



Assam Legislative Assembly Debates



OFFICIAL REPORT

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

BUDGET SESSION

No. 1

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BUDGET SESSION

No. 1

Dated, the 7th Febuary, 2001

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DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, the 7th February, 2001

The House met at 4. PM. of the Clock in the Assembly Chamber at Dispur with Shri Ganesh Katum, Speaker in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: Hon'ble Members present, Hon'ble Governor is addressing the House today at 4-10 PM. He is coming by the Rhino Gate of the Assembly premises at 4.05 PM. Myself, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker and Secretary will be going to receive him at the Gate. The instructions as to how the Governor is to be received in the House have been laid on each Member's table. As soon as the Governor comes. I think we should comply with these instructions. In the meantime, the Address will be distributed to the Members.

With your permission, now, I leave the House to receive the Governor at the Gate.

(Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly left the House to receive the Hon'ble Governor at the Gate)

(Hon'ble Speaker enters the House with the Hon'ble Governor. National Anthem was played. Hon'ble Governor took his seat.)

Mr. Speaker : Now I request His Excellency the Hon'ble Governor to address the House.

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Hon'ble Governor : Mr. Speaker and Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly.

It is a privilege for me to be addressing this august house on the occasion of the Budget Session of the tenth Assam Legislative Assembly. I extend my greetings and good wishes to all the honourable members and hope that through their collective endeavour we will be able to scale new heights in every field of development in Assam.

Despite its rich resource endowments the problem of under development in Assam is assuming serious proportions. Over the years the per capita income has shown a steady decline with respect to that at the national level. While the per capita income for Assam was higher at Rs. 1262 in 1954-55 against the national per capita income of Rs. 1220.50, by 1995-96 it was considerably lower at Rs. 1606 against that for the country at Rs. 2608 120. This is a matter of great concern for us. It also underlines the importance of planned development to restore the economy. With the problems of low agricultural productivity, little prevalence of multiple cropping and industrial backwardness, the rate of capital formation is low and consequent increase in unemployment has been catching the attention of my Government and it has striven to address these issues squarely.

We are facing serious problems in our effort at planned development. The State is facing acute financial constraints for the past few year. There is a huge outstanding debt to Govt. of India and other financial institutions which the state has to service. Its Non-plan expenditure, which includes expenditure on anti-insurgency operations, has also grown considerably. This has severely affected

plan expenditure. To improve this situation my Government has been consistently trying to increase the revenues of the state. It is in this context encouraging to note that the revenue collection encouraging to note that the revenue collection this year till December 2000 has reached about Rs. 734.10 crores against the corresponding figure of Rs. 592.91 crores during the last year. Despite these problems my Government has continues to give a push to the development of Assam within the existing resources.

Shri Silvius Condpan : Sir you our constitutional Head. You have got the right to address the Assembly but by going through the papers. We could come to know that you are going to make your speech as de facto to Chief Minister of Assam. So you have no right to address the House.

Shri Bharat Chandra Narah : You have no right to address the House.

(Congress (I) member and ASDC Members went to the well of the House by displaying placards and shouting slogans.

LAW & ORDER SITUATION

Hon'ble Governor:

Law and order situation in the state has improved significantly over the period since 1996. Relentlessly and without any compromise we have carried out campaign against extremism. In the process near relatives of two of the Ministers have been attacked by the extremists, attempt on the life of three Ministers have been made and an ex-Minister, PWD, Late, Nagen Sarma, Minister lost his life in a dastardly attack by the extremists. None of these pressures have deterred us from carrying out our campaign against extremism and today not only we have achieved substantial success in our efforts in putting down the extremist activities firmly but the public

resolve against the cult of violence has also been strengthened.

Our State has been witnessing violence and subversive activities of various militant groups for a considerable time now. My Government has been consistent in its resolve to put down these militant activities with a firm hand. Concerted and sustained operations launched against the militants under the unified command Structure involving Army, State Police and Central para-Military Forces have resulted in perceptible improvement in the overall law order situation in the State. During 2000, a total of 328 militants were killed and 1535 apprehended in the counter insurgency operations. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from them. These successes have had a significant impact on the morale of the militants who now are increasingly realising the futility of armed struggle against the state. During 2000, 1986 militants have laid down their arms and joined the mainstream.

My Government has taken steps for the proper rehabilitation of the surrendered militants. Stress has been laid on their self-employment by giving vocational training in the fields of integrated farming, tea cultivation, poultry etc. So far 30 cooperatives have been set up for the surrendered militants in different parts of the State. Allotment of 1213 bighas to them is under process. Such rehabilitation programmes will not only make the surrendered militants self-reliant but would also enable them to integrate with the society in a more meaningful manner.

We have in the recent past seen that the militants have increasingly resorted to indiscriminate and mindless killings of innocent civilians. Such cowardly acts not only reflect on the fact that there is a sense of desperation in their camps but also show that without any tangible and acceptable goals before them they are losing their sense of direction. They stand exposed before the common masses. There is a growing sense of public outrage

against the militants today, which finds expression from time to time in different parts of the state. The fight against the militants will be carried out by my Government with greater resolve and determination and with the active support of the common masses.

While efforts will be made to consolidate the gains of the previous years by keeping pressure on the militants at the same time the door for dialogue will be kept open to find a lasting solution to the problem of insurgency. My Government desires peaceful resolution of all issues and would welcome talks and negotiations for this purpose at any time and any place. The only condition for such talks would be that these talks should be within the framework of the Constitution and that the integrity of our country is not negotiable.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSAM ACCORD :

Since it has come to power in 1996 my Government has been vigorously pursuing the implementation of Assam Accord. The promotion of cultural heritage of the indigenous people of Assam has received priority attention. The first and second phase of the work for modernisation of the Jyoti Chitrabhan Film Studio has already been completed and Government of India moved for taking up works relating to the third phase. Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalashetra has since been opened to the public.

Steps have been taken to ensure that all contentious issues are resolved and the Gas cracker project takes off at an early date. A Gas-supply agreement between M/S Reliance India Ltd and M/S Oil India Ltd. has already been signed. The Ashoka paper Mill is being revived. The Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Joghghopa along with the new railway line, which was opened to goods traffic earlier is expected to be opened to passenger traffic shortly.

M/S RITES have submitted the final report and estimates in respect of the Rail-cum-Road Bridge at Bogibeel and clearance of CCEA is awaited.

My Government is fully committed to check the illegal infiltration and to detect and deport illegal immigrants. It is also committed to ensure that in this process no inconvenience is caused to genuine India citizens. As one of the measures to check the infiltration of foreigners the programme of constructing border roads and fencing is continuing.

AGRICULTURE

With 90% of the population living in rural areas and 70% of them being dependent on Agriculture, the economy of this state is essentially agrarian. Agriculture has been identified as one of the core areas for promoting accelerated development in the state. One of the thrust areas has been to augment the irrigation potential in the state so that farmers can take up multiple cropping. The Samridhdha Krishak Yojana (SKY) launched by my Government with NABARD finance is a scheme geared towards this end. During 1999-2000, thirty thousand shallow Tube wells have already been installed under this scheme. Under the World Bank assisted ARIASP programme another 15,000 shallow Tube Wells have been installed during 1999-2000. This has significantly contributed towards increasing the production of rice in our state to 38.61 Lakh Tonnes during 1999-2000, making it surplus in rice production for the first time since independence. Out of the target of 70,000 shallow Tube Wells during 2000-2001 under the Samridhdha Krishak Yojana, 55,100 shallow Tube wells have been install 15,000 shallow Tube wells during 2000-2001. With increase in irrigation potential the rice production during 2000-2001 is expected to increase to 41 Lakh Tonnes. Efforts are now being

proposed to tackle the problem of storage and marketing of the surplus rice produced and taking care of other post harvest problems faced by the farmers.

Achieving self-sufficiency in the production of edible oils, especially mustard oil, is another area to which my Government attaches importance. For the first time in our state, sprinkler irrigation systems have been introduced on a pilot basis with a view to increase the production of mustard. It is also proposed to expand the areas under mustard and pulses to make the state self-sufficient in these commodities.

Horticulture is being given due emphasis with stress laid on improving the marketing network by tying up with nodal agencies like, NERAMAC, TRIFED, NAFED etc. The Railways have also agreed to provide a wagon on a daily basis for transporting agricultural products outside the state for marketing.

IRRIGATION

Work on ten major and medium irrigation projects and 1241 minor irrigation schemes are continuing. Under ARIASP Programme till September 2000, 75 Deep Tube Well schemes and 32 RPS schemes have been completed covering 3,580 hectares of land. Under the same scheme, during 2000-2001 it is proposed to complete 66 Deep Tube Well schemes and 49 RPS schemes creating an additional irrigation potential of 3,329 hectares. Under the Non-Lapsable central pool of Resources 86 minor irrigation schemes have been completed up to October 2000 creating a potential of 12,745 hectares. During 2001-2002 under this scheme it is proposed to take up 25 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs. 319 Lakhs to create irrigation potential of 3,490 hectares. During 2001-2002 minor irrigation schemes are also proposed to be taken up under AIBP to create irrigation potential

of 8,500 hectares. When completed these schemes will lead to increased crop production.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY & VETERINARY

My Government has made concerted efforts to improve the quality of livestock for increasing the production of milk and milk products and to augment the production of meat and eggs to meet the growing demand for proteins of animal origin. During 2000-2001, 415 Nos. of A.I. Centres have been revitalised covering 11 districts and 2,03,369 doses of frozen semen utilised with 63,204 calves being born benefiting 43,000 small farmers. Under the Fodder Minikit Development programme, 1,620 demonstrations have been conducted. Training has been imparted to 608 technical staff and 3,000 farmers.

Under the ARIASP project of the World Bank schemes have been taken for strengthening the fodder seed production, for providing regional diagnostic laboratories, for cattle breeding and for production and distribution of semen. Three regional laboratories are presently under construction and renovation of seven district laboratories is in progress. One central Laboratory with an epidemiological unit is also envisaged.

Under the Dairy Development programme, milk from the rural areas is being collected at remunerative prices and distribution of clean wholesome milk is being done to urban consumers through the Town Milk Supply scheme in selected towns. The Integrated Dairy Development project with its emphasis on formation of milk producer's co-operative societies and renovation of Veterinary and Dairy Institutions is under implementation.

FISHERIES

With fish being the staple item of food consumption for around

90% of the population of the state and vast water resources available, fishery forms an important component of the rural economy in Assam. Though the production of fish has been increasing over the years, the current fish production of 1.60 lakh MT is still short of the current demand of fish at 2.64 lakh MT. The schemes being undertaken are geared towards reducing this gap. A number of schemes for development of Farmers ponds, community Tanks, Beel Fisheries as well as Open water Fisheries are presently under implementation under the ARIASP programme. Under this programme training is also being imparted to the fish farmers in the modern techniques of pisciculture. Due to constant efforts the state has been able to attain self-sufficiency in carp seed production and is in a position to export fish seed to the neighbouring to export fish seed to the neighbouring states.

PANCHAYAT & RURAL DEVELOPMENT :

Apart from the normal on-going rural development programmes pertaining to self-employment and poverty alleviation, my Government has taken up new and innovative schemes to tackle the problems of rural development in a holistic manner. Towards this end, special projects have been taken up for development of Eri and Muga, propagation of Mushroom cultivation and setting up of Block service Centres in each of the 219 blocks of Assam. The project of Eri-Muga covers 8 districts with a total cost of Rs. 18.07 crores. Similarly the Mushroom projects covers 6 districts with an outlay of Rs 10 crores.

The state Institute of Rural Development, Assam has taken up diversified activities for creating avenues for self-employment of rural people in agricultural and allied activities. During 2000-2001 so far around 10,000 rural people have been provided training on

capacity building, skill development and technology support.

Wasteland development projects covering 7 districts have already been initiated with a total project outlay of Rs. 25.54 crores. Projects for the other 7 districts are being finalised and likely to be on-stream within the current fiscal year.

CO-OPERATION :

Cooperatives are playing an important role in the development of Agriculture, Cottage Industries, Fisheries, Housing, Processing Handlooms and Handicrafts. There are at present 707 Nos. of GPSS functioning in the rural area in the plain Districts and 47 LAMPS functioning in the Hill Districts. There are also 317 Nos. of Primary Consumer Cooperatives and 37 Nos. of Wholesale Consumer Cooperatives functioning in urban and industrial areas as well as 745 Nos. of Tea Garden Consumer Cooperatives in the Tea Garden areas.

Among the processing cooperatives, the Nagoan Cooperative Sugar Mill at Kampur, the Assam Cooperative Jute Mill at Silghat and the Assam Polyester Cooperative Ltd. (APOL) have recorded good performances during the year. The West Assam Milk Union (WAMUL) is also functioning satisfactorily and supplying milk and milk products to the people of Greater Guwahati. The housing problem in urban and rural areas of the state particularly in respect of SC, ST and economically weaker sections of the society is being tackled by HOUSEFED through subsidized housing schemes.

SOIL CONSERVATION :

During 2000-2001, an amount of Rs. 166 lakhs has been allocated for taking up soil conservation schemes like river training, afforestation, gully control and land development. It is expected to cover 2279 hectares of agricultural land, 44 hectares of foresland

and 1.64 hectares of char land as well as create employment for around 10.91 lakh mandays. During 2001-2002, it is proposed to take up soil conservation schemes in respect of 7,180 hectares of agriculture land, 75 hectares of forest land and 1.63 hectares of char land. It is also proposed to create employment for around 20.70 lakh mandays.

FOREST

My Government is committed to protection and conservation of the Forests and their rich and unique bio-diversity and has taken effective measures for the growth and conservation of forest wealth in the State. The Conservation Act is being effectively enforced and various afforestation programmes have been taken up. During 2000-2001, under production forestry and social forestry an area of 74.46 sq. km. has been brought under tree cover and 25.10 lakh seedlings distributed. During 2001-2002 an area of 95.50 sq. km. is proposed to be brought under forest cover.

My Government is committed to fulfil the recommendations of the National Forest Policy. Participatory management concepts have been incorporated and attractive schemes taken up to popularise the concept of Joint Forestry Management. The protected Area Network has been increased with the expansion of Kaziranga National park and the declaration of Nameri as a project Tiger Reserve.

INDUSTRIES

In the field of development of Industrial Infrastructure a number of schemes are presently under implementation. These include the two industrial growth centres at Matia in Goalpara and Chariduar in Sonitpur, the two Border Trade centres at Sutarkandi in Karimganj district and Mancachar in Dhubri district and the two Integrated Infrastructure Development projects at Bhomoraguri and Dalgoan.

My Government has announced an Information Technology policy and has taken up various schemes and programmes so that information technology can percolate to the grass roots level. An Information Technology School project has been taken up to introduce computer education in the schools. A pilot scheme for Community Information Centre in 15 Development Blocks in Nagoan district has been taken up and proposed to be extended to rest of the blocks in the state. A software Technology park is already functioning in Guwahati to cater to the growing demands of the IT entrepreneurs.

A Guwahati Tool Room cum Training centre is being set up to promote development of skilled manpower required for plastic and engineering industries. Till october, 2000 9,468 loans have been sanctioned under the PMRY scheme.

HANDLOOM & TEXTILES :

Assam has the highest concentration of handloom weavers in the country but a majority of them are household oriented and non-commercial. To increase handloom production, it is the policy of my Government to bring more weavers to the commercial fold by providing inputs like, improved training, better designs, upgraded looms etc. A project package scheme is under implementation which provides advanced training, designer services, modern looms and worksheds to the weavers. Till December, 2000, 13,100 weavers have been covered under this scheme. During the same period workshed-cum-housing assistance has been provided to 272 weavers. On the welfare side by December, 2000, Health package has been provided to 4,977 weavers and Group Insurance has been provided to 1,750 weavers. These schemes are proposed to be continued next year. On the marketing front, ARTFED has been performing well and has secured export orders amounting to Rs. 1.00 crores to USA, Israel and Japan during the current year.

Assam has 1.96 lakh families engaged in sericulture who mainly belong to SC, ST and economically weaker sections. It has also the distinction of producing exclusive silk varieties like, Muga and Eri. The policy of my Government is to increase the area under plantation of food plants, produce quality silkworm seeds, improve reeling methods and generate more employment in sericulture. Till December, 2000 the production of Eri Cut Cocoon was 4.58 lakh kgs, of Muga Raw silk was 0.82 lakh kgs and of Mulberry Raw silk was 0.16 lakh kgs.

HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE :

My Government has made consistent efforts to improve the provision of basic health facilities to the people by improving diagnostic facilities, flow of medicine and surgical equipment and by extension of such services to hitherto uncovered areas. Efforts are on to complete 34 half done Primary Health Centres and 20 half done 30 bedded Rural Hospitals during the current financial year. A fleet of ambulances and jeeps have been provided to fight the outbreak of epidemic in rural and interior area. Efforts are also on to improve the referral services.

In respect of secondary health care facilities, Hospital Management committees have been constituted at the district and sub-divisional level with wide ranging powers and functions to improve the functioning of the Civil Hospital. Diagnostic facilities have been improved by providing sophisticated equipments. The Government proposes to further strengthen the infrastructure at these hospitals. It is also proposed to set up 6 Regional Diagnostic Centres at six district head quarters of the state to provide sophisticated diagnostic facilities to the people living in remote and inaccessible areas.

In the sphere of Medical Education, efforts are on to improve

In the sphere of Medical Education, efforts are on to improve the quality of teaching as well as treatment in the medical colleges and hospitals in the state. To this effect schemes are under implementation in the three Medical colleges, Government Ayurvedic college, REgional Dental College, Regional Nursing College and the Homoeopathic college.

PUBLIC WORKS :

Construction of 10 Nos. of RCC bridges and metalling and black-topping of 83.85 kms. of existing PWD roads are proposed to be completed during this financial year under the state and NEC plans. These are under different stages of implementation. During the year, works for rehabilitation of 142.90 kms. of roads and construction of 29 Nos. of RCC bridges under the ARIASP project have been completed. Out of the 140 RCC bridges proposed to be constructed under RIDF with loan assistance from NABARD this year, so far 50 Nos. have been completed. Construction of 11 Nos. of bridges over Bharalu river in Guwahati with loan assistance from HUDCO are under progress. Flyovers at Ganeshguri, Ulubari and Athgoan in Guwahati city along with the railway over bridge at Bongaigoan are also under implementation. A few building projects pertaining to the Health and Education Departments along with the prestigious permanent capital building project at Dispur are under implementation.

During 2001-2002 it is proposed to construct 25 Nos. of RCC bridges along with metalling and blacktopping of 160 kms. of roads under the state plan. It is also proposed to complete 226.32 kms. of roads and 115 kms. of bridges under the ARIASP programme. Further 89 Nos. of RCC bridges and 111.206 kms. of roads are proposed to be taken up under RIDF. It is also proposed to complete

implementation targets for the flyovers at Ganeshguri, Ulubari and Athgoan and the permanent capital complex at Dispur during 2001-2002.

PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING :

Provision of safe drinking water has been recognised as one of the basic minimum needs. As per the National policy, safe drinking water is to be provided to all the villages in the next five years. Out of 70,669 habitations in the state so far 44,728 habitations have been fully covered and 24,318 habitations have been partially covered with provision of safe drinking water. Schemes are being taken up in a phased manner to cover the remaining 1,623 uncovered habitations and for conversion of the partially covered to fully habitations.

With a view to make the Operation & Maintenance of the existing water supply installations more sustainable, the Government of India has recently adopted a policy of promoting beneficiary participation and cost sharing in the Operation and Maintenance of water installations. Three districts have been selected as pilot districts for this purpose. To make the implementation of this policy successful, training is being imparted to grass root level beneficiaries in respect of Operation & Maintenance of the existing schemes.

EDUCATION :

My Government has given emphasis to consolidation and quality improvement of education at all levels. In Higher Education schemes are under implementation for creation of New Infrastructure at the Cotton College, Guwahati and constructing District Library Buildings with Auditorium at Barpeta, Karimganj, Tinsukia, Bongaigoan and Morigoan. A scheme has also been taken up for the modernisation of the Assam Engineering Institute to cater to the needs of educating

physically handicapped persons. It is proposed to introduce computer education in the Institutes of Higher Education.

My Government has recommended setting up of a central University at Kokrajhar for which discussions with the Government of India are continuing. Pending final decision on this proposal the existing campus of the Guwahati University at Kokrajhar is being developed. This is intended to provide quality higher education in various disciplines to the tribal people living in the Bodoland Areas.

In the field of elementary and secondary education steps have been taken for consolidation and strengthening of the schools with emphasis on more enrolment and reduction of dropouts. At the primary level, steps have been taken for building up competence in the field of minimum levels of learning. Under the Award of the 10th Finance commission drinking water facilities are proposed to be provided in 4,884 LP and 480 ME school, toilet facilities to 1,040 ME schools and promotion of girls education taken up in 126 Me schools. Under the Award of the 11th Finance commission it is proposed to construct 268 elementary school and take up computerisation in 71 higher secondary school.

In the sphere of adult education the emphasis is to remove illiteracy, provide continuous education of the neo-literates and enabling them to develop functional skills. Except for Morigoan, the Total literacy programme is continuing in 22 districts of Assam.

SOCIAL WELFARE :

My Government is implementing various welfare and rehabilitation schemes for physically handicapped, orphans, destitute children, women and under-privileged classes of society. For the welfare of the handicapped, institutions like, the Deaf & Dumb School, Kahilipara; Blind School, Jorhat; School for Hearing Impaired, Jorhat;

and financial assistance is also being provided to NGOs in the field. Vocational training in various crafts is proposed to be imparted to 400 women in the four VTRC in the state during 2001-2002.

In the field of nutrition, the Integrated Child Development project is presently continuing in 107 development blocks and it is proposed to be extended to another 89 block. A new central sector scheme namely, Balika Samridhi Yojana has been started in Assam under which the mother of the girl child is given a grant of Rs. 500 for upto two live births.

As a gesture to honour to Freedom Fighters, the state Freedom Fighters pension have been enhanced to Rs. 1500 and 299 Freedom Fighters have been granted this enhanced pension in the year 2000. An amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs has been received between 1998-99 and 2000-2001 by the Assam State Legal Services Authority from the National Legal Services Authority which is being utilised for the purpose of organising Lok Adalats in the State. During 2001-2002 it is proposed to take a scheme for setting up permanent and continuous Lok Adalats.

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

My Government is taking continued steps for ensuring availability of food-grains and other food items in the state. For better availability 882 Nos. of additional fair price shops and 2,431 Nos. of hawkers have been appointed till September, 2000 from amongst unemployed youths. For subsidised provision of rice to families below the poverty line, the Government has so far issued around 17.89 lakhs of special Family Identity cards. A special scheme namely 'Annapurna' is proposed to be launched from April, 2001 for providing free food-grains to all indigenous destitute persons above the age of 65 years. The district administration in the state is taking adequate steps to

prevent hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities.

BORDER AREAS

The boundaries of Assam with its neighbouring state are well defined. However, disputes have arisen due to the claims made by other state over the land and forests which are within the constitutional boundary of Assam. All efforts to solve this vexed problem through mutual discussion during the last few decades have failed to yield any lasting solution. Under these circumstances my Government has sought relief in the court of Law for finding a permanent solution to this longstanding dispute. The matter is presently sub-judice.

Under the Interstate Border Areas Development Programme it is proposed to construct rural link roads, small water supply schemes and take up construction of BOPs during the current year. A scheme for construction and renovation of 21 Nos. of BOPs occupied by neutral force in the Assam-Nagaland border is also under implementation out of Non-plan funds to be reimbursed by the Government of India.

An amount of Rs 748 Lakhs has been allocated during 2000-2001 by the Government of India for taking up schemes for the Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Bhutan Border Areas. Under this schemes for improvement of communication network and other basic amenities are being implemented in the districts of Cachar, Karimganj, Dhubri, Kokrajhar, Bongaigoan, Barpeta, Nalbari and Darrang.

My Government is taking all efforts for developing trade and commerce with the neighbouring countries. The airport at Guwahati has already been notified as an international airport and we are making efforts to use it for developing trade with the outside world. We are also intouch with the Government of India for the development of Stilwell Road to open up new avenues for trade and commerce. Broder

trade centres at Sutarkandi in Karimganj district and Mancachar in Dhubri district are being developed.

WELFARE OF SC/ST & BACKWARD CLASSES

My Government has given high priority to measures needed for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes including Tea and Ex-Tea Garden Tribes. The schemes taken up for their welfare are mainly educational and economic in nature. Some of the educational schemes under implementation are the construction of Boy's and Girl's Hostel for the SC and the ST and providing post-Matric and pre-Matric Scholarships to SC, ST and OBC students. Family oriented Income-Generating Schemes are also being implemented for SC and ST families.

We are constantly pursuing the case of Koch-Rajbangshi, Ahom, Chutia, Moran, Motok, Tea Garden and Ex-tea Garden communities for Assam and for providing ST status to the Karbis living in the plain districts and Bodos living in the Hill districts.

With a view to decentralise power to the major tribal groups in Assam, fund allocations are being made to the Bodoland Autonomous Council, the Rabha-Hasong Autonomous Council, the Mising Autonomous Council and the Tiwa Autonomous Council. During 2000-2001, Rs. 54.10 crores have been allocated to the councils for welfare and development of the Council Area. Another amount of Rs. 5 crores has been earmarked during 2000-2001 under the Backward Classes Sector.

WELFARE OF MINORITIES :

My Government is committed to improving the socio-economic conditions of the people living in the char areas and for the welfare of the minorities. Schemes relating to agriculture, veterinary and dairy, provision of drinking water, cottage industry and education are

presently under implementation in the char areas. These schemes are proposed to be continued during the next year.

The Assam Minorities Development Board is engaged in activities relating to the welfare of the minorities. During 2001-2002 it proposes to train 350 girls in tailoring and embroidery, train 50 students in computers, train 20 candidates in Nursing and Midwifery, supply handcarts to 150 poor people and train 50 candidates in STW maintenance. It also proposes to construct common rooms for girls and provide book grants to meritorious students.

The Assam Minorities Development & Finance Corporation is engaged in providing loans to people belonging to notified minorities. During the current year it has received Rs. 1.43 crores which will be used to provide loans to more than 400 beneficiaries. It proposes to continue with its activities during the next financial year.

TOURISM

With its breathtaking scenic beauty, rare varieties of flora and fauna, lofty green hills, mighty Brahmaputra with numerous tributaries, emerald forests and wildlife sanctuaries, punctuated by rolling tea gardens, Assam has immense potential for the development of tourism. A number of schemes are currently under implementation for development of tourism infrastructure in the State. Notable among these are the upgradation of the tourist facilities at Pobitore, Bhalukpung; way side facilities at Jakhalabanda, Kalain, Hajo, Bishwanath Ghat, Batadrawa, Chapanala, Panitola, Sivasagar, and the Yatri Niwas at Khaspur and Kakopathar. These also include the schemes for beautification of the river front along the Brahmaputra, integrated development of infrastructure at the pilgrim centre of Kamakhya, sound and light show at Talatal Ghar, as well as at the srimanta Sankardeva Kalashetra, Guwahati.

My Government has also decided in principle to encourage private sector investments in tourist infrastructure and services. As a first step towards privatisation of tourist services, 12 projects including the popular River-Cruise on Brahmaputra, wayside amenities at Moran, Bokakhat, Kohora, Jakhalabanda, Jagiroad and Nalbari have been privatised. Two major projects namely, Amusement park at Amingaoan and Ropeway at Kamakhya are proposed to be taken up as joint venture projects with private participation.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

My Government is committed to preserve, protect and promote the rich cultural heritage of Assam. Its continued efforts for the national recognition of the Satriya Dance has borne fruit with the recognition being accorded by the Sangeet Natak Academy, in November, 2000.

With the inauguration of the Kala Guru Bishnu Prasad Rabha Re-recording theatre on 12th December 2000 the phase - I and phase - II of the project for Modernisation of the Jyoti Chitrabhan (Film Studio) has completed at a cost of Rs 8.79 crores.

My Government has decided to create a corpus fund of Rs. 15 crores in order to fund the maintenance of Srimanta Sankardeva Kalaksheta out of returns from the corpus. A decision has also been taken for the creation of another corpus of Rs 19 crores under the Assam State Films (Finance and Development) Corporation by the imposition of additional tax on cinema tickets for the purpose of production of regional films. Further in order to give incentives to the development of Regional Films, my Government has taken a decision to refund the amusement tax collected on the show of the Regional Films. Under this scheme the amusement tax collected after the commercial release of Regional Films for the next two years shall

be refunded in full without any ceiling to the producers.

During 2000-2001, Artist pension @ Rs. 1,500 has been extended to 10 Artists, special pension given to 8 families of 8 deceased Artists @ Rs. 750 and a one time Ex-gratia grant of Rs. 10,000 has been given to 15 Artists.

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING AND GUWAHATI

During 2000-2001, under the scheme for Intergrated Development of Small and Medium Towns works have been taken up in the towns of Goalpara, Rangia, Barpeta and Morigoan. It is also proposed to take up works under this scheme in the towns of Nalbari, Mangalodi and North Lakhimpur. 33,000 slum dwellers are also proposed to be covered in 37 towns under the National Slum Development programme and the programme for Environmental Improvement of Urban Slums. With grants from HUDCO, the Fatasil Harijan Colony is being developed as model colony. For the purpose of improving the water supply system at Kamakhya Temple Complex a Scheme of Rs. 3.00 crores has been taken up. Under the Metropolitan Area Storm Drainage programme with loan assistance from HUDCO, major drainage schemes are in the process of being completed in several localities in Guwahati.

During 2001-2002, the National Slum Development programme and the schemes for Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns and Environmental Improvement of Urban Slum are proposed to be continued. It is also proposed to part of Guwahati with assistance from HUDCO. Storm drainage schemes are also proposed to be taken up in Guwahati.

During the current year, a scheme for the construction of markets in the Autonomous Hill districts of Assam, a scheme for Low Cost Sanitation programme in selected Local Bodies and schemes covered under the Award of the 10th Finance Commission were taken up for implementation. In addition the Swarna Jayanti Saharia Rojgar Yojana was taken up for implementation in all the 79 Urban Local Bodies of Assam. For this scheme a sum of Rs. 1,263.73 lakhs as Central Share and Rs 100 lakhs as State Share has already been released during the current year. For providing self employment under this scheme 54,000 potential beneficiaries have been identified, 3,800 Neighbourhood Groups, 431 Neighbourhood Committees and 52 Community Development Societies have been constituted. During 2001-2002 the aforesaid schemes are proposed to be continued.

The Assam Urban Water Supply & Sewerage Board has completed 6 water Supply Schemes, out of the 20 schemes taken up, in different towns benefiting 3,71,447 persons. During the current year 4 more schemes will be completed benefiting another 1,00,000 persons. During 2001-2002 another 4 ongoing schemes are proposed to be completed benefiting 50,000 people. Under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply programme, 12 Nos. of Water Supply schemes have been taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,009.84 lakhs for benefiting 2,83,811 persons. Three new schemes are proposed to be taken up under this programme during 2001-2002.

TRANSPORT

The Inland Water Transport is operating 49 Nos. of ferry services in the river Brahmaputra and 24 nos. in the river Barak for the public. With the implementation of a new protocol between India and Bangladesh, the commercial cargo service for Bangladesh as well as other states of India via Kolkata has come into operation. For

development of commercial services the construction of a river terminal has been taken up at Badarpur for an estimated cost of Rs. 379.93 lakhs under NEC funding.

Assam State Transport Corporation has been facing serious economic problems. Accordingly my Government has taken up a scheme for restructuring of the Corporation. The matter has been taken up with the Government of India for providing required funds for this scheme.

Keeping in view the severe problem of congestion being faced in the city of Guwahati and recognising the need for a good terminus, work has been started on the construction of an Inter State Bus Terminus at Betkuchi at an estimated cost of Rs. 5 crores under NEC finance.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

A number of schemes are being implemented in the science and technology sectors in the areas of remote sensing, environment and non-conventional energy. Research and development activities are also being promoted through the Assam Science Technology & Environment Council, Pollution Control Board and the Institute of Advanced study in Science & Technology.

In the Science and Technology sector, the Assam Science Technology & Environment Council has taken up schemes for popularisation of science, student science projects, Leather Technology programmes and schemes for modernisation of Huller Rice Mills. In the environmental sector it has taken up a detailed action plan for management and conservation of the Deepar Beel Wetlands.

The Pollution Control Board is entrusted with the responsibility of enforcing the provisions of Central and State Rules to check pollution and preserve the ecology and the environment in Assam.

pollution and preserve the ecology and the environment in Assam. It has prepared a white paper on the environmental degradation of Guwahati and has been active in matters relating to control of industrial pollution.

The Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology is engaged in carrying out reasearch in the areas of plasma physics, Mathematical Science, Life Science and Resource Management & Environment.

HILL AREAS

My Government is fully aware about the need to accelerate the pace of development in the Hill Areas. For this reason though the state plan is subjected to substantial cuts towards the end of the financial year, the Hill plan has been exempted from any cuts. The responsibility for the execution of development programmes has also been entrusted to the Autonomous District Councils of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills. To ensure that availabilty of funds do not become a constraint there is a system of half yearly release of funds for schemes relating to the transferred Departments.

The Hill plan outlay has been kept at Rs. 163.03 crores for 2000-2001 which includes Rs. 70.90 crores as special Central Assistance for HADP, Rs 2 crores for AIBP and Rs. 2.56 crores for Special Employment Schemes. During the current year the prime Ministers Gramodaya Yojana has been introduced and an amount of Rs 18.50 crores earmarked for Primary Health, Education, Shelter, Drinking Water, Nutrution and Rural Roads. In addition the two Hill Districts have been selected by the Government of India for the implementation of the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme. They are also included in the Community Resource Management Project.

POWER, MINES AND MINERALS :

The power sector in Assam is on the path of reforms and restructuring on the lines of Government of India's policy. It is also proposed to set up a State Electricity Regulatory Commission with one Member initially with a provision to enable expansion to three Members in future.

Increasing the generation capacity within the State is a priority area. For this the long languishing Karbi Langpi Hydro Project (100 MW) has been taken for implementation on a war footing. It is also proposed to take up the implementation of the Amguri Power Project (90 MW) and the Borgoloi Thermal power project (120 MW) through the Independent power producer route. The Board also proposes to implement the Lakhwa Waste Heat Project (38 MW) to increase its generation capacity at Lakhwa. Schemes for Renovation & Modernisation are already in progress at Lakhwa and Namrup Thermal Power Stations to improve their plan Load Factors and thereby increase the generation.

Steps have been taken to implement the Electrical Licensing Board Regulation 1992 which would raise the revenue manifold.

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT :

Industrial relations in the state have by and large remained peaceful. During 2000-2001, 60 cases of industrial disputes have been settled through conciliation. Minimum wages in respect of 72 scheduled employments have been revised. Under the provisions of the persons with Disabilities (Equal opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full participation) Act, 1995, 23 Employment Exchanges have been notified as Special Employment Exchanges. 98 new factories have been registered during the current year.

To improve the quality of training at the ITI's a proposal has been submitted to the Government of India for upgradation and modernisation of 17 Nos. of ITI. A proposal has also been submitted for establishment of 4 Nos. of new ITI. Upgradation of ESI Hospital and Dispensaries are also proposed to be taken up.

FLOOD CONTROL

Recurrent floods are a major problem being faced in Assam. As per expert the ultimate solution to this problem would depend on the construction of multipurpose dam projects. After prolonged persuasion by my Government, the Government of India has agreed to take up the Pagladia Dam project within the 9th plan. Once completed this project will benefit vast areas of Nalbari District. The nature of the flood problem is so gigantic that the State Government is unable to tackle it in its own. My Government of accordingly been pursuing with the Government of India to recognise this problem as a National problem and provide liberal financial assistance. Because of our constant persuasion, the Government of India has agreed to provide grants for Centrae Sector Flood Management Schemes to the tune of Rs. 20 crores each year for the remaining two years of the 9th plan.

During 2000-2001, my Government has taken up through its own plan funds the construction of 3k.Ms. of New Embankments, 10 Nos. of new protection works in addition to the completion of 74 Nos, of ongoing schemes. 25 schemes for flood control have been taken up with funds from the Non-Lapsable pool and are under differnt stages of implementation. Assistance has also been received from NEC and the Joint River Commission for implementation of flood control schemes near the Indo-Bangladesh Border in the Barkak Valley.

SPORTS AND YOUTH WELFARE

My Government is involved in actively promoting sports and building sports infrastructure. During 2000, the Assam School teams performed commendably at the National School Games bagging 2 gold and silver in swimming, 4 gold and 6 silver in badminton and 7 gold, 2 silver and a bronze in archery. The Assam School Football Team under 17 also bagged the championship in the National School Games. The 46th. National School Games for swimming was successfully hosted at Guwahati during the year.

During 2001-2002 a number of schemes are proposed to be implemented. There include the construction of indoor Hall (Part) at Sivasagar, construction of Regional Athletic Centre (Part) at Guwahati, construction of Indoor Games Centre (part) at Guwahati, construction of Adventure Academy (part) at Guwahati, construction of Regional Water Sports Centre (part) at Bhomoraguri, Sonitpur and the completion of 7 Mini Stadia. It is also proposed to hold district and state level tournaments and coaching camps as well as arrange different youth adventure activities.

To provide infrastructural facilities in the Southern part of Guwahati city an indoor stadium capable of hosting International Games is being taken up by the Khanapara Sports & Cultural organisation at a cost of Rs. 3.36 crores. A project has also been taken up for construction of an International Standard Football Academy at Barsapara, Guwahati.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND TRAINING

During 2000-2001, the Assam Administrative Staff College has conducted 48 in-service training programmes including 2 pre-examination training courses for candidates aspiring to appear for

UPSC and other all India competitive examinations. The Assam Administrative Staff College has been selected as one of the five Regional Training Centres for conducting Training of Trainers courses. The Secretariat Training School has continued to impart training to be staff of Assam Secretariat and has extended this training to the staff of DCs and SDOs as well the Police Department.

REVENUE

To combat the devastating floods that occurred during 2000 an amount of Rs. 101.08 crores has been sanctioned from the Calamity Relief Fund for providing gratuitous relief, rehabilitation grant and repairing the damages to public assets.

During the current year many steps have been taken for the enhancement and better collection of land revenues. Special emphasis has been given for reclassification of land and reassessment of land revenue to mobilise additional resources. The land revenue of land under tea cultivation has also been enhanced and field officers have been issued instructions to realise the revenue at the enhanced rates.

In view of the growing population and unplanned growth of Guwahati city, steps have been taken to set a satellite township under the North Guwahati Revenue Circle. For this purpose an area of 1,867 acres of land has already been reserved for handing over to the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

During 2000-2001, an allocation of Rs 40 crores has been made to meet the expenditure on relief measures. Relief measures were taken for the victims of ethnic violence at Kokrajhar, Bongaigoan and Dhubri districts. So far Rs 13.95 crores have been spent in

providing victims of ethnic violence, and Rs 1.74 crores has been spent on providing Ex-Gratia and financial assistance to the victims of ethnic and extremist violence.

PENSION AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCE

A number of steps have been taken to ensure prompt disposal of pension and other retirement benefits. Pension Cells have been opened in every Administrative Department and head of office level. The Assam Service (Pension Rules 1969) has been amended to enable fixing responsibility and taking disciplinary action against government servants responsible for delay in payment of pension. Redressal of public grievances is ensured through a comprehensive system of monitoring by the Deputy commissioners and sub-divisional Officers at the district and the Sub-divisional level and by the Head of Department and Head of Office at the state level.

EXCISE

My Government has put great stress on the generation of excise revenue. Efforts have been made to ensure that the requirement of liquor consumption are met within the state and that no revenue is lost to the neighbouring States. Due to these efforts the revenue collection had exceeded the target last year and similar results are expected this year. While efforts for increasing revenue are continuing at the same time all actions are taken to ensure that sale of illicit liquor is prevented and all adverse social effects of drinking remain under check. To increase the public awareness against the use of drugs and alcoholism the Prohibition Council is proposed to be strengthened next year.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE :

We are determined to make the economy of the state vibrant and accelerate the pace of development in the coming years. Our fight with extremism would relentlessly continue till the last activity of the extremists is put down. We have prepared a 'Vision Assam 2025' document last year which determines the direction of the future development and lays down the strategies for action for the next 25 years. This Vision document will be guiding up in preparation of our plans of tomorrow. For the young people of the State we have launched a new scheme titled as "Chief Minister's Swa Niyojana" under which more than 7 lakhs employment opportunities would be provided by 31st March, 2002. No efforts would be spared to ensure that everyone in the State gets gainful employment and peace and prosperity comes to the State raining it to its past glory.

Hon'ble Members, I have placed before you the major achievements, policies and programmes of my Government. My Government will make all efforts to implement the policies and programmes that have been outlined and would endeavour to secure all round development of the State and provide economic and social justice to the people. My Government would continue to accord highest priority for measures to bring peace in the State and at the same time continue to accelerate the development activities with a view to ensure prosperity of the State. I hope your deliberations in the House will help achieve this objective.

Joi Aai Asom

Joi Hind.

(National Anthem was played, Hon'ble Governor left the House.)

Mr. Speaker : Now under sub-rule 2 of Rule 13 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly. I hereby report that the Governor has been pleased to make a speech. A copy of the speech has already been laid on the table and copies of the speech have been distributed to the Hon'ble Members also.

Dr. Ardhendu kumar Dey :- Point of order Sir, Governor has not given any speech. He has not read his speech. He has only laid down.

Mr. Speaker : I now request the Hon'ble Chief Minister Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Assam Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Ministers of State, Hon'ble Members of the House, Chief Secretary, Commissioner and Secretaries to the Government, D.G.P., I. G. P., D.I.G.s and Head of Departments in the Officers Gallery, Gentlemen of the press and Electronic Media in the Press Gallery and Official Reporters to join the Hon'ble Governor at tea arranged outside the Assembly Chamber.

The House do now stands adjourned for 30 Minutes.

(The House re-Assemble at, 4-45 P.M. after the break with Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Speaker : Now Item No. 2

Under Rule 230 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I called a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee at 11-30 AM on 20/1/2001.

The Committee after a threadbare discussion decided that the current session of the Assembly commencing from 7th February, 2001 will continue till 23rd February, 2001. There will be altogether 9 working days and all the days have been earmarked for transaction of Government Business. The Committee also discussed about the destruction of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Building by fire recently and decided to adopt a resolution expressing its deep concern at the unfortunate incident.

The calendar for the current session as finalised by the Committee has already been circulated amongst all the Members of the House.

I hope, this has the approval of the House

(It was approved by voice vote).

MOTION OF THANKS ON GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Speaker : Now Item No. 3, Motion of Thanks on the Governor's address from Shri Atul Bora. I would request Shri Atul Bora to move the motion.

Shri Atul Bora : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I beg to move "That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are grateful to the Governor for the Address he has been pleased to deliver to the House today, the 7th February, 2001".

Mr. Speaker : I, now, call upon Shri Girindra Kumar Barua to second the Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address.

শ্রীগিৰীন্দ্র কুমাৰ বৰুৱা :- মাননীয় সদস্য অতুল বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই উত্থাপন কৰা ধন্যবাদ সূচক প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ।

Mr. Speaker : Now Item No.4.

Under Rule 9 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, I nominate the following Hon'ble Members to constitute the panel of Chairman for the Current Budget Session of the Assembly, 2001.

1. Shri Prithivi Maji
2. Shri Andrius Hajoary
3. Shri Dilip Kumar Saikia
4. Shri Rabin Banikya.

LAYING OF APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Speaker : Item No. 5, Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Hon'ble Minister, Parliamentary Affairs to lay the Appropriation Accounts 1999-2000 and Finance Accounts 1999-2000 relating to the Government of Assam.

Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Minister : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I beg to lay the Appropriation Accounts 1999-2000 and Finance Accounts 1999-2000 relating to the Government of Assam.

LAYING OF RULES

Mr. Speaker : Item No. 6, Dr. Kamala Kalita, Hon'ble Minister Health & Family Welfare to lay Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 1999."

Dr. Kamala Kalita, Minister : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I beg to lay "The Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 1999."

MOTION FOR ELECTION

Mr. Speaker : Now, Item No. 7, Hon'ble Chief Minister to move.

Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, (Chief Minister) : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I beg to move that "The House do elect 3(three) members of the Assam Legislative Assembly from amongst it's members to become Members of the Assam State Housing Board as required under Section 4(1) (g) of the Assam State Housing Board Act, 1972.

The Assam State Housing Board was reconstituted on 17/2/2000.

The vacancies occurred due to expire of the term of the three previously elected members of the reconstituted Assam State Housing Board."

RESOLUTION

Mr. Speaker : Item No. 8, Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Hon'ble Minister, parliamentary Affairs to move.

Shri Hitendra Nath Goswami, Minister : Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the Assam Legislative Assembly and the people of Assam place in record its deep shock and anguish to learn that the historic and age-old Meghslays Legislative Assembly Building has been reduced to ashes in a devastating fire on the night of 9th January, 2001.

It is indeed a great tragedy and irreparable loss that the Assembly Building which housed the erstwhile Legislative Assembly of undivided Assam since April, 1937 to February, 1973 and bore the sweet memory of bye-gone years and tradition of a golden era was completely destroyed in the devastating fire.

The Assam Legislative Assembly expresses its deep concern at the unfortunate incident.

Mr. Speaker : Now Item No.9. Obituary references

যোৱা ৭-৯-২০০০ তাৰিখে অসম বিধান সভাৰ অধিবেশনৰ সমাপ্তিৰ পৰা আজি ৭-২-২০০১ তাৰিখে অসম বিধান সভাৰ বাজেট অধিবেশন অনুষ্ঠিত হোৱাৰ এই কালছোৱাৰ ভিতৰত এই সদনৰ প্ৰাক্তন সদস্যকে ধৰি আমাৰ দেশ তথা ৰাজ্যৰ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত বিশেষ বৰঙণি আগবঢ়োৱা ভালে কেইগৰাকী বৰেণ্য ব্যক্তিৰ পৰলোক প্ৰাপ্তি ঘটে। অতি দুখ তলত উল্লেখিত ব্যক্তি সকলৰ বিয়োগত শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ লোৱা হৈছে।

১। অসম বিধান সভাৰ বিলাসীপাৰা পশ্চিম সমষ্টিৰ প্ৰাক্তন বিধায়ক চিৰাজ উদ্দিনে যোৱা ২৮-১২-২০০০ তাৰিখে এক পথ দুৰ্ঘটনাত গুৰুতৰ ভাবে আহত হৈ ধুবুৰী অসামৰিক চিকিৎসালয়ত শেষ নিশ্বাস ত্যাগ কৰে। মৃত্যুৰ সময়ত তেখেতৰ বয়স হৈছিল ৬৭ বছৰ। তেখেত কংগ্ৰেছ-ই দলৰ সদস্য হিচাপে ১৯৮৩ চনত পশ্চিম বিলাসীপাৰা সমষ্টিৰ পৰা অসম বিধান সভালৈ সদস্য নিৰ্বাচিত হয়। তেখেতে ধুবুৰী জিলা কংগ্ৰেছ - (ই) ৰ সম্পাদক হিচাপেও কাৰ্যনিৰ্বাহ কৰি আছিল। এই গৰাকী ৰাজনীতিবিদৰ মৃত্যু আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ এক অপূৰণীয় ক্ষতি।

২। বিশিষ্ট সাহিত্যিক, অসম সাহিত্য সভাৰ প্ৰাক্তন সভাপতি, ৰাজ্য সভাৰ প্ৰাক্তন সাংসদ, অসমীয়া উপন্যাস সাহিত্যৰ জনক, ছৈয়দ আব্দুল মালিকৰ দীৰ্ঘদিন অসুস্থতাত ভূগি থকাৰ অন্তত যোৱা ১৯-১২-২০০০ তাৰিখে নিশা যোৰহাটৰ নিজা বাসভৱনত ৮১ বছৰ বয়সত দেহাৱসান ঘটে।

গোলাঘাট জিলাৰ নাহৰণিত ১৯১৯ চনত জন্ম গ্ৰহণ কৰা চৈয়দ আব্দুল মালিকে নাহৰণিত শিক্ষা জীৱন আৰম্ভ কৰি গুৱাহাটী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰা অসমীয়া বিভাগত স্নাতকোত্তৰ ডিগ্ৰী লাভ কৰে।

অসম চৰকাৰৰ আবকাৰী বিভাগত কৰ্মজীৱনৰ পাতনি মেলি তেখেতে ডেকীয়াল হাইস্কুল, কুৰালগুৰি হাইস্কুলত শিক্ষকতা কৰাৰ পিছত জগন্নাথ বৰুৱা কলেজত অধ্যাপনা কৰে। মালিকদেৱে ১৯৭৬ ৰ পৰা ১৯৮২ চনলৈ ৰাজ্যসভাৰ সদস্য হিচাপেও কাৰ্যনিৰ্বাহ কৰিছিল।

প্ৰথিতযশা ঔপন্যাসিক আৰু সু-সাহিত্যিক হিচাপে অশেষ খ্যাতি অৰ্জন কৰা মালিকে ১৯৬৩ চনত ছোভিয়েত ইউনিয়নত অনুষ্ঠিত সাংস্কৃতিক বিনিময় কাৰ্যসূচীত ভাৰতীয় লেখক সকলক নেতৃত্ব দিছিল। তেখেত ১৯৭৭ চনত অভয়াপুৰী অধিবেশনত অসম সাহিত্য সভাৰ সভাপতিৰ আসন অলংকৃত কৰে। ৬৭ খন

উপন্যাসৰ প্ৰণেতা মালিকদেৱে “অঘৰী আত্মাৰ কাহিনী”ৰ বাবে সাহিত্য অকাডেমীৰ পুৰস্কাৰ লাভ কৰে। তেখেতৰ অন্য এখন প্ৰখ্যাত উপন্যাস “সূৰুৰ মূখীৰ স্বপ্ন” ভাৰতৰ প্ৰায় সকলো ভাষালৈ অনুবাদ হৈছে।

সাহিত্যাচাৰ্য মালিকে ছোভিয়েট দেশ, নেহৰু বঁটা, অসম উপত্যকা সাহিত্য বঁটা, শঙ্কৰদেৱ বঁটাৰ উপৰিও পদ্মশ্ৰী, পদ্মভূষণ, ডক্তৰ অৱ লিটাৰেচাৰ, আদি উপাধি লাভ কৰি বিৰল সন্মানৰ অধিকাৰী হৈছিল।

ভাষাৰ যাদুকৰ, অসমীয়া ভাষা সাহিত্যৰ উজ্জ্বল ভোটাভৰা চেয়দ আব্দুল মালিকৰ বিয়োগত ৰাজ্যখনৰ সাহিত্য আৰু সমাজ জীৱনৰ এক পূৰাৰ নোৱাৰা ক্ষতি হ'ল।

৩। ৰাজ্য সভাৰ প্ৰাক্তন সাংসদ যোৰহাটৰ এগৰাকী বয়োজ্যেষ্ঠা বিশিষ্টা নাগৰিক তথা স্বাধীন ভাৰতৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী সভাত অসমক প্ৰতিনিধিত্ব কৰা প্ৰথম গৰাকী সদস্য সুৰেন্দ্ৰ নাথ বুঢ়াগোঁহাইৰ পত্নী বেদৱতী বুঢ়াগোঁহাইৰ নিজৰ বাসভৱনত পৰলোক প্ৰাপ্তি ঘটে। মৃত্যুৰ সময়ত তেখেতৰ বয়স হৈছিল ৯০ বছৰ।

১৯১০ চনত ডিব্ৰুগড়ত জন্মগ্ৰহণ কৰা বুঢ়াগোঁহাইয়ে কলিকতাৰ বেথুন কলেজৰ পৰা বি-এ ডিগ্ৰী লাভ কৰে। ১৯৫৮ চনৰ পৰা ১৯৬৬ চনলৈ তেখেতে ৰাজ্যসভাৰ সদস্য হিচাপে দায়িত্ব পালন কৰে।

এই গৰাকী বিশিষ্টা সমাজ সেৱিকাৰ মৃত্যুত আমাৰ ৰাজ্যখনে এগৰাকী সুদক্ষা নেত্ৰীক হেৰুৱালে।

৪। প্ৰবীণ মুক্তি যোদ্ধা আৰু সাংবাদিক, প্ৰাক্তন সাংসদ ডঃ পূৰ্ণ নাৰায়ণ সিংহৰ যোৱা ২৫-১-২০০১ তাৰিখে হৃদৰোগত আক্ৰান্ত হৈ তেজপুৰত ৮৭ বছৰ বয়সত পৰলোক প্ৰাপ্তি ঘটে।

স্বাধীনতাৰ পূৰ্বে ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰা প্ৰকাশিত ‘আছাম ট্ৰিবিউন’ কাকতৰ উপ সম্পাদক ৰূপে সাংবাদিক জীৱন আৰম্ভ কৰা ডঃ সিংহ বিভিন্ন ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় আৰু আন্তঃৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় সংবাদ মাধ্যমৰ লগত জড়িত হৈ আছিল। ১৯৬৪ চনত ‘মহাজাতি’ নামৰ কাকত তেখেতে প্ৰকাশ কৰে আৰু মৃত্যু পৰ্যন্ত উক্ত কাকতৰ মুখ্য সম্পাদক ৰূপে কাৰ্যনিৰ্বাহ কৰে। ১৯৭৭ চনত জনতা পাৰ্টিৰ প্ৰাৰ্থীৰূপে তেজপুৰ লোকসভাৰ সমষ্টিৰ পৰা সাংসদ হিচাপে নিৰ্বাচিত হৈ সংসদত অসমৰ স্বাৰ্থ জড়িত বিষয় সমূহত বলিষ্ঠ আৰু সক্ৰিয় ভূমিকা পালন কৰিছিল। বিশিষ্ট সমাজকৰ্মী, অধিবক্তা ডঃ সিংহ ভালেমান অনুষ্ঠান প্ৰতিষ্ঠানৰ লগত ওতঃপ্ৰোতঃভাৱে জড়িত আছিল।

এই গৰাকী প্ৰবীণ ৰাজনীতিক তথা সমাজ কৰ্মীৰ মৃত্যুত অসম তথা দেশখনৰ এক পূৰাৰ নোৱাৰা ক্ষতি হ'ল।

৫। বৰ্ষীয়ান কংগ্ৰেছ নেতা, নিখিল ভাৰত কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিৰ প্ৰাক্তন সভাপতি তথা প্ৰাক্তন কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী সীতাৰাম কেশৰীৰ যোৱা ২৪-১০-২০০০ তাৰিখে পৰলোক প্ৰাপ্তি ঘটে। মৃত্যুৰ সময়ত তেখেতৰ বয়স হৈছিল ৮১ বছৰ।

১৯৬৭ চনত লোক সভালৈ প্ৰথমবাৰৰ বাবে সদস্য ৰূপে নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱা কেশৰী ৰাজ্যসভালৈ ও নিৰ্বাচিত হৈছিল। ১৯৯১ চনত তেখেতে কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী হিচাপে কাৰ্যনিৰ্বাহ কৰাৰ উপৰি ১৯৯৭ চনত কংগ্ৰেছ সভাপতি আৰু কংগ্ৰেছ সংসদীয় দলৰ নেতা হিচাপে কাৰ্যনিৰ্বাহ কৰিছিল।

এই গৰাকী বৰ্ষীয়ান ৰাজনীতিজ্ঞৰ মৃত্যুত দেশৰ অপূৰণীয় ক্ষতি হয়।

৬। বিশিষ্ট নেত্ৰী, প্ৰাক্তন সাংসদ বিজয় ৰাজে সিন্ধিয়াৰ যোৱা ২৫-১-২০০১ তাৰিখে নতুন দিল্লীৰ এপল' হস্পিতালত ৮২ বছৰ বয়সত দেহাৱসান ঘটে।

ৰাজমাতা ৰূপে পৰিচিত বিজয়ৰাজে সিন্ধিয়াই ৫০ ৰ দশকতে ৰাজনীতিত প্ৰবেশ কৰি ১৯৫৭ চনত কংগ্ৰেছ দলৰ প্ৰাৰ্থী হিচাপে মধ্য প্ৰদেশৰ গুণা লোকসভা সমষ্টিৰ পৰা সাংসদলৈ নিৰ্বাচিত হয়। পুনৰ ১৯৬২ আৰু ১৯৭১ চনত লোকসভালৈ সাংসদ ৰূপে তেখেত নিৰ্বাচিত হয়। ৬০ ৰ দশকৰ শেষৰ পিনে কংগ্ৰেছ দল ত্যাগ কৰি তেখেতে ভাৰতীয় জনসংঘত যোগ দিয়ে আৰু বিশ্ব হিন্দু পৰিষদৰ লগত ওতপ্ৰেত জড়িত হৈ পৰে। ১৯৮০ চনত ভাৰতীয় জনতা পাৰ্টি গঠন কৰাত তেখেতে প্ৰধান ভূমিকা পালন কৰে। তেখেতে ১৯৮০ চনৰ পৰা ১৯৯৬ চন পৰ্যন্ত ভাৰতীয় জনতা পাৰ্টিৰ উপ-সভানেত্ৰী হিচাপে কাৰ্যনিৰ্বাহ কৰিছিল। শ্ৰীমতী সিন্ধিয়াই গুণা সমষ্টিৰ পৰা বি-জে-পিৰ প্ৰাৰ্থী হিচাপে ১৯৮৯, ১৯৯১, ১৯৯৬ আৰু ১৯৯৮ চনৰ নিৰ্বাচনত জয়ী হৈছিল। ১৯৭৮ চনত তেখেত ৰাজ্যসভালৈ ও নিৰ্বাচিত হৈছিল।

এই গৰাকী প্ৰবীণ তথা বৰ্ষীয়ান মহিলা ৰাজনীতিকৰ বিয়োগো দেশৰ বাবে অপূৰণীয় ক্ষতি।

৭। আন এগৰাকী বৰ্ষীয়ান কংগ্ৰেছ নেতা, প্ৰাক্তন কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডি এন গেডগিলৰ কালি ৬ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰীৰ পুৱা নতুন দিল্লীৰ সৰ্বভাৰতীয় আয়ুৰ্বিজ্ঞান প্ৰতিষ্ঠানত মৃত্যু হয়। মৃত্যুৰ সময়ত তেখেতৰ বয়স হৈছিল ৭২ বছৰ। ১৯২৮ চনৰ ২২ ছেপ্তেম্বৰত গেডগিলৰ পুণ্ডে জন্ম হৈছিল। ১৯৮০ চনৰ পৰা ১৯৯১ চনলৈ গেডগিলে এই পুণ্ডে সমষ্টিৰ পৰা লোক সভালৈ নিৰ্বাচিত হৈছিল। ১৯৭২ চনৰ পৰা ১৯৮০ চনলৈ আৰু ১৯৯৪ চনৰ পৰা ২০০০ চন পৰ্যন্ত তেখেত আছিল ৰাজ্য সভাৰ সদস্য। কেন্দ্ৰীয় যোগাযোগ, প্ৰতিৰক্ষা উৎপাদন ৰাজ্যমন্ত্ৰী আৰু তথ্য আৰু

প্ৰচাৰ মন্ত্ৰী ৰূপে কাৰ্য্য নিৰ্বাহ কৰা গেডগিল আছিল এগৰাকী বিচক্ষণ ৰাজনীতিবিদ।

গেডগিলৰ মৃত্যুত আমাৰ দেশে এগৰাকী অগ্ৰণী সমাজসেৱী ৰাজনীতিজ্ঞক হেৰুৱালে।

- ৮। জনতা দল (ইউনাইটেড) ৰ জ্যেষ্ঠ নেতা, কৰ্ণাটকৰ প্ৰাক্তন মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী জে. এইচ পেটেলৰ যোৱা ১২-১২-২০০০ তাৰিখে ৭১ বছৰ বয়সত দেহাৱসান ঘটে। ১৯৯৬ চনত কৰ্ণাটকৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী হিচাপে শাসন ভাৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰি তেখেতে বিধান সভা নিৰ্বাচনৰ আগে আগে পদত্যাগ কৰিছিল। তেখেতে ১৯৬৭ চনত লোক সভালৈ সদস্য নিৰ্বাচিত হৈ সদনৰ মজিয়াত কানাড়া ভাষাত ভাষণ দি ইতিহাস সৃষ্টি কৰিছিল।
এই গৰাকী প্ৰবীণ ৰাজনীতিবিদৰ মৃত্যুত দেশৰ এক পূৰাৰ নোৱাৰা ক্ষতি হয়।
- ৯। প্ৰবীণ কংগ্ৰেছ নেতা, প্ৰাক্তন সাংসদ জিতেন্দ্ৰ প্ৰসাদৰ যোৱা ১৬-১-২০০১ তাৰিখে নতুন দিল্লীৰ এপল' হাস্পাতালত চিকিৎসাধীন অৱস্থাত ৬২ বছৰ বয়সত দেহাৱসান ঘটে।
জিতেন্দ্ৰ প্ৰসাদে ১৯৭১ চনত সক্ৰিয় ৰাজনীতিত প্ৰবেশ কৰি কংগ্ৰেছ-ই দলৰ প্ৰাৰ্থী হিচাপে ছহাজাহানপুৰ সমষ্টিৰ পৰা লোক সভাৰ সদস্য ৰূপে নিৰ্বাচিত হয়। ইয়াৰ পিছতো তেখেত ১৯৮০, ১৯৮৪ আৰু ১৯৯৯ চনত লোকসভালৈ নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱাৰ উপৰিও ১৯৮৯ আৰু ১৯৯১ চনত ৰাজ্যসভালৈ ও নিৰ্বাচিত হৈছিল।
এই গৰাকী সক্ৰিয় প্ৰবীণ ৰাজনীতিবিদৰ মৃত্যুত দেশৰ এক পূৰাৰ নোৱাৰা ক্ষতি হয়।
- ১০। দেৰগাঁৱৰ বালিবাটত ১৯৩৯ চনত জন্ম গ্ৰহণ কৰা জিকিৰ সত্ৰাট ৰেকিবুদ্দিন আহমেদৰ যোৱা ১৪-১-২০০১ তাৰিখে এক পথ দুৰ্ঘটনাত আহত হৈ যোৰহাট অসামৰিক চিকিৎসালয়ত মৃত্যু হয়। তেখেতে দেৰগাঁৱতে স্কুলীয়া শিক্ষা আৰম্ভ কৰি যোৰহাটৰ জগন্নাথ বৰুৱা কলেজৰ পৰা স্নাতক ডিগ্ৰী লৈ জিকিৰ আৰু জাৰীৰ প্ৰচাৰত আত্মনিয়োগ কৰে। গুৰুযোগনীয়া হাইস্কুলত সহকাৰী শিক্ষক হিচাপে যোগদান কৰি শেষলৈ সেই শিক্ষানুষ্ঠানৰে অধ্যক্ষ হিচাপে তেখেত অৱসৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰে।
প্ৰায় চাৰি দশক জোৰা সাধনা আৰু একগ্ৰতাই ৰেকিবুদ্দিন আহমেদক জনমানসত

জিকিৰ সস্ৰাট ৰূপে প্ৰতিস্থিত কৰে। জিকিৰ আৰু জাৰীক ধৰ্ম্মীয় আৱেষ্টনীৰ পৰা সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ মাজলৈ নিয়াত ৰেকিবুদ্দিন আহমেদৰ বৰঙণি অতুলনীয়। তেখেতে জিকিৰৰ যোগেদি ৰাইজৰ মাজত সম্প্ৰীতি আৰু সমন্বয়ৰ এজনাজৰীডাল অধিক সুদৃঢ় কৰাত সহায় কৰিছিল। তেখেতক অসম চৰকাৰে শিল্পী পেঞ্চন আৰু ৰাজ্যিক শিল্পী বঁটাৰে সন্মানিত কৰিছিল। তেখেত আজান পীৰ বঁটাৰে সন্মানিত হৈছিল।

এই গৰাকী আজীৱন শিল্পীৰ লগতে সেই দুৰ্ঘটনাত মৃত্যু হোৱা তেখেতৰ সঙ্গীসকলৰ প্ৰতিও সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন কৰা হ'ল।

- ১১। শাস্ত্ৰীয় নৃত্যৰ বৰেণ্য শিল্পী, সঙ্গীত নাটক অকাডেমী-বঁটা বিজয়ী ৰসেশ্বৰ শইকীয়া বৰবায়নৰ যোৱা ১৪-১০-২০০০ তাৰিখে গুৱাহাটী চিকিৎসা মহাবিদ্যালয়ত চিকিৎসাধীন অৱস্থাত ৭২ বছৰ বয়সত মৃত্যু হয়। যোৰহাট জিলাৰ টীয়ক মৌজাৰ টিঙৰ গাঁৱত জন্ম গ্ৰহণ কৰা ৰসেশ্বৰ শইকীয়া দেৱে কমলাবাৰী সত্ৰত সত্ৰীয়া নৃত্যগীতৰ শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণ কৰি সত্ৰতেই বায়ন আৰু নৃত্যৰ প্ৰশিক্ষণ দিয়াৰ উপৰি অসম তথা ভাৰতৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইলৈ গৈ সত্ৰীয়া নৃত্য, সঙ্গীত পৰিবেশন কৰিছিল। ১৯৭৫ চনত তদানীন্তন ৰাষ্ট্ৰপতি ফখৰুউদ্দিন আলি আহমদৰ লগত সত্ৰীয়া নৃত্য ভাওনা গোটেৰ পৰিচালক হিচাপে তেখেতে ইণ্ডোনেচিয়া ভ্ৰমণ কৰে। ১৯৮০ চনত তেখেতে সত্ৰীয়া নৃত্যৰ বাবে সঙ্গীত নাটক অকাডেমী বঁটা লাভ কৰে। তেখেতে ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰৰ শিল্পী পেঞ্চন আৰু কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ পৰা সুকুমাৰ কলা বিষয়ত বিন্ধীয়া সাহায্য লাভ কৰিছিল। গুৱাহাটীৰ “সঙ্গীত সত্ৰ” বিদ্যালয়ৰো তেখেত প্ৰতিষ্ঠাপক অধ্যক্ষ আছিল।

এই গৰাকী শাস্ত্ৰীয় তথা সত্ৰীয়া সঙ্গীত নাটক শিল্পীৰ বিয়োগত আমাৰ সমাজৰ এক অপূৰণীয় ক্ষতি হয়।

- ১২। বিশিষ্ট মুক্তি যোদ্ধা, প্ৰবীণ সমাজকৰ্ম্মী মুৰুলীধৰ বৰঠাকুৰৰ যোৱা ২৮-১২-২০০০ তাৰিখে জামুগুৰিহাটৰ মাধৱ গাঁৱৰ নিজা বাসভৱনত ৮১ বছৰ বয়সত পৰলোকপ্ৰাপ্তি হয়।

তেখেতে হাইস্কুলত পঢ়ি থকা অৱস্থাতে ব্ৰিটিছ শাসনৰ বিৰুদ্ধে ভাৰতৰ স্বাধীনতা সংগ্ৰামত জপিয়াই পৰি কাৰাবাস খাটে। তেখেতে মৃত্যুৰ সময়লৈকে শোণিতপুৰ জিলা মুক্তি যুঁজাৰু সন্মিলনৰ সভাপতি হিচাপে কাৰ্য্যনিৰ্বাহ কৰিছিল।

এই গৰাকী প্ৰবীণ মুক্তি যোদ্ধাৰ বিয়োগত সমাজৰ এক অপূৰণীয় ক্ষতি হয়।

১৩। যোৱা ২৬ জানুৱাৰী, গণতন্ত্ৰ দিৱসৰ দিনা এক প্ৰলয়ংকৰী ভূমিকম্পই সমগ্ৰ গুজৰাট ৰাজ্যখনৰ কেবাহেজাৰ লোকৰ প্ৰাণহানি ঘটোৱাৰ উপৰিও ভূমিকম্পত লক্ষাধিক লোক আঘাতপ্ৰাপ্ত হয়। তদুপৰি ভূমিকম্পত সেই ৰাজ্যখনৰ ধন-জন আৰু সা-সম্পত্তিৰ বিস্তৰ ক্ষতি সাধন হয়।

এই বিধ্বংসী প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগত নিহত ব্যক্তি সকলৰ মৃত্যুত সমগ্ৰ দেশৰ পূৰ্বাৰ নোৱাৰা ক্ষতি সাধন হয়।

ওপৰত উল্লেখ কৰা মৃত ব্যক্তি সকলৰ পবিত্ৰ স্মৃতিত আৰু তেখেত সকলৰ বিদেহী আত্মাৰ সদগতি আৰু চিৰ শান্তি কামনা কৰি এতিয়া এক মিনিট কাল থিয় হৈ মৌনতা অৱলম্বন কৰিবৰ বাবে এই সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলৰ প্ৰতি মই অনুৰোধ জনালো।

শ্ৰীবুবুল দাস :- (মীন মন্ত্ৰী) মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মৰিগাওঁৰ পৰীণ মুক্তি যোদ্ধা সূচেন্দ্ৰ নাথ ডেকাৰ নামটো সোমাই দিব লাগে।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ :- সোমাই দিয়া হব। এতিয়া এক মিনিট কাল থিয় হৈ মৌনতা অৱলম্বন কৰিবৰ বাবে এই সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলৰ প্ৰতি মই অনুৰোধ জনালো।

(সদনত উপস্থিত থকা সকলোৱে থিয় হৈ এক মিনিট সময় মৌনতা অৱলম্বন কৰে।

Mr. Speaker :- The House stands adjourned till 9th February, 2001.

ADJOURNMENT

The House stood adjourned at 5.10 P.M. till 4.00 P.M. on Friday the 9th February, 2001.

D. Talukder,
Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assambly

Dispur
The 6th April, 2000.