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**Assam
Legislative Assembly
Debates**

(31)

OFFICIAL REPORT

**FOURTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE
SEVENTH GENERAL ELECTIONS UNDER
THE SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION
OF INDIA**

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BUDGET SESSION

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DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1984

(Budget Session)

Volume—IV

No. 1

Dated, the 27th February, 1984

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Proceeding of the fourth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
held after the Seventh General Election under Sovereign Democratic-
Republican Constitution of India.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Dispur, Gauhati on
Friday the 27th February, 1984 with the Hon. Speaker in the Chair,
thirteen Ministers, 6(Six) Ministers of State, 6(Six) Deputy Minis-
1(one) Parliamentary Secretary and 74(Seventy four) Members present.

SPEAKER : Hon'ble members present, the Governor is addressing
at 10.10 A.M. He is coming by the eastern gate of the
premises at 10.05 A.M. Myself, Deputy Speaker and the
Secretary will be going to receive him at the gate. The instructions
to how the Governor is to be received in the House has been laid
at each member's table. As soon as the Governor comes, I think, we
should comply with the instructions. In the meantime, the address will
be distributed to the members. With your permission, I now leave the
House to receive the Governor at the gate.

(Governor arrives at 10.05 A.M.)

Now I request the Governor to address the House.

5. ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR.

Shri Prakash Mehrotra (Governor of Assam):—

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members.

I am very happy to address you once again and to
convey to you my best wishes for a session of constructive
and meaningful deliberations.

It is gratifying to note that the period since I addressed
you last has been a period of recovery and reconstruction
in all spheres of life in the State. The installation of a
popular Government exactly a year back had raised hopes
of the State's recovery from the traumatic experiences of
the preceding years. It gives me happiness to note that
the recent times have witnessed gradual realisation of the hopes.
Apart from the vast improvement in the law and order
situation, the period has also seen gradual restoration of
the democratic values which had earlier been systematically
undermined by certain elements of destabilisation. The
Government's tireless efforts to bring the state back on the
right path have been universally applauded and it has led to
neutralisation of the forces of destabilisation. There is, however,
no room for complacency as divisive forces are still at

work to destabilise the situation and a sense of desperation seems to have gripped the erring elements. There will hence be no let up in the Government's strict vigilance over the situation.

The administration's efforts to strengthen the security cover have in fact been further intensified during the recent months. Coordinated efforts by the different wings of the security network have led to unearthing of hidden arms and ammunitions in different areas. The administration's security network was expanded immediately after the installation of the popular government by posting as many as 283 armed police pickets in the vulnerable areas affected by the disturbances. Seven new police districts have been set up subsequently in course of the year. 38 new police stations and 37 new outposts have also been sanctioned. While addressing the august House last year I had mentioned about raising of four peace keeping task force battalions. I am glad to inform you that recruitment to two of these battalions has started, in keeping with the population pattern as already indicated, and the recruits will be sent for training with BSF and CRPF within the current financial year. The Government of India have agreed to depute suitable officers to the battalion personnel to the extent training facilities to the battalion personnel among those of Commandants.

The Government efforts to make the State police set-up more effective and competent to match up any eventualities will continue in the days ahead. It has also been decided in the meantime to set up a Police Commission to go into the question of reorganisation of the State Police Organisation and to suggest steps for enhancing its effectiveness.

I am happy to tell you that the State's measures to restore and maintain normal conditions have generated a sense of confidence in the popular mind. It was particularly eloquent in the expeditious return of more than three lakh people, uprooted by the disturbances of early 1983, to their respective villages. They have already been fully and properly rehabilitated and they have started their normal avocations with fresh hope and confidence. This massive operation was successful not merely because of the Union Government's generous assistance but also because of the zeal and enthusiasm of the people and the administration. The enthusiasm of the Government

the well meaning people of Assam has also facilitated emergence of a new climate of social peace and harmony. The Government have initiated different imaginative steps to strengthen the bonds of emotional integration between different communities and I would appeal to the Hon'ble Members of the august House and the people in general to involve themselves in these efforts.

The State Government have always appreciated the people's anxiety for a solution of the foreigners' question and various measures have already been initiated to prevent future influx on one hand and to identify the present infiltrators on the other. The package of anti-infiltration measures include erection of a barbed wire fencing and construction of a border road apart from further intensification of patrolling in both land and riverine portions of the border. A Border Commissioner under the direct control of the Union Home Ministry has already been posted in Gauhati to expedite implementation of the anti-infiltration package.

As regards detection of illegal migrants, the State Govt. have notified 20 Tribunals manned by serving and retired judges in accordance with the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act 1983'. Six Tribunals have already been set up at Dhubri, Tezpur, Silchar, Nowgong, Gauhati and North Lakhimpur and the remaining Tribunals will be set up as soon as the services of adequate number of suitable judges become available. The rules and guidelines regarding the functioning of the Tribunals have since been received from the Union Home Ministry. The Hon'ble Members will also be associated with the District Level Advisory Committees for taking a general view of the detection works as well as the anti-infiltration measures.

The State Govt. is fully alive to the need of maintaining cordial and friendly relations with the sister States in the North eastern region and is anxious to sort out the boundary questions with them through mutual discussions. Accordingly talks have been held at the Chief Minister's level with Arunachal, Meghalaya and Nagaland, followed by more detailed discussion at the level of officers. A beginning has since been made in the demarcation of the State's boundary with Nagaland from Tiok river to Towkok river joint survey and Revenue teams both of the States. The demarcation of the boundary with Arunachal Pradesh in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh districts has been entrusted to

the Survey of India Efforts to sort out the boundary question fully as also to explore wider avenues for cooperation with the neighbouring states will continue at different levels in the days ahead.

My Government is committed to make the administration a fully effective instrument for the service of the people and different steps in fact have already been taken to infuse greater dynamism and a better sense of dedication into the administrative machinery. A high level Administrative Reforms Commission has in the meantime been constituted to review the working of the administrative machinery with a view to assessing its adequacy and competence. Mention may also be made in this context of the Commission of Enquiry, appointed under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to go into the circumstances leading to the disturbances early last year. The Commission, which has already started its work, will examine the measures taken to deal with the disturbances and it is expected that the Enquiry will throw up valuable suggestions for improvement in the functioning of the administration at different levels. The State Government is keen to ensure a clean administration and in this context, mention may be made of the decision to set up a Special Vigilance Cell to supplement the activities of the existing Anti-Corruption Branch of the Government.

Bringing the administration closer to the people has always been a part of the State policy and the Government have been constantly trying to bridge the gaps between the remote habitations and the centres of authority. The Govt. is also alive to the hopes and sentiments of the people in different areas in this respect. Mention may be made in this context of the carving out and inauguration of six new districts and eight new sub-divisions in 1983. I am glad to inform you that the new districts and sub-divisions have already started functioning.

As the Hon'ble Members might have seen, the Government's announcements to have the State's permanent capital has generated wide popular enthusiasm. The capital, to be known as Pragjyotispur, will be located at Chandrapur as an ambitious project for its construction at an estimated cost of Rs. 200 crores is already under consideration. The selection of the particular site has been prompted by consideration of the question of easier accessibility from both the bank

The Government in its efforts to bring the state back on the rails has naturally given top priority to the economic sectors. As a result of the very sincere efforts of the Government, the developmental efforts in the state have considerably picked up after the spell of stagnation resulting from the prolonged agitation. However, the state has not yet fully recovered from the aftermath of the long period of disturbances. The price situation also came under considerable pressure during the year. The Hon'ble Members are however aware that price rise is not peculiar to Assam, it is an all India phenomenon. Assam being dependant on supplies of essential commodities from other states, the prices at the sources obviously determine the trends in our state. It is however encouraging to see that the prices of essential commodities have lately shown a declining trend. The price of rice for instance came down by about 13 percent last month from the level of October last. Prices of several other essential items have indicated either consistency or a declining trend in the last couple of weeks. The price situation naturally calls for proper vigil and the State Government measures in this regard are being intensified.

It is gratifying to note that the state's financial position has also considerably looked up following the Government's sincere endeavour to collect the revenue which had run into huge arrears. The Planning Commission has expressed profound satisfaction over our exemplary fiscal management and has agreed to fix the state's annual plan outlay for the coming year at Rs 360 crores which is about 24 percent higher than the current year's outlay. The basic objectives of the state's sixth five year plan are removal of poverty and unemployment, progressive reduction in inequalities, significant increase in production and improvement in the quality of life of the people in general and of the economically and socially backward classes in particular. Despite the stresses and strains left behind by the critical situation of the preceding years, it has been possible to set correct trends of development considerably during the year under review. I am confident that with the help and support of the Hon'ble Members and the participation of the people, it will be possible for the Government to achieve still more brilliant results in every sphere of development during the coming year.

pr
bil. The Hon'ble Members would also agree with me that task of planned socio-economic development calls for

The State Government have therefore constituted a committee styled as the "Committee for Economic Reconstruction of Assam" with a public leader as Chairman to recommend formulation of policies for reorganisation of the state's economy. The Committee have already started functioning.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not put on record my deep feelings of gratitude to the Union Government for the liberal Central patronage made available to us in the matter of meeting some of our long felt developmental needs. We have seen in the recent months several eloquent indications of the Union Government's profound concern for the state's development, and we are confident that it is the beginning of a new chapter of the Centre's growing involvement in the developmental activities of our state. It is a matter of gratification that the Government of India have agreed to extend the Broad Gauge from Gauhati to Dibrugarh touching the main district and sub-divisional towns. Necessary funds have in fact already been sanctioned for undertaking survey in this regard. Another indication of the Centre's growing concern for us is its consent to set up an inland container depot at Amingaon as soon as the broad gauge line upto Gauhati becomes operational. We are grateful to the Prime Minister for laying the foundation of a third bridge over the Brahmaputra at Pancharatna which will go a long way in the matter of the State's economic integration with the rest of the country. We are happy to learn that the Government of India is actively considering the question of enhancing the oil royalty and a favourable decision is expected soon. We are inspired to know that survey for a fourth bridge at Dibrugarh has also been started at an estimated cost of rupees sixty five lakhs jointly by the Indian Railways and the North-Eastern Council.

North-Eastern Council has all along been playing a vital role in the development of the region by assisting the constituent units in taking up schemes of regional and inter-State importance. We are happy to note that there has lately been considerable diversification in the activities of the Council. The State Government place on record their appreciation of the N. E. Council for its recent provision of funds for several projects including a regional air breeze - fish seed farm at Silchar, a paper grade lime plant at Imphal, an oil of ... at Imphal ...

regional fishery training institute and a regional institute of hotel management at Gauhati. I am grateful to the Council also for its financial provisions during the coming year for the Regional Cancer Institute, B. Pharma Course in Dibrugarh University and expansion of the Mental Hospital at Tezpur. The Council's greater emphasis on the Sectors of agriculture, transport, sericulture, industries etc. will also considerably supplement our own efforts in these sectors particularly in the sectors covered by the 20 point programme.

The 20 point programme has already generated very wide enthusiasm in the state and the State Government have been making serious endeavours to maximise the results under the vital points in particular. About 72 per-cent of the plan outlay has been utilised for implementation of the programme, and administrative competence, blended with popular wisdom, has already fetched impressive results in several sectors. The Government would continue its zealous efforts to achieve maximum results in all spheres of the programme and to cover more people and more areas under it.

In their efforts to bring cheer to the lives of the people of the State, the Government have been taking various decisions from time to time in keeping with the popular aspirations. It has been decided to implement the following in course of the coming year.

(1) The State Government would establish a chain of super markets in important and densely populated areas to ensure availability of different items under the same roof. It is expected that such markets will provide relief to consumers and will also ensure considerable control over the prices of those items. The first such Super Market will be established in Gauhati at the present location of the Jail during the coming year itself.

(2) A permanent exhibition arena will be constructed in Gauhati with ready-made sheds on the pattern of the Pragati Maidan to facilitate holding of educative and informative fairs and festivals. The Government have also decided to organise a series of informative exhibitions in the districts and sub-divisions to expose prospective entrepreneurs of the state to the diverse entrepreneurial possibilities.

(3) The Government will organise a series of book fairs, film festivals, sports events etc., both national and international, during the next few years to ensure the local people's more intimate contact with the affairs in the concerned sectors at the national and international levels.

(4) The State Government have decided to construct a mini stadium and a youth club in every block of the state. Financial assistance will be given to rural libraries and several mobile libraries will be established with emphasis on informal education for the benefit of rural adults.

(5) A net work of employment guidance and information centres will be set up for the benefit of job seekers and the students.

(6) The Government have decided to arrange for provision of free mid-day meals to elementary school children. A separate cabinet portfolio will be created for Child welfare. Expansion of the free immunization programme to ensure easier availability of the facilities to remote areas, publication of children literature and inter district excursions to places of historical importance will be organised.

(7) Efforts will be made to further improve the relations with the neighbouring states. The Government will organise tours of cultural troupes and journalists to these states in collaboration with the respective State Governments. An 'inter-state living' programme will be arranged for small children in consultation with the neighbouring states.

(8) The Government propose to extend facilities of free travel by State Transport buses upto 2500 kms a year to accredited pressmen as well as government accommodation similar to those available to Class I officials while on tour. Official recognition will be given to mofussil journalists on a selective basis.

(9) The Government have decided to bring out publications to put on record the contributions of individual freedom fighters and organisations in the freedom movement for the benefit of the younger generation.

- (10) In their effort to introduce modern techniques of agriculture to the farmers, the Government have decided to organise conducted tours of cultivators to places outside the state.

Agriculture being the mainstay of the state's economy, the Government have naturally given top priority to agricultural development. In this sector, stress is being laid on expansion of HYV coverage and encouraging Rabi crops. The plan strategy aims at achievement of selfsufficiency in food grains and provision of maximum possible assistance to small and marginal farmers. The anticipated production of food grains during the current financial year has been estimated at 30.86 lakh tonnes as against 26.80 lakh tonnes in the previous year. The target for the next year is 32.88 lakh tonnes. Under the 20 point programme, special efforts have been made to develop cultivation of pulses and oil seeds, to improve the lot of the tribal and scheduled caste farmers and to encourage adoption of dryland farming technology. The Hon'ble Members will definitely be glad to know that Assam has been selected by the Union Government along with five other states for implementation of a special scheme for increasing paddy production. I am also happy to inform you that the World Bank Officials, who were recently here to inspect the working of their Schemes, have returned satisfied with the progress and have extended the period of the schemes for another year.

The importance of irrigation development and flood control measures for providing a stable base for agricultural development can hardly be over emphasised. The total targeted potential of irrigation under 20 point programme for 1983-84 is 30,000 hectares of which 20,500 is allocated to Minor Irrigation sector and 9,500 hectares to Major/Medium Sector. The achievement up to January 1984 under Minor Irrigation Sector is 17,800 hectares and that for Major/Medium Irrigation is 3425 hectares thus totalling 21,225 hectares. The balance target is likely to be achieved during the remaining period. Low utilisation of created irrigation potential has a chronic problem attributable mainly to lack of water courses and field channels. You will be glad to know that a project for construction of water courses and field channels for the already completed irrigation projects has in the meantime been undertaken.

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of flood control schemes in both the valleys of the state. Schemes for permanent protection against erosion at Mariahola, Gumi and Mukalmua have also been undertaken. The schemes completed during the current plan period are likely to provide protection to 8 thousand hectares in the Barak Valley and 48 thousand hectares in the Brahmaputra Valley. Moreover, still higher targets have been fixed for the coming year under different flood protection measures. Apart from minimising the suffering of the flood prone areas in the coming years, these schemes are naturally expected to contribute towards agricultural development by protecting fertile paddy fields from devastating floods.

While agricultural development plays the most crucial role in amelioration of rural poverty, different rural development programmes have been undertaken primarily for the benefit of landless, marginal and small farmers in the countryside. The programmes include the IRDP, the NREP, the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee programme and the project for assistance to small and marginal farmers to increase production. Till January 1984, the state has assisted 46,380 families at an expenditure of Rs. 550.27 lakhs towards subsidy under IRDP and created 25.62 lakh mandays at a cost of Rs. 294.16 lakhs under the NREP. During the coming year, 80,400 target group families will be covered through income generating bankable schemes and 65.7 lakhs mandays will be created. Under the RLEGP, which was introduced only on November 19 last year with cent per cent central assistance, 19950 landless villagers have so far been provided with temporary employment for 100 days. The Government have decided to provide employment to 99.750 under the programme during the coming year.

In addition to the welfare schemes for the poor sections of the population in general; schemes have been taken up in different spheres for the welfare of different weaker groups including the Scheduled Castes and tribes and other backward classes. Mention may be made in this context of the institutional arrangements like creation of a separate Directorate for development of tea and ex-tea garden tribes, Tribal Development Authority to supervise and co-ordinate work under tribal sub-plan, and the Minority Cell to deal with matters relating to the welfare of the Minorities. The Directorate of Social Welfare is also rendering service to the physically handicapped, destitute women and children and to ex-

convicts and juvenile delinquents. I am happy to inform the Honourable Members that 12950 old men and women have been awarded pensions during the year under the Old Age Pension Scheme introduced on last Independence Day. The schemes will cover 21 thousand more persons during the coming year. Children orphaned in the 1983 disturbances are being provided shelter and protection under the scheme of SOS villages and the Hon'ble Members are aware that the first such village was inaugurated on February 3 last by the Prime Minister at Bhakatpara.

The creation of the Char Development Authority for proper development of the states' 1,600 chars inhabited by around a seventh p. c- of the state's population also deserves mention in this context. The Hon'ble Members are aware that the inhabitants of the char areas are mostly backward and below poverty line and the newly created Authority will ensure their welfare and development in different spheres.

As a measure of social justice the State Government have also reserved 15 per cent of the vacancies in Government jobs for the Other Backward Classes including More Other Backward Classes.

In the sphere of hill development, special emphasis has been laid on settling the Jhumias under the Integrated Jhumia Development programme under which experimental sites have been selected and work started. Reviews carried out at the end of the three quarters of the Annual Plan of the current year indicates that the Hill Plan outlay will be fully utilised.

The State Government fully shares the concern expressed from time to time by the Hon'ble Members over the growing problem of unemployment. Various measures have been taken up by the State Government to generate more employment and also to encourage educated youths to take up self-employment ventures. Another scheme to provide unemployment assistance to unemployed graduates has benefitted 5573 persons upto December 31 last and the Government expects to extend the benefits to a larger number of graduates in the next year. The Government is fully aware that such marginal benefit cannot be an answer to the problem of unemployment but it is expected that it will provide the jobless graduate with a stepping stone to take up self-employment. The composite loan

scheme programme launched on November 19 last also has benefitted a large number of jobless youths. 676 villages and small scale units have also been set up till January 31 under the 20 point programme which have naturally benefitted a sizeable number of unemployed people.

I am happy to tell you that the industrial climate in the state has started looking up and quite a few important projects are on the anvil. There has been good progress in the works on the projects based on BRPL downstream products on which the people of Assam have all along been pinning high hopes. Earlier this month the Chief Minister laid the foundation of the proposed Synthetic Spinning Mill at Noapara which will have 15500 spindles for conversion of polyester staple fibre into polyester yarn. The number of spindles will be doubled in the second phase. Arrangements have been made also to set up a Weaving Complex with power-loom and hand-loom in cooperative sector in the same premises. Training programmes have in the meantime been undertaken for weavers in synthetic yarn weaving. The mill is scheduled to go for commercial production in the middle of 1985. Preliminary work like selection of machinery, selection of contractors for civil construction etc. have already been completed in respect of the other two polyester spinning Mills projects of Assam Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. and Assam Spun Silk Mills Ltd. to be set up in Nathkuchi, Tihu and Jagiroad respectively.

Government also proposes to revitalise the sick industries including the Ashok Paper Mills expeditiously and have already promulgated an ordinance styled as 'The Assam State Industrial Relief Undertakings (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 1983 to this effect. The State Government have requested the Centre to establish additional oil refineries in the State as the crude production of Assam is expected to touch the 6 million mark per annum by next year and the capacity of the existing refineries does not go beyond 5.2 million tonnes including Barauni Refinery. The Union Government have been moved also for establishment of an integrated petro-chemical complex with cracking facilities for Natural Gas and Naphtha for industrial use of the natural gas from Upder Assam Oil fields. With a view to utilising the natural gas available in the State, Government of India have been requested to set up a gas based Fertilizer Plant in the State. Infrastructural deficien-

cies and locational disadvantage make it difficult to sustain conventional industries in the North Eastern region. In view of the suitability of the region's climate for electronic industries, an Electronic Development Corporation is being set up within the current financial year. Other important projects on the anvil include a stock Exchange in Gauhati which will start functioning as soon as Registration is received. The Unit Trust of India will open sub office in Gauhati very shortly for the region. I am glad to inform the Hon'ble Members that the Union Commerce Ministry have agreed to set up a Regional Office of the Tea Board in Gauhati with a Deputy Chairman.

Sericulture and weaving have been Assam's traditional crafts but these have always played a very vital role in the sector of village and cottage industries in Assam. In consideration of the immense contribution sericulture and weaving have made to rural economy, an endeavour has been made to orient these crafts to commercial functioning and thus to create employment potential for the rural population. The major objectives of the programme in this sector are to increase the production level and to improve the economic lot of the weavers and rearers. The Government have fixed targets for production of 60 million metres of handloom and 2.5 lakh kgs. of Endi, Muga and raw silk during the coming year.

The co-operative movement has also played a very important role in the state's rural economy. The G. P. level societies, apart from lending support for improvement and modernisation of agrobased processes, are offering wide ranging services to the rural population. A major achievement in the sector during the year has been the establishment of a Vanaspati plant at Amingaon. Significant progress has been made in the setting up of a co-operative sugar mill at Kampur and several spinning mills. The Government proposes to continue its efforts to set up similar other units in the co-operative sector in future also.

The Hon'ble Members will be glad to know that the power position is expected to improve in the coming year after commissioning of the Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station Extension Project, Namrup Waste Heat Plant, Lakwa Thermal Power Station and Bordikharu Micro Hydel Project. These projects will add 158 MW power to the existing installed capacity of 251.77 MW. Works on

the Karbi-Longpi Project have also been speeded up and it is expected to be commissioned in 1985-86. Electrification of 871 villages has been completed during last year. I am glad to tell you that the State Government proposes to electrify all villages in the state by 1987-88.

The State Government have also given high priority to development of the communication network in the state with special emphasis on construction of new roads. The efficiency with which 1595 bridges damaged during the disturbances last year were reconstructed within a record time of four months is being maintained. The state PWD expects to complete construction of about 400 kms of new roads, about a third in the hill areas, within the current financial year. Important projects on the anvil include a fly over across the Zoo Road level crossing in Gauhati and its construction will start within this working season. I am glad to inform the Hon'ble Members that the approved outlay for road schemes for 1984-85 is Rs. 16 crores, which is 11 per cent higher than the current year's outlay. In the sphere of transportation, the state's emphasis has been on connecting distant habitations, and the Assam State Transport Corporation has provided nineteen additional services mostly connecting interior areas in the Cachar and the hills during the year. The Corporation proposes to nationalise 604 kms of new routes in the coming year and also a few more city bus routes in Gauhati. Last month the Corporation's revenue reached the all time high of Rs. 1.05 crores. The Government's policy to provide better amenities to passengers will continue to be pursued more vigorously in the days ahead.

The State Government have in recent times undertaken several important measures to ensure a constant inflow of tourist traffic from the rest of the country. Several conducted tours to the sanctuaries and other places of tourist attraction have been introduced with a view to generate love in the minds of the local people for nature and wild-life. The tourism promotion programme also envisages establishment of comfortable tourist lodges and picnic cottages as well as way-side facilities at important places like Kaziranga. Government of India have assisted the State Government to set up Food Technology Institute in Guwahati.

Forestry occupies an important place in the state's economic life and naturally the Government's constant efforts have been to preserve and expand the existing forests besides generating new plantations. Under the 20 Point Programme, more than 365 lakh trees have been planted till January 31 last against the target of 320 lakh trees for the year. Measures to protect wild-life in the Kaziranga National Park and sanctuaries have been intensified. Action is also under way to create a Protection Squad for reserve forests along the boundaries with the neighbouring states.

The emphasis in the programme for educational development is both on expansion and qualitative improvement. The State Government proposes to reorganise elementary stage of education by including class V in primary schools and class VIII in middle schools; to bring the plus two stage under the control of one Body : namely, State Council for Higher Secondary Education, to introduce Diploma Course in Electronics & Telecommunication in Assam Engineering Institute, Gauhati with intake of 30 students, Post Graduate Course in power System at Assam Engineering College and M.Sc course in Electronics and Instrumentation at Jorhat Engineering College and also to start Rural Library Schemes with libraries in every gaon panchayat. Steps are being taken for establishment of a Regional Centre of National Institute of Sports at Nehru Stadium, Gauhati. Preliminary works for establishment of a Sports College at Gauhati on Patiala pattern has been started. An Education Commission has been constituted to suggest reorganisation of the education system and changes in text books in keeping with the need for inculcating patriotic feelings in the young minds.

During the year 1983-84, a 50 bedded hospital at Hamren, Karbi Anglong district has been opened. Construction of the 100 bedded district hospital building at Haflong is almost complete. Significant progress has been made in the area of establishment of primary health centres, rural hospitals, subsidiary health centres and sub-centres. Measures for the control of T.B. and Leprosy and for prevention of blindness have been taken. In the annual plan for 1984-85, 360 sub-centres, 7 primary health centres, 27 subsidiary health centres and 2 rural hospitals are proposed to be established. The Government have also decided to establish a 200 bedded hospital at Guwahati which will be dedicated to the memory of Late Mahend-

Mohan Choudhury, former Chief Minister of Assam. The foundation stone for construction of 100 bedded hospitals at Hailakandi and Gossaigaon, 200 bedded hospitals at Sibsagar (Joysagar) and Kokrajhar, 30 bedded rural hospital at Kachugaon and Maternity Ward of Nalbari Civil Hospital have been laid by the Chief Minister during the current year. Considerable emphasis has been laid also on provision of drinking water to problem villages and it is proposed to cover 2386 such villages under the relevant programme in 1984-85. There will be 828 on going piped water schemes at the beginning of the year designed to cover 2038 villages. Another 200 schemes are likely to be taken up during the year to cover 400 more villages.

In keeping with the high priority accorded by Government to the growth of Science and Technology and to preservation of Environment, a new department having responsibility for these subjects has been created. The State Council of Science, Technology and Environment has been reconstituted. Its function is to advise the Government on an integrated approach to development of Science and Technology, in keeping with socio-economic objectives and preservation of environment.

The Government have taken up various schemes for development of urban areas and Master Plans have already been prepared for 14 towns. Master Plans for all the remaining 58 towns will be prepared within the current calendar year. Rs. 4.60 crores have been sanctioned for development of Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur and the schemes relating to road, markets and residential sites in these towns will be completed by 1985. Karimganj, Diphu and Sibsagar will be covered under the programme shortly and 15 other towns from 1986. Till December last, about 18, 148 slum dwellers have derived benefits from the slum improvement scheme. It is proposed to cover a total number of 40 thousand slum dwellers by the end of Sixth Plan.

The State Government's high priority to the question of removing rural poverty has naturally determined the activities of different other departments like Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Dairy Development, Fisheries etc. Distribution of duck units free of cost as means of economic rehabilitation of poor people has been an important programme of the Animal Husbandry department. 13 thousand units have been distributed during the current year and the

beneficiaries included 5 thousand widows. It has been decided to bring 15 thousand families under the scheme in the coming financial year. 10 veterinary hospitals 22 first aid centres were established during the current financial year, and the coming year's schemes include ten more dispensaries and 25 first aid centres. Other important programmes include several integrated cattle development projects, fodder schemes and schemes for buffalo breeding piggery development etc. The schemes in the fishery sector include establishment of hatcheries including Chinese type hatcheries, fish farmers development agencies and extension of training facilities in modern techniques of pisciculture.

Great importance is attached by the State Government to land reforms. So far about 3.5 lakh acres of ceiling surplus land have been distributed among landless families. In the current financial year the target of distribution of ceiling surplus land has not only been achieved but exceeded. For giving financial benefits to 5 thousand landless families in both general and hill areas Rs. 50 lakh have been sanctioned in the current financial year. The same target has been fixed for the coming financial year also. Work on land reforms have progressed very satisfactorily and it is hoped that these reforms will help to create a new and dynamic agrarian structure.

The year under review witnessed devastating floods resulting in damages to the tune of Rs. 53.95 crores. The State Government have so far released funds worth Rs. 819.63 lakhs. Meantime rates of rehabilitation grants have been raised from Rs. 300 to Rs. 5,000 to the affected people whose houses are completely damaged and from Rs. 100 to Rs. 1,500 to those whose houses are partially damaged.

The State Government are keen to improve the service conditions of the employees and to remove their genuine grievances, and are at the same time anxious that they abide by the norms of discipline. The Government have taken a lenient view with regard to those employees who had been placed under suspension or dismissed or removed from service in the wake of the agitation with the expectation that they will abide by the code of official discipline and conduct. Accordingly most of the employees have been re-instated.

Earlier the State Government had constituted a Pay Commission to examine and recommend changes that are desirable in the structure of emoluments and conditions of service of different classes of State Government employees. The report of the Pay Commission has been already accepted with some minor modifications and its benefits extended to the Government employees. These measures have been taken with a view to bringing about not only improvement in the service conditions of the Government employees, but also for improvement of the efficiency of the administrative machinery.

I have touched upon some of the main programmes of the Government to indicate the salient features of the policies pursued by the Government. The task of all round development of the state is stupendous and challenging. In our State which has only recently recovered from the most unfortunate experiences, the task of development particularly calls for imaginative and concerted efforts by all sections. I am confident that with the active co-operation from all sections of this august House, it will be possible to fulfil the tasks and the challenges of the day.

During the current session, apart from presentation of the Budget, the State Government proposes to place following bills before the House:

1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1984.
- . The Assam State Industrial Relief Undertakings (Special provisions) Bill, 1984.

I am confident that your deliberations will be of immense help to the State Government. Before concluding I once again convey my best wishes to you for a session of very meaningful and constructive discussions.

Mr. SPEAKER—Now under Rule 13 sub-rule 2 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 Honourable Members also. I have received notice of a motion of thanks on the Governor's address from Shri Altaf Hussain Mazumdar seconded by Shri Jiba Kanta Gogoi. Now Shri Mazumdar to move the motion.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

Shri ALTAF HOSSAIN MAZUMDAR—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move 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 27th February, 1984.

Shri JIBA KANTA GOGOI—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to second the motion moved by Honourable Member Shri Altaf Hossain Mazumdar.

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. SPEAKER—The Motion has now been moved. I allot 28th February, 1st, 2nd and 5th March, 1984 for discussion on the motion of thanks on the Governor's address. Amendments to the motion of thanks will be received by the Assembly secretariat up to 4 p.m. today.

Under Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I called a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee on 13th February, 1984 in my chamber at Dispur. The Committee after discussion decided that the meeting of the Budget Session of the Assembly commencing on and from 27th February, 1984 should continue will 6th April, 1984. There will be altogether 2

transaction of Government Business and 2 days for transaction of Private Members' Business. Out of these Government days, 4 days will be devoted for Debate on Governor's address, one day for Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1983-84 and passing of the Appropriation Bill relating to Supplementary demands, 3 days for General Discussion on the Budget. 11 days for voting on Demands for Grants including passing of the Appropriation Bill and 6 days for consideration and passing of Government Bills and remaining two days for other Government Business.

A copy of the calendar for the meetings of the current session of the Assembly as settled by the Committee has already been circulated among the Hon'ble Members of the House. I hope, this has the approval of the House.

(Voices—Yes, Yes).

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. SPEAKER—Under Rule 9 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly. I, hereby nominate the following members to constitute the Panel of Chairmen for the present Session of the Assembly:

1. Shri Altaf Hussain Mazumdar.
2. Shri Silvius Condpan.
3. Shri Hemen Das,

Shri KESHAB CHANDRA GOGOI (Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Assam State Industrial Relief Undertaking (special Provisions) Ordinance, 1983 (Assam Ordinance No. VI of 1983).

Shri RAMESWAR DHANOWAR : (Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund (and pension Fund) Scheme (Amendment) Ordinance, 1983 (Assam Ordinance No. 1 of 1984.)

Shri HITESWAR SAIKIA (Chief Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Code of Criminal Procedure (Assam Amendment) Ordinance 1984 (Assam Ordinance No. III of 1984).

Shri ABDUL MUHIB MAZUMDAR (Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1980-81 (Civil). Appropriation Accounts, 1980-81 and Finance Accounts. 1980-81 relating to the Government of Assam.

Shri ABDUL MUHIB MAZUMDAR (Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1981-82 (Revenue Receipts) relating to the Government of Assam.

Shri KESHAB CHANDRA GOGI : (Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Second Annual Report, 1981-82 of the Assam State Textile Corporation Limited.

Shri KESHAB CHANDRA GOGOI : (Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the Fourteenth Annual Report, 1978-79 of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation Limited.

Shri G. C. LANGTHASA:- (Minister)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the eighteenth Annual Report, 1981-82 of the Assam and Meghalaya Mineral Development Corporation Limited.

Shri ABDUL MUHIB MAZUMDAR, Minister, Power (Electricity)—Sir, I beg to lay the Annual Financial Statement (Part II) of the Assam State Electricity Board for the year 1983-84.

Shri HITESWAR SAIKIA Chief Minister)—Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Ministers', Ministers' of State and Deputy Ministers' (Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Rules

Shri HITESWAR SAIKIA (Chief Minister)—Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Speaker's (Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Rules, 1983.

Shri HITESWAR SAIKIA (Chief Minister)—Sir, I beg to lay the Assam Deputy Speaker's (Allowances and Privileges) (Amendment) Rules, 1983.

Shri HEMEN DAS (Chairman, Public Accounts Committee)—Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-second Report of the Public Accounts Committee relating to excess over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriation on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the years 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78 and Appropriation Accounts, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. SPEAKER—I rise to condole the death of Shri Lakhidhar Bora, Shri Khagen Barbarua, Shri Ram Prosad Das, Dr. Surendra Nath Das, Shri Abul Hussain Mir, Ex-Members of this House, Shri C. M. Stephen, Ex-Union Minister and M. P. and Yuri Andropov, President of U. S. S. R.

Shri Lakhidhar Bora was born at Gauhati in 1903 and he obtained the Bachelor Degree of Law in 1926. He started his political career as a Congress volunteer in 1926 when Indian National Congress Session was held in Pandu. He actively participated in the Freedom Movement of the country from 1930 to 1947 and was arrested several times. He served as the President of District Congress Committee and General Secretary of the Congress Party.

He was elected to Assam Legislative Assembly in 1947 and continued as such till 1951. He was entrusted with the responsibility of preparing a comprehensive list on freedom fighters from 1921 to 1947 and he completed the same. He was also appointed Chairman of Gauhati Education Board. He was connected with many social and cultural organisations. This noted freedom fighter and social worker died on 16th October, 1983 at the age of 80.

Shri Khagen Barbarua was born in a well known family of Sibsagar District of Assam. He took keen interest in politics and was attracted to the ideals of Revolutionary Communist Party of India. He was elected to Assam Legislative Assembly in 1957 and was re-elected in

Shri Barbarua was a popular leader and was respected by all sections of people. He was not only an able Parliamentarian but he relaxed the stress and strain of the members by his humours. He was closely connected with many social and cultural organisations. This noted politician and social worker passed away on 14th October, 1983.

Shri Ram Prasad Das was born in 1904. He was a noted social worker and was the founder Head Master of Bijni Bandhab High School. He was also connected with many educational and social organisations of Bijni. He was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1962. This noted educationist and a social worker passed away in November, 1983 at the age of 80.

Dr. Surendra Nath Das was born in Howly. He received his early education at Howly and became a Doctor from Berry White Medical School, Dibrugarh.

He was elected to Assam Legislative Assembly in 1967 and was re-elected in 1972. He was appointed Minister of Health and forest in 1972. Dr. Das was a noted social worker and was connected with several social and cultural organisation. He died in a truck accident on 1st December, 1983.

Shri Abul Hussain Mir was born in the district of Nowgong and was closely connected with several social, political and educational organisations. He was loved and respected by all for his amiable disposition. Shri Mir was elected to Assam Legislative Assembly in 1972 and continued as such till 1978. He died on 4th December, 1983.

Shri C. M. Stephen was born on 23rd December 1918 in Allepi District of Kerala. Shri Stephen was a noted Trade Union leader and was one of the founder members of the Indian National Trade Union Congress. He led the Indian workers delegation to the ILO conference, 1972. Shri Stephen was a veteran Congress (I) leader and had occupied many important position. He was leader of the Opposition in 6th Lok Sabha and was appointed as Union Minister for Communication and later as Minister of Shipping and Transport. He was also a noted journalist. He passed away on 16th January, 1984 at the age of 65 due to severe heart attack.

Shri Yangmasho Shaiza was born in 1924. Though he entered politics in 1972 after quitting the Government service, he became the Finance Minister, 1972 when he was

first elected to the Manipur Lagislative Assembly. He became the Chief Minister, Manipur twice for short period from July to December, 1974 and from 1977 to 1979. He was also elected to Lok Sabha in 1977 but resigned to head the Manipur Ministry. He formed the Manipur Progressive Legislature Party with six members and merged with Manipur Peoples Party of which he was the Vice President. He was shot dead by an unidentified gunmen at his residence on 30th January 1984 at the age of 60.

Mr. Yuri Andropov was elected as the President of U.S.S.R. in June 1983. He was the Ninth President of the Soviet Union since 1917. Mr. Andropov was regarded as a man possessing great human qualities wisdom and experience for which he enjoyed the confidence and sympathy of the people of Russia. He also initiated work of educational reforms. He was a staunch supporter of peace and worked whole heartedly for a successful solution to the reduction of Arms race. He will always be remembered by the people for his outstanding contribution to peace. This noted leader died on 9th February 1984 due to prolonged illness.

In their death we have lost prominent social worker, Politician and statesman. I would request all Hon'ble Members to rise in their seats to observe two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls.

(Two minutes silence observed)

The House stands adjourned till 10 A. M. tomorrow the 28th February 1984.

ADJOURNMENT

The House then rose at 11-24 A.M. and stood adjourned till 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 28th February 1984.

Dated Dispur,
The 27th February 1984

P. D. BARUA,
Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly.