

[Shri Maganbhai Barot]

and establishing the Exim Bank, we are joining some of the world's advanced countries who have established similar institutions for taking care of their export-import trade. United State has done it. Japan stands first amongst the exporting nations and Japan has also established it. So, we are joining these two countries by providing for such an institution to coordinate our efforts. As Rangaji says, this is a long over-due measure which we have brought now.

Before I deal with the various points raised by hon. members, particularly Shri Satish Agarwal and others. It would like to refer to the speech of Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu, who opened the debate yesterday. He is normally known for his full preparation, but he appeared to be thoroughly unprepared so far as this subject is concerned. He spoke about everything except this Bill. He spoke about the Commerce Ministry, Tandon Report and everything except this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is now 5 o'clock. You can present the Assam Budget.

17.00 hrs.

ASSAM BUDGET, 1981-82

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): On behalf of Shri R. Venkataraman, Minister for Finance, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Assam for the year 1981-82.

Statement

Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Budget of Assam for the financial year 1981-82.

2. The Budget of the State of Assam for the current year was presented to the State Assembly on 23rd March, 1981. Though the demands on ac-

count for four months were voted by the State Assembly, the connected Appropriation Bill could not be passed before its prorogation by the Governor of Assam on 31st March, 1981. The State Government had thereafter to be placed in funds by the Governor by issue of an Ordinance authorising expenditure for a period of four months (1st April to 31st July, 1981). After the State was brought under President's rule on 30th June, 1981, the President, in pursuance of provision of article 357 (1)(c) of the Constitution, authorised further expenditure beyond July, 1981 pending sanction by Parliament.

3. The revenue receipts for the current year are estimated at Rs. 367.47 crores showing an improvement of Rs. 65.20 crores over the last year's Revised Estimate. This improvement is due to larger receipts from Central taxes and duties, revision of royalty on crude oil, better collections expected under State taxes and duties, besides larger Central grants for Plan schemes. The expenditure on revenue account for the current year is estimated at Rs. 385.67 crores showing an increase of Rs. 1658 crores over last year's Revised Estimate. The increase is mainly due to higher interest charges and larger provision for Plan schemes. The overall deficit for the current year, after taking into account the effect of transactions on Capital and Public Account, will be Rs. 19.04 crores as against Rs. 29.65 crores in the last year's Revised Estimates. The State Government will be considering measures to reduce the deficit to the maximum extent possible.

PLAN OUTLAY

4. Assam continues to enjoy the status of a special category State in allocation of Central assistance for the State Plans. The Annual Plan for 1981-82 envisages a financial outlay of Rs. 210 crores, of which Central assistance will be Rs. 159.10 crores and the State's contribution Rs. 50.90 crores. The State Plan for

the current year includes Rs. 45.94 crores for agriculture and allied services, Rs. 77.47 crores for power, Rs. 22.26 crores for health and other social and community services, Rs 19.20 crores for transport and communications, Rs. 16.10 crores for education and Rs. 14.80 crores for irrigation and flood control. The State Plan also includes Rs. 15 crores for Hill Areas development. Besides, a provision of Rs. 12.55 crores would be available for the Special Hill Plan. The Budget also provides for Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector Plan schemes amounting to about Rs. 42 crores; these include Brahmaputra Flood Control (Rs. 10.10 crores), Rural Water Supply (Rs. 5.59 crores), National Rural Employment Schemes (Rs. 7.87 crores), and NEC projects (Rs. 4.22 crores).

5. Food production in the State is expected to increase by 8 per cent during the current year. The rural development programme will receive further impetus with the decision to convert all blocks in the State into integrated rural development blocks. The National Rural Employment Programme envisages providing employment to about 1000 persons in every community development block in the State for about 100 days in a year. Provision is being made for extending drinking water supply to about 700 villages of which over 200 will be in tribal areas. In addition, 100 villages in plain areas and 48 villages in Hill Areas will be covered by the Centrally sponsored accelerated rural water supply programme.

6. In the power sector, the Bongaigaon Thermal Project and two units of 15 MW each of Lakwa Thermal Project have been commissioned. Three mobile gas turbine units have been installed to utilise the natural gas in the oil fields for generation of electricity. During the year, one more unit of the Lakwa Thermal Project, the second unit of the Bongaigaon Project and four more mobile gas turbine units are likely to be commis-

sioned. About 1600 villages are proposed to be electrified during the year bringing the total number of villages under the rural electrification programme to 7200.

7. During the year, about 900 kms of new roads would be constructed including about 150 kms in tribal areas. About 150 kms will also be surfaced. The extension of the broad gauge railway line from New Bongaigaon to Gauhati is expected to be completed by March, 1982.

8. Assam is visited by floods almost every year. Floods during the current season caused wide-spread damage to life and property. Besides, several roads and embankments have been extensively damaged. Prompt relief and rehabilitation measures have been taken to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people.

9. With the gradual restoration of normalcy in the State, it is hoped that the economy of the State would be quickly revived and the plan programmes speedily implemented.

10. As Hon'ble Members are aware, Government have been making earnest efforts to resolve the foreigners' problem in Assam. There have been several rounds of discussions to find a solution to the complicated problem. I do not wish to go into the details as the House is fully aware of the situation.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O. 610(E) (Hindi and English versions published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 1981 containing the President's Order in regard to the authorisation of expenditure out of the Consolidated fund of the State of Assam. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2607/81.]