

2-Day Polls Likely in Assam

From Our Special
representative

NEW DELHI, Sept. 18—Assam like most of the States feels that Parliamentary elections should be spread over at least two days in the State. The Chief Election Commissioner S L Shakhder who convened a conference of the Chief Secretaries and Election Commissioners of the States here wanted to get their views over his proposal to hold the elections all over the country in one day.

The Assam Chief Secretary Sri Paramasivam who attended the conference expressed the view that in a State like Assam where votes have to be taken in far-flung areas, it was not possible to complete the arrangements and to depute personnel to conduct the elections in one day.

Normally, he said it should take three days for Assam to complete such an operation. The Government would try to complete it in two days.

It has been proposed to increase the polling booths by 20 per cent over the previous elections so that one booth could serve 700 to 900 voters. This would need ten thousand polling booths in Assam. Fifty thousand personnel will have to be appointed to conduct the elections in Assam.

Collegiate Students Agitate

GAUHATI, Sept 18—The students of Cotton Collegiate H S School abstained from classes today protesting 'police assault' of peaceful students. They will resort to picketing for three days from tomorrow for not conceding the students demands in writing. Hill Areas, Soil Conservation and Jails.

Hazarika Ministry Expanded

By A Staff Reporter
CAUHATI, Sept. 18—With inclusion of six more members in the Cabinet, the strength of the Assam ministry headed by Sri Jogendra Nath Hazarika has now stood at 14.

The Governor, Sri L P Singh administered the oath of office and secrecy to those six members, three in Cabinet rank and three Ministers of State, at a swearing-in ceremony held at Janata Bhawan yesterday. The new Ministers of Cabinet rank are Sri Ramesh Chandra Saharia, Sri Sonalam Thaoson and Sri Santi Ranjan Dasgupta. The Ministers of State are: Sri Silvius Condpan, Dr Tarini Charan Das and Sri Afzalur Rahman.

ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS

According to a Press Note On the advice of the Chief Minister, Sri Jogendra Nath Hazarika, the Governor of Assam, Sri L P Singh is pleased to order the following revision in the allocation of portfolios among the members of the Council of Ministers

Sri Jogendra Nath Hazarika—Home, Political, Personnel, Administrative Reforms, General Administration, Panchayat & Community Development, Industries, Information and Public Relations, Agriculture and Excise and all other departments not allotted to any other Ministers, General coordination of all the departments.

Sri Ramesh Chandra Saharia—Forest Sericulture & Weaving, Khadi and Village Industries.

Sri Sona Ram Thaoson—Hill Areas, Soil Conservation and Jails.

Sri Santi Ranjan Dasgupta—Veterinary, Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Town and Country Planning, Municipal Administration.

Sri Zehurul Islam—Food Control and Minority Affairs.

Sri Rabindra Nath Choudhury—Irrigation and Fisheries, Minister of State. Sri Silvius Condpan—Rural Development.

Sri Afzalur Rahman—Registration.

Dr. Tarini Charan Das—Public Health Engineering.

Besides, the following Ministers of State will also assist the Ministers concerned in dealing with the subjects shown against their names

Sri Silvius Condpan—Land Revenue and Reforms; Sri Afzalur Rahman—Panchayat and Community Development and Minister of State. Dr. Tarini Charan Das—Town and Country Planning.

Order Restraining Felling Of Trees' Occupation

GAUHATI, Sept 18—The Government of Assam has issued an order restraining ACAP from felling of valuable trees and occupation of land at the north-east of Mandakata Hills, 3 miles from here.

In this connection, it may be mentioned here that 750 bighas of land have been allotted to this firm for cultivation of citronella.

There has been strong resentment over the wanton destruction of trees and huge allotment of land to an outsider in the name of citronella cultivation.

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