। মইয়ো এই সদনৰ লগতে বিশেষকৈ মোৰ দলৰ ফালৰ পৰা গভীৰ শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰাৰ উপৰিও স্বৰ্গগত আত্মা কেইটিৰ সদ্গতিৰ কাৰণে ভগৱানৰ ওচৰত প্ৰৰ্থনা জনাইছোঁ। সৰ্বশেষত পুনৰ স্বৰ্গগত সকলৰ আত্মাৰ প্ৰতি শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলী জনাই মই মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সন্মতি মাৰিলোঁ।

শ্রীপ্ৰমোদ গগৈঃ—মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ভাৰতৰ এজন প্ৰবীণ ৰাজনীতি-বিদ স্বৰ্গীয় ৰাজাগোপালচাৰীৰ মৃত্যুত ভাৰতবৰ্ষ ই এজন অতি অভিজ্ঞ আৰু সুযোগ্য নেতাক হেৰুৱাইছে। যদিও তেখেতৰ লগত আমি একমত নহওঁ—কিন্তু এই কথাও স্পষ্টভাৱে কব লাগিব যে, ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ কাৰণে তেখেতে অতি নিষ্ঠাৰে সংগ্ৰাম কৰিছিল আৰু নিজৰ মন্তৰ পৰা কেতিয়াও বিচ্যুত হোৱা নাছিল। এই কথাও আমি দেখিছোঁ যে, মাদ্ৰাজ প্ৰদেশৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী, পশ্চিমবঙ্গৰ ৰাজ্যপাল বা ভাৰতৰ শেষ গৱৰ্ণৰ জেনেৰেল হৈ থকা অৱস্থাতো তেখেতে আমাৰ দেশখনৰ পৰিকল্পনাত যথেষ্ট অৱদান যোগাইছিল। তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুত আমাৰ দেশখনে এজন সুযোগ্য ৰাজনীতিবিদ হেৰুৱাইছে আৰু ইয়াৰ ফলস্বৰূপে গোটেই দেশখনে এটা অপূৰণীয় ক্ষতি হৈছে।

তাৰ পিছত অসমৰ আৰু এজন নেতা লীলাধৰ বৰুৱাই দেশখনৰ স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনৰ কাৰণে গোটেই জীৱন উচৰ্গা কৰিছিল আৰু দেশখনৰ স্বাধীনতাৰ কাৰণে সৰ্বোচ্চ ত্যাগ স্বীকাৰ কৰিছিল। তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুত আমাৰ প্ৰদেশে এজন প্ৰবীণ সমাজ কৰ্মী হেৰুৱালে।

তাৰ পিছত এই সদনৰ ভূতপূৰ্ব সদস্য লুৰেল ইছলামৰ লগত মই ব্যক্তিগত ভাৱে পৰিচিত নহয় যদিও এই কথা আমি দেখিছোঁ যে, আমাৰ প্ৰদেশখনৰ বিভিন্ন জটিল সমস্যাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত তেখেতে অতি নিষ্ঠা আৰু আদৰ্শৰ ভিত্তিত থিয় দিছিল। তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুতো আমাৰ প্ৰদেশে এজন অতি সুযোগ্য সমাজকৰ্মী হেৰুৱালে।

অসম সাহিত্য সভাৰ ভূতপূৰ্ব সম্পাদক স্বৰ্গীয় নেওগে অসমীয়া ভাষা আৰু অসমীয়া কৃষ্টিৰ প্ৰতি যিখিনি অৱদান যোগাইছিল তাক আজি সকলোৱে মুক্তকণ্ঠে স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ মৃত্যুত প্ৰদেশখনে এজন অসমীয়া সাহিত্যানুবাগী আৰু সুযোগ্য পুৰুষ হেৰুৱালে। আজি এই লোকসকলৰ মৃত্যুত অনুতপ্ত হৈ সদনৰ নেতা মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যিটো শোক প্ৰস্তাৱ আগবঢ়াইছে তাৰ লগত মইও সহযোগ কৰিছোঁ আৰু তেখেত সকলৰ মৃত্যুত দেশখনৰ যি অপূৰণীয় ক্ষতি হৈছে তাকো স্বীকাৰ কৰিছোঁ। তেখেত সকলৰ স্বৰ্গগত আত্মাৰ প্ৰতি শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলি জনোৱাৰ ওপৰিও শোকসন্তপ্ত পৰিয়াল বৰ্গলৈকো মই গভীৰ সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ।

Mr. Speaker :—I whole heartedly associate myself with the sentiments that have been expressed by the Leader of the House and other Hon' Members at the passing away of Shri Chakravarty Raja Gopalachari, Shri Liladhar Borooah, Md. Nurul Islam and Shri Hari Prasad Neog.

Chakravarty Raja Gopalachari

Shri Chakravarty Raja Gopalachari, styled and popularly known as C.R. was born in Madras in 1879. A born intellectual, C.R. was responsible for the constructive works such as Hindu-Muslim unity, eradication of untouchability the Swadeshi Movement. He also jumped into the freedom movement and joined the Indian National Congress like other eminent leaders of India leaving voluntarily the roaring legal practice. He was General Secretary of the Indian National Congress during 1921-22 and was a member of the Working Committee during 1922 to 1942 and from 1946 to 1947. He courted imprisonment for several terms. In 1937 he became the Prime Minister of the undivided Madras Presidency but relinquished the office at the call of the Congress. After

independence, he was appointed the Governor of West Bengal in 1947 and became the First Indian Governor General of free India in 1948 till 26 th January, 1950, when India declared herself sovereign Democratic Republic. He joined the Union Cabinet as the Home Minister, in 1950. He also became the Chief Minister of Madras in 1952.

As a dynamic politician, he had an ideological rift with the Indian National Congress and founded the Swatantra party of India in 1969 without holding any high position in the party. Being a versatile writer, he expressed his opinion in the "Swarayya" the party's political weekly and made a valuable contribution there. He was a writer of great repute and wrote some rare books in English and Tamil. He was awarded the Nation's highest award 'Bharat Ratna' in 1954.

We have lost in him an astute Lawyer, an elder statesman, a dynamic politician, an ardent patriot, a profound scholar, a man of letters and a true leader of the country. This great soul passed away on the 25th of December, 1972. The country is poorer by his passing away and we all mourn the irreparable loss. May his soul rest in peace.

Shri Liladhar Barooah.

Shri Liladhar Barooah, a prominent Congress leader was born at Silsanko Village near North Gauhati. He was actively connected with the social service and joined the freedom Movement under Mahatma Gandhi. He also courted imprisonment several times for participating in the Freedom Movement. He was the Secretary of the Assam Pradesh Congress Constitution Committee. He was also a Member of the Rajya Sabha from Assam and forcefully focussed Assam's problems. He was loved and respected by all sections of people. We all mourn the death of this veteran Congress leader.

Md. Nurul Islam.

Born at Nowgong in 1899, Md. Nurul Islam was a social worker and a staunch Congressman. He participated in the Freedom Movement as an active member of the Indian National Congress. He was a Member of the Nowgong District Congress Committee. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1952 and re-elected on 1957 as a Congress candidate. He devoted his life for the cause of the public and upliftment of the down-trodden society. In his death, we have lost a popular leader.

Shri Hari Prasad Neog.

Born in 1929 at Jorhat, Shri Hari Prasad Neog was responsible for the preparation and reorientation of the production of the large number of Text Books of the Dibrugarh University in

Assamese. As a distinguished M. A. in Assamese, he served the D. R. College, Golaghat and Debicharan Baruah College, Jorhat as Lecturer. He became the Principal of the Mariani College till his joining the Dibrugarh University. He was elected the Assistant General Secy. of the Assam Sahitya Sabha in 1959 and the General Secretary of the same Organisation in 1965. Shri Neog was intimately associated with the literary, cultural and social organisation in Assam. We all mourn his premature death.

I now request the Hon. Members to rise in their seats for one minute to pay our homage and to pray for eternal peace of the departed souls.

(The House rose and observed two minutes prayerful silence.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a. m. on Tuesday, the 20th March, 1972.

Dispur :

The 9th July, 1973.

P. D. Barua,

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.