

Proceedings of the eighth session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled after the second General Election under the
sovereign Democratic Republicau Constitution of
India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 9 A. M.
on Friday, the 26th February, 1960.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B. L., Speaker in the Chair eight
Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and fifty-seven Members.

Oath of Allegiance:—

The following Member was sworn in:—

1. Shri Maham Singh.

(After taking oath Shri Maham Singh shook hands with the Hon'ble
Speaker. (Applause)

Mr. SPEAKER : The next item is the Address by the Governor.
Now we will go out to receive the Governor and in the meantime our
staff will distribute the Governor's Address to the Hon. Members.

(The Governor arrived in procession.)

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

Address by the Governor

THE GOVERNOR (GENERAL S. M. SHRINAGESH), Mr. SPEAKER
AND HON'BLE MEMBERS.

I deem it a privilege to address this august Assembly.
The Finance Minister will be reviewing in detail the admini-
strative and economic trends in our State and here I will
content myself with briefly indicating the problems my
Government had had to face during this last year and what we
have been doing and what we intend to do during the coming
year.

2. The Assembly will recall with grief and sorrow the passing away on 22nd August last of my predecessor Saiyid Fazl Ali. His sagacity and wisdom and the mature advice which he brought to bear on problems confronting Assam will no longer be available. His example and devotion to duty, however, inspire me to discharge my onerous duties. This Assembly has already condoled the death of the Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy, M.L.A., and I would pay my tribute to this veteran leader, administrator and guide of the people of this District in particular. I also take the opportunity of sharing with the Assembly in their sorrow caused by the death of Shri Thuamluia, M.L.A., a social worker of the Mizo District. With the passing away of these personalities Assam is poorer.

3. The event which may be said to have over-shadowed all others has been the occupation of Longju by the Chinese. This occupation has been the climax of a series of aggressive movements of the Chinese authorities all along our Northern frontier. The aggressive attitude of the Chinese authorities has bewildered, shocked and ultimately angered our people. We have had the closest cultural and other relations with the Chinese for 2000 years. We have championed the cause of China in the United Nations and at other forums. This is why we have been even more shocked by incursions into our territory. I have been very glad to note that in common with the determination of the rest of India, this House on the 17th of December 1959, adopted a resolution supporting the just and firm stand of our Prime Minister in the face of grave provocation and lending its full support to the decision that the occupation of Indian territory, and, in particular Longju, be vacated. This Assembly also drew attention to the special responsibilities of the people of Assam. While we will continue to make every effort to come to a peaceful solution of this problem with our neighbour to the North, we are equally determined to resist any further aggression or encroachment into territory which indubitably belongs to us. As one associated with the military forces throughout my service career, I can say with confidence that the preparedness and morale of our forces is excellent. I am also glad to note that the people of Assam have reacted to the threat of aggression with calmness, fortitude and determination to meet any eventuality. The strength of the armed forces is derived from the strength and morale of the civilian population and in this regard our population in Assam is setting an extremely good example.

4. While there has been a deterioration in the relations with our Northern neighbour, which I hope is a temporary phenomenon, I am glad to be able to say that our relationship with our other immediate neighbour—Pakistan—has improved considerably. The year 1959 tended to follow the pattern of the previous year when there were large scale disturbances and firings on the Indo-Pak border. In fact, there were 138 incidents including firing, raids, looting and kidnapping from the border. Criminals from Pakistan also carried out raids and looted property from our villagers. However, as a consequence of the meeting of our Prime Minister with the President of Pakistan on the 1st of September 1959 which was followed by meetings at the Ministerial level in October, the situation on the Indo-Pak border has completely changed. As the Hon'ble Members know, there have been a number of boundary disputes between Assam and East Pakistan and differing views on the Bagge Award. At the Ministerial level conference, it was decided that the disputes should be settled by adopting the Thana boundaries of Beanibazar and Karimganj villages which has resulted in the Kusiara river region has been remaining with us. The dispute concerning the Bagge Award Number III in the Patharia Forest Reserve region has been settled by adopting a rational boundary. The House must have welcomed with particular interest the news that Tukergram village, about which strong opinions had been expressed in this Assembly, had been restored to us as a result of the agreement. Ground Rules have been agreed to and there are meetings at all levels both of the army and civilian officials. It has also been agreed that past protests and challenges should be dropped, and there should be a continuance of good neighbourly relations. There has been considerable progress made in the physical demarcation on the ground of the boundary between the two countries on the basis of the decisions arrived at the Ministerial level conference. It is hoped that by the end of the current winter season and before the rains break most of the boundary between Khasi and Jaintia Hills District and Cachar District of Assam and Sylhet District of East Pakistan will be demarcated. The improved relationship, it is hoped, will continue.

5. While there has been a welcome change on the Indo-Pakistan border, there has been a recrudescence of violent activities and raids in the areas bordering the Naga Hills. The Naga hostiles intensified their criminal activities and have carried out a number of raids in the bordering villages of Sibsagar and United Mikir and North Cachar Hills Districts. Till the end of January, the Naga hostiles had looted property

4
✓ of various descriptions amounting to over Rs.35,000. In addition, the Nagas took away 9 shot guns and some live cartridges from the villages in the Sibsagar District and the Mikir Hills. They have also committed sabotage on the N. E. F. railway line on the 3rd of July 1959, near Rangapahar Railway Station in the Mikir Hills, and on the 23rd of December between Naojan and Bokajan Railway Stations in the Sibsagar District. On one occasion, the hostiles also opened fire on a running goods train, causing some damage to the railway engine and a few wagons. Overall comprehensive measures are being taken to meet this situation.

6. It has been encouraging to notice that the number of serious crimes show a decline. Cases of murder decreased from 355 in 1958 to 310 in 1959; dacoity cases registered a fall from 244 in 1958 to 182 in 1959. Similarly, in the case of robbery, there was a decrease from 158 cases in 1958 to 142 cases in 1959. While these decreases in the incidence of serious crimes are welcome, there is no complacency on the part of my Government that sufficient improvement has been registered. Measures continue to be taken to increase the effectiveness of the police forces. Closer supervision and guidance is being extended. Batches of police officers and men were deputed to Calcutta and Bombay for training in Traffic Control duty and mob control. The establishment of a Detective Training School at Dergaon is being taken up. Better mobility for the police by provision of extra vehicles is going to be achieved.

7. My Government has been trying its best to eradicate corruption. The set up of the Anti-Corruption Branch has been strengthened and a full-time Superintendent of Police placed in charge of the Branch since April 1959. The Branch is working under the direct guidance and supervision of the Inspector General of Police. The number of enquiries taken up in 1958 were 168. During 1959, 274 cases were taken up. In 1958, 5 cognizable cases were registered whereas in 1959, 61 such cases have been registered. Departmental action in 20 cases was suggested in 1958 and 31 cases have been recommended for action in 1959. It is hoped to further improve on the working of this Branch.

8. I am glad to be able to state that the Village Defence Parties, which now number 2,256, have given a good account of themselves. The members of the Village Defence Parties have continued to aid the police in maintaining law and order in the State. The organisation has succeeded in bridging the

gap between the police and the public and through the whole-hearted co-operation and vigilance of its members, the police were able to more effectively control crime and criminals in the interior areas of the State.

9. Defence and security arrangements and the prevention of crime are of the utmost importance, but other economic activities are equally so, specially in the context of our desire to build up a Welfare State. The prime amongst these economic activities may perhaps be said to be our efforts at increasing food production. The increased target envisaged in the 2nd Five-Year Plan is 3,82,940 additional tons of food-grains. By and large, efforts in this direction have started bearing fruit and the potential is being created. A great deal, however, remains to be done. An intensified Rabi campaign was launched on the 18th of August 1959. Various other steps in the matter of increasing minor irrigation facilities, inculcating the habit of making composts on a village basis, controlling insect pests, increasing the area under Boro paddy are being taken. On the organisational side, in order to bring home to the villager the knowledge of improved techniques and as also to train the village leaders and members, Field Management Committees are, increasingly being formed. It is expected that within this year, over 10,000 Field Management Committees will have been organised and registered. Funds for short-term loans to the extent of Rs. 28.55 lakhs have been issued to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers, so that they may issue loans on the recommendations of the Field Management Committees to the member-cultivators for intensifying the food production drive in the State. Service Co-operatives are also being formed. It is hoped that with the village democracy being ushered in as a result of the Panchayat Act and with the Service Co-operatives and Field Management Committees working together on the economic front, significant developments will take place in our rural areas. The administrative set-up in the Agriculture Department has also been re-organised and strengthened on the lines of the recommendations of the Nalagarh Committee. During the coming year, it is proposed to create a production potential of over 63,000 tons of additional food-grains. The schemes will include an intensification of the provision of minor irrigation facilities, of land development, the production and use of manures and fertilisers, the use of improved seed, the equipping of most areas with the latest plant protection devices and the use of improved agricultural practices.

✓ 10. With the increased production which is likely to result from the various measures being adopted, the question of procurement and distribution assumes importance. There is to be State Trading in foodgrains and the target is to procure 35 lakh maunds as against 22 lakh maunds last year. The Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society Ltd., which was entrusted with the monopoly right of purchasing paddy in 1959 in the two Districts of Nowgong and the North Cachar Hills, successfully carried out procurement and achieved their target. The Government is gradually approaching the ultimate pattern of complete State Trading and with this in view, the field of co-operative procurement has been extended during this Kharif year to Kamrup, Darrang and Cachar Districts and North Lakhimpur Subdivision and also on the South bank of Goalpara Subdivision. The minimum price has also been raised compared to last year without affecting the retail prices. Besides, the buffer stock of 35 lakh maunds, the Government intend to exercise indirect control over 62 lakh maunds of winter paddy by means of movement control, price control and allocation to industries and other institutions.

11. Though the food position, in general, has not been too difficult, the same cannot be said for the largest district in the State, *viz.*, Mizo District. The people of this District are in great distress due to acute food scarcity. The Mizos firmly believe that in a cycle of 50 years there is a luxuriant flowering of bamboos on which rats feed and multiply after which they destroy other crops. The Mizos experienced this situation about 50 years ago. Although with the flowering of the bamboos last year anti-rat measures were taken, due to the vastness of the District the terrain involved, the lack of means of communication and the fact that rat poison could not be indiscriminately scattered, very effective results, in the destruction of rats, could not be achieved. When reports of distress were received by Government, they immediately sanctioned 8 lakhs of rupees by way of Test relief, Gratuitous relief and Agricultural Distress loans. Besides this, another 10 lakhs of rupees were allotted to the District under the Border Relief Scheme as a rice subsidy measure. A transport subsidy of Rs. 12 lakhs for 40,000 maunds of rice each for the month of December 1959 and January 1960 had also been given. Since due also to the failure of the December crop these scarcity conditions appeared to be even severer than earlier anticipated, additional grants of Rs. 8,50,000 for Test relief, Gratuitous relief and Agricultural loans were sanctioned till the end of the financial year. Meanwhile as a result of personal visits by the Minister for Tribal Affairs and the Chief Minister and more detailed on-the-spot

assessment of the magnitude of the problem, the relief and other measures are being further intensified. It is expected that approximately 4½ lakh maunds of rice will have to be supplied to the District till the next crop is harvested during the coming winter months. Apart from the subsidy and the gratuitous relief and other relief which would have to be given the physical magnitude and the cost involved in transporting and making available this huge quantity of rice is absolutely colossal. My Government and I are taking every possible step to see that adequate supplies are made to the District. The Defence authorities have very kindly made available planes for air-dropping and also made available jeeps and trucks. The Pakistan authorities have agreed to allow passage from Chittagong to the South-western portion of the District. The possibility of securing rice from the neighbouring areas of Burma is also being explored. My Government is sparing no pains and effort to meet the gigantic problem posed by the fact of approximately 1,60,000 people out of a total of 2,40,000 people being affected by shortage of food supplies and that in the Aijal Subdivision 60 per cent of the crop and in the Lungleh Subdivision 80 per cent of the crop having been destroyed. The cost of the measures being taken will probably be over three crores of rupees, and, I am sure in this matter, the Central Government will be more than generous in their aid to us. Continuous high level attention to the needs and requirements of the people in the Mizo district will be accorded during the coming months. The present food situation in the Mizo district has also highlighted the fact of the one crop economy of this area. The Mizos, who in a good year have been self-sufficient in rice, have practically produced no other subsidiary food. As a consequence, the difficulty in meeting with the situation has been all the greater. Whereas in hills generally, my Government is trying for diversification of crops and growing of subsidiary food, particularly in the border areas, in the Mizo district, the prime need has been to get the people to take to additional crops like sweet potato, tapioca, sago, maize, millets, potatoes and roots like Kochu which would stand them in a good stead if the paddy crop is a partial or near complete failure as on the present occasion.

12. While the serious condition in the Mizo district is fortunately a very rare occurrence for Assam, the same cannot be said about the perennial problem of floods. Assam has peculiar topographical and meteorological conditions and, as a result, it has always suffered from chronic and extensive flood problems. During June, 1959, there was heavy rainfall in

many parts of the State and there was severe concentration in the North Kamrup area, part of Darrang and in the Barak Valley of Cachar. In the Darrang and North Kamrup areas, rivers inundated an area of approximately 1,500 sq. miles damaging standing Ahu and Bao crops, jute and Sali seedlings and also disrupting road and rail communications. Large sums of money had to be spent by way of relief and there was tremendous destruction of the crops. This underlines the necessity for continuous attention to flood control. Flood control schemes costing Rs. 595 lakhs were taken up for execution during the Second Five-Year Plan, whereas the Government of India made an allocation of Rs. 529 lakhs. As such, the Government is already committed to an excess expenditure of Rs. 66 lakhs on flood control schemes which have either been completed or are in progress. While continuing to press the Government of India, steps have been taken to utilize savings from the State Plan. It has been found that in all cases, the putting up of embankments had not proved to be unmixed blessings. The siltation which used to occur has been prevented, and, in many areas, water-logging has resulted. This is now sought to be met by provision of sluice gates and greater care in alignment when putting up embankments. At the same time, it has been observed that to substantially increase the food potential, perennial irrigation is necessary in many areas. The feasibility of the Jamuna project which would irrigate 75,000 acres of land in the Nowgong district and which would cost approximately Rs. 168 lakhs is being investigated. There are also other medium-sized irrigation schemes which are under investigation and which, if executed, would increase the food potential.

13. In the sphere of land reform, my Government have taken various far-reaching measures which are well known to the Hon'ble Members of this House.

Settlement of land with flood and erosion-affected people and the landless people generally has been engaging the serious attention of my Government. In order to tackle the problem in a planned way, Government have constituted a committee to study the question of availability of culturable waste land in the State which is going to complete its work soon.

14. No survey of the rural scene would be completed without reference to the Co-operative Movement. The National Development Council at its meeting on November 8 and 9, 1958, considered the role of the Co-operative Movement in

intensifying agricultural production by mobilising local manpower and other resources and generally in re-building the rural economy and recommended certain broad principles on the basis of which future expansion of the Co-operative Movement should be founded. The Council considered that for co-operation to be a real people's movement it was essential that co-operatives should be organised on the basis of the Village Community, as a primary unit and the initiative for the social and economic development at the village level should be placed fully on the Village Co-operatives and Village Panchayats. It was also recommended that the endeavour should be to bring in into the co-operative field cent per cent of the villagers by the end of the Third Five-Year Plan. My Government is taking active steps to form these Service Co-operatives in the first instance. While doing so, it is not being forgotten that rural credit plays an extremely important part in the economy of the rural areas and already 220 fairly large-sized Credit Societies with 69 godowns have been established. Besides this, there are about 3,000 small-sized Credit Societies. These societies are being financed by 7 District Central Co-operative Banks and the Assam Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank. Nearly 10 per cent of the entire population of the State has been covered with Credit Societies and it is hoped to cover 20 per cent of the population by the end of the Second Plan Period. Side by side, the question of Marketing facilities, Ware-housing and the formation of Industrial Co-operatives has also received considerable attention.

15. Though predominantly agricultural in outlook, our State is now on the threshold of an industrial advance. A number of parties have shown keen interest in participating in the development of Assam. There are vast mineral and fibrous resources apart from the potentialities opened up as a consequence of the availability of gas. A *sine quanon*, however, of any industrial development is the provision of cheap and abundant power. In this regard our State has lagged very considerably behind the rest of India. Already the fast developing area of Gauhati is feeling the effects of a power shortage. Fortunately, the Umiam Hydro-Electric Project in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills has been agreed to and work is starting in earnest. The Project envisages an installed capacity of 27,000 k.w. initially at Sumer Power House by the construction of a 210 ft. dam across the narrow gorge of the Umiam river $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles downstream of the Barapani river bridge on the Gauhati-Shillong road. Another set of 9,000 k.w. will be installed here subsequently to make the total installed capacity 36,000 k.w. at the first stage of development. The scheme also consists of firming up of Umtru to its full capacity of

8,400 k.w. The total cost of the Project is estimated at about Rupees seven crores. The Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone at the dam site on 9th January 1960. It has also been decided to utilise gas from the Naharkatiya Oil Fields for generation of power. As, however, the Umiam Hydel Project and power from gas will take a few years to yield results, the possibility of meeting the most immediate shortages of power by installing diesel sets is engaging serious attention. At the same time to meet the bulk requirements of power, investigation and finalisation of the Kopili Project is being looked into.

16. The work on the Oil Refinery is gaining in pace and momentum. Almost all the land required for the purposes of the Refinery and its housing staff and ancillary purposes has been taken over and given to the Refinery authorities. Tenders for the first phase of the work are also at a stage of completion. Experts from Rumania are arriving, and will supervise the various stages of installation. Together with the prospect of the setting up of the Refinery, small industries in and around Gauhati have gained fillip. Apart from this, the big Pulp Mill Project at Lamsakhang has been finalised. Along with the growth of the Pulp Mill, small Paper Mills will also grow up and thus relieve the acute paper shortage which is experienced in the State. The Naharkatiya gas will be used for starting a Fertiliser Plant at Namrup and this will be in the public sector with participation by the State Government with the Government of India. I have already mentioned about the utilisation of the gas from the Naharkatiya Field for development of power for this region. Besides this, other industries like Carbon Black and the production of Dacron are possible and the possibilities are being investigated. My Government has also decided to have a Jute Mill under the Co-operative sector with 200 looms and another small Unit under the private sector comprising of 100 looms. Besides this, the Re-rolling Mill at Gauhati and Bicycle Factory and other Industries will be coming up during the course of the next year or two.

17. In this connection, I may refer to the Government resolution and the appeal issued by the Chief Minister requesting the Industrialists to employ the maximum number of people of this State. My Government is extending all kinds of facilities for Technical and Craft training and we hope that both in the matter of technical man-power as well as clerical types of work, the Industrialists will draw upon the material available within our own State. An Industrial Liaison Officer has also been appointed to follow up the resolution of the Government.

18. Whereas medium-sized and major industries are likely to come up, my Government has not forgotten the vital role of small scale industries and of cottage industries together with Sericulture and Weaving. Indeed most visitors to our State comment on the excellence of our handicrafts and the need for standardisation, training, marketing, finance and opening up to a wider work. In all these directions we are continuing to make efforts. A Cottage Industries Training Institute is functioning in Gauhati and giving training in bamboo, cane work, carpentry, smithy, leather works, doll and toy making, soap making and pottery. Besides this, there are a number of Training-cum-Production Centres and Industrial Estates have been started at Gauhati and Dhokiajuli in Darrang District.

19. The place that Sericulture and Weaving has occupied in Assam as a traditional industry is well known. It has been the endeavour of my Government to promote this industry. It is sought to improve techniques of weaving and to hold training classes in outlying areas. In the field of Sericulture, endeavour has been made for improvement of silk-worm by introducing better strain of foreign silk-worm, hybridising with indigenous races and supplying disease-free layings from different seed grainages and farms. Improved reeling methods have been encouraged. The Khadi and Village Industries also are gaining ground amongst the people. The Ambar Charkha is being popularised and Village Industries like paddy husking, ghani oil, gur-khandasari, palm gur, bee keeping, etc., are being encouraged by the grant of loans and outright help.

20. While paying attention to these various economic activities, my Government has not forgotten its duty in introducing liquor prohibition. Even though very considerable sums of money by way of excise duty will be lost and extra expenditure would have to be incurred for enforcement of prohibition, my Government has decided to continue their policy of gradual extension by extending prohibition to the Nowgong District with effect from the 1st of April.

21. In the sphere of communications, work on the Brahmaputra Bridge is going on apace and very satisfactory progress has been registered. The Bridge, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Prime Minister, when completed, will make a very great difference both to communications within the State and between this State and other parts of our country. It is also sought to extend roads by taking up additional work. The Survey work on the Rope-way from Cherrapunji is going

on and it is hoped that a Project Report will be ready fairly soon. Construction work on Pandu port has also been taken up.

22. Considerable preparatory work has been done in the formulation of the Third Five-Year Plan. The prime needs which have been kept in view, in preparing the draft outline of the Third Five-Year Plan, have been to increase food production and thereby to stabilise the food situation and keep the cost of living at a reasonable level to try and achieve a break through in the industrial development of the State, to diversify and increase the employment potential, to bridge the gap between the *per capita* income of Assam as compared to the all India average, to continue to extend schemes of National Extension Service, water supply, compulsory Primary Education, eradication of diseases and other welfare programmes in which we must march shoulder to shoulder with the rest of India. We are also to continue our efforts for bridging the gap that exists between the development of the weaker sections of our population, namely the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes and the rest of the people. This task becomes all the more important when it is known that this abolition of the differences has been enjoined on us by the Constitution.

✓ 23. The general schemes for the uplift of the Scheduled Tribes and Castes have been continued. For the first time, this year a separate programme was taken up for the welfare of the other Backward Classes at a cost of Rs. 5 lakhs. Increased tempo in the matter of building of roads and other development schemes has been registered. Various steps have been taken to cope with the situation resulting in the disruption of the economy of the border areas. Gratuitous relief, Agricultural loans, Test relief and other kinds of help have been accorded by the State Government for the border people. My Government are very conscious of their responsibility to the less fortunate and undeveloped sections of the population and will continue to do whatever they can within their own resources and by proper utilisation of help from the Centre to see to the all-round development of these people.

The question of a revision of the powers and functions of the District Councils is also under examination and scrutiny by my Government. As changes would mean an amendment to the Constitution, the matters have to be looked into with great care and attention.

24. I am glad to be able to say that our State Panchayat Legislation is amongst the best in India. The ideal of Democratic decentralisation has been translated into a perfect Act. In our scheme, with all the main powers at the base, that is in the villages and exercised by the Gaon Panchayats and coming up through the Anchalik Panchayats, which will provide the staff, technical know-how and advice at a higher level, and ascending to the Mahukama Parishads, which will be advisory bodies, we have conceived a system of Government where the powers rest effectively with the people in the villages. No legislation, however, by itself can achieve results. A great deal of education of getting the people to understand the powers, purposes and functions expected of them will be necessary before the village democracy conceived can be made a complete success. This programme, together with other programmes, with a large people's content are receiving increasing attention. I had the privilege to inaugurate a study camp of our Legislators at Khanapara. I am informed that very instructive discussions took place. I feel sure that this example in enthusiasm of our Legislators will also encourage other village leaders and non-official bodies to actively take up the work of development in our villages.

25. In a fast developing economy, it is necessary that the administration should be geared up to meet the demands made on it. A full-time administrative school is expected to start functioning from about the beginning of April. In this school, comprehensive training will be given to our administrators on the various aspects of administration and on the principles and objectives enshrined in our Constitution. The training school in the Secretariat, which has been continuing to do useful work, will now be converted into a full-time training school. The peripatetic training of District office Assistants by instructors is also satisfactorily continuing and some departmental heads have undertaken or are undertaking to train their staff. In a modern administration, where the need for trained stenographers is obvious, it is encouraging to find that the Secretariat Training School is continuing successfully. Besides these measures, inspections by Secretaries and Heads of Departments and District Officers on the basis of inspection questionnaires are being carried out. The procedures of noting, sanctions and methods to avoid unnecessary red tape and delay are engaging attention. Financial delegations are under review and the Book of Financial Powers is being revised by the Finance Department. Staff Committees have been set up and they should be functioning in the near future. These committees should provide the necessary forum for an exchange

of views between the staff and the Government. The question of hours of work is also under review. The provision of a staff cafeteria on a co-operative basis where food at cheap rates would be available is also receiving attention.

26. As the House is aware, my Government has been bringing various Bills before the House to further the all-round development of Assam. A Bill for consolidation of holdings has already been circulated for eliciting public opinion. The Assam Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank Bill, with the object of providing funds to the Bank to enable it to issue long-term loans to agriculturists, will be coming up. Besides this, other Bills, *viz.*,

- (1) The Assam (Sales of Petroleum and Petroleum Products, including Motor Spirit and Lubricants Taxation) (Amendment) Bill, 1960.
- (2) The Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1960.
- (3) The Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1960.
- (4) The Assam Taxation (On goods carried by Roads or Inland Water-ways) (Amendment) Bill, 1960.
- (5) The Assam Embankment and Drainage Validation Bill, 1960.
- (6) The Assam Maintenance of Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

will also be presented before the House.

The Assam Loud-speakers (Control) Bill, 1959 was introduced in the last Session of the Assembly. This will come up for further consideration. Amendments to the Sylhet Tenancy Act to remove some anomalies and lacuna are under consideration. It is also desired to amend the Gauhati University Act so that the University can more effectively plan its own development.

29. I have briefly reviewed the programme of my Government and indicated what it intends to do. I can assure the House that my Government is dedicated to all round justice and a good and clean administration. It is pledged to doing all it can for the development of the people of the State. In this great task, I am sure the willing co-operation of all members and all political parties will be forthcoming in the fullest measure.

JAI HIND.

(Governor left the Chamber at 9-54 A. M.)

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House assembled on 26th February, 1960.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to second the motion of thanks moved by Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda for the illuminating speech delivered by the Governor to this august House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under rule 13(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly I hereby report to the Assembly that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech, a copy of which was already laid on each Member's table, and in the meanwhile Mrs. Chanda moved a motion for vote of thanks to the Governor for his address.

I hereby fix, in consultation with the Business Advisory Committee, 27th February, Saturday, 29th February, Monday, 1st March, Tuesday and 3rd March, Thursday as the dates for discussion of the motion on matters referred to in the Governor's address.

Notice of amendments to the motion or the address made by the Governor may be given so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat to-day before 3 P. M.

Now, all the business laid down in the Agenda is over. I, therefore, adjourn the house till 10 A. M. tomorrow, the Saturday.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 27th February, 1960.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.