

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 a. m. on Monday, the 21st February, 1966.

PRESENT

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B. L., Speaker in the Chair, eight Ministers, two Ministers of State, three Deputy Ministers and Fifty-seven Members.

Unveiling of Portraits

Mr. SPEAKER: The Governor will address the Assembly at 10-10 A.M. under Article 176(1) of the Constitution of India. He is arriving at 10-10 A.M.

Before I go to receive him in the main gate, with your permission, I would like to unveil the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation and our great leader Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The portrait of Mahatma Gandhi is replaced by a new one and the portrait of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is a new innovation. The portraits are installed here, so that their idealism may always remain fresh in our mind and inspire us in our day to day activities.

(The Speaker then unveiled the portraits)

Address by the Governor

Mr. SPEAKER: I am now going to receive the Governor and I hope the hon. Members are aware of how to receive the Governor when he arrives the Chamber. I shall be coming back with the Governor at 10-10 A.M. In the meantime I request the Secretary to distribute the Address which will be delivered by the Governor.

(Mr. Speaker then left the Chamber)

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(The Governor entered the Chamber)

Mr. SPEAKER: May I request the Governor to deliver his Address ?

Governor's Address**MR. SPEAKER AND HON'BLE MEMBERS,**

Since I had the privilege of addressing this august Assembly on this occasion last year, a number of events vitally affecting our country have taken place. We saw in May last year, aggressive action by our neighbour in the Rann of Kutch area. Hardly had we come to the possibility of an honourable settlement of the issues involved there, when a more massive attack was launched in August and September, 1965. I need not recall the aggressive action of our neighbour in Kashmir, the escalation of the conflict and the subsequent developments. The magnificent performance of our Armed Forces in repelling the attack and the solidarity of all sections of our people during the crisis have given us confidence. We in Assam met the challenge posed by the conflict in a fitting and united manner. As Hon'ble Members will recall, even at the height of the conflict our leaders had made clear that they wished the people of Pakistan well and did not covet any territory or harbour aggressive designs. Our late leader, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, journeyed to Tashkent to seek an honourable peace and settlement. He was a man of peace. He made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of peace. He died in the hour of his greatest glory. It was his hope that the Tashkent declaration would lay the foundation for the welfare and the peaceful development of 600 million people of India and Pakistan. Assam, like the rest of the Nation, deeply mourns the passing away of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. Nevertheless, the ceaseless march of history, must continue. It is a measure of the deep roots of democracy in our country that we have elected a new leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in a democratic way as the head of the Government of this great country.

The people of Assam were privileged to receive the Prime Minister almost on her first public visit to any State in India. There were vast crowds and great enthusiasm wherever the Prime Minister went. The Government, however, deeply regret the loss of thirteen lives and injuries to others in a stampede after the meeting at Tinsukia was over. Some succour to the families of the deceased was immediately afforded.

It is also an occasion for gratification for the people of Assam, and, a particular pleasure, mixed with pride, for this House that one of its members has been selected to the high office of Union Cabinet Minister. While we shall miss on this occasion the familiar figure of Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed rising and presenting his Budget before this august House, I am sure the members will wish him the best of fortune in his new duties in a larger sphere.

The overall law and order situation in the State during the last year has been fairly satisfactory. Our good record of harmony among all sections of the people was maintained, and, indeed, strengthened by the threat to our territorial integrity.

Our border with Pakistan, as frequently in the past, was disturbed. Apart from incidents involving the usual kidnapping, cattle-lifting and theft, there was unprovoked firing in the Govindapur sector of Karimganj, in the Lathitilla-Dumabari area and from the middle of October, 1965, in the Satrasal area of Goalpara District. This latter firing spread to other areas in the District and some of our villagers had to evacuate to safer zones from Bhaskarkuti, a portion of which, till it was cleared at the end of December, 1965 was occupied temporarily

by deportees at the instigation of the Pakistan authorities. Since the beginning of this year, the border has been quiet. In order to have a unified approach and to effectively meet the situation on the border, it was decided that the Border Security Force would be taken over by the Central Government and this was effected from the 1st of December, 1965.

On the Nagaland border, encroachment into our forest areas, kidnapping of persons, forcible collection of taxes and food-stuffs were reported on various occasions. There were two cases of sabotage. In the first case on the railway line near Silchar on April 29 two saboteurs themselves were blown up. In another case at Selenghat on July 23 a passenger train was derailed, resulting in the death of eleven passengers and injuries to many. Hostiles also fired at a passenger train near Dhansiri railway station killing three and injuring twelve persons. There have also been encounters between hostiles and security forces at Nivang, Jinamghat, Thingjee and Leike. On January 7, the hostiles attacked our Thingjee post in strength using mortars. Three police-men lost their lives and two were seriously injured. In January and February of this year there have been seven incidents of varying degrees of seriousness involving Naga hostiles. A few days ago there was a most tragic outrage in a train near Furkating in which many lives have been lost.

The recent conflict with Pakistan had given a boost to the activities of our Home Guards, Village Defence Parties and other Auxiliary Organisations. The enthusiasm for taking training and a closing of ranks in the defence of our territorial integrity and the preservation of our way of life have been good auguries and we can derive encouragement from these trends. The Defence Committees were reconstituted and Honorary Civil Defence Organisers

appointed to do liaison work between the administration and the people and to strengthen defence preparation generally. The people also responded magnificently in making contributions to the Defence Fund and as a result it was possible to present a handsome purse of sixty-two and a half lakhs of rupees to the late Prime Minister when he visited Assam in the month of October, 1965.

To deal with the menace of corruption, the Anti-Corruption Branch continued to function with vigour. They now also have more advice and guidance from the Vigilance Commissioner, who has become a focus to whom persons can represent without any fear. Anti-Corruption Branch during 1965, registered 138 enquiries, disposed of 187 and found 137 to be either false, baseless or unsubstantiated. Action was suggested in 49 cases involving 36 gazetted and 44 non-gazetted officers. Eight criminal cases were registered while in 2 cases criminal prosecution was suggested. Public Relations Committees were set up in every subdivision to look into the grievances of the public.

The Government not only continued to strengthen the Organisation dealing with the problem of illegal infiltration, but have also seen to it that the number of tribunals, going into the matter of determining nationality and giving a person an adequate opportunity to represent his case, are sufficient. There are now six tribunals under the Foreigners' (Tribunal) Order, 1964 and three more are being set up soon.

The welfare of the people has at all times been in the mind of the Government. Various training programmes under the Departments to improve efficiency of

officers are receiving attention. Suggestions have been invited and many received from Government servants on how to improve efficiency and bring about economy. A detailed report on the reorganisation of the Secretariat is under consideration of the Administrative Reforms Committee. Various other studies undertaken by it are nearing completion.

The sincere desire of my Government to bring under-developed areas and people to the level of the rest of the State has resulted in fresh efforts to meet the situation. The "Area Development" approach has been adopted with regard to the drawing up of plans for the tribal areas. Integrated plans, aiming at achieving all-round development with special emphasis on improvement of communications, conservation measures and introduction of new crops, are being drawn up and will be vigorously implemented. We are happy to say that the Central Government and the Planning Commission are taking a great deal of interest in the economic development of the hill areas. A team of experts under the leadership of Shri Tarlok Singh, a Member of the Planning Commission, has recently visited the Mizo Hills and will also be visiting other hill areas. The team will consider how best the problems involved in development of these areas can be tackled. In the meantime, the necessary measures for ameliorating distress, specially in some of the border areas consequent on the recent aggression, have been continued. Apart from this, as a positive measure of help and assistance, transport was made available to bring border produce in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills like oranges to the main collecting centres. Efforts have also been made to find alternative markets, and to develop markets

for some of the produce in the other parts of India. As is also known to the Hon'ble Members, the Government of India have set up a Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri H. V. Pataskar for recommending a detailed scheme for reorganising the administrative arrangement for the Hill areas and for recommending the administrative, financial and other measures required to achieve this end. The Commission has visited a number of autonomous districts and received many memoranda. The Commission will, it is assumed, be submitting its report fairly early.

It is gratifying to note that agricultural production continues to show stability and growth. One of the key indicators of advance on the agricultural front, namely, the increased use of fertilizers is apparent. From a consumption of 4,000 tonnes year before last, fertilizer consumption went up to 10,000 tonnes last year and is expected to be 20,000 tonnes this year. The result has been spectacular in the Package Programme District of Cachar where from only 69 tonnes offtake in 1962-63, before the commencement of the Programme, the consumption is likely to go up to 8,000 tonnes this year. A large number of power sprayers have been procured to effectively check sporadic outbreaks of pests and diseases. Some of the other measures taken include setting up of soil testing laboratories, a large farm at Dalgaon for seed production, construction of numerous godowns for storage of fertilizers, a seed store in each Panchayat, introduction of new varieties of rice and other crops, setting up of a cold storage for improved seed potatoes, introduction of power tillers and assistance to Municipalities for expansion of production of town compost. It is also most encouraging to see that some past prejudices and misgivings of farmers towards scientific methods of production

have been overcome by successful demonstration. The production of rabi crops is expected to increase substantially because of the special measures taken since the emergency and this is likely to be particularly reflected in the increase in mustard seed, potato, vegetable and Boro paddy production. All these measures will be developed and intensified in the coming year. Post-graduate studies in more subjects, like Agricultural Chemistry, Entomology and Plant Pathology have been taken up in the Agricultural College at Jorhat.

While agricultural development is proceeding along proper lines, the question of flood control and irrigation continues to receive the attention of Government. Large schemes for affording protection from the numerous big rivers are clearly beyond the financial capacity of the State. The draft Master Plan for an integrated flood control programme on a short and long-term basis has been approved by the Flood Control Board on the 29th January. The Plan would involve an expenditure of Rs.311 crores at current level of prices. As against this, a little over Rs.18 crores only would have been spent by the end of the Third Plan period showing the magnitude of the task which remains to be accomplished. Fortunately, except for a few tragic occasions, specially the breach of the Gohaingaon bund, the flooding and consequent damage was not very extensive last year. The Jamuna Irrigation Scheme when completed should benefit nearly two lakh acres.

Due to our geographical situation and also in order to enable rapid development to become possible, it is necessary to develop communications. The extension of road development, under various heads and schemes, proceeds apace. Unfortunately, we are not able to do as

much as we would like to in this direction because of financial stringency. Internal transport services are being continued and a new route has been opened by the State Transport Organisation to carry passengers to Hailong. Due to the continued rise of prices for most articles required to keep a huge transport fleet in operation, often over difficult roads, it became necessary to increase freights and fares. The construction of the broad gauge line up to Jogighopa has helped the State in many ways and especially during the last emergency. The question of extension of the line to Gauhati has been taken up with the Government of India. My Government would like to record their appreciation for the smooth and satisfactory carriage of goods during the emergency by the Railway.

Though there was difficulty in regard to the supply of foodstuffs and other essential commodities some of the time, yet the position remained fairly satisfactory throughout the year. We had to build up sizable buffer stocks of commodities, like salt, sugar, wheat, pulses and mustard oil during the emergency.

The Government continued their policy of monopoly procurement of paddy through co-operatives. A total quantity of roughly 83 lakh maunds of paddy was procured in the last kharif year as against 45 lakh maunds in 1963-64. A bigger target of 1.25 crore maunds has been fixed for the current year. With a view to linking co-operative marketing with processing, an expanded programme for setting up 27 more rice mills in the co-operative sector has been taken up. A chain of wholesale and consumer co-operative stores is also planned. The work of revitalising the co-operative credit structure is proceeding satisfactorily.

The small scale industries base is being strengthened and expanded. The programmes under the khadi and sericulture and weaving schemes continue to grow. Unfortunately the tempo of industrial development in the sphere of medium and large industries has not been satisfactory due to a variety of causes. To accelerate industrial development the State Government have set up the "Assam Major Industrial Enterprises Corporation Ltd.", with an authorised capital of Rs. 2 crores. The Corporation has got a preliminary project report for the setting up of a paper and pulp manufacturing factory. The prospects for such a unit in Cachar are extremely promising. The cement factory in Cherrapunji should be in operation by June, 1966. A larger factory near Bokajan is also contemplated. Setting up of an industrial complex based on Naharkatiya gas is being explored. Other small schemes are being considered.

Many of our existing industries will be based on forest produce. It is, therefore, necessary to pay attention to the conservation, regeneration and extension of our forest areas. This has not been lost sight of in the schemes of the Forest Department. It has also been decided by the Government of India to set up a Regional Forest Research Institute in the State.

For the first time power is available in sufficient quantity in the State and industry should take advantage of this. Schemes under Umiam Stage II, Namrup Thermal Project, Gauhati Thermal Project and the Garo Hills Project will be continued during 1966-67. A number of transmission lines are planned. It is proposed to extend a 66 Kv line from Badarpur to Aijal, mainly to pump water

for drinking purposes for which a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs has already been sanctioned by the Planning Commission and provided for in 1966-67 for the first phase of this transmission line. It has been decided to supply power to Nagaland and Tripura. An Organisation has been set up for a zonal grid for the North-Eastern region.

All this creative and welfare activity must depend on a conscious educated population with the necessary technical and other skills. In the sphere of university and collegiate education, there has been the establishment of the second University at Dibrugarh, which we had hoped would have the good fortune of getting inaugurated by our revered President on the 28th February. But that ceremony has had to be postponed owing to his indisposition. Pachunga Memorial College at Aijal has been taken over by Government with a view to stepping up collegiate education in the Hill areas. A science college is being set up at Jorhat. In the field of secondary education, apart from laying emphasis on the training of teachers, a number of secondary schools, particularly concerned with girls' education, are being taken over by Government. An emphasis on N. C. C. and its continued development is a healthy sign. Along with this, there has been satisfactory progress in the development of sports, athletics and physical education so necessary for our rising generation. The 11th All-India Schools Meet recently held at Shillong, should give further encouragement to our boys and girls. With the appointment of a full-time Director of Sports it has been possible to organise games and sports in a more systematic and comprehensive manner. The Sainik School at Mornoi in Goalpara has been started and is making good progress.

The progress and consolidation in technical education continues. The engineering colleges are being expanded, two new polytechnics at Shillong and Dibrugarh have been started, three junior technical schools are going to be taken up. Moreover, deserving and brilliant students are given scholarship and assistance both for studies abroad and in the country.

To inform the people, popularise programmes, indicate the achievements of Government and serve the needs of modern society, good publicity and public relations work are essential. The activities of the Department of Information and Public Relations have been reoriented, and revitalised. The public address system has also been extended to cover additional towns.

Like all sections of the population, organised industrial labour responded to the call of the emergency. The Industrial Truce Resolution adopted in 1965 was faithfully implemented and peace maintained. Labour also made considerable contributions to the Defence Fund, apart from growing more food crops in the tea areas.

Even though the intake into the Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh has been raised from 100 to 150 students from 1963, there still remains a big shortage of Doctors. The Gauhati Medical College has produced the first batch of Graduates. The constructions of the buildings at Gauhati and Silchar, is proceeding apace.

Programmes for eradication of malaria and small-pox, control of leprosy and T. B. have been intensified. Last year there was a cholera epidemic which was extensive in character and spread to the Districts of Kamrup, Darrang and Goalpara. The Government greatly regret the loss of lives caused in this epidemic. Mass inoculation against this disease is continuing.

As it is well known, family planning has been given a very great deal of importance in our national planning. In the matter of sterilisation, the percentage in Assam compares favourably with that of other States in India. At present more importance is being given to the insertion of intra uterine contraceptive device commonly known as the loop. Satisfactory progress is being made in this direction and more and more officers are being trained for this work.

The Finance Minister will place before you the detailed budget proposals for the next year and will also review the economic trends.

During this Session my Government proposes to place before you the following legislative measures in addition to financial bills—

- (1) Assam Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1966.
- (2) Assam Consolidation of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 1966.
- (3) Assam Gramdan (Amendment) Bill, 1966.
- (4) Code of Criminal Procedure (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1966.
- (5) Assam Embankment and Drainage (Amendment) Bill, 1966.
- (6) Assam Village Defence Organisation Bill, 1966.

We can, I think, look forward to a year of progress in all fields of endeavour. For us to be able to do so, we must all unitedly strive. In this task, the Hon'ble Members of this House will have a significant and vital role to play. I am sure, our joint efforts will be crowned with success.

JAI HIND.

(The Governor then left the Chamber)

Mr. SPEAKER: We are grateful to the Governor for coming here and delivering his Address. Now the Deputy Speaker will accompany him to the gate and see him off.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I draw your attention to pages 3 and 10 where some sentences have been omitted by the Governor?

Mr. SPEAKER: You will be supplied with the corrected copy.

Announcement by the Speaker that the Governor had been pleased to make a Speech and to lay a copy of the Speech on the table under rule 13 (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly

Mr. SPEAKER: Under Rule 13 (2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I hereby report to the Assembly that the Governor has been pleased to make a Speech, a copy of which has already been laid on each Member's table.

Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received notice of a Motion of Thanks from Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, M.L.A., which is as follows.

"That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House on 21st February 1966."

I hereby fix in consultation with the Business Advisory Committee, Tuesday, the 22nd February, Wednesday, the 23rd February, Thursday, the 24th February, Friday, the 25th February, and Saturday the 26th February (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 Saturday, the 26th February, for Government reply on the debate.

Notice of Amendments to the Motion of Thanks may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 3 P. M. today.

The Motion may be moved tomorrow.

Resignation of Member

Mr. SPEAKER: Under Rule 186 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I hereby inform the House that Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, an elected Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly representing Jania Constituency, has duly resigned his seat in the said Assembly by writing under his own hand with effect from the afternoon of the 4th February, 1966. In this connection I would read out to you the letter which reads as follows:

"My dear Speaker,

As I have been appointed a Minister in the Union Cabinet, I beg to submit my resignation from the membership of the Assam Legislative Assembly. It is difficult for me to find adequate words to express my feeling at this time of parting. I have been long associated in some capacity of other with this august House and I can never forget the kindness, affection and friendship of the Hon'ble Members of this House. I am very grateful for the advice, co-operation and help which I received from you and from every member of the House. I shall ever cherish the memory of the finest time I had the opportunity of spending as a Member of the House. I am proud of the fact that the august House has established a reputation which, I hope, will be maintained. I shall be grateful if you will kindly convey to the Hon'ble Members my best wishes and gratitude for the help, co-operation and affection I received from them during my membership. Please accept my thanks for your kind guidance, advice and co-operation.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,
F. A. AHMED."

Leave of Absence by a Member

Mr. SPEAKER: I read the letter of Shri Dev Kant Borooah, Minister, Education.

"Minister,
Education, Co-operation and Tourism,
Assam, Shillong.

Camp-Medical College,
Gauhati,
February 16, 1966.

To

The Speaker,
Assam Legislative Assembly,
Shillong.

Sir,

I have the honour to state that as I shall have to be in the hospital for another fortnight or so, it will not be possible for me to attend the Budget Session of the Assembly till I am released from here. I hope you will kindly condone my absence.

The Deputy Minister, Education, will take care of the Assembly Business relating to the Education and Tourism Departments.

The Deputy Minister, Co-operation, will attend to the Business relating to the Co-operative Department.

Yours faithfully,
Sd./- D. K. BOROAH."

**Obituary reference to the demise of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri,
Prime Minister of India.**

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are meeting today under the shadow of a great tragedy that overtook the nation one month and ten days back. Our country has suffered the gravest loss in the sudden and untimely passing away of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the great leader of peace and noble Prime Minister, who guided the destiny of 460 million people in one of the most crucial period of the history of India. It is indeed most tragic that before we could hardly recover from the shock caused by the passing away of our beloved leader and first Prime Minister late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, we have had to face this calamity.

During the nineteen month tenure of office as the Prime Minister of the largest democracy of the world Shastriji displayed remarkable degree of courage, vision and statesmanship and directed his efforts towards the fulfilment of our national objectives. Combining in himself the best of human virtues, humility, strength of character, initiative and drive Lal Bahadur Shastri earned the love and admiration of the teeming millions of our country.

Although frail in body and unassuming in his disposition Shastriji combined firmness of determination with sweet reasonableness and never made any compromise with what he considered to be against his avowed principles.

A man of the masses Shastriji voiced the will and aspirations of the common people of India and in no circumstances did he lose the common touch. He was convinced that to make freedom meaningful the common man must have to be assured of the minimum necessities of life. He, therefore, looked upon economic development and the priorities connected with it as essential pre-requisites for a State of self-reliant economic growth and also for a resurgent India.

When Pakistan invaded India in the Rann of Kutch, Shastriji met the challenge in a befitting manner. The real test of his leadership came, however, in the wake of the massive aggression by Pakistan in September last year when he rose to unimaginable heights and conducted the war with firmness and restraint.

Yet Shastri was essentially a man of peace. He considered that the problem of problems that faced mankind was achievement of peace and disarmament. He therefore started with patient humility to repair the defects in our relations with the neighbouring countries like Nepal, Burma and Ceylon. The signing of an agreement with Ceylon in respect of the future of the stateless persons of Indian origin living in that country is another milestone in his short but most eventful tenure of Office.

It is this devotion to peace that finally led Shastri to Tashkent in quest of peace. He worked ceaselessly for fulfilling this mission and succeeded in achieving what was generally presumed to be something impossible. In that fabled city of Uzbekistan he signed with President Ayub Khan the historic declaration aimed at consolidation of concord between our two great countries and only a short while later that night himself passed away into history. Crores of people in this sub-continent who

would have otherwise rejoiced in the accomplishment of the momentous agreement woke up only to be struck with the saddest news of the unexpected demise of their beloved leader in height of glory. Shastriji is no more with us. But the spirit with which he served the nation, his dedication to cause of peace and welfare of humanity would continue to inspire millions of his living countrymen to work for the fulfilment of the objectives for which he lived and died. He by his supreme sacrifice at the altar of world peace and Indo-Pak amity, has pledged his countrymen to world peace and generated a climate best conducive for heralding the dawn of peace.

I on behalf of this House convey our heartfelt sympathy to Shrimati Lal Bahadur Shastri and the children.

Shri NANDAKISHORE SINGHA (Silchar-West) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, স্বর্গীয় শাস্ত্রীজী আনাদের কাছে বিগত ১৯২১ ইংরেজী থেকে ১৯৬৬ ইংরেজী এই ৪৬ বৎসর সর্বসাধারণের নিকট সুপরিচিত।

মাননীয় সর্বশুণসম্পন্ন শাস্ত্রীজীর যদি চল্লিশ বৎসরের জীবনী আলোচনা করি তাহলে দেখি, তিনি এই দীর্ঘজীবনে তাঁর দেশস্ববোধ, নিভিকতা, দৃঢ়তা ও বীরস্থির মনোভাবেরই পরিচয় দিয়েছেন। বিগত দেড়বৎসরে প্রধান মন্ত্রীর পদে অধিস্থিত হয়েও তিনি যেভাবে ভারতবাসীকে ঐক্যবদ্ধ করে সর্বসাধারণকে দেশস্ববোধের শিক্ষা দিলেন সেটা ভারতবর্ষের ইতিহাসে স্বর্ণাক্ষরে লেখা থাকবে।

শুধু তাই নয়, ভারতবর্ষের ধনী-দরিদ্র সকলেরই কাছে শাস্ত্রীজী একটি অন্যতম নেতা ছিলেন। আমি শাস্ত্রীজীকে অনেকক্ষেত্রেই পেয়েছি। তিনি যখন কাছাড়ে গিয়েছিলেন, তখন তিনি জনসাধারণকে কিভাবে আপন করে দেশের কাজে লাগার জন্য আপ্নত করেছিলেন ইহা আমার স্পষ্ট মনে আছে। তাহার শান্তির বাণী শুধু ভারতের শান্তির প্রচেষ্টাই নয় সারা বিশ্বে শান্তি বিরাজ করার প্রচেষ্টা।

এই বলেই মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী যাহা বললেন আমার দলের পক্ষ থেকে আমি সমর্থন করি এবং স্বর্গীয় শাস্ত্রীজীর আত্মার সদগতি কামনা করি।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully associate with the feelings expressed by the leader of the House at the sudden and sad demise of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, our beloved Prime Minister. Sir, it is said "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." This sermon of Christ bore testimony when Shastriji became the Prime Minister of this vast country. But when this meek and humble person died, Nature might have stood up and said "He was a man". He was not a philosopher king as Plato would have preferred for a State; but he was a man with a broad vision and a dedicated spirit. His ascendancy to the high office of Prime Ministership is a remarkable event in Indian political history. I call it remarkable because for the first time the Indian masses realised that the Prime Minister was from among them and all the sorrows and sufferings, aspirations and ideals cherished by them were embodied in his person. He was the man who brought back self-confidence and prestige to the Indian national life which so much suffered during the

Chinese aggression in 1962. With an iron mind and determination he, with the blessings of millions of his countryman was able to crush the naked Pakistani aggression on our soil. Honesty and integrity which are lamentably lacking in Indian social or political life today were the key-notes of the character of Lal Bahadur Shastri. These two ingredients of his life were clearly adumbrated by Shastriji in different spheres, particularly on one occasion when he resigned from the office of the Railway Minister for holding him fully responsible for a railway accident. It is a rare phenomenon in Indian democracy where lust for power is the rule rather than the exception. Shastriji was then an exception who completely identified himself with the national interest. Perhaps the poorest Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy Shastriji left his family almost homeless. A true disciple of Gandhiji as he was, he wanted peace, but never proved a coward when enemy attacked, which he amply proved during the recent conflict with Pakistan. He adorned the highest office of the Prime Minister only for 18 months, but what a rare statesmanship and achievement he displayed during this period! Nowhere in the history of the world shall we find such an example of great achievement in so short a period. He had epitomized his glory in world history by the Tashkent Declaration which came just before his tragic death. This Declaration, we sincerely believe, will go a long way in improving Indo-Pakistani relations. To the last moment of his life he worked and sacrificed his life for peace. I am tempted to call his a martyr, a martyr like Gandhiji, a martyr like Kennedy, and he will be remembered by future generations as such.

“Of all the problems facing us, none is more distressing than that of the dire poverty in which millions of our countrymen continue to live. Let us then bend ourselves to the great task before us an India free, prosperous and strong and a world at peace and without war”. So said Lal Bahadur Shastri in a broadcast to the nation on 11th July, 1964. Nothing can be a better tribute to the departed leader than to work for upliftment of millions of unfed and unclad people. While paying my highest tributes to Shastriji, whom I happened to meet personally on several occasions, I take this opportunity to urge upon the Members of the august House, through you, to work for the cause for which Shastriji sacrificed his life.

Shri STANELY D. D. NI HOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ever since we heard the news of the passing away of the late Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri this country, as already mentioned by the Leader of the House, has been under a cloud of sorrow. We had not had much time to get over the passing away of our beloved Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and the country was going through tremendous problems and difficulties. But Prime Minister Shastri had proved beyond doubt that India had risen to the occasion and democratically maintained the great leadership of this huge country. Few countries are blessed by having such dedicated and noble leaders as India. We have been blessed within our life time of having three great leaders, Gandhiji, Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri. In the beginning the country did not realise that this man who had risen from humble beginning would lead us to such glorious heights and his capacity for leading the country was tested to its extreme during the recent conflict with our neighbour Pakistan. He was a man of few words, but every word he spoke was full of sincerity and to the poin

Coming a little closer to my personal contacts with I recall the last time I had the privilege of meeting him in November when he came to Assam and at that time together with the Chief Executive Member of the District Council we represented to him the serious problems that had arisen in the border areas after the hostilities with Pakistan. His words at that time proved to us that he was full of sympathy for the hard-hit people of the border. Not only was he sympathetic but he promised to do something for them. I believe through his efforts and under his guidance the Government of India had strengthened the hands of the Government of Assam in doing something for the border people. His loss has been felt very seriously by those of us in the hills and by those who had the occasion of meeting him and coming into contact with him in the past years. I particularly refer to the fact that he was very conscious of the need for doing something for the development of the hill areas and it was because of him as the Prime Minister that the appointment of a commission was made by the Government of India for the hill areas to look into the reorganisation of the administration which was keenly felt by the hill people in the spite of delay at that time due to the death of late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

We join with the Leader of the House on behalf of our group in expressing our feelings of sorrow and condolence for the passing away of our late Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBORUAH (Amguri):** Sir, I also associate with the leader of the House in what has been expressed by him just now.

There is no need to mention that the relation between India and Pakistan worsened in the atmosphere of war and hatred. It is really a grave shock to the nation and to the world that after a few hours of signing the historic Tashkent Declaration which is paving a way for solution of hostilities not only between India and Pakistan but also for conflicts between any other countries or nations, not by arms but by peaceful means, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Prime Minister of India had to pass away. Even for successful implementation of the Tashkent Declaration thereby frustrating the attempts of the warmongers, to carry the purview of the Tashkent Declaration to the remotest distances to establish and maintain permanent peace between India and Pakistan, Shastriji had to contribute much. In the death of Shastriji the nation has lost a great patriot of strong mind and determination, a truest friend of the common man, and the world had lost a sincere advocate of international peace and friendship.

Most humbly and respectfully joining the sorrowing millions I express my profound sense of sorrow and grief at the sudden demise of Prime Minister Shastri at a most critical hour in the history of the nation when his services were needed most. I pay my respectful homage to the sacred memory of the Leader.

Mr. SPEAKER: I associate myself with the hon. the Leader of the House and other hon. Members who have spoken on this mournful occasion. There are occasions when words cannot adequately express ones own feelings and this is an occasion when no words I command can justly and adequately express my feelings which I have in my mind. It is an accepted maxim that misfortunes seldom come alone. We have not yet survived the shock on account of the sad demise of our great leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, when another calamity of equal magnitude had befallen this unfortunate land of ours in the sudden and unexpected death of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri represented the ideal qualities of a servant of the people in every sense of the term. He was meek and mild, a wise counsellor, a far-sighted statesman and a firm and brave leader of the country. As the Prime Minister of India for eighteen months, he braved many a problem of the country with grim determination and indomitable courage. The Tashkent agreement which can rightly be ascribed as his last will and testament, is a great charter for world peace and will ever be remembered by all the peace-loving world as an example in courageous resolve to struggle for honourable peace.

In agreement with the wishes of this House I shall convey a message of condolence to Shrimati Lalita Devi Shastri and other members of the bereaved family.

I wish the House will now stand in silence for two minutes and pray to Almighty for the eternal rest of the soul of the great departed leader.

(The House stood in silence for two minutes).

I take it that it is the general desire of the House to adjourn without transacting any further business as a tribute to the memory of the departed leader, and in response to that desire I now adjourn the House till 10 o' clock tomorrow, the 22nd February, 1966, Tuesday.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 22nd February, 1966.

Shillong, }

The 9th June, 1966. }

R. C. CHAUDHURI,
Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

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