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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M.  
on Wednesday, the 20th March, 1967.

**PRESENT**

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR, M.A., B.L. (Acting Speaker)  
in the Chair, nine Ministers, four Ministers of State, one Deputy  
Minister and seventy-five Members.

**Order No.1 from the Governor appointing a Member to perform  
the duties of Speaker**

SECRETARY, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: The following order has  
been received from the Governor.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 180  
of the Constitution of India, I, Vishnu Sahay, Governor of Assam,  
hereby appoint Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, M. A., B. L., a Member  
of the Assam Legislative Assembly, to perform the duties of the office of  
Speaker of the said Assembly until a Speaker is elected.

RAJ BHAVAN,  
SHILLONG:  
The 16th March, 1967.

VISHNU SAHAY  
Governor of Assam."

**Order No.2 from the Governor appointing of Maulavi Abdul Matlib  
Mazumdar, M.A., B.L., as the person before whom the  
Members of the Assembly shall make and subscribe  
their oath of allegiance**

SECRETARY, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: The next order of the  
Governor is as follows:—

"In pursuance of Article 188 of the Constitution of India, I hereby  
appoint Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, M.A., B. L., a Member of the  
Assam Legislative Assembly, as the person before whom the members of  
the said Assembly shall make and subscribe their oath on and from Monday  
the 20th March, 1967 until a Speaker is elected.

After the election of the Speaker of the Assembly, the oath shall be  
made and subscribed before the Speaker of the said Assembly and in his  
absence before the Deputy Speaker or when the Assembly is in session and  
both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are absent, before the person  
who may be presiding over the Assembly for the time being.

RAJ BHAVAN,  
SHILLONG:  
The 16th March, 1967.

VISHNU SAHAY  
Governor of Assam."

REFERENCE

2 OATH OR AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE BY MEMBERS UNDER ARTICLE 188 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA [20th Mar.,

**Oath or affirmation of allegiance by Members under Article 188 of the Constitution of India**

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Acting Speaker):** I now take up item No.2.

The procedure that will be followed is this. The Secretary will call out the names of hon. Members one by one. He will first call the Leader of the House and then other Ministers, Ministers of State, Deputy Ministers and the names of other Members will then be called by him in alphabetical order. Hon. Members will please come up to the Secretary's table, make the oath of affirmation, sign the register, shake hands with the Chair and then they will please resume their seats.

I would request Mr. Secretary to call out the names now.

**(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, then called out the names beginning from the Treasury Benches in the following order :)**

1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha.
2. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury.
3. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.
4. Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami.
5. Shri Satindra Mohan Dev.
6. Shri Joy Bhadra Hagjer.
7. Shri Chatrasing Teron.
8. Shri Romesh Chandra Barooah.
9. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika.
10. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.
11. Shrimati Padmakumari Gohain.
12. Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury.
13. Shri Syed Ahmed Ali.
14. Shri Sai Sai Terang.
15. Shri A. Thanglura.
16. Shri A. K. Nurul Haque.
17. Shri Abala Kanta Goswami.
18. M. A. Musawwir Choudhury.
19. Md Abul Kasem.
20. Shri Altaf Hossain Mazumdar.
21. Shri Ataur Rahman.
22. Shri Atul Chandra Goswami.
23. Md. Azad Ali.
24. Shri Azizur Rahman Choudhury.
25. Shri Bahadur Basumatary.
26. Shri Bazlul Basit.
27. Shri Benoy Krishna Ghose.
28. Shri Bhadreswar Gogoi.
29. Shri Bhubaneswar Barman.
30. Shri Bhadra Kanta Gogoi.
31. Dr. Bhumidhar Barman.
32. Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.
33. Shri Bisnuram Medhi.
34. Shri Bishnu Prasad Rava.
35. Shri Bishnulal Upadhyaya.
36. Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya.
37. Shri Biswadev Sarma.

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| 38. Shri Brington Buhai Lyngdoh         | 65. Shri Kabir Chandra Roy Pradhani.    |
| 39. Shri Bronson Momin.                 | 66. Shri Kamini Mohan Sarma.            |
| 40. Shri Chatra Gopal Karmakar.         | 67. Shri Kandarpa Narayan Bani-<br>kya. |
| 41. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta.               | 68. Shri Karuna Kanta Gogoi.            |
| 42. Shri Debeswar Sarma.                | 69. Shri Kehoram Hazarika.              |
| 43. Shri Dev Kant Barooah.              | 70. Shri Lakhswar Das.                  |
| 44. Shri Dhani Ram Rongpi.              | 71. Shri Lakshya Dhar Chaudhury.        |
| 45. Shri Dharanidhar Choudhury.         | 72. Srimati Lily Sen Gupta.             |
| 46. Shri Dulal Chandra Barua.           | 73. Shri Malia Tanti.                   |
| 47. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.              | 74. Shri Maneswar Boro.                 |
| 48. Shri Edwingson Barch.               | 75. Shri Manjula Devi.                  |
| 49. Shri Gaurisanker Bhattacharyya.     | 76. Shri Manik Chandra Das.             |
| 50. Shri Gajen Tanti.                   | 77. Shri Motilal Kanoo.                 |
| 51. Shri Giasuddin Ahmed.               | 78. Shri Matilal Nayak.                 |
| 53. Shri Govinda Kalita.                | 79. Md. Matlebuddin.                    |
| 53. Shri Govinda Chandra Bora           | 80. Shri Mathius Tudu.                  |
| 54. Shri Golok Chandra Patgiri.         | 81. Shri Mathura Mohan Sinha.           |
| 55. Shri Grohonsing Marak.              | 82. Shri Mera Chouba Singha.            |
| 56. Shri Hareswar Goswami.              | 83. Shri Mody Marak.                    |
| 57. Shri Hiralal Patwary.               | 84. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.                |
| 58. Shri Hoover Hynniewta.              | 85. Shri Mohidhar Pegu.                 |
| 59. Shri Hopingstone Lyngdoh.           | 86. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.          |
| 60. Shri Jadunath Bhuyan.               | 87. Shri Nakul Chandra Das.             |
| 61. Shri Jagannath Sinha.               | 88. Shri Nameswar Pegu.                 |
| 62. Shri Jalaluddin Ahmed.              | 89. Shri Narayan Chandra Bhuyan.        |
| 63. Shri Jogen Saikia.                  | 90. Paramananda Gogoi.                  |
| 64. Shri Jatindra Mohan Bar-<br>bhuiya. |   |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 91. Shri Narendra Nath Sharma.      | 106. Shri Sarat Chandra Rabha.       |
| 92. Shri Phani Bora.                | 107. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.     |
| 93. Shri Pitsing Konwar.            | 108. Shri Shahadat Ali Jotder.       |
| 94. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury. | 109. M. Shamsul Huda.                |
| 95. Shri Prafulla Choudhury.        | 110. Shri Soncswar Bora.             |
| 96. Mrs. Pranita Talukdar.          | 111. Shri Stanley D. D. Nichols-Roy. |
| 97. Shri Premadhor Bora.            | 112. Dr. Surendra Nath Das-          |
| 98. Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi.     | 113. Shri Surendra Nath Das.         |
| 99. Shri Puspadhar Chaliha.         | 114. Shri Tazammul Ali Laskar.       |
| 100. Shri Ratneswar Konger.         | 115. Shri Tilok Gogoi.               |
| 101. Shri Jonab Rahimuddin Ahmed.   | 116. Shri Upendra Nath Sanatan.      |
| 102. Shri Romesh Mohan Kouli.       | 117. Shri Uttam Chandra Brahma.      |
| 103. Shri Rothindra Nath Sen.       | 118. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.     |
| 104. Shri Sadhan Ranjan Sarkar.     | 119. Shri Zahirul Islam.             |
| 105. Shri Sailen Medhi.             |                                      |

### Election of Speaker

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Acting Speaker):**

Now, I take up item No. 3, Election of Speaker. There are three Members who have been nominated for the office of Speaker and these are (1) Shri Abala Kanta Goswami, (2) Shri Lakshya Dhar Choudhury and (3) Shri Hareswar Goswami. Shri Abala Kanta Goswami has been proposed by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya and seconded by Shri Hiralal Patwary; Shri Lakshya Dhar Choudhury has been proposed by Shri Phani Bora and seconded by Shri Rothindra Nath Sen. Shri Hareswar Goswami has been proposed by Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury and Bishnulal Upadhyaya by three separate nomination papers and seconded respectively by Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury, Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury and Shri Jagannath Singh. Now, Shri Abala Kanta Goswami's nomination has been withdrawn; the nomination papers of the two others nominated are valid. As there are more than one member nominated, it is now necessary to hold a ballot. The ballot papers are ready and each of the hon. Member is requested to come upto the Secretary's table and obtain a ballot paper. A cross mark is to be placed against the member indicating the choice of the member voting and then placed in the ballot box placed on the Table of the House. After completion of voting by the members present and eligible to vote, the ballot box shall be opened and the result shall be declared in accordance with the rules.

Now, voting by ballot shall commence.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhag):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I request you to give us a short recess so that we may discuss about the election of the Speaker because this being a very important matter for the House it will be perhaps in the fitness of things, if the election is unanimous. So may I request you to give a short recess?

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Acting Speaker):** I would like to hear from the Leader of the House.

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Sir, we have only 45 minutes by which time we will have to complete the election of Speaker. Besides, there is no provision in the rules for withdrawal of nomination at this stage. So it would not be worthwhile to have recess for discussion about the withdrawal of nomination now.

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also agree with the proposal given by the hon. Member Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. If the rules are strictly followed, then of course there is no time for arriving at unanimity. What we feel is that the office of the Speaker is a very high office, and as far as possible there should be unanimity in the matter of election of the Speaker. I, therefore, request you to give us a short recess to arrive at a unanimity and as a matter of fact, I feel that the Government Party should have discussed this matter with the Opposition to arrive at a unanimity but the Government Party did not take any initiative. So I hope you will kindly consider this matter and grant the recess.

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Sir, may I correct the hon. Member? I did discuss this matter with Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya and Shri Lakshya Dhar Chaudhury yesterday and I had also telephonic discussion with Shri Stanley Nichols-Roy.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite agree with the opinion expressed by our Leader in this side that though there is no provision for withdrawal of candidature, yet I like to request you and through you the Leader of the House to consider this matter again because it will be in the fitness of things if this high office of Speakership can be filled up unanimously. This is my submission, Sir.

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Acting Speaker):** I would have welcomed this decision if it had been possible. But unfortunately there is no provision in our rules for withdrawing the nomination at this stage. Under the circumstances I cannot accept the proposal and I call upon the member to go to the poll.

(Casting of ballot papers continued)

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Sir, I want to know whether the voting is secret or open. If it is a secret voting then the crossing of the candidate's name should not be made before the Secretary and other officers of the House. If it is a secret voting then we want that it should be done in a really, secret manner. Those hon. Members who do not like to cross the candidate's name openly should get the chance to cast their votes secretly. The present arrangement does not seem to be proper.

(No reply. Casting of ballot papers continued).

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Acting Speaker)** : The result of the Speaker's election :

Shri Hareswar Goswami .. ... 67

Shri Lakhya Dhar Choudhury ... ... 42

So according to Chapter III, Rule 7, Sub-rule 5

Mr. Goswami is declared elected Speaker.

[At this stage Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar (Acting Speaker) vacated the Chair and Shri Hareswar Goswami was conducted to the Chair by the Chief Minister and Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya].

### Felicitation to the Speaker

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Hailakandi)** : Hon. Members of the august House, we have to-day transacted, among others, a very important piece of business. Hon. Members from far and near have come to discuss problems which defy solution but need solution for which a proper and congenial forum is necessary and that forum is this House. In this view of the matter selection of the Presiding Officer of this august House, that is the hon. Speaker is very important. By arranging healthy and useful discussion, by giving proper facilities and by his dispassionate dealings the Speaker can help a good deal in the deliberations of the hon. Members. I am happy and glad that we have done the right thing. A right man has been placed in the right place. Mr. Goswami needs no introduction. An astute and able parliamentarian as he is, Mr. Goswami will give a good account of himself which we will feel as we carry on. I am sure Mr. Goswami will amply justify his selection. Thank you.

(Applause)

\* **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with great pleasure we convey to you our warm greetings and felicitations on your selection to this high office. Sir, in democracy the institution of the Speaker is one which is held in the greatest esteem. In this august House, people having different view-points, we shall be discussing subjects of great importance and on some matters we may hold diametrically opposite view-points. Nevertheless, these difficult problems will have to be discussed and solutions will have to be found. Adjustment of ideas has to be brought about for which we need somebody who has got to occupy that exalted position and maintain discipline, dignity and decorum of this House. You, Sir, with your vast experience and sacrifice behind you and the knowledge and acumen that you have, we have no doubt that you will be able to discharge that great responsibility quite creditably and you will be able to guide the Members of this House in the proper direction. We from our side assure you, Sir, our full co-operation. We give you this assurance that we consider it our duty to see that this House functions successfully with a view to tackle the very important problems that are awaiting this country. Not only from this side of the House alone, but I am sure, Sir, that you will get full co-operation from all sides of this House. I again convey to you our felicitation and assure you our full co-operation and wish you all success in this responsible office.

\* Speech not corrected.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Barbhag):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of this side of the House offer our hearty felicitations to you on your being elevated to this august position. Apart from the usual and informal felicitations, we beg to place a few words for your consideration. Sir, as the Leader of the House has just now said, you have vast knowledge and acumen and also experiences. Apart from that, you have had the experiences of being the Leader of the Opposition for long ten years. Though you are no longer on our side, though you have gone to the other side, I do remember your first speech in this House when you have said that you were a rebel son of the Congress. I quite see that the prodigal son has gone back to his own family. But at the same time, in the position of the Speakership now we have one who was the Leader of the Opposition for long ten years and who, therefore, knows very well the difficulties that the Members of the Opposition have to face in this sort of a House. Unlike the British House of Commons, here the Speaker is not a non-party man, but is a partyman, and as a matter of that, an active and leading member of the ruling political party, and as a consequence it happens that the task and the responsibilities of a Speaker in an Indian Legislature are all the heavier and onerous. Because in spite of his being a member of one side of the House, he is to see that justice is done to both the sides and that the justice is even and balanced. We on this side of the House assure you our full co-operation in discharging your great responsibilities and duties and we do hope and expect that you will be reciprocating. We know that the pattern of the House now has changed. No longer the Opposition is as tiny as it was when you were its Leader. We are now 52 as against 72 of the ruling party. You may possibly have to preside over this House which may in the meantime change its pattern. (Applause from Opposition benches). Whatever the future may bring, we again offer our felicitations to you and all our co-operation.

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I on behalf of the Communist Legislature Group offer my best felicitations to you on your election to this high office. I certainly believe that we all need your guidance in this House and I am confident that both sides of the House will get proper and necessary facilities in order to discharge the duties that they are called upon to perform. I do expect and hope, and I am confident that you would endeavour to create healthier tradition in this House, keeping in view the changed circumstances and the changed position in this side of the House. Although up to now you may be a member of the ruling party, it is necessary, and democracy calls for it that you resign your membership from your party and really become an impartial man in the House. In this connection, such a tradition has been created now in India and I hope, what is followed in the Parliament will also be practised in this House. So far as we are concerned we will offer our co-operation, full co-operation, and we expect that the difficulties that we had to face often and on in the past will be removed in this House, as you yourself, Mr. Speaker, have got the experience, as my hon. Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, just now mentioned. I would have been very glad if this question of election of Speaker could have been settled unanimously and without any controversy but I regret to mention that the gesture given from this side of the House was not accepted or reciprocated. Whatever it is, I hope, in future we will offer our full co-operation and under your guidance this House will be able to create new traditions and new possibilities.

With these words, I again greet and congratulate you for your having been elected to this highest office.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Sonai):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I am here today as a result of a car accident with a broken cartilage and against the wishes of my doctors who have not yet removed the strappings from my body and not allowed me to take a bath for the last 23 days, yet I cannot resist the temptation to take my stand to congratulate you. For in our private life we had been friends now for many years whether you were on this side of this House or on the other side, not only you but the entire family of yours. Your wife had always treated me as if a brother and your children as a maternal uncle, which I and my family have always reciprocated. Today I remember and recall with pride that we entered this House on the same day and I had the opportunity of watching you as a Member of this House for 10 years. I had to deal with you as the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs while you were the Leader of Opposition. I was always charmed by your manner and your qualities of head and heart. Therefore, there is ample justification for your selection to this high office.

The job of a Speaker in India, I know, is a very difficult one and more so because of our failure to make the Institution of the Speaker a non-Party one hitherto. Because in the past the Parliament and Assemblies were a forum for agitation to wrench power by discrediting the British Government, a kind of tradition rather a psychology had grown and carried over not only to speak in an agitational mood but also to find or attribute motive whatever the opponents would do. As a result the Parliament or Assemblies in India often suffer from an air of unreality. Therefore, I know your task is certainly very difficult, but I can tell you, Sir, that a galaxy of your predecessors have made your job easier. I recall in this connection the name of Shri Basanta Kumar Das, to whom this House owes a lot. He left a tradition in this House which is in the records of this House even in the recent past. We had an illustrious Speaker in the person of Shri Dev Kant Borooah who as the Speaker of this House had not only raised the dignity and prestige of this House but also protected the rights and privileges of the Members of the House doggedly. The present Assembly Rules, the book which we follow, had been virtually rewritten during his time with which work I was closely associated. It is because of this we are at par with the Lok Sabha so far as our rights, privileges and dignity are concerned.

I know, Sir you had been a member of the English Bar and you had the opportunity of seeing the Westminster and in particular British Parliament working while you were taking your education in England which is the cradle of Parliamentary democracy. With such a training and background, I am sure, you will be able to keep the tradition of democracy upheld for you certainly know the values of democratic ways of life and traditions. India had indicated its choice for Parliamentarism. In fact there was not much discussion about it in the Constituent Assembly itself, for most of the Members who made the Constitution, were "brought up in an atmosphere which has been conducive to the establishment of what we are generally accustomed to call parliamentary responsible Government", I recall in this connection what Jawaharlal Nehru told an audience in 1959 in a Seminar on Parliamentary Democracy;—"You have to think not merely in some academic way of the form of Government you have or you should



have, but also in terms of that form of Government or political structure which will fulfil the demands made upon it by the age. Whether Parliamentary structure will ultimately answer this question or not, I do not know. But I should imagine that the Parliamentary form of Government and approach to problems is more likely to lead ultimately to some measure of authoritarianism. If it does not, it has become out of date and may have to go. However, theoretically good it may be, it has to answer the question put to it by the age. If it answers those questions, it is well established." Sir, the result of the last general election in this country has been described as the result of mature judgement of the people in the working of Parliamentary democracy. In other words democracy in this country has been called upon to answer the question put to it by the age. And that question has to be answered not only in this House but by all the Houses of Legislatures in the country as well as by the Parliament. The hon. Members on the other side of the House were speaking of the changed circumstances in the country and within this House. I do recognise the same. I have also a feeling that the Congress Members on this side of the House in the changed circumstances have got to ventilate in the same manner public grievances often on the floor of the House, may be with caution, to create a feeling that they are also active representatives of the people capable of taking note of their grievances, view points and aspirations as much as if not more the opposition Members are. If they cannot do so there shall be no Congress Party in existence in the next general election in most of the States. (From Opposition-*hear*). Therefore, in these changed circumstances, I recognise, Sir, your duty is difficult. It has become difficult because of certain unhealthy practices and traditions allowed to be grown in some of the assemblies including ours. It is not occasion to discuss elaborately the causes of such a misfortune which has been fallen this august House. You are to re-establish the good traditions. Therefore your task will be very difficult. But I am sure you will live upto the dignity of the Speaker which can alone save parliamentary democracy because we are not far away from totalitarianism even in this country. The recent development in this country, the militant communalism.....

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order ! Order ! I would like to be guided by this House. Whether you will like to continue the felicitation business now or after the Assembly re-assembled at 2 after the Governor's Address ?

**Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Let the House be adjourned now. The felicitation business should be taken up after the Governor's Address is over.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Sir, I will require only one or two minutes. So, Sir, I was telling that the emergence of certain forces in this country particularly during the last general election had shown that we are not far away from the totalitarianism. The re-emergence of communal and militant parties and forces and the increased party they had played in the country, particularly in Assam in this election should make us to realise that we must guard ourselves from that danger which has been fallen in many of the neighbouring countries democracy has got to be saved. In this context, the Speaker has an onerous duty and I wish you a god's speed in this difficult task and convey my best wishes to you.

Thank You.

## ADJOURNMENT

The House then adjourned for lunch till 2 P. M.

(After Lunch)

## Address by the Governor

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Governor's Address is being circulated to the hon. Members and the Governor will be coming just now. Myself and the Secretary will now go out to escort the Governor.

(The Governor arrived)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I now request the Governor to deliver his Address.

(The Governor Shri Vishnu Sahay, commenced reading from the printed copy of his Address).

**Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kaliabar):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ভাষণখন যেই কোনো ভাৰতীয় ভাষাত হ'ব লাগিছিল; আৰু তাৰ 'কপি' বিতৰণ হ'ব লাগিছিল। এতিয়া যি ভাষাত এই ভাষণ হৈছে সেই ভাষা আনি বুজিব নোৱাৰা। আনি খেতিয়কৰ প্ৰতিনিধি; অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ বাহিৰে এই ভাষা বুজি নাপাও।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** সংবিধান মতে ৰাজ্যপালে ইংৰাজীতো ভাষণ দিব পাৰে; সেই হিচাবে এই ভাষণ সংবিধানৰ বিৰোধী হোৱা নাই।

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi):** আগতে ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণৰ কপি অসমীয়াতো দিছিল।

(A voice: আনি অনুবাদহে বিচাৰিছো।)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** আগতে যদি অসমীয়াতো ওলাইছিল মাননীয় সদস্যসকলক মই আগ্ৰাস দিওঁ যে ভবিষ্যতে ইয়াৰ অসমীয়া অনুবাদ দিয়া হ'ব।

(The Governor then resumed his Address)

Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Member,

I am glad to have the privilege of addressing this august House again which has been reconstituted after the fourth General Election. Along with the rest of the country this State also had the General Election and it is significant, and shows the deep roots which democracy has taken in our country, that people in very large numbers turned out to exercise their right of franchise. The election in this State passed off smoothly and a record number of voters (61.89 per cent) come to the polls. The Members of the newly constituted Assembly will have a significant role to play in shaping the future of the State at a most difficult period of flux and change and I wish them all success in their endeavour.

Shri B. P. Chaliha, who has guided the destinies of the State for a large number of years and through most difficult times, will again have the privilege of being leader of the House and head of Government. I feel sure he will be assisted in discharging his most responsible and onerous duties by all sections of the House.

The State has passed through difficult times since I addressed this Assembly last year. The danger posed by China on our northern borders still persists. The situation on the Indo-Pak border continues to be a cause for anxiety. Immediately after the Taskent Declaration there was some improvement temporarily yet the situation again became tense with the intermittent exchange of fire in Cachar and Goalpara sectors. In the month of April some Pakistani nationals with the help of Pakistani forces trespassed into India territory and cultivated forcibly some land in Gobindpur area of Cachar District. Our Security forces took prompt measures and evicted the trespassers. A few incidents of commission of dacoities and cattle lifting in the bordering villages by Pak criminals also took place. In one case, a Sub-Inspector of Police died while resisting the Pakistani criminals. In the month of October, 1966, reports were received of Pakistan making preparations for sending infiltrators into Assam. A net-work of Police watch-posts at the border and the areas likely to be affected by infiltration have been set up to prevent entry of such elements into the State. Village Defence Parties have also been alerted to be on the lookout for these infiltrators. Border security arrangements have also been adequately strengthened with a view to cope with the situation.

The work relating to detection and deporting of Pak-infiltrator is being continued. Tribunals under the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964, were appointed to ensure that due care is taken and adequate opportunities afforded to the persons concerned before taking a decision regarding their nationality. Nine such tribunals are functioning. During 1966, a total number of 24,664 Pak-infiltrators were detected in the State, of whom 1,100 were prosecuted in the courts of law and 23,208 persons were served with orders for leaving India. The cases of 126 persons remained under investigation and 230 infiltrators were straightway deported.

As members are aware, the Mizo National Front created disturbances all over the Mizo District on 1st March, 1966. Aijal Treasury was attacked, offices of the Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional Officer, Lungleh were fired at, there were attacks on a number of other Centres, Government properties were looted and the Civil Subdivisional Officer of Lungleh and other Government officers were kidnapped. The Army had to be called in aid of civil power. During mopping up operations, the Security Forces have arrested a large number of outlawed M. N. F. volunteers and captured substantial quantities of arms and ammunition from different places. During these disturbances considerable sections of the civil population were affected by looting, arson, etc., by the M. N. F. rebels and it was felt necessary to take up measures for extending relief to the victims. The students from Mizo Hills studying in various parts of the State who could not get their remittances timely are being extended necessary help for prosecuting their studies. Measures have also been taken to extend relief to the Government servants and members of the public who suffered due to the disturbances. A scheme for resettlement of villages has been taken up in the Mizo Hills along the main road from Vairangte to Lungleh covering a population of roughly 50,000. The first phase of the scheme was launched with the help of the Army on 4th January, 1967. All three phases have been completed. The Civilian authorities have taken over the villages covered in the first two phases of the operation and will take over the others shortly. With a view to ensuring uninterrupted flow of food and essential commodities to Mizo Hills a fleet of vehicles is being built up which will operate between Aijal and Silchar and Aijal and Serchhip. Air-dropping of food supplies is being continued by the I. A. F. on a very extensive scale. These

operations have put a great strain on the finances of the State Government and it is expected that the Government of India will reimburse the expenditure for Mizo Hills operations.

The extremist sections of the Naga hostiles continued creating large-scale disturbances. There were several cases of sabotage.

On 20th April, 1966, an explosion took place in a passenger train at Lumding railway station resulting in loss of 56 lives and injuries to 120 persons. On 23rd April an explosion took place in a passenger train at Diphu railway station due to which 40 persons were killed and 80 injured. There were a few more cases of derailment of trains. Recently on 18th February and 1st March 1967, there have been explosions on the railway tracks. Investigation revealed that these incidents were due to sabotage. Some persons have been arrested in this connection and investigation is proceeding. Security measures have been tightened to prevent recurrence of such incidents. These measures include escorting of trains and checking of passengers and their luggage. Other security measures, partly executed and to be extended, are construction of a road running parallel to the railway line and clearance of jungles on either side of the railway line.

The law and order situation in the State was disturbed last year due to the agitation regarding food. The drought and successive floods affected the food position of the State very seriously and food shortages were reported from about the middle of last year from various parts of the State. During the demonstrations in this connection held in the month of August, 1966, at Shillong and Sibsagar, incidents, loot, arson and hooliganism occurred. The Police had to open fire at these places on unlawful mobs resulting in death of five persons and injuries several others. Government have since set up a Commission of Inquiry to enquire into the circumstances leading to these incidents. The Police had to open fire in a few more cases. In the month of September, 1966, the Police had to open fire on an unruly mob at Bilasipara resulting in the death of 3 persons. An Inquiry Commission under the chairmanship of a High Court Judge is now enquiring into the matter. There were to more incidents of Police firing during the year, one at Barkuchijan under Barama Police Station in Kamrup District and another at Barpathar under Dudnai Police Station in Goalpara District.

The Anti-Corruption Department under the overall control and direction of the Vigilance Commissioner made substantial progress towards detection and prevention of corruption among Government servants. Out of 218 enquiries taken up during the year, 148 were disposed of and departmental action was suggested against 28 gazetted officers and 18 non-gazetted officers. One S. D. O., P. W. D. and 3 sectional officers were convicted under the Prevention of Corruption Act during 1966. My Government is very keen to see that corruption is stamped out. The Subdivisional Public Relations Committees set up to look into Public grievances are also functioning.

On the whole the crime position during 1966 was satisfactory. With a view to prevention and detection of crimes and keeping a watch over law and order, the Police force was strengthened by addition of 15 new outposts and 2 new police stations. Preliminary steps are being taken to establish a forensic science laboratory in the State and a Director has been appointed recently.

With a view to improving the administration certain effective measures have been taken. In Mizo Hills District, 8 more administrative units have been set up each of which is under the charge of either an I. A. S. or A. C. S. officer. A Commissioner, who is also a Liaison Officer with the Centre, has been appointed with headquarters at Silchar to deal effectively with the administrative problems of Mizo Hills and Cachar Districts. A new administrative unit has been recently set up at Hamren in the District of United Mikir and North Cachar Hills. A new Subdivision with Nalbari as the administrative centre will function from the 1st of April. Due attention is being paid to popularising and imparting training in the Civil Defence measures and expanding the Home Guards activities. A combined directorate of Civil Defence and Home Guards has started functioning and a State Home Guards Organiser has been appointed. The Economy Committee continued its studies of various departments. The Administrative Reforms Committee has finalised its recommendations regarding public relations and has made certain tentative recommendations regarding the training of Government servants. It is expected that these measures will make a beginning towards equipping the administration better to discharge its responsibilities.

The Government places utmost emphasis on the planned development of the State. The Fourth Five Year Plan for the State has been finalised by the Planning Commission and a total outlay of Rs. 190 crores has been fixed which also includes a provision of Rs. 50 crores for the Hill areas. Some of the major industrial projects, *e. g.*, paper pulp factory and Bokajan Cement Plant are likely to be taken up under the Central sector of the Plan. The outlay for 1967-68 has been fixed provisionally at Rs. 30 crores which may be increased when a fuller picture of resources is available by May.

Agricultural development forms the most important item of the developmental programme. Due to a series of floods in the rice-growing districts of the State, the overall production of rice suffered a serious setback and it was below the level of 1965-66. The production in other main crops, jute and potato, also suffered a setback due to adverse climatic conditions and due to blight. However, measures for popularising improved agricultural practices are being intensified with a view to making up the shortfall in the coming year. The fertilizer consumption rose to 20,000 tons in the last year of the Third Plan. The existing soil laboratory has been suitably strengthened and seed farms have been improved. Adequate measures for plant protection have been undertaken and emphasis is being laid on the construction of permanent types of headworks for flow irrigation rather than seasonal project. An "Irrigation Cell" has been set up to provide technical assistance to Panchayats for taking up irrigation projects and pump irrigation is also being popularised. Panchayats have been entrusted with several schemes of agricultural development and necessary financial grants are placed at their disposal for the purpose. The intensive programme in Package and rice package districts has shown considerable progress. The objectives of the Fourth Plan include an increase of 6 per cent per annum in the rate of agricultural production, popularisation of high-yielding varieties and increasing the irrigated area by providing medium and minor irrigation as well as lift irrigation. An efficient system for distribution of inputs is being built up and two Corporations, one for seeds and the other for fertilizers and other inputs, are being set up. The programme also includes special emphasis on growing of cash crops and horticulture. Adequate provision for training of personnel and improvement of agricultural education is being made. It is expected that these

measures will go a long way towards making the State self-sufficient in main items of agricultural production. With a view to providing incentive for improved agricultural production, a programme of land reforms is also being continued which provides for consolidation of holdings, strengthening of land record agencies for collection of agricultural statistics, preparation of records of rights of tenants and Adhiars and resettlement of landless agricultural labour.

Government realised that due to certain inherent difficulties the pace of development in the Hill Areas of Assam had not made as much headway as it ought to have. In order to make up the backlog at the shortest time possible, the Chief Minister invited Shri Tarlok Singh, Member, Planning Commission, to head a Joint Centre-State Study Team and to make recommendations for the speedy development of the Hill District. Accordingly, Shri Tarlok Singh and the Study Team visited the Hill Areas of Assam from January to March, 1966 and proposals were made on May 18, 1966. A separate integrated Fourth Plan for the Hill Areas of Assam was proposed by the Team and approved by the State Government and the Planning Commission involving an outlay of Rs. 70.50 crores for a full five-year period, but as only preliminary steps could be taken during 1966-67, the Hill Plan was fixed at Rs. 50 crores in the State Sector for the Fourth Plan to which would be added another Rs. 5 crores from the Central Sector. As proposed by Shri Tarlok Singh, a Planning Board for the Hill Areas of Assam was constituted to guide, scrutinise and approve the formulation of schemes of the Assam Hill region, to review the implementation of such schemes from time to time and to make periodic appraisals of the impact of such schemes on the economy of the Hill Districts. A Development Commissioner was also appointed to implement the schemes and to act as Secretary of the Planning Board. Similarly, every development department is being strengthened by the appointment of officers and staff charged with sole responsibility of implementing the Hill Plan. It is hoped that many of these objectives will be achieved during the Fourth Plan. Apart from this the Government has been extending relief in the Hill areas. To alleviate the economic hardship of the people a number of border bazars which had been closed down were re-opened.

The elections to the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Jowai District Councils were conducted immediately after the General Election and the newly constituted District Councils are expected to start functioning soon.

The State Government also extended the necessary financial help to the District Councils for running their administration. The Mizo District Council has been granted a subvention of Rs. 9,20,000 for meeting their committed expenditure for normal administration. Necessary assistance was also extended to the Pawi-Lakher Regional Council.

The schemes taken up for the welfare of the Plains Tribals and Scheduled Caste people are also being continued. The programme taken up in this sphere aims at the spread of education among these backward groups as well as to provide necessary medical facilities and other amenities afford proper incentive for taking up of settled cultivation and improved agricultural practices. Educational schemes for the benefit of the student from the other Backward Classes have also been taken up.

During the year that has passed, the State had its misfortunes in the shape of floods, cyclones and fires. Floods occurred five times during the months of June to September, 1966, and all the Plains districts were affected. As a result of the floods, 57 human lives and 6,848 heads of cattle were lost. The damage caused to the food crops and houses was extensive. The Government had to take emergent relief measures to relieve the distress of the flood-affected people. Collection of land revenue and all kind of loans in flood-affected areas was temporarily suspended. In addition to gratuitous relief in the shape of free food and cash doles, arrangement was made to supply seeds, fodder and medicine either free or at concessional rates. Various concession by way of fee remission to students were also made. The total expenditure of the Government under various heads for gratuitous relief, rehabilitation grant, test relief and loans, etc., on account of floods alone amounted to a little over Rupees one crore and fourteen lakhs. The occurrence of fire at Shillong, Silchar, Golaghat, Barpeta and Jorhat town also added to the suffering of the people. Due to these fires, more than 300 families were affected and property worth many lakhs was lost. In the Barpeta fire one person was burnt to death. The Government extended gratuitous relief for the victims of fire also. Reports were received of a cyclone in Sibsagar Subdivision which resulted in death of one person and loss of several heads of cattle. Necessary gratuitous relief was sanctioned by the Government to the cyclone-affected people also. Relief was also extended to the families who had to be removed due to the well at the Rudrasagar drilling site catching fire.

The State has been subjected to recurrence of floods every year and taking of flood protection measures on a permanent basis is absolutely necessary for preventing damage as well as for achieving stability in agricultural production. The State Government made a demand for additional funds for taking up repair of the damage caused to embankments, roads, etc., and for strengthening the flood protection work after the floods which occurred during last year. The Government of India have advanced a sum of Rupees 1.50 crores only as a loan. Besides the construction of embankments and continuing the schemes taken up in the past years, the Government propose to take up new projects for flood control on a long term basis among which mention may be made of the Barak Dam Project and construction of storage reservoirs on the Manas and Subansiri. To minimise erosion and for river training, experimental dredging of the Brahmaputra is proposed to be carried out.

The Public Works Department is continuing its work regarding maintenance, improvement and construction of roads. With a view to stepping up the opening of communications in the inaccessible areas of the hill districts, it is proposed to appoint a Chief Engineer who would exclusively devote his attention to the hills areas. In addition to its normal and plan work, the State Public Works Department has been engaged by the Government of India for execution of important roads and bridges under the Border Roads Development Programme.

Due to the shortfall in Agricultural production the food position in the State was unsatisfactory during last year. Procurement of paddy on monopoly basis by the Co-operatives had to be suspended immediately after the occurrence of a series of floods. The Government appointed a high power Committee to inquire into the causes of failure in procurement and to suggest ways and means for improvement. The programme

for procurement during the coming year has been modified in the light of the recommendations of the Committee. Basically the Committee recommended procurement through the agency of co-operatives in the surplus areas and through other agents in the non-surplus areas. Under this basic scheme the Government has entrusted the task of procurement to the Food Corporation of India. The responsibility for enforcement measures in connection with procurement of paddy has been transferred to the Co-operation Department. The position of the supply of other essential commodities was fairly satisfactory. As there is no production of galvanised sheets in the country, the shortage continues in the State. This scarcity was relieved to a certain extent by the supply of black C. I. sheets which are now being used as substitute. Since decontrol over cement the supply has varied but it cannot be said to be adequate for the need of the people. It is expected that when Cherra Cement will make an impact the position will ease. The supply of sugar in the State was, by and large, satisfactory. The Government is keen to keep control over rising prices and to make available essential commodities to consumers at reasonable prices. Besides enlisting the co-operation of traders in maintaining a reasonable price level on voluntary basis, the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers have also been instructed to use the powers under the Defence of India Rules and other normal laws for maintaining the price level by fixation of wholesale and retail prices of essential commodities. Co-operative wholesale and retail stores have been organised in various places in the State and are working satisfactorily. It is also proposed to set up a Departmental Store which would be an adjunct to the Gauhati Wholesale Store. Fair price shops were also continued in various parts of the State.

In the sphere of Education the schemes for expansion and development of requisite facilities in the various educational institutions are being continued with a view to improving the quality of education imparted. Special attention is being paid to the development of educational facilities in backward areas. The scheme for National Cadet Corps is proposed to be suitably expanded with a view to inculcating discipline among students. In the sphere of technical education also the State is making progress. The Polytechnics established earlier are being strengthened by introducing new courses. Preliminary steps have been taken up for establishing a Regional Engineering College at Silchar. It is proposed to establish a Girls' Polytechnic at Shillong, a Polytechnic at Aijal and a Junior Technical School at Haflong. In the last Budget Session this Assembly passed a resolution recommending the establishment of a University in the Hill Areas. This has been communicated to the Government of India for further action. The Department of Historical and Antiquarian Studies is continuing its work relating to collection, preservation and publication of rare manuscripts and records. Due attention is also being paid to the spread of sports and games in the educational institutions. Schemes for scholarships for tribals and backward classes as well as for the students from other groups of population are being continued.

It is necessary to increase the pace of industrialisation of the State in order to make a break with the present state of economic stagnation and diversify the lopsided economy of the State. With a view to achieving this objective, the programme for setting up of industrial projects in the State is being continued. The cement factory at Cherrapunji has started production. It is proposed to expand its capacity and to set up another cement project at Bokajan. It is also proposed to develop industrial areas in various



regions of the State. The Government have recently set up an Industrial Development Corporation under which a number of projects are proposed to be undertaken. The Government have incorporated a company in the name of "Assam Major Industrial Enterprises Corporation Ltd." with an authorised capital of Rupees two crores which is preparing project reports and is taking steps for setting up various industries in the State. The Small Industries Development Corporation which was set up earlier is providing impetus to the growth of small industries in the State. The schemes for loans to Cottage and Small-Scale Industries and extension of technical guidance and advice to such industries are being continued. The rural industries projects taken up during previous years are continuing and it is proposed to take up a few more such projects. The Sericulture and Weaving Department is also doing very useful work in regard to the improvement of silk and the handloom Weaving Industries in the State. Schemes under the Khadi Board in the Khadi and Ambar Charkha programme and in the sphere of numerous village industries such as handpounding of paddy, hand-made paper, village oil-industries, bee-keeping, etc., have been continued.

The State have made considerable headway in the sphere of development of power. Some of the important Power schemes completed included the Uiam Hydrel Project (Stage I), Namrup Thermal Project and the Gauhati Gas Turbine Station at Narangi. The work in respect of the Uiam Hydrel Project (Stage I), Garo Hills Thermal Project at Nangalbibra and the Gauhati Thermal Station at Chandrapur is continuing. The Assam State Electricity Board has also taken up construction of a number of important transmission lines. Steps are being taken to construct a transmission line from Badarpur to Churaibari in Tripura with a view to supplying power to the Tripura Government. Negotiations are in progress regarding supply of power to Manipur and West Bengal. An agreement in respect of supply of power to Nagaland has already been signed. It is also proposed to devote more attention to rural electrification with a view to facilitating use of power for agricultural purposes and to take up a programme of development of power in the Hill areas. It is expected that the availability of power in sufficient quantities would facilitate more rapid industrialisation of the State. The work relating to investigation and development of mineral resources of the State is also being continued. The Assam State Mineral Development Corporation is proceeding with its plan for opening up a coal mine at Nangalbibra in Garo Hills. The other important scheme of the Corporation is for establishing a Kaolin Washing plant near Mawphlang.

In the context of shortfall in agricultural production, the poultry and cattle development programme assumes added importance. The various schemes for development of cattle are working satisfactorily. The Dairy development schemes and supply of milk at Gauhati and Shillong are being continued. The schemes taken up under the crash programme for poultry and duck production have also shown results. Various schemes for popularising the improved piscicultural practices and developing the fisheries are also continuing.

The State was free from any epidemic outbreak of cholera or small-pox. There was an outbreak of infective hepatitis or Jaundice in Gauhati and its neighbourhood and necessary measures were taken. The Government are continuing their efforts towards extension of

medicinal facilities all over the State through various hospitals and dispensaries. Efforts are being made to make up the shortage of medical graduates and improve the standard of medical education. The Assam Medical College has been allowed by the Medical Council to start post-graduate courses in eleven subjects. The Malaria Eradication Programme is proceeding satisfactorily. Family Planning measures are being continued and the programme extended.

The co-operative movement in the State is gaining momentum and is providing some help for agricultural production by way of extension of rural credit. The Credit Revitalisation Programme is proceeding. The Central Banks in the revitalisation areas have adopted the crop loan system. The working of Co-operatives in the sphere of marketing has also made progress. Five Co-operative rice mills are in commission now and preparatory steps have been taken for setting up 26 more rice mills in the co-operative sector. The working of the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill has shown considerable improvement and it has started earning profit. The plan for setting up a distillery for utilising by-products of the sugar mill is also in progress. Considerable progress was achieved in the sphere of Co-operative farming and organisation and expansion of handloom co-operatives. It is proposed to take up an expanded programme for the marketing of agricultural produces of hills and border areas through co-operatives.

The Community Development programme now covers the entire rural population of the State and Panchayati Raj is functioning in all the Plains districts providing the people with means to plan on the basis of their felt needs. The question of transferring the development blocks in the hill areas to the control of the District Councils is under consideration. The Tribal Development Blocks are also functioning satisfactorily. Considering the importance of increasing food production, the working of the Panchayats is now agriculture-oriented and they are helping in popularisation of improved agricultural practices and supply of inputs. The programme of utilisation of rural manpower is in operation in fifty blocks and will be extended to the remaining blocks.

The activities of the State in the other spheres have also shown considerable success. The programme for maintenance of forest plantations and regeneration and setting up of new plantations is continuing. The Forest Department is supplying electric posts and timber to Defence and other departments. Besides continuing the operation of existing routes, the State Transport undertaking opened new services from Jowai to Haflong and Nowgong to Diphu covering the distance of 108 and 91 miles respectively for providing transport facilities in these difficult areas of the State. The Inland Water Transport Organisation completed the first phase of the work of Pandu Port. The work on Jogighopa Port is in progress. The schemes for hydrographic survey of the Dholeswari, Katākhāl and Kolodyne rivers of Mizo Hills have been completed with a view to taking up navigation in these rivers. In view of frequent dislocation in the communications, the State Government are considering the question of constructing landing strips at various places in the State. The Municipal Administration Department continued its activities relating to Local bodies for construction of markets and for urban water supply schemes.

The Minimum Wages Committee set up by Government to report on the question of wages of Municipal employees has since submitted its report. The activities of Information and Public Relations Department have been expanded considerably so as to make known the activities of the Government and enlist public co-operation in their working.

From data maintained by the Directorate of National Employment Services, my Government has noticed with great concern that there has been a substantial rise in the number of unemployed in the State during the last year. This problem is not susceptible of any easy or immediate solution. A series of measures are necessary—on the one hand the rate of growth of our population has to be slowed down and on the other opportunities provided to the people for gainful employment. Along with the second aspect is the question of providing suitable educational and training facilities in order to fit in workers in a proper manner in an expanding economy. Through proper implementation of our programmes, envisaged in the Annual and Five-Year Plans, jobs of different categories will be created. It will be necessary to see that people of this State have the fullest opportunities to fill these posts.

Activities of the Government in the Departments of Town and Country Planning, Excise and Social Welfare continue to be satisfactory. The Assam Tea Plantations Provident Fund Act, the Central Provident Fund Act and the Assam Tea Plantations Employees Welfare Fund Act, 1965 continued in force as well as the other welfare schemes undertaken by the Government.

The Government have announced an *ad-hoc* increase of Rs. 10 in the Dearness Allowance of employees drawing pay upto Rs. 250 and sanctioned Dearness Allowance of Rs. 10 for those in the pay range of Rs. 250—750 per month with effect from 1st January, 1967 with a view to affording relief from rise in prices. It has also been decided to extend medical facilities to the families of Government servants from March, 1967. A one-man Commission has been set up to examine the question relating to Dearness Allowances of State Government employees and anomalies and representations arising out of the last Pay Committee's Report.

Recently, the Government of India initiated a proposal for bringing about a reorganisation of Assam on the basis of a federal structure. The details of the scheme are to be worked out by a committee on which all concerned interests would be represented.

As far as my Government is concerned, their stand has consistently been that from points of defence, security and also overall and accelerated development of this region, the basic unity of Assam must be maintained and its status not impaired; at the same time, the political aspirations of the people have to be respected. These objectives can be worked out by the leaders of the hills and the plains district devising a practical scheme on a basis of mutual trust and respect. It is my hope that with tolerance and good-will, a solution will be found which will fulfil the needs and aspirations of both the hills and the plains people of Assam.

This will be a short session of the Assembly. There are of course the usual financial Bills and a vote on account for the next three months, and a supplementary demand and appropriation Bill in respect thereof will be before you. Other than this, at the moment, there is only one Bill, namely, the Assam State Legislative Members (Removal of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 1967, which is to replace an Ordinance. My Government will take the opportunity of introducing other legislative measures during subsequent sessions of the House.

I have briefly reviewed the activities and programmes of my Government. Various decisions and policies of the past will be kept under constant review. In the light of practical experience of working and implementation of the measures, certain changes may be made. The objective will be to improve the lot of the common man. The year that has passed was full of difficulties and more difficult times await us. The problems posed by the demands for all-round development call for sincere and united efforts. I invite you all to take up this challenge and become parties in building a fully developed and prosperous Assam.

(The Governor left the Chamber)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Under Rule 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly I hereby report to the Assembly that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech and a copy of the speech has already been placed on the table of the hon. Members.

Now, I have received a motion of thanks on the Governor's Address from Shri Biswadev Sarma which is as follows :

"That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver in this House on 20th March, 1967".

I hereby fix Tuesday, the 21st March, 1967, Monday, the 27th March, 1967 and Friday, the 31st March, 1967 as the dates for discussion of the motion on matters referred to in the Governor's address.

Notice of amendment to the motion may be submitted so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat before 6 P.M. today, the 20th March, 1967.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Charaibahi):** Sir, as you know, the number of Speakers this time has increased. Therefore, three days' time will not be sufficient for discussion of the motion. So, it will be appreciated if you will kindly discuss this matter with the leaders of the different groups and place the same before the Business Advisory Committee so as to extend the time.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I quite appreciate what Mr. Barua has said. The programme has already been chalked out. In the meantime the Business Advisory Committee will be formed and a meeting will be convened. If it is necessary to extend the time, I will be guided by the wishes of the House. For the time being let the present programme continue.

Now, we take up item No. 4.

#### Felicitation to the Speaker

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Baghmara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to offer my hearty congratulations to you on your being elected to the Chair of this House. I, on my behalf and on behalf of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference group, extend to you our hearty congratulations. Sir, you must have been surprised to see that my group has abstained from voting in the election. Sir, we have a reason for that. We thought that in a democratic set up it was not at all desirable to select a Presiding Officer through a contest. Sir, we have Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was suggested by some of our friends in this side of the House that opportunity should be afforded to avoid a contest. Therefore,

we thought that when that opportunity was not available it was better for us to abstain from voting. The various problems faced by this part of the country will have to be focussed through this House and the members representing the different constituencies of the entire State will have enough opportunity to place those problems before this august House through you for thorough discussion and if possible, for final solution. As such we thought that opportunity should have been given to all members irrespective of their party affiliation to elect an agreed person as a speaker and therefore, it is our conviction that it would not be desirable to contest for this high office on party basis. It would be most desirable and happy for all of us if today the leaders of the different groups in this House could sit together and find out the best man for this high office. As for myself because of my close association with you in the past I take this opportunity to extend my hearty congratulations to you. I know you are worthy of this office. But I did not want that you should be selected for this office by a contest and that too on a party consideration. Sir, as pointed out by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, let us for a moment recall our experience in the past. Whether in the past we had that opportunity which is due to every member of this House or to every group to focus fully the various problems which need thorough discussion in this House? Sir, you were once the leader of the opposition and I am sure you might recollect that it was not possible on several occasions to focus our problems. Therefore, I am all the more happy that your experience will guide you in conducting the business of the House and if there had been any lapses in the past you will try to make good of them. Sir, as I said, in the present situation and taking into account the strength of the ruling party and the opposition, a good gesture could have been shown in selecting the Speaker by mutual understanding, that opportunity was not available.

In fact, immediately after my arrival at Shillong—unfortunately I have arrived last night, rather very late—this morning I tried to contact my friends with a view to see whether this contest could be avoided. It would, indeed, have been better today had we been able to select the most suitable person for this high office not purely on party consideration but on a consensus of views of different parties and groups of the House. But unfortunately the contest could not be avoided. Therefore, Sir, in order to strike a balance may I suggest to you, Sir, that an opportunity be given to a most suitable person from our side to be the Deputy Speaker (Applause from the Opposition Benches)? I also request the Leader of the House to consider my suggestion very seriously. I give this suggestion because I feel that every one here, irrespective of party affiliation should have a sense of effective participation in the deliberation of the House without any misgivings, and due scope not being denied to him for discharge of his responsibilities as a member of this House. This gesture on the part of the ruling party will, in my opinion, create a very healthy atmosphere. The House is, as pointed out by Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, is almost equally divided with a narrow margin. It is from that point of view also we should try to follow the example shown by some of the sister States in our country in this regard. Having said this and also having congratulated you on your elevation to this high office, I would further suggest, though I do not propose to request you to resign from the Congress Party, as Shri Phani Bora has stated, that you should dissociate yourself from the party politics since now you have been elevated to the high office of Speakership. I hope, the Leader of the House and the members of his party would agree to this humble suggestion of mine. Let us create a convention, a healthy convention and thereby try

to have the fullest possible opportunity of discharging our duties and responsibilities without any bias or without any party consideration so that every one of us would be in a position to contribute our mite in bringing solutions to the problems that come before this House. At this stage I do not propose to make a political analysis, as Shri Haque Choudhury has done, but it is desirable, irrespective of the fact whether one belongs to the Congress Party or to the Opposition, to realise that we are here not to lay stress on our respective party affiliation but for the purpose of serving the best interest of our dear country. With these words, Sir, I on my own behalf and on behalf of the group I represent here extend to you our fullest co-operation.

**Shri LAKSHYA DHAR CHOUDHURY (Kamalpur) :**

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, জয় জয়তে মই মোৰ নিজৰ তৰফৰ পৰা আৰু আমাৰ বন্ধু-বৰ্গৰ তৰফৰ পৰা, এই নিবৰ্বাচনত আপুনি জয়যুক্ত হোৱাত ওলগ জনাইছো। আজিৰ এই নিবৰ্বাচন মোৰ জীৱনৰ লেখত লব লগীয়া কথা হলেও ৰাজনৈতিক জীৱন চকবিত জয় পৰাজয়ৰ কথা আছেই আৰু এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই ৮চন্দ্ৰধৰ বৰুৱা দেৱৰ ভাষাত কওঁ—

“জয়ত আনন্দ নাই  
পৰাজয় সোভাগ্যৰ কথা” ॥

আজি মনত পৰিছে স্বাধীনতাৰ সংগ্ৰামৰ কথা আৰু তাৰ পিচত, গণতন্ত্ৰৰ খাতিৰত বিৰোধী দল গঠন কৰি বিৰোধী দলৰ লগত সঙ্গৰত্নভাবে কাম কৰা। আজি আমি আনন্দ পাইছো যে শ্ৰীযুক্ত গোস্বামী দেৱ এই নিবৰ্বাচনত জয়যুক্ত হৈছে আৰু তেখেতৰ লগত এই নিবৰ্বাচনত প্ৰতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা কৰিছে। কালি সন্ধিয়া, কংগ্ৰেচ দলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীযুত চলিহা আৰু শ্ৰীযুত ত্ৰিপাঠী ডাঙৰীয়াই মোক মাতি নিছিল আৰু এই নিবৰ্বাচন বিনা প্ৰতিদ্বন্দ্বিতাই হব লাগে বুলি পৰামৰ্শ দিছিল। কিন্তু আমি ভাবিছো যে, সদনত বিৰোধী দলৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হৈছে আৰু গণতন্ত্ৰৰ খাতিৰত, যদি আমাৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা প্ৰতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা কৰা নহয়, তেনেহলে যি জনসাধাৰণে আমাক নিবৰ্বাচিত কৰিছে তেওঁলোকক ফাকি দিয়া হব। সেই উদ্দেশ্য লৈয়েই আমি এই কানত আগ বাঢ়িছিলো। এই নিবৰ্বাচনত শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী দেৱৰ জয় হোৱাত স্তম্ভী হৈছো আৰু তেখেতৰ লগত আমি সকলো প্ৰকাৰে সহযোগ কৰিবলৈ আশ্বাস দিছো আৰু গণতন্ত্ৰৰ সকলো নিয়ম তেখেতে অক্ষুণ্ণ ৰাখিব বুলি আশা ৰাখিলো।

\***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) :** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ তৰফৰ পৰা শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই সকলোখিনি কথা কৈছে আৰু তাৰ বাহিৰে নতুন কবলগীয়া নাই যদিও মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কোৱাৰ দৰে আপোনাক ধন্যবাদহে জ্ঞাপন কৰিব খুজিছো। আমাৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যিখিনি কোৱা হৈছে সেইখিনিয়েই মোৰো কথা। ইয়াকে কৈ মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ক শুভেচ্ছা জ্ঞাপন কৰিলো।

✓ **Shri BISHNU PRASAD RAVA (Tezpur) :** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজিৰ এই নিবৰ্বাচনত শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়া জয়যুক্ত হোৱাত আমি আনন্দ পাইছো, কিন্তু এই কথা মনত ৰাখিব লাগিব যে, যি জনতাই আমাক প্ৰতিনিধি পাতি পঠিয়াইছে তেওঁলোকৰ চকুৰপানী আমাৰ দুন্নয়নত লৈ আহিছে, আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ হিয়াৰ প্ৰজ্বলিত অগ্নিৰ পৰা আমি একুৰা জুই বুকুত লৈ আহিছো। গতিকে এই সদনত যি বিলাক আলোচনা-বিলোচনা হব সেই বিলাকৰ যদি দুবিচাৰ হয়, তেতিয়াহলে জনতাই

চকুলো টুকিব আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ অন্তৰৰ জুই মাৰ নেযাব। কাজেই আজিৰ অসমত যি বিপৰ্যায়ৰ সূত্রপাত হৈছে তাৰ সমাধানৰ কাৰণে, বিৰোধী দলৰ ফালৰ পৰাই হওক অথবা চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰাই হওক সকলোৱে ভালকৈ নিৰপেক্ষ ভাবে বিবেচনা কৰি অসমী আইব শেঁতাপৰা মুখত হাঁহিৰ বেঙনি আনিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব। আমাৰ ফালৰ পৰা

मेरी आँखोंमें भरके मैं

आँखा लाया हूँ ।

दूँटी नयन भवि, मई चकूलो आनिछौं ।

तेगु कोहना में मैं

ताँत्र लाया हूँ ।

ভোটা তৰোৱালত মই,

আনিছোঁ তীক্ষ্ণ ধাৰ ॥

ले मादर-इ-हिन्द तरे खातिर मैं ।

तोहफा ई इन्कलाब लाया हूँ ॥

নিয়া,—জননী ভাৰত ভূমি মোৰ।

তোমাৰ কাৰণে মই

আনিছো বিপ্লৱৰ উপহাৰ ॥

হে আই আৱশ্যক হলে 'মই তোমাৰ কাৰণে বিপ্লৱ আনিম; সেই কাৰণে, অসম মাতৃ আৰু তেওঁৰ সন্তান জনতাৰ কাৰণে, যেন সুবিচাৰ হয়, তাৰেই আশাবাখি আমাৰ শুভেচ্ছা আপোনালৈ জ্ঞাপন কৰিলো শিল্পী হিচাবে।

**Shri BHADRESWAR GOGOI (Tingkhong)**: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ দলৰহে মই আপোনালৈ সম্বন্ধনা জনাইছো। আশা কৰিছো, অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰ কাৰ্য্য পৰিচালনাই আমাক আনন্দ দিব। লগতে লোক সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষই সদস্য পদৰ ইস্তফাদি যি শুদ্ধ গণতন্ত্ৰ নীতি প্ৰবৰ্ত্তন কৰিলে আমাৰ অধ্যক্ষইও সেই নীতিকে অনুসৰণ কৰি আমাৰ বিধান সভাত এটা বীতি পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো!

**Shri ROHIMUDDIN AHMED (Hojai)**: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি এই সদনত যি নিৰ্বাচনী হৈ গ'ল তাত শ্ৰীযুত হৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামী জয়যুক্ত হোৱাটো আমাৰেই সৌভাগ্য বুলি ভাবো। আশাকৰো তেখেতে প্ৰেম আৰু প্ৰীতিৰে এজন সুদক্ষ অধ্যক্ষ হিচাপে সদন পৰিচালিত কৰিব।

এই প্ৰসঙ্গতে মই কব খোজো যে আমি সকলোৱে প্ৰীতি ভাবেৰে সত্যক আকোৱালী ধৰি কাৰ্য্যক্ষেত্ৰত আগবাঢ়ি যাব লাগিব। যদিও আমি এজন উপযুক্ত অধ্যক্ষ পাইছো তথাপি আমাৰ অন্তৰত আনন্দ নহল। শাসক দলে তেওঁলোকৰ সংখ্যাগৰিষ্ঠতাৰ বলত আজি আমাক সেও মনালে। সেই কাৰণে আমি অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰ পৰা যেন protection পাওঁ তাকে আশা কৰিলো।

**Shri KANDARPA NARAYAN BANIKYA** [Abhayapuri (Reserved for Scheduled castes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had been the Leader of the Opposition of this House for a long time and you craved for justice and you know very well whether you got justice or not from the hon. Speakers of this House in those days. Now, we have got our own friend as the hon. Speaker of this august House and we are sure that we will get justice from you. Sir, upto the election of 1962, you rendered your best help to those who wanted your help for opposing the Congress and you appeared in the scene when their need was the sorest and we are definite, Sir, that you will kindly allow us to remember that old sentence which has been there from time immemorial, "Daniel has come to judgment," that is now our Shri Goswami has come to the judgment, that is our old friend has come to judgment. In this task of yours we offer our co-operation and we congratulate you most heartily and at the same time we wish you long time and happiness.

**Shri ATUL CHANDRA GOSWAMI** (Kaliabar): অধক্ষ্য মহোদয়, আজি আপোনাৰ নিৰ্বাচনত মই আপোনাকৈ স্মৃথী হৈছো কাৰণ আপুনিয়েই মোক সমাজবাদৰ পথলৈ আনিছিল। এতিয়া আশা ৰাখিছো যাতে ভাৰতৰ বিভিন্ন বিধান সভা আৰু লোক সভাত বিৰোধী দলক শৃঙ্খলা আৰু সদনৰ মৰ্যাদাৰ নামত যি অন্যায়ে কৰা হৈছে তাক যেন আপোনাৰ পৰা পোৱা নহয় আৰু আনহাতে পাবলগীয়া সা-সুবিধাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত নহওঁ আৰু আপোনাৰ পৰা সকলো সময়তে সহায় সহানুভূতি পাবোঁ। ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণৰ অসমীয়া প্ৰতিলিপি দিব লাগে বুলি আমি আগতীয়াকৈ লিখিছিলো। এতিয়া আশা কৰিছো যেন সকলো ইংৰাজী কাকতৰ আমাক অসমীয়া প্ৰতিলিপি দিয়ে কাৰণ আমি যি বাইজক প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰিছো সেই বাইজৰ ভাষাত যদি কথাবোৰ বুজাই দিব নোৱাৰো তেনেহলে আমাৰ কৰ্তব্য পালনত অসুবিধা হব। সেইবাবে এই অনুৰোধ কৰিছো আৰু তাকে আশাকৰি আপোনাক ধন্যবাদ জনাই বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিছো।

**Shri KABIR CHANDRA ROY PRADHANI** (Golokganj): অধক্ষ্য মহোদয়, মই আজি আপোনাক অভিনন্দন জনোৱাৰ লগতে কব খোজো যে যোৱা ১৯৬২ চনলৈকে আপোনাৰ সৈতে বাইজৰ মাজত কাম কৰাৰ সৌভাগ্য পাইছিলো। আপুনি আজি কংগ্ৰেছ প্ৰাৰ্থী হিচাবে নিৰ্বাচনত জয়যুক্ত হৈ অধ্যক্ষৰ আসনত বহিছে। এই সময়ত বহুল ৰাজ্যৰ সময়্যৰ সমাধানত যেন আমি আপোনাৰ সাহায্যৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত নহওঁ। তাকে কামনা কৰি আপোনাক অভিনন্দন জনাইছো।

**Shri PREMADHAR BORA** (Bihpuria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this happy occasion and on this happy day on which we have chosen you a Barrister at-law, as the hon. Speaker of this august House, it is not the election of the Speaker of this House but it is the election of the Speaker for the whole State on whom wish and inspiration of the people of Assam rest and I hope, the democratic rights and privileges, honour and dignity of the House and hon. Members of this House guaranteed by the Constitution will be maintained by you.

With these words, I offer my heartfelt felicitations to you.



**Shri BHUBANESWAR BARMAN (Patacharkuchi) :**

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, জয় জয়তে মই আজি অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্বাচনত বিজয়ী শ্ৰীগোস্বামীক আন্তৰিক শুভেচ্ছা জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। বিধান সভাত “সংখ্যালঘু বিৰোধী দলৰ কথা নবৰ্জে” বুলি ৰাইজৰ মাজত চলি থকা প্ৰবাদৰ এইবাৰ শ্ৰীগোস্বামী দেৱৰ নেতৃত্বত অন্ত পৰিব—এয়ে আপোনাৰ পৰা আশা কৰিছো আৰু আশা কৰিছো, আপোনাৰ পৰা যেন আমি উপযুক্ত নেতৃত্ব পাই। ইয়াকে কৈ আপোনাক অভিনন্দন জনাইছো।

**Shri Md. SHAMSUL HUDA (Dhing) :**

আজি আপুনি বিধান সভাৰ অধ্যক্ষ নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱাত মই ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে আৰু মোৰ দলৰ হৈ অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো আৰু সুখী হৈছো। আজি জনসাধাৰণক গণতান্ত্ৰিক অধিকাৰ দিব লাগে আৰু ৰাইজক এমুঠি ভাত দিব লাগে। এই উদ্দেশ্যে ৰাইজে যি সংগ্ৰাম কৰি আহিছে তাক কাৰ্যকৰী কৰাত যেন আপুনি আমাক পাহৰি নেযায়। আপোনাৰ অধীনত যেন গণতন্ত্ৰৰ অধিক বিকাশ সাধন হয় আৰু আমাৰ দেশে যেন প্ৰকৃত সমাজ তন্ত্ৰৰ ফালে বাট ধৰিব পাবে আৰু বিৰোধী পক্ষৰ পৰাও আমি যেন তাক ভালকৈ উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰো।

তাকে আশা কৰি মোৰ দলৰ হৈ আপোনাক আকৌ অভিনন্দন জনাই বক্তৃতাৰ সামৰণি মাৰিছো।

**\*Shri M. A. MUWWSAIR CHOUDHURY (Rupohihat) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I will like to extend my hearty congratulations to you on your election to this high office of this House. Under your able guidance I am sure the rights and privileges of the Members and the citizens of the country will be protected and the scope of democracy will be widened. I am also sure you will uphold the glory of democracy and you will take interest in the upliftment of the democratic rights of the citizens. With these words I offer my hearty felicitation on my behalf and on behalf of the Members of the Party.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Leader of the House, Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Bora and other hon. Members of this House. I am extremely grateful to you for your kind words on my election to this high office of this House. At this moment of joy and glory, I am also diffident about the task ahead of me and whether I shall be able to discharge the onerous duty of the Speaker creditably and live up to your wishes. I can assure you that it will be my earnest endeavour to uphold the prestige and dignity of this House and safeguard the rights and privileges of the members of this House.

The general elections which have just been over have proved that India has crossed the teething stage in democracy. Although we have entered in the adolescent stage, our problems are not over. To-day, democracy in India is being threatened from all sides and it should be our endeavour to maintain and develop it and we should live up to the democratic principles which we consider very dear to our heart. We are wedded to democracy, we are wedded to the democratic form of Government and we are wedded to the democratic principles enunciated in our Constitution. Establishment of democratic society, social justice and equality are our guiding principles.

\*Speech not corrected.

[20th Mar., 1967]

You have also taken the solemn oath to-day that you will maintain the integrity and sovereignty of our country which is threatened from all sides and I have no manner of doubt that if we put our heads together no matter whatever be our shade of political opinion and to whatever party we belong, integrity and sovereignty will be maintained. No power will be able to take away that sovereignty from us.

Democracy in India is emerging slowly and gradually and it is not necessarily to imitate the form of Western Democracy. It is necessary for us to evolve our own pattern of democracy from our experience, tradition and of our democratic way of life. I can assure you that whatever may be the number of minority, whatever be the number of Opposition, in discussion and debate I will endeavour my best to see that every one gets full justice and can express himself fully in this House. I will also try to see that the procedural difficulties do not stand on the way and that we can, through mutual discussion make the working in this House smooth and efficient. After all not only the members of this House, but the public outside also is looking towards us as to how best we tackle our problems and how best we solve our problem in this problem State. Therefore, I beseech your co-operation in the discharge of this onerous responsibility and I am sure you will extend your co-operation and help to me in discharging my duty and also in solving the problems ahead in the best possible way.

One thing we should remember that democracy is not only the Government of the people, by the people and for the people, but it is a system of Government by the majority with the consent of the minority. So both the majority and the minority should be alive to their responsibilities and work together. I am sure we will be able to solve our problems peacefully and democratically and we will be able to go ahead and only then our State will prosper.

I am very much grateful to you for the kind words spoken about me and I can assure you all that my services will be at your disposal for conducting the business of the House in the best possible way.

#### Adjournment.

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 21st March, 1967.

Shillong  
The 23rd September, 1967.

N. C. HADIQUE,  
for Secretary,  
Legislative Assembly, Assam.