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Legislative Assembly

Debates

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OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE SEVEN GENERAL ELECTIONS UNDER THE SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

BUDGET SESSION

VOL. I

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DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1983

(Budget Session)

Volume I

No. 1

Dated, the 21st March, 1983

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

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Dispur, Gauhati on Monday, the 21st March, 1983 with the Hon. Speaker Protém in the Chair. 12 (twelve) Ministers, 1 (one) Minister of State, 96 (Ninety six) Members present.

ORDERS OF GOVERNOR

The Secretary read out the following order by the Governor of Assam :

“Raj Bhavan, Shillong
March 11, 1983

“In pursuance of Article 188 of the Constitution of India, I, Prakash Mehrotra, Governor of Assam, hereby appoint Shri Mahammad Umaruddin, Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, as the person before whom the Members of the said Assembly shall make and subscribe their oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the said purpose in the Thrid Schedule of the Constitution, until a Speaker is elected.

After the election of the Spéaker of the Assembly, the oath or affirmation shall be made and subscribed before the Speaker of the Said Assembly and is in Session and both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker are absent, before the person who may be presiding over the Assembly for the time being.

Sd/- Prakash Mehrotra

Governor of Assam”

The Secretary read out the following order by the Governor of Assam :

“Raj Bhavan
Shillong, March 11, 1983.

WHEREAS the office of the Speaker will become vacant immediately before the commencement of the first meeting of the Assam Legislative Assembly on the 21st March, 1983 and the office of the Deputy Speaker is also vacant ;

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by clause (I) of Article 180 of the Constitution of India, I Prakash Mehrotra, Governor of Assam, hereby appoint Shri Mohammad Umaruddin, a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, to perform the duties of the office of Speaker from the commencement of the said meeting and until the Speaker shall have been elected by the said Assembly.

Sd—Prakash Mehrotra
Governor of Assam

Mr. Speaker Protem (Shri Md Umaruddin)—Now I will detail the procedure that will be followed for making and subscribing oath or affirmation. The procedure will be—the Secretary will call out the names of the Members one by one. He will first call the Chief Minister and then other Members of the Council of Ministers. The names of others Members will there be called by him. Hon'ble Members will please come up to the Secretary's table, one by one, make and subscribe the oath or affirmation, shake hand with the Chair, sign the Roll of Members and then take their seats. If any member, for some reason or other is absent at the time when his name is called, he will please wait till the Secretary calls out his name for the second time after the list is exhausted.

109 newly elected Members Subscribed their Oath or Affirmation under Article 188 of the Constitution of India before Md. Umaruddin, M. L. A. who was appointed by the Governor as the person before whom the Members shall subscribe their Oath or Affirmation.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Md. UMARUDDIN : I now take up item No. 3 i.e. election of Speaker. There are four valid nomination papers and I shall read out the particulars of the Nomination papers as required by Sub-Rule (4) of Rules of procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly. All the nomination papers are in favour of the same member i.e. Sheikh Chand. Mohammad.

Nomination paper No. 1— Proposed by Shri Hiteswar Saikia and seconded by Dr. Tarini Mohan Barooa.

Nomination paper No. 2— Proposed by Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar and seconded by Abdul Muhib Mazumdar.

Nomination paper No. 3— Proposed by shri Mohammed Idris and seconded by shri Deepak Moormoo.

Nomination paper No. 4— Proposed by shri Keshab Chandra Gogoi and seconded by shri Zahirul Islam.

As there is only one member nominated for the office of the speaker, I have much pleasure in declaring Sheikh Chand Mohammad to have been duly elected unopposed in the House as Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly. Before I request the elected Speaker to occupy his Chair, I would like to speak a few words.

At the outset I would like to offer my hearty congratulations to the newly elected Speaker. He has been here in the newly elected speaker. He has been here in this House first of all as Deputy Speaker and then as Speaker in this House. He is very much with us for the last few years. He has experience as a Speaker and his cooperation with the Hon'ble members has a very brilliant records. I am sure he will be able to maintain that proud record. I hope that all the Hon'ble members will cooperate with him. This House has very proud records over many years and we have been maintaining the decorum and dignity of the House properly and I hope with the cooperation of the Hon'ble Members Speaker will be able to maintain the decorum and dignity from time to come and lastly I wish Seikh Chand Mohammad God speed.

at this stage Hon'ble Speaker Shri seikh Chand Mohammad was conducted to the chair by the leader of the House and opposition Leaders and occupies the Chair and Md. Umaruddin vacated the Chair.)

শ্রীহিতেশ্বৰ শইকীয়া (মধ্যমস্ত্ৰী) :—মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি আপোনাৰ নিৰ্বাচিত আমি আটায়ে আনন্দিত হৈছো। আপোনাৰ অভিজ্ঞতা আৰু বিশ্বস্ততাৰ কাৰণে আজি আপুনি সৰ্বসম্মতিক্ৰমে বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্বাচিত হৈছে। এই বিধান সভাৰ এটা ঐতিহ্য আৰু সন্মান আছে। ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ অন্যান্য বিধান সভাসমূহৰ তুলনাত আমাৰ বিধান সভাৰ সুশাসিত অভিজ্ঞতা আৰু বিচক্ষণতাই আমাৰ অনুপ্রানিত কৰিছে। মই মোৰ ফালৰ পৰা আৰু আমাৰ দলৰ সকলো সদস্যৰ ফালৰ পৰাই আপোনাক অভিনন্দন জনাইছো। আশা বাখিছো আমাৰ বিধান সভাৰ সকলো কাৰ্য আৰু শৃংখলা আপুনি বক্ষা কৰিব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই পদনব বাৰ আপোনাক অভিনন্দন জনালো।

শ্রীহেমেন দাস :—মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আপুনি সৰ্বসম্মতিক্ৰমে বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষ পদনব বাৰ নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱাৰ কাৰণে মই আমাৰ দলৰ ফালৰ পৰা আপোনাক অভিনন্দন জনাইছো। এইবাৰ অৱশ্যে আমাৰ দলত সদস্য সংখ্যা আগৰ তুলনাত কম। মই জানো আপুনি এজন অভিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তি। যোৱাৰ বিধান সভাতো আমি আপোনাক অধ্যক্ষ হিচাবে পাইছিলো। আপুনি আগৰ বাৰ অধ্যক্ষ হিচাবে

এই সদনৰ সদনাম আৰু পৰিষ্কাৰ বন্ধাৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট অবিহনা আগবঢ়াইছিল। মই আশা কৰিছো আপুনি এই সদনৰ পৰিষ্কাৰ আৰু গৌৰৱময় ঐতিহ্য বন্ধা কৰাৰ কাৰণে আপোনাৰ অভিজ্ঞতা আৰু বিশ্বস্ততাই সহায় আগবঢ়াব। মই আশা কৰিছো আমাৰ দলৰ সদস্য কম হলেও আপোনাৰ পৰা নিৰপেক্ষতা আৰু নিৰাপত্তা পাব। আমি প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছো যে আমি বিধান সভাৰ কাৰ্য পৰিচালনা কৰাত আপোনাক সম্পূৰ্ণ সহযোগ কৰিম। মই এই বিনিকে কৈ পদনৰ আপোনাৰ অভিনন্দন জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰণী মাৰিছো।

শ্ৰীআক্ষয়জালদৰ ৰহমান : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আপুনি আজ এই পবিত্ৰ সদনে অধ্যক্ষ হিচাবে সৰ্বসন্মত ভাবে নিৰ্বাচিত হওৱাৰ আমি আপোনাকে আমাদেৰ অভিনন্দন জনাইছো। গতবাৰও এই সদনে আপুনি অধ্যক্ষ হিচাবে আপোনাৰ যে কাৰ্যক্ষমতা দেখিয়েছেন অভিজ্ঞতা মোক আমাৰ আশা কৰতে পাৰি যে আপুনি নিৰপেক্ষভাবে এই সভাৰ কাৰ্য পৰিচালনা কৰিবেন যাতে বিৰোধী দল হিচাবে আমাৰ সংখ্যাগ্ৰ জত্যন্ত নগন্য হওৱা সত্ত্বেও যেন আমাদেৰ গণতান্ত্ৰিক মতকে উপেক্ষা কৰা না হয়—আশা কৰি আপুনি এই দিকে বিশেষ দৃষ্টি দেবেন।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাদেৰ দলেৰ তৰফ থেকে আমাৰ আপোনাকে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছো যে একটা সাংগঠনিক অৰ্থাৎ কনষ্ট্ৰাক্টিভ বিৰোধী দল হিচাবে সভাৰ কাৰ্য পৰিচালনা কৰাৰ জন্য আমাৰ আপোনাকে সহযোগিতা কৰিব। এই বলে আমি আবার আপোনাকে আমাৰ আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ, ও অভিনন্দন জনিয়ে আমাৰ বক্তব্য শেষ কৰিছো।

*Shri BIONOY KUMAR BASUMATARY:—Mr. Speaker Sir, at the outset I offer my hearty congratulations to you for becoming the Speaker of the House once again. It is our proud privilege that you were Speaker of the House last time and we always remember your cooperation and help to us. This time we wanted to take our oath in Bodo language but this could not be arranged. Hon'ble Chief Minister has assured us that in future such arrangements will be made. In this connection I would like to mention that last time we made request for telephone connection to our residential home but this was not arranged. We did not get our Salary statement etc. inspite of our request. I hope, you will be impartial and protect our rights. We promise our all cooperation and support to you. Thank you

শ্ৰীআনন্দছ শোভান : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আপুনি দ্বিতীয় বাৰৰ কাৰণে এই পবিত্ৰ সদনৰ অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱা বাবে আপোনালৈ আন্তৰিক অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। মোৰা বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষ হিচাবে কাৰ্য পৰিচালনা দেখি আমি নথৈ আনন্দিত হৈছিলো। কিয়নো যোৱা যি বিধান সভা আছিল সেই বিধানসভা অতি জটিল সমস্যাবে পৰিপূৰ্ণ বিধানসভা আছিল সেই জটিলপূৰ্ণ বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষপদ আপুনি বিচক্ষনভাবে পৰিচালনা কৰিছিল যাৰ কাৰণে আমি আচৰ্য ও আনন্দিত হৈছিলো। বৰ্তমান যি বিধান সভা দুই বিধান সভা অতি জটিল সমস্যাবে পৰিপূৰ্ণ। এই জটিল সমস্যাবে পৰিপূৰ্ণ সপ্তম বিধান সভাৰ আপুনি অধ্যক্ষপদ অলংকিত কৰি আপোনাৰ বিচক্ষনতা পদনৰ বাবে প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। এই বিধান সভাত বিৰোধী সদস্যৰ সংখ্যা অতি নগন্য জুৰাপি তেখেত সকলে আপোনাৰ পৰা সমদৰ্শিত আৰু সমাদৰ লাভ কৰিব বুলি আমাৰ বিশ্বাস। আপোনাৰ ভবিষ্যত মঙ্গল কামনা কৰি মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

শ্রীমধুনা ডেকা : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আপুনি সপ্তম বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱাত মই ব্যক্তিগতভাবে আৰু দলৰ ফালৰ পৰা আপোনালৈ অভিনন্দন জনাইছো। অধ্যক্ষ হিচাবে আপুনি এই সন্মানিত সদনৰ সকলো সদস্যকে সম দৃষ্টি আৰু মৰম দেখুৱাব বুলি আমি আশা ৰাখিছো। আপুনি জানে যে বৰ্তমান বিধান সভাত বিৰোধী পক্ষৰ সদস্য সংখ্যা একেবাবে সংখ্যালঘু আৰু আপোনাৰ মৰম নাপালে বিৰোধী দল হিচাবে তিষ্ঠাই টান হ'ব। গতিকে সংখ্যাত তাকৰ হলেও আপোনাৰ পৰা যাতে সকলো প্ৰকাৰৰ সহানুভূতি পাই তাকে কামনা কৰি আপোনালৈ আমাৰ দলৰ ভৰুক পৰা অভিনন্দন জনাই বক্তব্যৰ সামৰনি মাৰিলো।

Shri KAIZASONG:—Sir, I am very happy to see that the election of Speaker has proceeded in such a good way. I hope that whether a member belongs to majority group or minority group there will not be any differentiation from your side. Although the party which I belong to, is not a recognised one, I on behalf of my party i.e. Karbi Anglong Minority Communities party congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the House.

Mr. Speaker:—Hon'ble Leader of the House and Hon'ble Members of this august House, I am extremely grateful to all of you for electing me to the distinguished office of the Speaker unanimously. I am also extremely grateful to the Leader and other Hon'ble members for the kind words and feeling expressed about me. I can assure all of you that I have gained some experience of the responsibility of this high office due to the holding of this post for the last five years. I am quite alive to the responsibility and the duty cast upon the Speaker. I can assure all of you that it would be my earnest endeavour to uphold the dignity and honour of this chair and of the House by impartially discharging my duties and responsibilities. It would be also my sacred duty to safeguard the rights and privileges of all the members irrespective of party affiliation. I am sure, all Hon'ble Members would extend their kind cooperation for discharging my responsibility on which depends proper functioning of the House. Since the House is the symbol of democracy, proper functioning of democracy will certainly depend on the proper functioning of the House. I am also quite sure that if we work together unitedly and with determination, the gigantic problem faced by the people of Assam today will certainly be solved and our people and the State will prosper again and bring about stability. I hope, with this sacred aim we will proceed to do our work and it will be my cherished desire to uphold the dignity and honour of this House and of this office. With these words I express my deep gratitude to the Leader and other Hon'ble members of the House for electing me to this high office.

Thank you

শ্রীহেমেন দাস : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱাৰ লগে লগে কাম আৰম্ভ হৈছে। সদনৰ প্ৰথম কাৰ্যসূচী আৰম্ভ হোৱাৰ আগতে, নিৰ্বাচনৰ ফল ঘোষণা হোৱাৰ পৰা আজিলৈ অসমৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইত সংঘৰ্ষত যি সকল লোকৰ মৃত্যু হৈছে সেই লোক সকলৰ মৃত্যুত আমি শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰা উচিত - - - - -

(উইচ : কাৰ্যসূচীত আছে)

আমাৰ টেবুলত আমি পোৱা নাই।

Mr. Speaker:—As the Governor will address the House at 3 P.M. Ho use stands adjourned till 2.54 P.M.

Mr. Speaker:—Hon'ble Members present, the Governor is addressing the House to-day at 3.00 P.M. He is coming to the eastern gate of the Assembly at 2-57 P.M. Myself and the Secretary will be going to receive him at the gate. The instruction as to how the Governor is to be received in the House has been laid on each Member's table. As soon as the Governor comes, I think, we should all comply with the instruction. With your permission now I leave the House to receive the Governor at the Gate. (Speaker leaves)

(The Governor arrives at 2-57 P.M. led by Hon'ble Speaker)

(As soon as the Governor takes his stand to read out the Address, the hon'ble Members belonging to PTCA, Congress (S) and Independent Members excepting Shri Govinda Langthasa and Shri Kaziasong (both Independents) rose in their seats and Started Shouting in protest in a chorus saying that this Governor has failed to keep his assurance in providing security to the people and has no right to address the House, and then they staged a walk out.)

Governor:—Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members,

I am very happy to address the first session of the new Legislative Assembly of the State.

ELECTION

After the elections, a new Ministry under the Chief Ministership of Shri Hiteswar Saikia has assumed office. I wish all success to the Chief Minister and his colleagues in the efforts for the development of the State. I also offer congratulations to the newly elected members.

I am sure that the mature experience of those Hon'ble members who had been in the House before and the fresh outlook of those who have entered the House for the first time will make the deliberations of the House constructive and purposeful, ensuring the march of Assam towards the goal of all-round prosperity and growth.

The elections to the 109 seats for the State Legislature were held on the 14th, 17th and 20th February, 1983. The situation during the period was being continuously reviewed by the State Government and in 16 Legislative Assembly Constituencies and 7 Parliamentary Constituencies elections were postponed. The conduct of elections in face of the extraordinary situation prevailing in the State, has been a creditable performance on the part of the State administration. The State Government also acknowledges gratefully the assistance rendered by the Government of India and the

Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram by deputation of polling personnel and Presiding Officers and security forces as also by making available vehicles with drivers and providing assistance in other ways. The State Government is also grateful to its officers and employees who performed the duties of Presiding and Polling Officers or worked for the conduct of elections. Thanks are also due to the officers and men of the Police and Security Forces who worked ceaselessly to maintain law & order during this difficult period.

Subsequent to the inconclusive end of the last round of tripartite talks with agitationists in Delhi, held on 4th and 5th January, 1983 and the announcement regarding holding of elections, the State witnessed an intensified phase of agitation which, inter alia, included subversive activities like burning of bridges, blowing up of Railway tracks, causing sabotage of communication channels and arson of public buildings. The recent disturbances in the State took a heavy toll in terms of persons dead and injured. A climate of bitterness, suspicion and distrust has been generated and the harmony between various communities and groups was disrupted leading to a feeling of increased insecurity particularly amongst minorities,—linguistic, religious and ethnic.



MEASURES TAKEN

2. Adequate measures were taken by the administration to cope with the situation as it emerged from time to time. Security forces were deployed in the State depending upon the requirement. Clear instructions were issued by the State Government that strict watch should be kept in the areas of confrontation of groups, and any occurrence of communal or inter group trouble should be nipped in the bud. The State administration has taken effective action. Action taken by the security forces was directed against those indulging in sabotage, attacks, assaults, group clashes and other similar offences which call for strong action and condemnation whatever be the occasion for their occurrence. In spite of these measures, incidents of group clashes have occurred in several places in the State particularly in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong, Goalpara, Kamrup, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. Due to disruption in communications,

inaccessibility of the area and lack of timely information, security forces could not reach some of the areas in time to intervene effectively in preventing group clashes.

Violence has to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. Nothing causes more harm to society than the adoption of violent means for achieving one's purpose. The State Government feel that the need of the hour is to build up an atmosphere of peace and to abjure violence.

HIGH LEVEL ENQUIRY

The State Government has decided to institute a high level administrative enquiry into the recent disturbances in the State.

DEPLOYMENT OF ARMY

3. With a view to effectively coping with the situation and improving the law and order situation, the Army has been deployed in several parts of the State, under the provisions of Assam Disturbed Areas Act, 1955 and Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958. The army is assisting the civil authorities in maintenance of law and order with flag marches, combing operations and helping in seizure of weapons and ammunitions kept unlawfully. I am happy to observe that as a result of measures taken by the State Government, the law and order situation in the State has improved.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

4. As a consequence of the recent disturbances, a large number of people had to leave their homes, and had to be given shelter and protection. The number of camps in the State rose to 305, and a population of over three lakhs was affected which would require relief and rehabilitation assistance. The State Government have taken up an extensive programme for the purpose which includes provision of supply of rice, pulses, salt, mustard oil, blankets and clothes to the camp inmates. Supply of medicines, as also of milk to expectant mothers and children and to sick, old and infirm persons has been arranged. The State Government have also decided to give ex-gratia grant of Rs. 5000 (five thousand) to the next of kin of the persons killed in disturbances and to give an amount between Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 3000

to the injured persons depending upon the nature of the injury. The assistance for rebuilding of the damaged dwelling houses would be available at the rate of Rs. 5000/- per family out of which three bundles of C. I. sheets will be given in kind and the remaining amount will be granted for purchase of other materials such as bamboo, timber etc. The State Government have also decided to give text books and clothes to the school going children of affected families. Cash assistance for purchasing bullocks upto Rs. 750/- per bullock with a ceiling of Rs. 1500/- per family has been arranged. An amount of Rs. 500/- per family would also be given by way of subsidy for buying milch cattle. Those engaged in cultivation are being given free supply of seeds. Assistance by way of rations or cash doles, will continue for a period of 3 months after the disturbance affected people return to their villages. With a view to ensuring security amongst the disturbance-affected people, temporary outposts with sufficient security force will be put up in the rehabilitation sites for a period of three to six months as considered necessary. With a view to meeting the requirements of the affected persons, Relief Manual has been amended, providing for increase in the scale of rice to 600 grammes per adult, 400 grammes for minors, 100 grammes of pulses and 30 grammes of salt per person per day. Each camp inmate is also entitled to 30 grammes of cooking oil per day. The State Government will also set up an orphanage for the children who have been orphaned.

The State Government hope that with these measures, the normal conditions would return and the people be able to restart their lives after the unfortunate tragedy.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT FOR RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

5. The financial requirement for relief and rehabilitation measures has been estimated at Rs.44.64 crores. It is evident that it would be beyond the capacity of the State Government to meet an expncditare of this magnitude. I am confident that the State Government's request for financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid would receive sympathetic consideration from the Government of India.

SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF FOREIGN NATIONALS

6. The State Government recognises the urgency and imperative need for a satisfactory solution of the problem of 'foreign nationals' in the State. The Government of India have announced that the doors for negotiated settlement of the problem are open. The State Government hope that the efforts in this regard would be resumed at the earliest opportunity with the cooperation and participation of all concerned so as to enable the finding of a satisfactory solution, leading to the stabilization of the situation in the State. The State Government is willing to extend all the necessary assistance and cooperation in this connection.

NEW PROGRAMMES

7. After assumption of office, the State Government have decided to take up a new programme for the development of the State. In this connection, the following decisions are proposed to be implemented.

(1) The State Government would undertake an examination of the requirements for administrative re-organisation of the State into districts, subdivisions and Revenue circles with a view to reaching the administration closer to the people and making it more effective to fulfil the needs of maintenance of law and order and area development.

(2) The State Government would undertake a scheme for re-organising the State Security Forces and to upgrade training facilities for them so as to improve their standard of performance.

(3) The State Government would implement the provisions of Assam Official Language Act, 1960.

(4) The State Government will set up a centre for research and development of the indigenous languages of Assam. It will finalise institutional arrangements including the setting up of a Sahitya Academy to promote development of literature in Assamese and in tribal languages and traditional culture of hills and plains. The provision of grants and financial assistance to artists, writers and actors will be liberalised. Assistance will also be made available for publishing books, and for films festivals.

(5) The State Government propose to set up a Sports College on the pattern of Patiala college. It will set up Sports Centres in rural areas and encourage holding of national and international events.

(6) Schemes will be taken up to encourage small and medium news papers. Policy and rules for giving of advertisements will be reviewed and modified keeping this objective in view. Pressmen will also be given facilities to undertake reporting from rural areas.

(7) With a view to ensuring better attention to the vulnerable sections of society living in tea garden areas, the State Government will set up a Directorate of Welfare for tea garden labour and ex-tea garden labour.

(8) The State Government would implement a programme of free education upto graduation level for girls within a period of 2 years.

(9) The State Government would implement a scheme for the grant of old-age pension on a selective basis. The details of the scheme will be announced soon.

(10) With a view to ensuring de-centralisation of the administration, the State Government would revitalise the Panchayat structure and take all steps to ensure their functioning as effective institutions for development in the rural areas.

THE ECONOMIC SCENE

8. The economy of the country is passing through a difficult stage with all the stresses and strains of a developing economy in which a substantial part of the population lives below the poverty line. In spite of a difficult law and order situation and various strains, the economy of the State has shown significant progress. During the year 1982-83 the foodgrains production in the State was estimated to reach the target of 30.67 lakh tonnes. The available trends suggest that industrial production would also be marginally higher than in 1981 and the mining and processing sectors have also revealed similar encouraging trends. As a result, State domestic production is likely to register a significant rise in 1982-83 over 1981-82.

However, constant watch has to be maintained in regard to the price situation. The prices of food articles showed a reasonable degree of consistency whereas prices of non-food and non-agricultural items were subject to inflationary trends during the year.

PLAN ALLOCATION

9. The situation in the State has highlighted the need for stepping up of developmental activities. The development programmes have suffered a setback due to the disturbances. The State Government have initiated measures to strengthen the machinery for implementation of development programmes and it is expected that given the adequate finances for the plan programmes, during the next year developmental activities could be speeded up substantially. It is evident that during last several years due to the disturbed conditions, the resource-raising capacity of the State has been limited and under the circumstances it would be difficult for the State to contribute substantially towards plan resources. The State Government have proposed a plan size of Rs. 319.57 crores for the year 1983-84. Considering the special situation in the State and need for accelerating developmental activities, it is expected that the Government of India would give a sympathetic consideration to the demand of the State Government and will meet fully the request for a plan size of Rs. 319.57 crores. Government of India have since agreed to fix the size of the Annual Plan for 1983-84 at Rs. 291 crores.

ROLE OF N E C.

The State Government are grateful to the Government of India for announcing their decision to construct a rail-cum-road bridge at Jogighopa. This will fulfil a long-felt need of the entire region and improve the transport system enormously. The work at the Sulghat bridge, which is also an N E C scheme, is progressing satisfactorily. North-Eastern Council is playing a vital role in the development of the region by assisting the States and Union Territories for taking up schemes of regional and inter-state importance particularly in the sectors of development of Power and Roads. State Government places on record its highest appreciation of the good offices of the Chairman of N E C who has been successful in getting the approval of Government of India to some of the major projects of the region.

TELEVISION

The linking of Gauhati and other places of North East with the National television net-work has been a significant and praiseworthy step of the Government of India towards the closer integration of the region with the rest of the Country.

DIFFERENCES ON THE BORDER

10. The State Government is committed to a peaceful negotiated settlement of differences with the neighbouring States. On the border of the State with Nagaland, several incidents had occurred. Discussions were held at the level of Adviser and the Chief Minister and between the Chief Secretaries of the two States and measures taken in the light of the decisions in these meetings were helpful in defusing the situation and maintaining peace in the areas bordering the two States.

CLEAN ADMINISTRATION

11. The State Government are determined to ensure a clean administration which is responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people. Despite preoccupation with law and order situation, the State Police machinery has continued its persistent efforts against economic offenders. The Anti Corruption Branch has maintained its vigilance in detection and registration of cases against corrupt officials. Altogether 621 cases were investigated during the year by Anti Corruption Branch and 99 cases were disposed of. The State Government have recently appointed a Retired Chief Justice of a High Court as State Vigilance Commissioner. It is also proposed to set up institutions for removal of public grievances at various levels.

20-POINT PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT

12. The new 20-Point Programme announced by our Prime Minister is the real charter for economic development of the Nation. The State Government declare their firm adherence to the programme and would make all possible efforts to implement the various items of the programme fully. The progress in the State under the programme in several sectors has been satisfactory. However, due to the disturbed conditions prevailing in the State, the efforts of the entire administrative machinery had to be diverted towards

law and order and relief measures. This having coincided with peak construction period in the State, developmental programmes are likely to be affected to some extent. Under the circumstances, it is likely that some targets may not be achieved fully under the 20-Point Programme during the current year. However, the State Government would make all efforts to achieve maximum results in spite of these constraints, and would take up an intensive programme to make up the short-falls, if any, during the next financial year.

AGRICULTURE.

13. In the agricultural sector emphasis is being laid on increasing the area under High-Yielding Varieties programme and multicropping. The plan strategy also includes adoption of modern methods of cultivation including use of better seeds, greater application of fertilizers, use of irrigation facilities, and plant protection measures. The World Bank Assisted Programme of Intensive Agricultural Extension is continuing. The target of production of foodgrains is expected to rise to 30.67 lakh tonnes by the end of 1982-83. Prospect of production of pulses, rape seed, mustard oil and sugar-cane is also expected to be better. Production of jute is also expected to show an increase during 1982-83.

AVAILABILITY OF CREDIT

14. The infrastructure for availability of credit and bank facilities for developmental purpose in the State has shown significant improvement during the past few years. The number of scheduled commercial bank offices which was 507 in June, 1981 increased to 562 in June, 1982. 39 of these offices were opened at un-banked centres. However, the average population covered per bank office continues to be high at 35 thousand as against 17 thousand for the country as a whole as in June, 1982. Assam has now 5 regional rural banks covering all the 10 districts of the State which till June, 1982 opened 89 branches in rural areas. As on March, 1982, these banks had a total deposit of Rs. 7.21 crores and the volume of credit on the same date was to the tune of Rupees 4 crores.

CO-OPERATION.

15. The Co-operative Credit Structure has been strengthened. More than 80 per cent of the families in the rural areas in the State have been brought under the Co-operative umbrella, in the plains areas and under the LAMPS in the hill areas which are rendering a package of services including supply of credit facilities; distribution of essential commodities, supply of inputs, procurement of raw-materials etc. Special care has been taken to promote and develop Co-operative Societies formed by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The development of Handloom industry in the Co-operative Sector has also been given due attention by supply of improved looms, subsidy to Co-operative Handloom Societies, establishment of work-sheds and capital assistance.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT, PANCHAYATI RAJ AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

16. The development in the rural areas pre-supposes an effective extension machinery and organisations which could act effectively as the channels for all the programmes of development. Government have decided to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions and the possibility of increasing the financial resources of Gaon Panchayats and Mahkuma Parishads is being examined. Various developmental schemes have been entrusted to the Community Development Sector such as, Minor Irrigation, Health and Sanitation, Construction of Roads, Implementation of applied nutrition programme etc. Rural Development programme has a crucial role in elimination of poverty and in stepping up of employment opportunities.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is under implementation in the State. Side by side, the programme of training youths in self employment (Try-sem) and National Rural Employment programme (NREP) are also under implementation. Under the IRD programme, families living below the poverty line, and the vulnerable and weaker sections of society are being assisted with loans from banks and subsidy has been given to take up gainful economic activities.

DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTRY IRRIGATION FACILITIES AND FLOOD CONTROL.

17. With a view to providing a stable base for agricultural development, provision of irrigation facilities and flood control measures are necessary. The programme for the development of irrigation in the State includes construction of water resources and field channels, establishment of command area development authorities and emphasis on exploitation of ground water potential in the State. It has been estimated that till the end of 1981-82, the physical achievement in terms of irrigation potential has been, providing coverage to 3.66 lakh hectares. The physical target for 1982-83 was fixed at 0.28 lakh hectares. Work is continuing in two major irrigation projects and one medium irrigation project. Responsibility for execution of flood control measures in the State is now shared between the Brahmaputra Board and State Flood Control Department. While the Board is assigned the task of carrying investigations and preparations of Master plan for multi-purpose development of water resources for flood control, irrigation and generation of electrical power, Flood Control Department is executing schemes for controlling flood in specified areas.

Forestry Development and development of soil conservation measures are necessary to provide support for the development of stable conditions for agricultural development. The programme in this regard includes afforestation of new areas and social forestry. The protection of wild life and maintenance of Kaziranga National park and other wild life sanctuaries is the other important aspect of the programme. Soil Conservation measures are necessary to provide cover to the soil and to prevent floods. The Assam Plantation Crops Development Corporation has helped in bringing over 1000 hectares under Coffee cultivation and 800 hectares under Rubber plantation upto the current year. A scheme for control of Jhum cultivation is also under implementation. The Department is also continuing the conventional soil conservation measures such as contour training and construction and maintenance of spurs.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, VETERINARY, FISHERY AND LAND REFORMS.

18. The programme for development in the sector of Animal husbandry and veterinary includes the schemes for development of better livestock. Under the poultry development programme, the Central Duck Farm at Kaliabor has been expanded and intensified duck development programme has been launched since 1980-81. The programme for setting up of veterinary dispensaries, first aid centres and check posts for prevention of animal diseases is continuing. Under the Dairy Development Programme, 6 Town milk supply schemes and 2 creamery schemes are under operation. The schemes in the Fisheries Development sector includes the improvement of tanks ponds and other low-lying areas and production and distribution of fish seeds.

Land Reform Programme is necessary for agricultural development and for ensuring security of tenure for the cultivators. The programme in this regard includes the implementation of the Assam Fixation of Ceiling on Land Holdings Act. The recommendations made in the report of the Land Reforms Commission are being examined and processed.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

19. The Industrial policy of the State Government aims at the setting up and development of industries based on the raw materials and products of the state. For the utilisation of the down stream products of B.R.P.L., 5 spinning mills are being established, based on polyester fibres. The spinning mill which is being set up by Assam Textile Corporation is likely to be completed by September, 1984. The other four spinning Mills are in various stages of implementation. The work on Methanol extension project and Assam Petro Chemicals Project and extension of the Assam Gas Co. Ltd. will commence soon. The Pthalic and hydride project is also in the final stage of implementation. The Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. will set up an industrial unit for manufacture of industrial battery cells. The Modern Bakery Ltd. has been given a licence for setting up an unit at Silchar for manufacture of concentrated pineapple juice. Some of the industries which are expected to come up in the private sector are manufacturing units for PVC pipes, steel pipes heavy steel fabrication and L.P.G. cylinders. The

State Government have also announced a package of incentives and facilities for small entrepreneurs and artisans. To implement this package scheme, work has been entrusted to single unit called Udyog Bikash which would provide single counter service to prospective entrepreneurs. Under the 20 point programme, 5 commercial estates have been set up for the benefit of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the rural areas.

POWER DEVELOPMENT

20. The Bongaigaon Thermal Project with two sets of 60 MW each has started generation. The Lakwa Thermal Power Station and the Mobile Gas Turbine at Geleki and Kathalguri have also started functioning. At the Karbi-Langpi project site, work on thermal power house excavation is in progress and the work for the construction of the dam has been started. During the current year, electrification of 500 villages will be completed. The Micro Hydel Project at Bordikharu has been commissioned with two 500 KV capacity units which would benefit Hill areas of the state. The work on 66 KV line from Bokajan to Diphu is also progressing. Work on Micro Hydel project of Dalamia near Haflong, with a generation capacity of 3 MWs is under progress. During the current year, 48 irrigation pumps have been energised.

ROADS, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM

21. The Public Works Department of the State Government faces the task of reconstruction of the roads, bridges and Government buildings to which extensive damage has been done during recent disturbances. Work of repairing bridges on national highway will be given priority. The reconstruction of bridges and repair of state high ways and roads linking the state and district headquarters, subdivisional headquarters and Police stations will also get priority. The Department will take up construction of an over-bridge at Zoo Road crossing, in the city of Gauhati during next year. The Public Works Department is also continuing the work of construction of residential and administrative buildings in the district and subdivisional headquarters. A new court building at Tinsukia was inaugurated during the year 1982. Work on construction of Subdivisional headquarters at Udalguri and south-east Nowgong subdivision has been taken up, Construction of buildings in the Sub-divisions of Jonai, Majuli and Sadiya is nearing completion.

The Assam State Road Transport Corporation took up operation of 20 additional routes during the year 1982-83. The Inland Water Transport Department is introducing night ferry service on the river Brahmaputra from the current year. The schemes undertaken by the Tourism Department include improvement and maintenance of Tourist Guest Houses, floating restaurant at Gauhati and dormitories at Kaziranga and Barpeta Road.

PROGRAMME FOR HILL AREAS SCHEDULED CASTES, SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OBC.

22. For the development of Hill areas, a separate hill areas development plan is in operation as a component of the state plan. Under the scheme, programmes are drawn up on an assessment of the requirements and needs of the hill areas. The emphasis in the hill plan is, on weaning away those engaged in shifting cultivation (Jhum) to settled mode of cultivation by provision of various incentives. Under this programme, 11 experimental centres have been selected, and schemes are under implementation. The Assam Hills Small Industries Development Corporation is assisting the private entrepreneurs in the hill areas to set up industrial units.

Development of Plains Tribals forms a component of the State plan with identified schemes. The programme for development of scheduled castes includes scheme for grant of scholarship, aid to the co-operatives and similar other economic programmes. The programme for welfare of backward classes contains the scheme for grant of scholarships to the students. The social welfare programmes undertaken in the State include the scheme for scholarship to physically handicapped students, maintenance of blind schools and destitute homes and financial assistance to voluntary social organisations. The State Government have taken a decision to reserve three per cent of jobs for the handicapped.

DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

23. Supply of essential commodities at reasonable prices particularly to vulnerable sections of society is one of the main tasks of administration. A chain of public distribution outlets is being run in the State. A programme of procurement of paddy during the Kharif season through STATED

was launched. The Assam Paddy and Rice Procurement Order, 1982 has been promulgated to facilitate procurement of paddy. In order to prevent hoarding, the Assam Trade Articles (Licensing and Control) Order, 1982 and the Assam Public Distribution of Articles Order, 1982 have been promulgated. The State Government have been taking all possible steps to strengthen the cooperative and public distribution system both financially and organisationally. The State Government have taken up with the Government of India and Food Corporation the question of adequate allocation and supply of rice and wheat to the State. The supply of salt has been organised by utilisation of board-gauge line and by creation of a salt dump at New Bongaigaon. Efforts are being made to arrange adequate distribution and supply of cement, iron and steel and other construction materials.

RELIEF IN NATURAL CALAMITIES

24. During the current year, apart from three successive waves of floods, the State also faced droughtlike situation in several parts as also cyclonic storms and hail storms. At the request of the State Government, a Central team visited the State, and the Government of India has allowed a ceiling of Rs. 9.47 crores for expenditure on relief from natural calamities. Apart from the distribution of gratuitous relief, the programme undertaken included construction of community works such as construction of new embankments, raising and strengthening of existing ones, construction of drainage channels, etc.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

25. According to available data up to March, 1982 the total employment in the organised sector of the State (both public and private sectors) stood at 8.60 lakh which was 0.4% higher than the figures of March, 1981 (8.56 lakh). The live registers of Employment Exchanges reveal that the number of unemployed which was 3.48 lakhs in 1980 increased to 3.73 lakhs in 1981 and further to 3.74 lakhs in 1982. Educated job seekers constituted nearly 42 per cent of the total applicants. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribe job seekers accounted for about 5 per cent and 7 per cent of the total respectively. The State Government are seized of the problem of unemployment in the State. Creation of employment opportunities depends on development of the economy of the State for which the Government would

take all possible measures. Apart from schemes which would generate employment directly and indirectly, the plan contains such programmes as National Rural Employment Programme and various training schemes which would go a long way towards increasing employment opportunities.

LABOUR WELFARE

26. With a view to ensuring increased welfare of labour, a large number of manufacturing and service establishments have been brought under the purview of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The provisions of Bonus Act and the Contract Labour Act have been extended to all the establishments with 10 workers or more. With a view to ensuring better working condition for workers in the tea gardens, draft rules have been framed under the Plantation Labour (Amendment) Act, 1981 to provide compensation to the workers injured or killed.

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

27. The emphasis in the programme for educational development is both on the expansion and qualitative improvement of education at all levels. The programme aims at universalisation of elementary education as also undertaking adult education programme. It is proposed to reorganise the Administrative set up for elementary education in the State in the light of the recommendations contained in the report of the study conducted under the guidance of National Institute of Educational Planning and Research, New Delhi. In the sphere of higher education, efforts are being made to give more attention to consolidation and improvement of existing facilities by construction of residential quarters, hostels, increase in intake capacity at various levels and construction of a polytechnic at Bongaigaon.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND WATER SUPPLY.

28. The programme for development in the Health sector includes the setting up of more primary health centres, rural health centres and sub-centres. During the year 1982-83, an additional 124 sub-centres and 2 primary health centres have been established. The medical education is being imparted through three medical colleges in the State which have an annual intake capacity of 270 candidates. Two medical colleges also provide for post-graduate studies in all major specialities. A Nursing

College with an intake capacity of 50 is also functioning and a Dental Unit is being added to the Gauhati Medical College. The schemes for control of leprosy, tuberculosis, blindness and eradication of malaria are also continuing. The progress in the State in regard to sterilisation operations and family welfare measures has been satisfactory. Water supply schemes have been started in difficult areas under the Minimum Needs Programme and accelerated rural water supply programme.

ACTIVITIES OF OTHER DEPTTS

29. A new department of Science and Technology and Environment has been constituted to coordinate the application of science and technology for the achievement of socio-economic objectives and to explore the possibilities of new and renewable sources of energy. A State Council of Science and Technology has also been constituted.

The schemes relating to assistance to the Gauhati Municipal Corporation, Municipalities and Town Committees have been continuing. The Administration of Gauhati Municipal Corporation has been placed under an administrator. Town Planning Organisation has prepared master plans for Gauhati, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur and Silchar towns. A scheme for environmental improvement of slums has been taken up in 17 municipal areas by providing pavement, street lights, water supply, construction of community latrines etc.

RE-ORGANISATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP

30. In order to bring the administration closer to people, three new subdivisions have been constituted at Jonai, Majuli and Sadiya. Courts of Judicial Magistrates have been established at Jonai and Hojai. Thirty new court buildings have been constructed under the award of Seventh Finance Commission, so far. The Administrative Staff College has been organising training courses and refreshers courses. Construction of building of the Central Training Institute at Khanapara under an N E C Scheme is progressing. The Government have also taken up a programme for reorganisation of revenue circles in a phased manner and 30 new revenue circles have been created upto 1982-83.

STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

31. While the State Government will always consider with utmost sympathy all the reasonable demands of the employees it has to be made clear that discipline has to be maintained in the services. Necessary measures had to

be taken against employees who did not attend to their duties during 1982-83. These measures included calling for explanations, initiation of departmental proceedings and suspension. In some cases, employees have been dismissed or their services terminated. The Government would review such cases on individual merits with the object of maintaining administrative discipline without causing undue or avoidable hardship. The State Government has already accepted in principle the report of the Pay Commission. The details for the implementation of the recommendations are being worked out and will be announced soon. As an interim measure, Government have already sanctioned one month's pay to each of the employees pending the implementation of the recommendations of the Commission.

EIGHTH FINANCE COMMISSION

32. The Eight Finance Commission has commenced the task of assessing the requirements of the States for the period of five years from 1984-85 to 1988-89. The State Government look forward to a sympathetic and liberal consideration of their demands from the commission in view of special nature of problems faced by the State and its backwardness.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

33. Apart from the presentation of the Budget and other financial measures, the House will also transact other important business.

CONCLUSION

I have indicated some of the main programmes of the State Government. Assam being comparatively a backward and under-developed State, the task of ensuring development and raising the economic level of the population is difficult and challenging. Prolonged agitation and recent disturbances have also considerably affected economy of the State and hampered the developmental programmes. The new Ministry faces a great challenge. I am sure that with the active co-operation and assistance from all of you, Government will be able to fulfil its task to the full satisfaction of all sections of the population of the State.

I am sure that your deliberations will be of immense help to the State Government in this regard. I convey my best wishes for your success in the challenging task which all of us face today.

JAI HIND

Mr. SPEAKER:—Now under sub-rule 2 of Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I, hereby, report that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech. A copy of the speech has been placed on the table and copies of the speech have been distributed to the Hon'ble Members also. I have received also the following motion of thanks on the Governor's Address from Shri Abdul Mahib Mazumdar and seconded by Shri Ramesh Phookan. Now Shri Abdul Mahib Mazumdar to move.

Shri ABDUL MAHIB MAZUMDER:—I hereby give notice under Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly to move the following "motion of thanks" on the "Address of the Governor" which has been delivered in the House to-day.

"That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are grateful to the Governor for the address he has been pleased to deliver to the House today, the 21st March, 1983"

Shri RAMESH PHOOKAN:—I second the 'Motion of Thanks'

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. SPEAKER:—Amendments to the motion of thanks, if any will be received by the Secretary upto 6 p.m. today.

I rise to condole the death of a number of ex-members of this House, a number of men of distinction, great political and social workers. It is indeed a very sad thing that within a short period of time six Ex-Hon'ble members of this House passed away viz. late Shri Ataur Rahman, who was born 1920 in Barpeta Subdivision. Shri Rahman had a brilliant career and after obtaining the M.A. and L.L.B. degree, Shri Rahman joined the Cotton College for a brief period and resigned to join the social work and actively participated in the Freedom Movement. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1949 and was again elected in 1967. He was elected as the Deputy Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly and subsequently appointed as Minister for Agriculture, Panchayat etc. He was re-elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1972. Shri Rahman was elected President of the All India Congress Party (s) and was closely connected with many other Organisations. This distinguished son of Assam passed away on 5th May, 1982.

Shri Mahendra Nath Deka was born in 1895 at village Muktapur in the district of Kamrup. After obtaining his Law degree he set up his legal practice at Gauhati. He took keen interest in the country's freedom struggle since his student days. He actively participated in the freedom movement since 1921 and courted imprisonment. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1952 from Kamalpur Constituency. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Gauhati Local Board for two terms. This noted Freedom Fighter passed away on 13th May, 1982.

Shri Atul Chandra Saikia was born in August 13, 1923 and graduated from the Cotton College, Gauhati. He took active part in 1942 movement and was imprisoned. He was closely connected with the Trade Union Movement for the last three decades and was General Secretary INTUC, Assam Branch since 1968. He widely travelled abroad in connection with Trade Union Movement. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1972. This dedicated Social Worker died on 2nd June, 1982.

Born in 1907 at Sibsagar Shri Pushpadhar Chaliha was educated at Sibsagar and City College and College of Engineering and Technology, Calcutta. He was inspired by the ideology of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose so much so that he left the Engineering College just 22 days before the Final B. E. Examination and joined the freedom movement of the country. He was President, District Congress Committee, Sibsagar and Vice-Chairman of the Sibsagar Municipal Board 1947-51. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1967 and was re-elected in 1972. This veteran freedom fighter and prominent social worker died on 18th June, 1982.

Born on 1st April, 1922 Chakbhal Kagyung obtained the degree of B. A. B. T. and entered Government Service from where he retired in 1976. After retirement he entered active politics and elected to Assam Legislative Assembly in 1978. He had keen interest in the development of poor people. Shri Kagyung died on 11th July, 1982.

Born in 1909 at village Nowgong under Barpeta Subdivision in the District of Kamrup Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury was a prominent figure in the political scene of Assam for over four decades. Shri Choudhury dominated the Assam Politics since his young age. He was not only a front ranking patriot but a statesman too. He was a grass root worker of the India National Congress and actively participated in the Freedom Movement of the country for which he was imprisoned several times. He held the highest party post in the State and the post of General Secretary in all India level. By dint of his amiable disposition he endeared people of all walks of life. He held the post of Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Minister, Speaker for a long time and subsequently became the Chief Minister of Assam. He was a member of Rajya Sabha. He was also appointed the Governor of Punjab which he subsequently resigned on health ground.

Shri Choudhury's personality commanded respect and confidence not only of the people of Assam but also the people of other States which helped to defuse many complicated issues. His initiative to establish a Sankrdev Chair in the university of Punjab is a unique achievement. Shri Choudhury was actively associated with socio economic, cultural Organisation of Assam. He was responsible for propagating Sankari cult not only in Assam but in other parts of the country also. He was also closely associated with the establishment of Madhupur Satra at Coochbehar, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi at Tetelia, Gandhi Mandap and Gita Mandir at Gauhati. This untiring social worker, astute Gandhian, able Parliamentarian, prominent politician, philanthropist and illustrious son of Assam passed away in the early morning of 27th December, 1982.

Born in May 1926 Godey Murahari had his education in Madras. He joined the Freedom Movement of India and was imprisoned in 1943 in connection with Quit India Movement, Shri Murahari was elected Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and was also the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha. He served both the offices with distinction. Shri Murahari passed away on August, 5 1982.

Born in October 1903 Shri Sita Nath Brahma Choudhury, graduated from Cotton College. He started his career as a teacher and founded the Bongaigaon High School. He was elected a member of Parliament in 1952. He was President of Assam Sahitya Sabha for both the Tinsukia and Diphu Sessions. He has made outstanding contribution to Assamese Literature. He passed away on 23rd November, 1982.

Popularly known as the Bakul Banar Kabi Shri Ananda Chandra Barua was born at Khumtai Tea Estate in 1907. He had also made a mark as a dramatist. He received his education at Jorhat High School and Banaras Hindu University. Barua received Sahitya Academy Award for his Bakul Banar Kabita, a collection of his poems. He was elected the President of Assam Sahitya Sabha in the Barpeta Session. This literateur passed away on 27th January, 1983.

Born in 1895 Acharyya Binova Bhawe was very much influenced by the ideals of Gandhiji. He dedicated his life for the cause of the poor and tried to help them in whatever way possible. He was the founding father of Sarbodaya and Bhoodan Movements for the purpose of acquiring of surplus land for the landless. Binova Bhawe went to prison several times for his active participation in the freedom movement of the country. He was well known as a spiritual heir of Gandhiji for his complete dedication of his life for the cause of humanity. In recognition of his distinguished service he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna. He died on November 15, 1982.

Born in Hiderabad (Sind) in 1888 now in Pakistan Shri J. B. Kripalani joined the Bhumihar College Patna after obtaining Master Degree from Wilson College, Bombay. But his spirit of social service inspired him to be social and political worker and he became the Private Secretary to Pandit Madan Mohan Malabya. He also became the General Secretary and President of the A. I. C. C. and made significant contribution to the Organisation. He was imprisoned several times during non-co-operation Movement and Quit India Movement. He was the Architect of the then Praja Socialist Party of India after he broke

away from the Indian National Congress. Achaaryya Kripalani was elected to Lok Sabha in 1963 in a bye-election and was re-elected to Lok Sabha in 1967. He united members of various political parties and formed a strong opposition. He was also one of the Architects who formed the Janata Party in India which came into power in 1977. As a true Gandhian he distinguished himself both as a public Speaker and a writer by originality and vigour of expression. He married Sucheta Kripalani who predeceased him. This octogenarian, prominent freedom fighter and true Gandhian died on 19th March, 1982 at the age of 94.

Born in Bombay on November 14 1926, Shri Pilo Mody took his M. A. in Architecture and Town Planning from the University of California at Berkeley, U. S. A. He had contributed in planning the Chandigarh Town. In the late 1960's he came under the influence of Rajaji and became the member of the Swatantra Party. Shri Mody was the Chairman of the Swatantra Party from 1974 to 1976. Shri Mody was a member of Rajya Sabha in 1978 and was elected earlier to the Lok Sabha in 1967 and 1971. Shri Mody who was a relentless crusader for a clear public life was an able parliamentarian and a great humourist. This wellknown architect and excellent Parliamentarian died on 29th January, 1983 at the age of 57.

Mira Behn, a long time companion of Mahatma Gandhi and a crusader for India's Independence was born at Medelaine Siade in England in 1882. It was Gandhiji who gave her the name of Mira Behn in view of her complete dedication for the cause of independence. She arrived at Sabarmati Ashram in November, 1925 and adopted the hard and ascetic life. She accompanied Gandhi to the second Round Table Conference held in London in 1932. She was imprisoned for participating in the Indian Freedom Movement throughout her life in India. In recognition to her selfless service and dedication she was given Padma Bibhusan Award. This noted social worker and wellknown disciple of Gandhiji died on 20th July, 1982.

Shri Gopal Swarup Pathak was born in February, 1896 at Bareilly in U. P. and was educated at Government College, Lahore and the University of Allahabad. He started his legal practice at Allahabad High Court. Shri Pathak was appointed judge of the Allahabad High Court in 1945, but resigned to resume his practice of law. He was sent to the United Nations as a member of the Indian Delegation several times. He also went on diplomatic mission to South America as a Special representative of the late Prime Minister Nehru with the honorary rank of an Ambassador to

apprise India's stand on Kashmir issue. Shri Pathak was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1960 and served in a number of Parliamentary Committees. He became the Union Law Minister in 1966. He was appointed Governor of Mysore, now Karnataka on May, 1967. Shri Pathak was elected the Vice-President of India in 1969. This astute jurist, distinguished Parliamentarian and able administrator died on August, 31, 1982. In his death India has lost a great national leader.

Born in July 1888 in a respectable and a well to do family of Jorhat Shri Krishna Kanta Handique was educated in Cotton College, Gauhati and obtained the Master Degree in Sanskrit from Calcutta University securing first class first position in 1919. He later went to Oxford and obtained Master Degree in Modern History. He was the founder Principal of J. B. College, Jorhat. With a brilliant academic career Shri Handique presided over the All India Oriental Conference (Classical Sanskrit Section) at Lucknow in 1951, All India Vice-Chancellors' Conference at Madras in 1952 and Inter University Conference at Waltaire in 1953.

He was proficient in a number of languages including German, French, Russian, Italian, Greek, Latin and Spanish apart from English and Sanskrit. Shri Handique was the Vice-Chancellor of the Gauhati University since its inception and held the post for three consecutive terms from 1948 to 1957. He was the President of the 17th Session of the Assam Sahitya Sabha held at Gauhati in 1937. Among his edited and published works are "Shri Harsa's Naisadha Charit" and "Yasastilaka" which are widely acclaimed by the Scholars of the Universities at home and abroad. He also contributed valuable articles to a number of reputed magazines. The Gauhati University conferred Honorary Doctorate Degree on him in 1963. Shri Handique who was rarely seen in social function spent most of his time with books. He donated all his precious collections of several thousands of books to the Gauhati University Library. This internationally acclaimed scholar, renowned educationist and a dynamic Orientalist died on 7th June, 1982. His death has created a void which cannot be filled up easily.

Born in 1905 on the outskirts of Srinagar, Sheikh Mohammad Abdulla graduated from Lahore University and obtained M. Sc. Degree from Aligarh Muslim University. He started his career as a teacher but gave up his teaching

profession to join politics. His aim was to establish a democratic Government in Jammu and Kashmir which was ruled by a prince. He had close association with Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. He was imprisoned many times for his political activities and during one of such imprisonment India was partitioned. He was immediately released to become the head of Emergency Administration of Kashmir when Pakistani Volunteers invaded Kashmir. It was Sheikh Mahammad Abdulla who proclaimed Kashmir accession to India and asked for Indian troops to clear the invaders. Kashmir National Conference which was organised by him supported the accession to India. He was all along trying the ideal of special status for Kashmir within Indian Union. He had built the modern Kashmir and dominated the Indian Politics except the period of detention. He had been the Chief Minister after independence. This veteran leader of Kashmir and one of the oldest freedom Fighters passed way on September 8, 1982. In his death India lost a front ranking politician and a statesman.

Born on 14th January 1896, Shri C. D. Deshmukh had his education in the University of Bombay and Cambridge. He served as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India under British and Finance Minister under the Prime Ministership of Jawaharlal Nehru. He was awarded magsaysay award for distinguished Government service and in 1975 Shri Deshmukh was conferred Padma Bibhusan award. He contributed significantly to the economic development of India. He passed away on 2nd October, 1982.

Leonid Breznev became the President of USSR in 1964 and continued till the end of his life. During his rule the USSR developed into a mighty super power. He dominated the world politics during the last 18 years and his name will go down in the history for his unilateral declaration of Nuclear Arm reduction. It was Breznev who was instrumental in bringing the Tashkent agreement between India & Pakistan which ended the Indo-Pak conflict in 1965. It was during his rule that the Indo-Soviet friendship Treaty was signed and the friendship has grown to mutual trust and understanding. His contribution to world peace is undoubtedly very significant and his death has created a void which will be difficult to fill up.

Shri Promode Dasgupta was a legendary figure in the Marxist movement in India. When the Communist Party of India was split in 1964, he took up the leadership of the CPI (M) in West Bengal. He fought successfully to keep the Party together and achieved a unique success. He played a leading role in the struggle of the oppressed masses. He made significant contribution to the growth of the leftist movement in the country. This distinguished leader of the Marxist passed away on 29th November 1982, in Beijing. His death is a irreparable loss to leftist movement.

Shri Pyare Lal who is so well known to all of us left his studies and served as Private Secretary to Mahatma Gandhi. He was primarily attracted by Non-cooperation movement launched by Gandhiji and worked whole heartedly for its success. Pyare Lal accompanied Mahatma Gandhi to London to attend Round Table Conference, in 1930 and to Noakhali where he actively participated for rehabilitation works. He engaged himself in writing the Multi-volume works of Mahatma Gandhi. He was also the editor of Young India. This noted chronicler of Gandhiji passed away on 27th October, 1982 at the age of 82 years.

Shri Tribhuban Narayan Singh had his education at Kashi Vidhpath and started his career as a journalist. He joined the freedom movement of the country and was imprisoned several times. He held the Chief Ministership of U. P., Union Minister, Governor of West Bengal besides being member of various committees and commissions set up by the Government of India. This veteran freedom fighter, astute Parliamentarian and a true disciple of Gandhiji died on 3rd August, 1982 at the age of 78 years.

In addition to these distinguished politicians, scholars and social workers large number of innocent people lost their lives during the recent holocaust which took place in the State during the last few months. These innocent people became the victim of violent activities of extremists.

We condole the death of these distinguished politicians, statesman, scholars and the victims of the recent violence and convey our heartfelt condolences to the members of bereaved families.

As a mark of respect to the departed souls I request the honourable members to rise in their seats to observe two minutes silence.

Shri HEMEN DAS—Sir, I have an amendment and this is very important. During the election Shri Satya Narayan Ram, a candidate for Assembly election was murdered while he was canvassing. Another Shri Lutfur Rahman who was also a candidate in the last Assembly election was severely injured due to assault and after a few days he died. I want their names to be included in the list.

Mr. SPEAKER—Their names will be included.

(The House then stood in silence for two minutes)

Mr. SPEAKER—The House stands adjourned till 10 a. m. to-morrow the 22nd March, 1983.

ADJOURNMENT

The House then rose at 4:17 p. m. and stood adjourned till 10 a. m. on Tuesday, the 22nd March, 1983.

Dated Dispur :
The 27st March, 1983

P. D. BARUA,
Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly