

CPI-M support for Janata in Assam

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 5 — The Janata Party will form Government in Assam and the Union Territory of Arunachal.

The assumption of power in Assam will be with the help of the Plains Tribals Council and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), while the party is expected to provide the first popular Ministry to Arunachal on its own strength.

The CPI-M today formally intimated that it had decided to support the Janata Party in its effort

to provide a popular Government in Assam.

The strength of the Janata Party in a House of 126 is 53, while four seats have been bagged by its electoral ally, the Plains Tribals Council. The support of the 11 CPI-M members would raise the strength of the alliance to 68. There was no electoral alliance of the Janata with the CPI-M in Assam.

Janata Party General Secretary Rama Krishna Hegde, who has been appointed observer for the election of the leader of the State Legislature Party, left for Gauhati today along with the Union Minister from Assam, Mrs Renukadevi Barkataki, whose name was being mentioned as one of the aspirants to Chief Ministership. She categorically stated she was not in the run. Another observer is the Union Steel Minister, Mr Biju Patnaik, who will be reaching Gauhati tomorrow.

In the case of Arunachal, the party has already secured 15 seats with three results yet to be declared in a House of 30.

GAUHATI: Mr Golap Borbora, president of the Assam Janata Party, said here today efforts were being made to elect a leader of the legislature party unanimously tomorrow, reports Samachar.

Mr Borbora was speaking at a function organised by the State unit of the Yuva Janata to felicitate the newly elected Janata and Plains Tribals Council legislators.

Mr Dulal Chandra Baruah, vice-president of the State Janata and Mr Samar Brahma Choudhury, president of the PTCA, congratulated the people on their "just verdict" against the Congress rule.

Meanwhile, Janata Party sources today claimed that four Independent MLAs had joined the party. Some more Independents had also expressed their desire to join the party, they said.

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