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Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
Assembled after the Third General Election under the Sovereign
Democratic Republican Constitution of India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M.
on Tuesday, the 23rd February, 1965

PRESENT

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B.L., Speaker, in the
Chair, six Ministers, two Ministers of State, three Deputy Ministers and
fifty-four Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given).

Re: Constitution of a Road Transport Corporation in Assam

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

*1. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government proposes to constitute a Road
Transport Corporation in Assam ?

(b) If so, whether any step has been taken in this regard ?

(c) If not, reasons therefor ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) replied:

1. (a), (b) & (c)--The question of constitution of a Road Transport
Corporation in Assam is still under the consideration of this State
Government.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Sir, may I know
from the hon. Minister when the consideration will be finalised ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Before the finalisation of the next
Plan.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : Sir, may I
know from the hon. Minister since when it is under consideration ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It is a State undertaking and we are considering whether a Corporation will be constituted.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Sir, is it a fact that in the formation of State Corporation, other States have gone ahead ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : As far as I know only two or three States have constituted Corporation.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when this proposal was taken up first ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : The matter is under consideration at the Secretariat level with a view to implement the decision in the Fourth Plan.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : May I know from the hon. Minister whether this proposal was considered by the Secretary of the Department or by some other expert ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It is under consideration of the Secretary of the Department.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East) : When the Secretary is managing the Department, Sir, will it be wise on the part of Government to leave it to the Secretary alone ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Decision will be taken by the Government.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS : Sir, what is the cause of inordinate delay in coming to a conclusion of such an important matter ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Actually, there is no question of delay. At the last plan Government decided not to form the Corporation.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : What will be the benefit of the State if such corporation is set up ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It is being examined.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : Sir, we want to know since when it was started ? We have been deprived of answering this simple question.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I cannot give the date. I want notice.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : The hon. Minister has stated that the matter is pending since inception of the organisation, may I know from the hon. Minister when the final decision will be taken in this matter ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It was decided before the finalisation of last plan that it would be State undertaking.

Mr. SPEAKER : Can you give approximate time when it was started ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I cannot give the date. I want notice

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) : This matter was considered at the time of finalisation of the Third Plan. Because the Planning Commission of Government of India said that unless the Corporation is formed they cannot provide money for the organisation and it will have to be run by the State Government with their own money. The advantage of forming the Corporation is that if we form the Corporation we get funds from the Railways for the purpose of development of the Transport organisation in addition to funds given by the Planning Commission.

Shri MOHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : Sir, I want to know whether it will be a State venture ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, the hon. Labour Minister has said that the Planning Commission has asked the State Government to form the Corporation, otherwise we cannot have funds from the Central Government. Sir, as the hon. Member Shri Umaruddin has asked, we want to know whether it will be a State venture or Central venture ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : As I have already stated, it is State venture. It is under the consideration of the Government whether this will remain as a State venture or a Corporation will be constituted.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA : It is not clear how far progress has been made in this direction ?

Mr. SPEAKER : You mean the progress of consideration ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : During the present plan Government decided not to form the Corporation; the decision as to whether the Corporation will be formed during the next plan is still under consideration of Government.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA : The difficulty is that planning is one thing and execution is another thing. We want to know how far and to what extent the progress has been achieved in this matter ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : As soon as the proposal is received from the Secretary, it will be considered by the Government.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Kokrajhar) : Sir, Government decided that it would be a State concern and then what are the reasons for changing this attitude ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It is not yet finally decided for the 4th Plan. It is under active consideration.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether any funds have already been allotted by the the Planning Commission under this Head ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : If we decide to have it as a State under taking, Planning Commission will give no funds and we will have to run it with our own funds.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding) : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Planning Commission has given any idea of financial implications?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : No, if a Corporation is formed, then it will receive financial help, but if it is a State venture then it will not receive such financial help from Planning Commission.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Sir, the Minister says that if it is run by a Corporation then the Planning Commission will give grant, but in the other case it will not get such grant. On what basis, Sir, the Planning Commission is going to do this ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : This is their decision and I cannot explain the reason.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, was not this question actively considered in 1961 ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : As I have already said, before the finalisation of the last Plan, Government will decide to run it as a State venture or a Corporation will be constituted. This time also Government will take a decision before finalisation of the 4th Plan whether this will be run as a State venture or by a Corporation.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : Sir, what are the advantages or disadvantages if it is run as a State venture or by a Corporation ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : That is what is under consideration of the Government. The Planning Commission is of the view that they will not give grant or any financial help if run as a State venture but if it is run by a Corporation then they will grant financial help, and the Railways will be a partner of the Corporation.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Sir, if it is run as a State venture from the State fund, will the State be benefited ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : This is a matter under consideration. This is the main point.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, to start a scheme there should be some basis. So, may I know on what basis this matter will receive consideration ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Profit and loss.

Mr. SPEAKER : Let us come to next item.

**Announcement by the Speaker Re: (i) Panel
of Chairmen (ii) Committee of Petition
(iii) Committee on Privileges : (iv) House
Committee**

Mr. SPEAKER : As regards item Nos. 2 and 3, I shall now announce the names of Members as follows:

Panel of Chairmen (Under Rule 9 of Rules of Procedure of Assam
Legislative Assembly)

1. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.
2. Shri Md. Umaruddin.
3. Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami.
4. Shri Stanley D.D. Nichols-Roy.

Committee of Petition (Under Rule 239)

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|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 1. Shri Mahammad Idrish | ... | ... | ... | Chairman. |
| 2. Dr. Homeswar Deb Choudhury | ... | .. | ... | Member. |
| 3. Shri Bishnulal Upadhyaya | .. | ... | ... | Member. |
| 4. Shri Narendra Nath Sarmah | ... | ... | ... | Member. |
| 5. Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee | ... | ... | .. | Member. |

Committee on Privileges (under Rule 246)

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| 1. The Deputy Speaker | ... | ... | ... | Chairman. |
| 2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed | .. | ... | .. | Member. |
| 3. Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee | .. | ... | ... | Member. |
| 4. Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami | ... | ... | ... | Member. |
| 5. Shri Mohananda Bora | ... | .. | ... | Member. |
| 6. Shri Hoover Hynniewta | ... | ... | ... | Member. |
| 7. Shri Dulal Chandra Barua | .. | ... | .. | Member. |

House Committee (under Rule 312)

1. Shri Khogendra Nath Nath	...	...	..	Chairman.
2. Shri Dulal Chandra Barua	...	...	..	Member.
3. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain	...	...	..	Member.
4. Shri Pulakeshi Singh	...	...	..	Member.
5. Moulana Abdul Jalil Chowdhury	...	...	..	Member.
6. Shri Ram Prasad Chouby	...	...	..	Member.

Announcement by the Speaker Re:

Business Advisory Committee

Mr. SPEAKER : Under Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I hereby inform the House that I called a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee in my Chamber at 11 A.M. on Friday, the 5th February, 1965 for detailing the programme for the Budget Session 1965.

In this meeting of the Committee an outline of the Programme was chalked out upto 7th April, 1965 detailing the business so far received from various Departments. Five days have been allotted for the debate on Governor's Address with a view to enabling the hon. Members to take part conveniently. As the general discussion on the Budget is another equally important feature of the Budget Session seven days' time has been allotted and eight days have also been allotted for Voting on Demands for Grants. I think the time so allotted by the Committee will be sufficient and hon. Members will take full advantage of it.

Seven days' time has been allotted for Private Members' business.

A copy of the Provisional Programme so detailed has been circulated to each hon. Member. I need not repeat the same. The details of business received for the current Session so far and the days allotted for transacting the different classes of business may kindly be noted.

I think this has the approval of the House. (*Voices: Yes, Sir*)

Discussion on the Report of the Business Advisory Committee

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, I want to speak a few words. We have as many as 167 Resolutions to be discussed during Private Members' Business days, but for this we have been allotted only 7 days' time. Besides the Resolutions, Sir, we have to discuss a good number of Motions also. Moreover, for Voting on Demands for Grants the number of days allotted is 8. From our experience in every year we find,

Sir, that it is very difficult to discuss matters within such limited periods. We find in the Programme that there are so many holidays including Friday and Saturday, 12th and 13th March. I cannot understand why these two days have been allotted as Recess days. I understand that this has been done to facilitate some of the Members to attend the Political Conference that is going to take place in Nowgong. I feel that this should not have been done when we have got such a limited time for discussing so many important matters. It is our feeling that those two days should not have been curtailed from the programme of the session. So, Sir, I should like to point it out to you for your consideration.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs) Sir, we have got 45 days in the session including the holidays and out of these actually 7 days have been allotted for Private Members' business. This shows that there has been no injustice so far as the time allotted for Private Members' business is concerned. There is also a precedent in the past that when there was a long session we got holidays for a few days in the middle. The Political Conference as such has nothing to do in making the programme. This has been done in accordance with the precedent of the House. I feel that the hon. Members have got sufficient time for Private Members' business under the Rules and we are going to sit on Wednesday also. Besides, if there will be no business on any Government business day then we can accommodate the hon. Members for taking up Private Members' business, as we have always been doing. So, the programme is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite agree with the Minister-in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs about the time allotted for Private Members' business. We have got more days for Private Members' business and so I cannot see any grievance in it. The allotment of days for other matters also has been done on the recommendation of the Business Advisory Committee and it is quite in order. In the course of the session if it is found that we are to extend the days, we may call the Business Advisory Committee and get its approval.

Obituary References

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Revenue): Shri Lakshe-swar Barooah, ex-Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, was one of the oldest Congressmen and valiant fighters for freedom. He joined the Congress Movement in 1921 and participated in all the phases of the National struggle. He was detained in jail many times and he lost his wife while he was in jail. He was a prominent Member of the Dibrugarh Bar, but he gave up his lucrative practice in response to the call of Gandhiji.

He joined the Swarajya Party in 1926 and entered the Assam Legislative Council in 1927. He was one of those who resigned from the Council in obedience to the Lahore resolution of Congress in 1930 and stuck to Congress policy till 1937. Shri Barooah became a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1937.

He served the Dibrugarh local bodies and Congress Institution in various capacities.

He was appointed as Prohibition Commissioner of Assam in 1946. He was responsible for bringing in the Assam Opium Prohibition Act, 1947.

He was elected Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1947. He was also elected Member of Rajya Sabha in 1952.

He passed away on 28th November, 1964 at the age of 71.

Shri Madhusudhan Das was born on 12th February, 1906 at Sundaridia. He was educated at Cotton College, Gauhati, St. Paul's College, and Law College, Calcutta.

He started legal practice in Barpeta Court and then joined Congress in 1922 as a Volunteer. He was Secretary of the Assamese Students' Literary Club in 1931. In 1935 he became an active member of the Congress and was appointed Secretary of the District Congress Committee, Barpeta for several terms. He was a member of the A. P. C. C. for 16 years and was elected Leader of the Local Board Congress Party to lead opposition in Barpeta Local Board from 1938 to 1945. He was incarcerated twice, in 1941 for individual Satyagraha and was detained as a security prisoner for 17 months in connection with the Quit India Movement. He organised the Home Guards in 1947 and was Area Commandant for Barpeta.

He quitted Congress in 1951 and joined K. M. P. Party which was merged with S. P. to become P. S. P. in 1953. He was elected Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1962 on P. S. P. ticket but in the later part of 1964 he joined Congress.

He was a writer of considerable merit and a voracious reader. A Book on Mammals is awaiting publication.

He died on 20th November 1964.

Shri Ram Nath Das was born at Nazira, Sibsagar in 1910 and had his education at Cotton College, and Earle Law College, Gauhati. He was elected Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1937 and became a Minister in the Congress Coalition Ministry in 1938 and in 1939 he quitted office along with the resignation of the Congress Coalition Ministry. He was re-elected member of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1946 and became the Minister-in-charge of Medical, Public Health and Excise and subsequently the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department, Electricity, Printing and Stationery in 1952 and became Minister-in-charge of Food, Agriculture in January 1955.

He was a leading Member of the Scheduled Caste Community of Assam. He died on 22nd December 1964.

In him we lost an able Parliamentarian, a reputed social worker and a patriot. He was the Chairman of the Committee on Government Assurances consecutively for 7 years from 1958 and in that capacity he rendered valuable services towards the growth and development of Parliamentary democracy in

Assam. It is for his knowledge and ability that he was nominated to study and scrutinise the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly. He was studying hard the procedural reformatations till his death.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das, former Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly and a well-known East Pakistan Congress leader died in Calcutta on January 19, 1965. He was 82.

Shri Das was born in 1883 in Renga Pargana of Sylhet ; he was educated in Calcutta and after completion of his studies, he joined the Sylhet District Bar. He later entered politics and became the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1937 and held this post until 1945. He was also Home Minister of Assam until partition. After Independence, Shri Das became the Leader of the Opposition in the East Pakistan Legislative Assembly and later the Finance Minister in Abu Hussain Sarkar Cabinet. He then held various posts including the Minister of Education and Labour in the Central Pakistan Cabinet headed by Shri Feroz Khan Noon.

He migrated to India in 1962 and had been living in Calcutta since then. He is survived by his wife, two sons and three daughters.

Shri Makabbir Ali Mozumdar, a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, a renowned social worker and a popular Congress worker died on 20th January 1965, at the age of 63.

He was born at Village Ambikapur. After taking his Law Degree Shri Mozumdar established himself as a devoted social worker. He was a Lawyer of considerable repute. He became a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1946 and continued as such till 1951. He took active interest in the deliberations of the House while he was a Member.

He joined Congress in the later part of 1950. He was the Chairman of the Silchar Local Board and Vice-Chairman, Silchar Municipality. He was connected with many social and cultural organisations till his death.

Shri Akhil Bhattaaharjya, a journalist of considerable repute and social worker died in Shillong on 9th February 1965.

He was born in village Baniachang in Sylhet district. Shri Bhattacharjya had his education in Dacca and Calcutta. He joined Amrita Bazar Patrika office in Calcutta in 1921 and came to Shillong to open the Amrita Bazar Patrika office in 1937. He was the President of Shillong Journalists' Association and also a member of Executive Committee of all Assam Journalists' Association and the Vice-President of the United Khasi & Jaintia Hills District Congress. In 1954 he was elected to the Shillong Municipal Board from Laban Ward and held the post of Member-in-charge for sometime.

Besides he was connected with many social and cultural institutions of Shillong.

Shri Pratap Singh Kairon, an indomitable fighter for freedom and a man who dominated the political life of the Punjab for more than a decade was shot dead near Rasoi village while travelling in a car from Delhi to Chandigarh and thus a noble life came to an end on Saturday, the 6th February 1965.

Shri Kairon was born in a small village, Sahhali, in Amritsar in 1901. He was educated at Khalsa College, Punjab, Michigan and California University.

He started his political career at U. S. A. where he actively participated in the activities of the Chadar Party which was working for India's freedom. He joined the Congress in 1922 and also took part in the Civil Disobedience movement in 1932, the individual Satyagraha and the 'Quit India' movement 1939-46. He spent five years in prison.

Shri Kairon began his political life as an Akali. In 1937 he was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly of the United Punjab. In 1946 he joined the Working Committee of Indian National Congress.

Before taking over the charge of the Chief Ministership of the State he served as a Member of the Punjab Cabinet. In January 1956 he became the Chief Minister of Punjab. After the General Elections in 1957 and 1962 also he was called upon to head the Government which he continued till June, 1964. He resigned following the findings of the Das Commission.

Sardar Kairon was full of enthusiasm and was ready to undertake works for the welfare of the State. During the eight years of his leadership, the State made tremendous progress in all respects. He was also responsible for the integration of Punjab and Pepsu.

When the Chinese invaded India, the State of Punjab under his leadership made large contributions of gold and cash for the National Defence Fund. He is rightly described as the architect and maker of modern Punjab.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with the feelings expressed by the hon. Minister in-charge of Transport and Revenue on the sad demise of these illustrious sons of Assam and Punjab, I, on my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members from this side express my heartfelt sorrow for those departed souls.

Shri Laksheswar Barooah was a renowned fighter for freedom, an *ex*-Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, and at the same time an *ex*-Member of the Rajya Sabha. He sacrificed a lot for the freedom of this country and at his death we are actually losing a prominent fighter for freedom and a prominent leader of the State. We express our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family and offer our homage to the departed soul.

Now, coming to the death of Shri Madhusudhan Das, a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly, who was also a prominent fighter for freedom and who sacrificed his life for the betterment of the lot of the common people, his sudden death has caused a great loss to this frontier State. We pray to Almighty God for peace of his departed soul and express our sympathy to the bereaved family.

Coming to the death of Shri Ramnath Das, an *ex*-Minister and an active Member of the State Assembly, whose sudden death has caused a great loss to our State, I have this to say. He contributed a lot towards betterment of this State by his work as a Minister, as a legislator and as a social worker. He was a leading member of the Scheduled Caste community of the State. We pray for the peace of his departed soul and express our sympathy to the bereaved family.

Now, I come to the death of Shri Basanta Kumar Das. He was a former Speaker of our State Legislature and he was also a Minister of the East Pakistan Government. He had served the country in different capacities. By his death we have lost a prominent leader and a great fighter for freedom. We pay our homage to the departed soul and express our sympathy to the bereaved family.

Then, Sir, Shri Makkabir Ali Mozumdar, a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly was a renowned social worker and he sacrificed a lot for the betterment of the people of the locality where he belonged to. At his death we have lost a great social worker. We pay our homage to his departed soul and express our sympathy to the bereaved family.

Now, Sir, Shri Akhil Bhattacharjee. He was one of the prominent journalists of the State, and by dint of his merit, he rose from a humble position to a prominent position as a journalist. He took part in many social and cultural activities and he was a good social worker. He had done a lot for the cause of journalism in the State. By his death we have lost a renowned journalist of the State and a good social worker. We pay our homage to the departed soul and express our sympathy to the bereaved family.

Lastly I come to Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon, the ex-Chief Minister of Punjab. He was a brilliant fighter for freedom since an early age. Whatever other circumstances may be, it is an open fact that he was a creator of modern Punjab in administrative, industrial and other spheres. At his sudden death we lost a great fighter for freedom as well as a great statesman and a very sincere worker for the common people. We pray for the peace of his departed soul and we hope that those people who were responsible for his murder will be found out by the Government without delay. We express our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Sir, I also associate myself with the sad feelings expressed by the hon. Minister at the death of these illustrious persons. Sir, the deaths of Shri Laksheswar Barooah, Shri Madhusudhan Das, Shri Ramnath Das, Shri Makabbir Ali Mozumdar, Shri Basanta Kumar Das and Shri Akhil Bhattacharjee caused great loss to the country. When the country was under a foreign yoke and when the country was struggling for national independence these people wherever they were had contributed enough for the national freedom. Not only they have left footprints in the sands of political field but in other fields also such as social, cultural and other fields, they have participated and contributed enough. Sir, they were the source of hope, encouragement and inspiration to many people.

Sir, Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon was shot dead. This cruel murder is certainly a sad and shocking thing to the whole humanity. Sardar Kairon was associated with the development of Punjab. In the post-Independence period his name will glitter like anything in the history of the nation. He was a man of resolute will, strong mind and action. When I was in Punjab, I did not leave the opportunity to put question to any person in Punjab about Kairon. The reply came: "Well, it will take sometime but he will come to power" Some replied: "Well it is very unfortunate" From this it reveals that he could win the hearts of the people to a great extent. With honour and gratitude, we all remember them.

Mr. SPEAKER : I fully associate myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed by the Revenue Minister and other Members of the honourable House on the obituary references.

Shri Laksheswar Barooah was a valiant fighter for freedom. He was one of the oldest Congressmen who was actively associated with the Freedom Movement conducted by Mahatma Gandhi beginning from 1921. He suffered imprisonment and underwent all sorts of hardships under the British bureaucracy prevailing then. He was one of the first-rank Congress Leaders of Assam, and he was the heart and soul of the Dibrugarh District Congress Committee for a very long time. He was a Member of the Assam Legislative Council in Mont-Ford Reforms days. He was a Member of this Legislature from 1936 till 1952. He was the Speaker of this House from 1947 to 1952. He was a Member of the Rajya Sabha for a term. His services to the country and his activities as Member of the Legislature will be remembered by generations to come with gratefulness.

Shri Basanta Kumar Das was the Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly from 1936 till 1946. He was also a Member of the Assam Legislative Council during the Mont-Ford Reforms days. He was a Minister of Assam from 1946 till the day of the partition of India. Many of us might now forget his contribution in the struggle for freedom. He was one man along with Shri Brajendra Narayan Chaudhury in Sylhet who fought unflinchingly for the cause of the country and suffered immensely. After partition he decided to settle in Pakistan. He advised the minorities of Pakistan not to leave the country in spite of all hardships and oppressions. He was a Minister of East Pakistan, and also a Minister for some time of Pakistan. He had an amiable personality and was a man of grim determination. Though he tried his best to settle in Pakistan, the circumstances were against him and ultimately he had to leave Pakistan and migrated to India. In his death we have lost a valiant fighter and a great patriot and a man of courage and conviction.

Shri Ramnath Das was a Member of this House since 1938 till his death. He was a Minister in the Congress Coalition Ministry under the Leadership of Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi. He resigned his Ministership on the War Issue in 1939. He was again appointed a Minister in 1946 and he continued as such till 1957. He was a good debator and an able administrator. He, as a Parliamentarian, made valuable contributions to the debates of the Assembly and was very useful as Chairman of very many Committees. In his death Assam has lost not only an able Parliamentarian, but also a reputed social worker and a patriot.

Shri Madhusudhan Das was a Member of this House from 1962. He was a brave fighter for freedom and suffered imprisonments in the Independence struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi under the aegis of the Congress. He was associated with very many social activities and was an active politician. During his short life as a Member of the Assembly he proved his mettle as an able Parliamentarian. In his premature death a promising career of a young patriot has been cut short.

Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon was Minister and then Chief Minister of Punjab for a pretty long time. The present industrial development of Punjab is due to him and all credits about it, undoubtedly, he could rightly claim. He was an able Parliamentarian and a good party organiser. His tragic death is mourned by all alike in India.

Shri Mokabbir Ali Mozumdar was a Member of the Assam Legislative Assembly and was a good social worker. He earned reputation as a good lawyer. He was associated with very many social activities and cultural organisations.

Shri Akhil Chandra Bhattacharjya was one of the eminent journalists of Assam. He took very keen interest in the proceedings of the Assam Legislative Assembly and was constantly in attendance of the sessions. He was President of the Shillong Journalists' Association and also a member of the Executive of the Assam Journalists' Association. He was actively connected with the Shillong Municipal Board and some time as member in charge of the Board. We missed him from our midst at a time when his services we required more.

We all mourn the death of all these illustrious sons of India and pray to God for the eternal peace of their souls. May the memory of the departed leaders inspire us and coach us to activities in right lines.

(The House stood in prayerful silence for one minute)

As a mark of respect to the departed leaders, I propose to adjourn the House till tomorrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 24th February, 1965.

Shillong :
The 3rd August, 1965 } }

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