

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M.
on Tuesday, the 5th June, 1962.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B. L., Speaker in the Chair,
ten Ministers, two Ministers of State, two Deputy Ministers and sixty-six
Members.

Mr SPEAKER: The Governor will be coming at 10 5 A.M. Myself and the Deputy Speaker accompanied by the Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly will be going out to escort him. I hope you will await here for us. In the meantime the speech of the Governor will be distributed.

(Governor arrived in procession and took his seat).

Mr. SPEAKER: I now request the Governor to address this House,

**Address by General S. M. Shrinagesh,
Governor of Assam**

MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,

It is my pleasant duty to-day to address this august Assembly again. In my last address, I had touched upon some of the problems that confronted my Government during the past year and also our achievements during that period. In this Session, my Finance Minister will place before you the detailed budget proposals for the current financial year and also the comprehensive future proposals of my Government. I shall now refer briefly to the events during the past three months and to the future programme before my Government.

2. Since I addressed you last the most important development in our relations with East Pakistan is the commissioning by Pakistan on 31st March 1962 of the Karnafuli Dam in East Pakistan on the border of Mizo Hills District. The storage of water resulting from the Dam would submerge some parts of Mizo Hills District and the Central Government have already taken up with the Pakistani authorities the question of compensation to be

paid to the people, who would be uprooted by such submergence. In the meantime my Government have taken up schemes for relief and rehabilitation of the people likely to be affected by the Dam. The situation on the Assam-East Pakistan border remained otherwise satisfactory during the period under review. The work on demarcation of the Assam-East Pakistan boundary has been progressing satisfactorily. The unauthorised entrants from Pakistan into Assam were apprehended and prosecuted and the convicted persons were deported to Pakistan. In pursuance of my Government's earnest desire to check unauthorised entry of Pak nationals and also to detect and deport Pakistanis who are unauthorisedly staying here a scheme for establishing more check posts on the border and also for strengthening the intelligence staff in various districts has been drawn up and has received the approval by the Government of India. This is being implemented shortly.

3. During the period under review the activities of the Naga hostiles in areas of our State bordering Nagaland-Manipur had registered some increase. This can be attributed to the intensified drive being carried out in the Nagaland by the security forces to split up the hostile gangs and apprehend them resulting in the hostiles fleeing in groups to neighbouring areas for survival. A group of hostiles numbering about 200 crossed over to Pakistan near Pirnagar Outpost in Cachar District in the early hours of 1st May, 1962 after travelling through North Cachar Hills, looting some villages on way for their rations. While the bulk of this gang was in the process of crossing the river Surma on the Assam-East Pakistan border our B. O. P. personnel spotted the gang and opened fire on them, inflicting severe casualties on the escaping hostiles. At this juncture the Pakistani B. O. P. in this area also opened fire on our B. O. P. and but for this intervention our security force could have prevented the crossing of the hostiles. The matter has been taken up with the Pakistani

authorities. Important measures have also been taken to further tighten up security arrangements for preventing recurrence of such incidents. The problem created by the increased movement of the Naga hostiles and their criminal actions on the bordering areas of Assam-Nagaland is receiving the most careful and immediate attention of my Government. Security measures taken in these areas have been considerably intensified and constant vigilance is being exercised. My Government is also expediting construction of roads on the border areas for increasing the mobility of the Armed forces and for rushing re-inforcements to the vulnerable areas in times of emergency.

4. I am glad to say that the law and order situation of the State was quite satisfactory. There was a decrease in the incidence of serious crimes due to the mobility and effectiveness of the police forces. The activity of the Anti-corruption Branch met with noticeable success.

5. Besides the financial business more than a dozen legislative measures will be introduced during the current session. Some of them are very important. One of them is the Assam Elementary Education Bill which seeks to associate the Gaon Panchayats and other local bodies with the establishment and management of elementary schools. The District Councils will, under the provisions of this Bill be responsible for the management of elementary schools within their own areas. Of the other important Bills mention may be made of the Assam Board of Revenue Bill, the Assam Local Rates Regulation (Amendment) Bill and some other Bills which you will have occasion to discuss when they are moved.

6. As stated in my last address, in the sphere of development, the Third Five-Year Plan for our State contains an ambitious programme of all-round development and judged by the encouraging response that the

first two plans evoked in the economy of the State, we are assured of a very bright future for Assam. The Third Five-Year Plan is well balanced and broad-based and at the end of it, our State would have a very sound economic foundation for further accelerated development. For the current financial year, the plan allocation for our State is Rs. 23.40 crores excluding the investments that will be forthcoming from the Centre for the centrally sponsored schemes.

7. The separation of the Judiciary from the Executive had been decided as a matter of principle by my Government. This matter has been further examined at length by a Committee of Officials set up to give a practical shape to the scheme. It is hoped that after a further discussion with the Hon'ble High Court a workable scheme will be finalised.

8. Attainment of self-sufficiency in agricultural production is one of the main key notes of our plans and the target set for our State during the Third Five-Year Plan is an increase of 4.20 lakh tons of food production over the level achieved at the end of the Second Plan. To realise this goal, the various schemes already introduced in the sphere of agriculture, such as improved agricultural practices, use of fertilizers, land reclamation schemes and minor irrigation will be further intensified and expanded. The field management committees in collaboration with the village panchayats will be actively associated in various Government sponsored schemes and these bodies will have a major role in the successful implementation of the schemes.

9. Improvement of live-stock, so vital to the betterment of agricultural practices and also for production of nutritive food like milk, meat, etc., has been receiving due

attention of Government and their efforts in this direction have yielded encouraging results. The epidemic diseases have to a great extent been controlled.

10. Along with increase in food production Government would also ensure as they have done hitherto that food prices remain steady at a level reasonable to both purchaser and consumer by continuing to procure food grains and build up buffer stocks. Our efforts will also be directed to ensure increase in the supply of other essential food-stuff by over-coming the present transport bottle-necks which have caused considerable anxiety in the matter of maintenance of regular supply of these commodities. Steps are also being taken to cope up with the increasing demand for iron materials in the State.

11. The land reform measures that have been and are being undertaken by my Government will hasten the introduction of the socialistic pattern in our rural areas and encourage increase in food production. Notable among the measures being taken are the implementation of the Assam Gramdan Act, and the scheme for consolidation of holdings. The implementation of the Act for acquisition of lands belonging to religious and charitable institutions will remove one more set of intermediaries not brought within the ambit of the Ceiling Act. My Government is fully conscious of the problems created by large scale encroachment on the Government reserved lands and to eradicate this evil will strictly enforce the rules for severe punishment of the encroachers.

12. Since I addressed you last, some parts of the State were affected by cyclones and hailstorms, usual during the season, and Government took prompt relief measures in all the affected areas. Locust menace was also reported from some places, but thanks to the expeditious measures adopted by Government, large-scale damage to crop was averted.

13. In order to counteract the vagaries of nature appearing in the form of floods, droughts, etc., common in our State, the irrigation and embankment programme would be further intensified during the next few years.

14. A well-balanced economy that we envisage should have its foundations on a sound policy of industrial expansion. The tempo of activity in the industrial sphere in our State will be greatly accelerated during the Third Five-Year Plan and a number of new major industrial units both in the public and private sectors, would start functioning. The recent completion of the pipe line project for bringing crude oil from the well heads in Upper Assam to the refinery at Gauhati was a big achievement in this field. During the current year, the expenditure in the industrial sphere would be of the order of Rs. 166 lakhs. In the public sector, the Natural Gas Distribution Project in Upper Assam, the Fertilizer Factory at Namrup and the Natural Gas Fractionisation Project are being taken up and in the private sector the important schemes are the two cotton-spinning mills, the sulphuric acid and sulphurdioxide plants, hard-board and chip-board plants and certain gas-based industries. Due emphasis is also being given to further development of small-scale industries. In the sphere of mining, investigation would be carried out for setting up a cement plant at Bokajan and also for the production of stone-ware and porcelain materials. The implementation of a big industrial programme before us will soon give Assam a significant position in the industrial map of our country.

15. A well-defined programme for increasing power production is an important component of the programme for industrial expansion and in this sphere, the natural advantages that our State enjoys would be further harnessed during the current year. With an anticipated investment of Rs. 768 lakhs during the year, the important

schemes on which work will start this year are the Naharkatiya Thermal Station, the Garo Hills Thermal Station, the second stage of the Umiam Hydro-Electric Scheme and the expansion of rural electrification. Besides the major schemes envisaged in this sphere, my Government also would give importance to small hydel schemes. The work on the meter factory at Shillong is making satisfactory progress and when completed this factory will produce nearly one lakh forty thousand meters per year.

16. As hon. Members are aware, Assam is rich in forest resources. In order to utilise these resources fully, Government have already undertaken a scheme for the establishment of a timber treatment and seasoning plant which would put on the market species of timber hitherto not adequately used due to lack of natural durability or defects such as splitting and warping. In the context of the rapidly increasing demand for timber, which is outstripping supply, a programme for plantation of fast growing species of timber is also under implementation. Important species such as teak are also being planted on a large scale.

17. As I stated in my last address, in the matter of expansion of educational facilities Government has taken up a phased programme for expansion of technical and general education. The existing technical institutions will be further expanded and new institutions established. Important new schemes during 1962-63 are the establishment of Industrial Training Institutes at Shillong and Aijal, a junior technical school at Jowai and a technical institute for girls at Haflong. The programme for increasing facilities for primary education would be further expanded. In the sphere of secondary education more high schools will be up-graded to higher secondary schools during the year. Attention will also be given to the maintenance and development of cultural and sports institutions, such as the Sangit Natak Academy, the Lalit Kala

Academy, the Assam Flying Club and State Sports Council. Government have also accepted a scheme for the establishment of a Sainik School in the State at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 lakhs and the preliminaries of this work will be taken up during this year.

18. In the matter of rural development, as I had stated in my last address, Government's programme of introduction of Panchayat Raj has been attended by great enthusiasm of the people. It is very necessary that the energies of our people be directed towards productive aspects. While the Governmental machinery will fully assist in this direction our rural folk will have to gear up their endeavours in this direction. In order to nourish the Panchayats to attain self-reliance and to implement programmes of rural development on a self-help basis steps have been taken to guide the officials and non-officials connected with the programme on proper lines, particularly in the preparation and implementation of realistic productive programmes, with maximum participation of the people and utilisation of locally available materials and manpower. It has been decided to lay great emphasis on the training of the people connected with the programme and in this connection several training institutions would be set up during the Third Plan. During the current year, work on one such institution will commence. It has been decided to confer powers of Panchayati Adalats on the Panchayats for disposal of certain classes of cases in some cases. In order to safeguard the interests of the weaker sections of the community, Gaon Panchayats have been authorised to constitute special sub-committees for programme benefiting the backward people. Since in the ultimate picture, the Panchayats will be the sole agency for development programmes in the rural areas, steps are also being taken to try and canalise development funds through these bodies.

The Mahakuma Parishads and Anchalik Panchayats are being fully apprised of the provisions in the departmental programmes for their respective areas. It is also proposed to grant loans liberally to the Panchayats to enable them to create remunerative assets of their own to serve as a source of income in future to supplement their limited resources derived from local taxes.

19. The development in the autonomous Hills Districts has been receiving and will receive the most careful attention of my Government. In order to accelerate the tempo of development activities in these areas, my Government have already taken several important schemes during the Third Five-Year Plan. It has also been decided to convert all Community Development Blocks having a tribal population of at least 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent into specialised tribal development blocks, with more resources during the intensive and post-intensive phases. From the Central sector, it has been proposed to establish a Tribal Research Institute. The Committee which was constituted to go into the question of financial conditions of the District and Regional Councils has already submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Tribal Advisory Council.

20. Among other welfare schemes, expansion of medical and health facilities occupies a very important position in my Government's programme during the Third Five-Year Plan. Work is proposed to be started on a third Medical College at Silchar which will further expand the existing facilities of medical education in the State and the requirements of the State regarding medical personnel will be more adequately met. Measures are also being taken to encourage both Ayurvedic and Homeopathic systems of medicine. Preliminary arrangements are now underway to start a State-wide small-pox eradication programme. Measures for control and treatment of serious diseases such as Leprosy and T. B. will also be further intensified.

21. As the House is aware, the Relief and Rehabilitation Department has already been wound up with effect from 31st March 1962, and the residuary problems have been taken over by the permanent Departments.

22. In accordance with my Government's programme of encouraging proper growth of towns, provision has been made for sanction of grants-in-aid to the municipalities and town committees in the State for specific urban development schemes, such as roads, bridges, etc. In recognition of the need for proper water supply to the towns in the State, it has been decided to undertake water supply schemes in about ten towns during the Third Plan.

23. In the field of transport and communication, a very significant landmark during the past three months was the opening up of the railway line upto North Lakhimpur. In keeping with the all round development envisaged for the State my Government have before them a big programme of road development during the Third Five-Year Plan. In this sphere in order to encourage the spirit of self-help among the people of the State and to build up the sense of dignity of labour Sramik Bahinis are being encouraged to take up road building programmes.

24. Harmony in labour relations and increasing measures for labour welfare are inseparable from the development plans in a welfare state. Even with a vast labour force employed in the tea industry and other industries in Assam, our State has been enjoying the benefit of very happy labour relations. In accordance with their policy for stepping up labour welfare activities Government have taken up the work of construction of labour welfare centres providing recreational and educational facilities to the labourers in several important places. A scheme for starting a holiday home for providing facilities to plantation workers for spending their holidays during their annual leave periods is being implemented.

25. My Finance Minister will be presenting in greater detail the future programmes and their financial implications. This House will have the opportunity of discussing them and passing the necessary financial bills. My Government have chalked out a bold programme to bring all round improvement to all sections of the people. The success of this programme would take our State a big step forward on our march to prosperity. In this mighty task Assam looks forward to the tireless endeavour and maximum sacrifices from all its citizens. The call of the hour is for the people to rise above their differences of language, religion, culture and caste, which are insignificant in the context of larger national unity and devote all their energies in an atmosphere of national brotherhood for the development of Assam and the country as a whole.

26. As is well-known to the hon. Members of the House, the question of National Integration has been exercising the minds of the leaders of our country and all shades of public opinion. Various meetings and different forums have devoted thought to this subject. My Government also is fully associated in this endeavour of bringing about emotional integration in our country. The field is very vast but I feel sure, given the good-will and understanding of all of us, the basic and essential unity of our people will be strengthened. Faced as we are with problems of difficult borders and internal tensions, the need for unity and internal harmony in Assam cannot be over-emphasised. I would earnestly appeal to the hon. Members of this august House as well as public leaders to give necessary constant guidance to the people for their determined endeavour, co-operation and unity with which alone our efforts can take us to our cherished goal of a prosperous Assam.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are thankful to the Governor for the very illuminating address which he has delivered. Now he will depart and after his departure we shall take up the business of the agenda.

(Governor left the Chamber at 10-30 hrs.).

Motion on Governor's address

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received a motion from Shri Muhammad Umaruddin and Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar, M.L.As. on the Address given by the Governor just now. The motion will be taken up on Thursday, the 7th June, 1962.

hereby fix in consultation with the Business Advisory Committee 7th June, Thursday, 8th June, Friday, 9th June, Saturday and 11th June, Monday (till 12-30 P.M.) as the dates for discussion of the motion or matters referred to in the Governor's Address and afternoon sitting of the 11th June, Monday for Government reply on the debate.

Notice of amendments to the motion or the Address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 12 noon tomorrow, the 6th June, 1962.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 7th June, 1962.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.