

14.52 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION  
REAPPROVAL OF PROCLAMA-  
TION IN RELATION TO STATE  
OF ASSAM**

**AND**

**ASSAM BUDGET, 1981-82—  
GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**AND**

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(ASSAM), 1981-82—  
CONTD.**

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Now the House will take up further discussion on the Assam Budget. Shri Banatwalla.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Bodagara) :** I rise on a point of order. The Finance Minister is presenting the Budget for the State of Assam for the financial year 1981-82 (which begins on the 1st of April and ends on the last day of March, 1982).

Now, Sir, it is very important for the House and for the Finance Minister to consider certain important constitutional and legal implications of the step that we are taking and the action which the House is now being called upon to take. The House is aware of the background to the declaration made under Article 356 of the Constitution. I have gone through the Explanatory Memorandum as well as the Budget. I wish to point out that part of this amount which is being brought for the vote of the House today, has already been sanctioned and had already been spent by the Governor by proclaiming an ordinance on 1-4-81.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) :** It is a matter before the Assam High Court.

How can it come up here? It is before the Assam High Court.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :** Just hear me. On 1-4-81 the Governor of Assam promulgated an ordinance.

It is called Assam Appropriation Ordinance authorising the Government to withdraw money from the Consolidated Fund for four months which was not passed earlier and this has ended on 31st July 1981. This part of it is given. Now, what I would like to know is that around Rs. 200 crores were thus sanctioned and the question is whether it has been included in this budget or not. As far as I can see, I could not find any mention of this figure anywhere. I have gone through the statement laid on the Table of House by the Finance Minister as well as the Explanatory Memorandum. I presume that this budget is for the whole year from April, 1981 to March, 1982 which is being presented before this House. The question raised by the Hon. Member that the Opposition Parties have filed a case in Gauhati High Court is not my point. My point is: what happens to this amount of Rs. 200 crores and whether it has been included in the budget for April, 1981 to March, 1982. I would like the Hon. Finance Minister to give an explanation for this.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) :** Sir, Mr. Unnikrishnan is a senior Member and I do not expect him to raise this kind of objection. One is a vote on account, that is, for the first 4 months, a vote on account is passed till the regular budget is brought, till the entire budget for the whole year is brought forward in which the vote on account figures are matched and it is in the same way the original budget was presented in Assam for four

months with vote on account. Then we bring a budget for the whole year. The whole of the year's account is brought now which Assam did not pass as its budget. That is a very difficult situation in this year. That is why we have brought now the budget for the whole year.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we go to the next item—Assam budget.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government needs to be complimented on the patience it has shown on the protected negotiations with the Assam agitationists. However, my humble submission is that the basic issue generally referred to as the foreigners' issue, has to be settled on matters of principle. It cannot be just negotiated away. The people of Assam are not chattel. They are not dumb driven cattle to be negotiated away at the table. I would therefore urge upon the Government to be firm in their stand rather than have an oscillating stand. During the talks the entire issue has to be decided on matters of principle. Constitutional and legal provisions have to be taken into account. National and international commitments must be properly adhered to. There are also humanitarian considerations that cannot be thrown to winds.

Sir, Bangladesh has made it very clear that it will not accept any of those who had crossed over into Assam before 1971, that is, the year in which Bangladesh came into existence. Therefore, any negotiations with respect to the date of 1971, any deviation or concession with respect to the cut off date of 1971 will create an enormous or massive problem. The people cannot simply melt into the air. Therefore, I have said that this is an issue where principles should be taken into account. The Hon.

Home Minister had said that they are striving to have the maximum satisfaction of maximum people. Very good words he has used. But in striving to have the maximum satisfaction of the maximum people, the principles cannot be thrown away and the people of Assam cannot be negotiated away like that. There are all sorts of reports that are coming up. We are now told that the crucial issue with respect to the talks relates to the period from 1961 to 1971 or those who have entered Assam during this decade of 1961 to 1971. We are further told that a distinction is being made between 'authorised refugees' during this period and those others. What do you mean by 'authorised refugees'? We are told that 'authorised refugees' are those who belonged to the minority community in the then East Pakistan. In other words, they are Hindus. We are, therefore, in a state of pain and anguish to see that differentiations are being made between Hindus and Muslims who have entered during this period. These are differentiations on religious grounds. Sir, this cannot be tolerated. As I have said all these aspects have to be considered—the constitutional, the legal, the national commitments, the international commitments and the humanitarian considerations. People who are settled there for long, cannot simply be uprooted and thrown away.

15.00 hrs.

There is a proposal for dispersal of people from Assam. Sir, this makes mockery of humanitarian considerations. It is a human problem. People simply cannot be uprooted from one place and thrown away and asked to be settled into another environment. I must, therefore, say that such a suggestion

of dispersal is not only inadvisable but inhuman and unpracticable too.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Now, Sir, we are told that there is a thinking to have 1951 records as a basis to start with. We all know those records are defective ; they are not complete. Hence any reliance on those records is going to create a problem for a large number of people. I hope that the Government will consider all these various aspects that are there.

Sir, while coming to any solution with respect to this crucial issue, the representatives of the minorities and tribals in Assam must also be properly consulted. They are being ignored and that is why I have also moved a cut motion here.

I must, in deference to you, conclude by making just one point i.e. the question of rehabilitation of those who were affected during the violence at the time of Assam agitation. Nothing is being done. Even in the case of relief in natural calamity, whereas in 1980-81 the allocation was Rs. 13 crores and 70 lakhs, now in 1981 it has gone down to Rs. 3 crore 46 lakhs. Just see this. While I am speaking here, the Assam plains are facing the threat of fourth successive wave of floods. And these are the allocations that are being made. But apart from that those who were the victims of violence during the Assam agitation, must also be completely rehabilitated, must be compensated and there must be a separate allocation for this purpose. Sir, the economic problems of Assam must also be considered and a new economic deal must be given. I hope these few submissions that I have made in the limited time will receive due consideration of the Government.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, we have discussed this Assam issue a number of times in this House. Quite a lot has been said about it and quite a lot has also been written about it in the newspapers of the country; whether they are the dailies or weeklies, something or the other has always been appearing about Assam. We all had a feeling that people of Assam must have their own way of living according to their culture and so on. So, almost the entire country wanted to deal with this whole thing with understanding and patience and I think the effort generally was to understand their difficulties and problems—and to do as much as possible. I am glad that the Government adopted an attitude of complete patience and understanding, and did its best to solve the problems, keeping in view the totality of the picture and totality of the situation there.

After such a long time and after repeated and sustained efforts made by the Government and the Home Minister, a lot of interest taken by the prime Minister and the Central Government having shown a lot of patience with all concerned and even tolerated things for a long time, which normally should not be tolerated, I am sorry to say that a situation has arisen where I personally think that the Government has now to make up its mind and take a decision.

I feel there have been a lot of negotiations. I am not suggesting the calling off of negotiations. We have to see whether it is useful to drag on and on, and it is being dragged on already, to my mind for too a long a time. And dragging on for a long time will not serve any useful purpose. That is my opinion.

I want to say one thing more : some kind of a national consensus

[Sh. H.K.L. Bhagat]

has already been arrived at. The difficulty is that according to those who are negotiating on behalf of the students, all the political parties are irrelevant. They don't think that except for themselves, anybody else is relevant. That is what their argument is. And the pity of it is whether they are themselves relevant, and to what extent—to-day. That is the question to be seen. Sometimes it happens that somebody starts a thing, and then it becomes beyond them. My impression is that sometimes they seem to give the impression of agreeing to it; but later on they change. They don't stick to something which they are even willing to accept. Then they are carried away by other forces. Actually they have ceased to represent; they might have represented the students of Assam at one stage. But I am not sure whether they represent the students of Assam, as a whole, even to-day.

I understand that some elections took place in Gauhati and Dibrugarh. Their representatives won prestigious seats in Gauhati, and lost many others; and in the other university, they lost. Taking the picture of Assam as a whole, the population as a whole, all the groups as a whole and the student community as a whole, are they today relevant leaders of students? I have extreme doubts.

There is a party, and there are elements in Assam, whose interest is to create some kind of a regional party. Some of the leaders of the Gana Sangram Parishad have not hidden their intentions. They have said more than once what they wish. And their attitude sometimes is such that they don't like the students to come to a settlement. For how long can we drag on? We all know that on the 15th August, a call for *bandh* was given. "Imagine, on the 15th August a call for *bandh* was given. The national flag was insulted at several places. For how long can

we go on tolerating this and allow the situation to drift on and on?

Similarly, many things have happened, and there are many things which normally would not have been tolerated. I can call some of the activities as definitely anti-national. Some of the activities are definitely anti-national. But with a view to bringing about a solution, the Government was hanging on.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Government has given some more attention to the economic developments of Assam. Various plans have been made, and a good deal of money has been provided. The Prime Minister herself took interest. The Finance Minister has been, I think, sympathetic and something has been done, something has started moving. Some Committee has been appointed by the Central Government to carry forward the work and yet some people continue to be obstinate.

Now my friend Mr. Banatwalla was just now saying something about it. It is true that we have some national commitment, some international obligation. We have to show some human consideration. We have to be practical. We have to see all these things and, therefore, something has to be done. Therefore, I tell the Government, frankly speaking, to see now what had happened; what we saw. How some of the Government officials were behaving, taking part in the agitation, misbehaving and doing everything? That is what has happened.

There was a party at least I can say one party which has been definitely and even openly saying..... some times here and there they tried to say something and did something else, but sometimes they had been playing with it. It is the RSS; it is the Bharatiya Janata Party which has

been fanning the flames of that agitation, which has been trying to create trouble, trying to fish in the troubled water. So, I would say that quite a lot of water has flown under the bridge and enough is enough. I would, therefore, demand of the Government that a stage has come when they have to be forthright; they have to take a decision and take it unilaterally if they are not prepared to be reasonable and enforce it.

I know the problems, complications, record and I understand all these things. But the stage has come when enough is enough and take a decision and enforce it. After all nobody can be allowed to play with the unit of India. Assam is a border State, a sensitive State. You have shown patience and I do not want you to be impatient. But a stage has come when you must take a decision firm and forthright and take it unilaterally if you cannot do otherwise. Thank you.

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत (अरुमोड़ा) :  
अधिष्ठाता जी, मैं आप का आभारी हूँ कि आपने आसाम की समस्या पर मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया। राष्ट्रपति जी की जो घोषणा आसाम के संदर्भ में है और इसके अतिरिक्त माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने जो बजट पेश किया है, उसका समर्थन करने के लिए मैं यहाँ पर खड़ा हुआ हूँ।

मान्यवर, सन् 1980 में जब हमारी सरकार यहाँ थी, तो असम में आग लगी हुई थी और मैं सरकार को बर्बाद देता हूँ इस बात के लिए कि उसने बहुत कुछ हद तक उस आग को शान्त किया है और वहाँ पर जो कारोबार ठप्प पड़ा था, जो स्थिति असामान्य बनी हुई थी, उस स्थिति को सामान्य स्थिति में लाई। मैं सरकार के उन सारे कर्मचारियों को भी धन्यवाद देता हूँ,

जिन्होंने वहाँ पर स्थिति को सामान्य बनाने में अपने कर्तव्य-परायणता का परिचय दिया और विशेषकर श्री पार्थासार्थी जी, जो, जिनको ऐसे लोगों ने, जो पृथकसावादी तत्व थे, जो घृणा पर आधारित तत्व थे, मौत के घाट उतार दिया। मैं उनके परिवार के प्रति संवेदना व्यक्त करना अपना फर्ज समझता हूँ।

कल श्री सत्यसाधन चक्रवर्ती, प्रतिपक्ष की तरफ से सबसे पहले बोले थे और मुझे ताज्जुब हुआ कि उन्होंने एक तरफ तो यह कहा कि सरकार सक्ती के साथ असम की समस्या को नहीं निपटा रही है और उन्होंने हम पर यह आरोप लगाया है कि सरकार जो लिगूईस्टिक माइनोरिटीज है, जो रिलीजस माइनोरिटीज है, उनको प्राटेक्ट करने में असफल रही है और कमोवेश इसी प्रकार की बातें अभी हमारे विद्वान सदस्य, श्री बनातवाला साहब ने कही है। मैं चक्रवर्ती साहब और उनकी पार्टी के लोगों से कहना चाहूँगा कि हम ने प्रयास कर के अब वहाँ पर माइनोरिटीज के एक सदस्य और वह भी महिला को वहाँ का मुख्य मंत्री बनाया, तो ये प्रोफेसर साहब और उनकी पार्टी के लोग ही थे, जिन्होंने सबसे पहले, अपना समर्थन विड़ा करके अनबरा तैमूर की सरकार को गिराया। तो हमारे प्रतिपक्ष के कार्यों में दोगलापन देखने को मिलता है। यही तरीका उन्होंने असम में अपनाया। एक तरफ वे कहते हैं कि असम की समस्या को सुलझाया जाना चाहिए, वह सुलझायी नहीं जा रही है। मैं आप से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केवल गवर्नर के शासन के द्वारा असम की समस्या को सुलझाया जा सकता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि वह नहीं सुलझायी जा सकती है। इसीलिए हमने वहाँ थाबुकर

[श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत]

गवर्नमेंट की स्थापना की और इस बात की कोशिश की। लेकिन उस कोशिश में सहयोग देने और असम की विशेष स्थिति मानने के बजाय हमारे प्रतिपक्ष के लोगों ने हमारे हाथों को कमजोर किया, वहाँ की स्थिति को सामान्य बनाने की हमारी कोशिशों को नाकाम किया।

मान्यवर, मैं सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आसु और गण संग्राम परिषद् से बहुत कुछ बातचीत हो चुकी है और अभी भी उनसे बातचीत चल रही है। लेकिन जिस तरीके से वे अपना जिद्दी रवैया अपनाये हुए हैं उसमें अब ज्यादा कम्प्रोमाइज नहीं किया जा सकता है। क्योंकि जितना अधिक हम उन्हें अक्रोमोडेट करने की कोशिश करते हैं, वे और अधिक आशा से पीछे हटते जाते हैं। हमारे देश में बहुतों को तो इस बात पर भी शंका है कि क्या वे वास्तव में असम समस्या का हल चाहते हैं, क्या वे वास्तव में असम में सामान्य स्थिति लाना चाहते हैं ?

मान्यवर, मेरे जैसे लोगों और देश के बहुत सारे लोगों को अब इस बात की शंका होने लगी है कि आसु और गण संग्राम परिषद् के लोग कहीं किसी विदेशी शक्ति के इशारे पर तो काम नहीं कर रहे हैं। लोगों को तो यह भी शक है कि कुछ विदेशों से धन प्राप्त करके वे असम में काम कर रहे हैं और ये सारी बातें किसी बाहरी शक्ति के इशारे पर हो रही हैं जो यह नहीं चाहती है कि हिन्दुस्तान तरक्की करे, आगे बढ़े या अपना नियोजित विकास कर उन्नति करे। हो सकता है कि वे ताकतें आसु और गण संग्राम परिषद् के लोगों को अंधकार में रख कर काम कर रही हों। लेकिन जिस तरीके

से वे पैसा खर्च कर रहे हैं, उससे इस बात की सबसे ज्यादा पुष्टि होती है कि यह पैसा कहां से आ रहा है। वे लोग आन्दोलन के लिए और दिल्ली में शानदार तरीके से रहने के लिए इतना पैसा खर्च कर रहे हैं।

मान्यवर, जहाँ इस बात की जांच होनी चाहिए, वहाँ इस बात की भी जांच होनी चाहिए कि हमारे गांधी पीस फाउण्डेशन के वहाँ पर क्या क्रियाकलाप है। इस सदन के अन्दर और इस सदन के बाहर के नेता इस बात की जांच करें कि वे किस किस तरीके की एक्टिविटीज वहाँ पर चला रहे हैं। इसी तरह से राष्ट्रीय स्वयं-सेवक संघ के लोगों की भी वहाँ पर विशेष दिलचस्पी बनी हुई है। 1977 के बाद से आर० एस० एस० के लोग जो रोल वहाँ अदा कर रहे हैं उसमें शक की पूरी गुंजाइश है।

मान्यवर, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि असम के लोगों की आर्थिक विषमता और उनकी आर्थिक रूप से कमजोरी का लाभ उठाने के लिए आर० एस० एस० के लोग वहाँ के द्राइवेल लोगों के बीच में घुसना चाहते हैं। उनके जरिये वे वहाँ के भाषायी अल्पसंख्यक और अन्य अल्पसंख्यक लोगों के बीच नफरत की बात पैदा कर अपने को मजबूत करना चाहते हैं। मुझको यह कहते हुए भी दुःख होता है कि आर० एस० एस० का राजनीतिक मुखौटा भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नेताओं के बयानों से मेरी शंका की और भी पुष्टि होती है। आर० एस० एस० असम में सामान्य स्थिति बनने नहीं देना चाहता है।

मान्यवर, जो बजट वित्त मंत्री जी ने प्रस्तुत किया है, मैं उसके लिए उनको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। पहले बजट में लगभग 29 करोड़ रुपये का घाटा था जिसको घटाकर

वित्त मंत्री जी 14 करोड़ रुपये के घाटे पर ले आये हैं। इससे यह साफ जाहिर होता है कि अनवरत तैमूर मंत्रिमण्डल ने वहां स्थिति को सामान्य बनाने की कोशिश की और वहां राजस्व की भी ज्यादा प्राप्ति हुई। इसके लिए मैं सरकार को बधाई देता हूं। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी को भी बधाई देता हूं कि उन्होंने अपने बजट में नये निर्माण कार्यों का प्रावधान किया है जिससे असम की जनता में विश्वास जागेगा। मुझे आशा है कि वहां पर जो यातायात की समस्या है, सुदूर क्षेत्र है, उनको मुख्य मार्गों से जोड़ने के लिए तेजी से कदम उठाए जाएंगे। डी० जी० बी० आर० के द्वारा वहां जो कार्य किया जा रहा है वह सराहनीय है। इसी तरह से रेल मंत्रालय ने भी जो नए प्रस्ताव रखे हैं और जो नए काम शुरू करने की कोशिश है उससे मैं समझता हूं कि असम की आर्थिक तरक्की में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान मिलेगा।

असम के राजस्व प्राप्ति के दो—मुख्य साधन हैं—तेल और चाय। जहाँ तक तेल का सम्बन्ध है, व्यक्तिगत रूप से मैं इस बात का विरोधी हूँ कि किसी प्रान्त में कोई चीज पैदा होती हो तो उस प्रान्त के लोग विशेष रायलटी चाहें तो वह उनको दी जाए। हमें राष्ट्रीय हितों को ध्यान में रखना होगा। लेकिन असम की स्थिति विशेष है। असम में राजस्व प्राप्ति के साधन बहुत ही कम हैं। वह दूसरे प्रान्तों से बहुत ज्यादा पिछड़ा हुआ प्रान्त भी है। इसलिए वित्त मंत्री जी के माध्यम से मैं पेट्रोलियम मंत्री जी से तथा मंत्रिमंडल से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि तेल पर उसको जो रायलटी इस समय मिलती है और जो शायद-61 रुपये प्रति टन है इसको रीजनेबल एक्सटेंट तक बढ़ाया जाना चाहिए और इसको 150 रु० प्रति टन कर दिया जाना चाहिए।

इस समय इसू वहाँ बंगला देश से आए लोगों का है। बनातवाला साहब ने भी इसका जिक्र किया है। बंगला देश का कहना है कि वह उनको अपने यहाँ आने नहीं देगा। बनातवाला साहब से मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारा उद्देश्य भी उनको हटा कर बंगला देश भेजने का नहीं है। सामान्य स्थिति बनाने के लिए अगर हमारा कोई समझौता जो बातचीत चल रही है उसमें हो जाता है, और अगर उनको असम में एकमोडेट नहीं किया जा सकता है और उनको दूसरे प्रान्तों में एकमोडेट करने की कोशिश की जाती है तो इस बात का भी विशेष रूप से ध्यान रखा जाना चाहिए कि आसू और गण संग्राम परिषद के लोग कल को फिर से यह दबाव डालने के लिए आगे न आ जाएं कि आज तो हमने पचास लाख लोगों को दूसरी जगहों पर बसा दिया और कल को बीस-पच्चीस लाख और लोगों को दूसरे प्रान्तों में बसाया जाए। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार को इस मामले में सजग रहना चाहिए। जिस तत्परता के साथ सरकार असम की स्थिति को सामान्य बनाने की कोशिश कर रही है, उसके लिए वह सारे सदन की तरफ से बधाई की पात्र है।

अन्त में वित्त मंत्री जी को इतना सुन्दर बजट प्रस्तुत करने के लिए धन्यवाद देना हूँ।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) :  
Sir, I rise to take part in this debate on the Assam Budget with a deep sense of anguish and pain. This is because of the fact that the people of Assam have been groaning under the impact of a deliberate policy of neglect from the Centre for decades together. Naturally, the people of Assam have a legitimate grievance against the policies pursued by the

[Sh. Chitta Basu]

Centre for these decades. As a result of this mood of the masses of Assam, an agitation has taken place. But I have to say in the clearest possible terms that the leadership of the agitation has been taken by a group of misled youngmen who, instead of understanding the problems of the people of Assam in their proper perspective and solving them in the context of the all-India perspective, have taken to the path of violence, parochialism and sectarianism and they have fallen easy victims to the forces of destabilisation working around us. Therefore, even at this late stage, I would appeal to them that instead of encouraging the forces of separatism, they should take to the democratic process of getting their problems solved.

I am not opposed to the idea of a political solution of the problem of foreign nationals in Assam through negotiations. But I have got one complaint to make against the Government of India. The negotiations should not be there to negotiate the rights and liberties of the people of Assam, who are part and parcel of India. I wish to submit that the long drawn and protracted negotiation has lost its direction. It is not limited to a specific national contour. The national contour, as was decided by a national consensus, was that there should not be any going away from the national commitment, international obligations, the spirit and letter of the Constitution and finally the humanitarian approach. But unfortunately, I find that the representatives of the Government are continuing the dialogue or negotiations without adhering to these basic contours. And the national consensus is being violated. Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should bear in mind that the contours should be more in dealing with these forces which are engaged in anti-national activities to a certain extent and the movement which is clearly directed against

the minorities, both religious and linguistic.

I am also to make this submission that an attempt is being made to demarcate these minorities in Assam on the basis of religion. Some of them have come out openly to say that they are not opposed to Hindu refugees. But they are not in a position to accept those sections of the people who belong to the religious minorities of Muslims and who have made their hearth and home in Assam. In this way, a spirit of communalism is also being promoted. The Government should take note of this and see that the rights of the minorities whether they are Muslims or linguistic, are properly protected and that they should be allowed to remain in Assam as the citizens of Assam and India. Therefore, I want to give a note of warning to the Government.

Coming to the Budget, this Budget also reflects the very policy of neglect towards the people of Assam. I have analysed the Budget allocations in a great detail. But I have no time to explain all those. I will mention a few. There has been a substantial reduction in the allocation of funds particularly to the Brahmaputra control scheme. It is not necessary to emphasise the urgency of this scheme. By controlling the Brahmaputra we can generate more power and get more water for irrigation. This will benefit not only Assam but also the whole of India. A sum of Rs. 16.15 crores was allocated in the 1980-81 Budget for this scheme. In this Budget it has been reduced to Rs. 10 crores. Is it fair to the economy of Assam which is already in shambles.

Again about ways and means advances, a sum of Rs. 85 crores was allocated in the year 1980-81. This year it has been reduced to Rs. 50 crores when the Government of Assam needs more sustenance and assistance. On the other hand, I see



that the allocation for payment of interest on loans has increased. It was Rs. 31 crores in 1980-81 and it has now been increased to Rs. 38 crores. You should bear in mind reductions in other heads also. Last year, the allocation for irrigation and flood control was Rs. 29.72 crores. This year it has been reduced to Rs. 25.01 crores.

There are other instances also. Special assistance for development of backward areas is an important item for the development of not only the tribal people of Assam but of the entire north eastern region. Last year the amount was Rs. 2,80,12,000. This year it has been reduced to Rs. 1,90,87,000. Coming to roads and transport services, it was Rs. 28 lakhs last year and now it has been reduced to Rs. 2,90,000. There are several instances to show that Assam has not been shown its legitimate rights. For decades in the past a policy of neglect and a step-motherly attitude was followed in the case of Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is time to take up Private Members' Business.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I will conclude the next day.

15.30 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE  
MEMBERS' BILLS AND  
RESOLUTIONS TWENTY-FIFTH  
REPORT

SHRI RASHID MASOOD  
(Saharanpur) : I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private

Members' Bill's and Resolutions presented to the House on the 19th August, 1981."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 19th August, 1981."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.32 hrs.

SPECIAL COURT OF  
APPEAL FOR DEFENCE SER-  
VICES PERSONNEL BILL\*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Special Court of Appeal for Defence Services Personnel who are convicted by a court martial.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Special Court of Appeal for Defence Services Personnel who are convicted by a court martial."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : I introduce the Bill.

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