

DISSIDENTS FORM 'ASOM JANATA DAL'

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By A Staff Reporter
GAUHATI, Aug. 23—The dissidents of the Assam Janata Party have formed a new political party with the name and style of Asom Janata Dol, to provide an alternative stable Government on the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy.

This was announced at a Press conference by the leaders of the dissident Janata legislators here today. The dissident leaders claimed that the "new party which would be a regional party with national outlook", would be able to provide a clean and efficient administration.

Dr. Tarini Mohan Barooa has been elected President of the party and Sri Mohan Lall Jalan its Secretary. Sri Gandhi Ram Timung and Sri Shanti Ranjan Dasgupta have been elected respectively Vice-President and Treasurer of the party. Sri Jalan, who was one of the Secretaries of the Janata Party, said that he had resigned from the primary membership of the Janata Party yesterday and has joined the new party.

Dr. Barooa will function as leader of the Legislative wing of the party till the election of the Chairman of the wing. The other office bearers of the Legislative wing and Sri Robin Choudhury (General Secretary), Sri Afzalur Rahman and Sri Silvius (Joint Secretaries) and Sri Keshab Chandra Gogoi (Treasurer). The party, pending preparation of its detailed manifesto has adopted a 12-point immediate programme.

According to a Press release of the party the 12-point programme includes "steps to implement land reforms in the real sense of the term", better medical facilities, top priority to solve the unemployment problem, encouragement to local talents and entrepreneurs in setting up industries both in private and public sectors, steps for realisation of Assam's due share of revenue from the Centre, introduction of Antodaya Programme and so on. It was

further stated that in the press release that "foreign nationals shall be screened and deported as under the law. However, in the process of deportation every care will be taken to see that no Indian citizen is ever harassed."

The dissident leaders further claimed that their strength would increase to 35 to 40 by next week. At present the dissidents' strength was 20, in addition to the four members of the Janata (S).

They said that they were in touch with "other parties" for their support and claimed that the left parties were also expected to extend their support as the new party has taken up a "left-oriented programme." The dissidents claimed that they would get support of at least 80 members in the House.

The leaders further stated they would meet the Governor soon and reiterate their demand for an emergent session of the Assembly. Asked about the possible step they might take in case the Chief Minister did not convene the emergent session, a dissident leader said that the only course would be a vote of no confidence against the Chief Minister.

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