

# Hegde blames leaders too for Assam crisis

Our Staff Correspondent

GAUHATI, May 31.

JANATA Party General Secretary R K Hegde, who arrived here yesterday, left for Delhi today after meeting the Janata MLAs and other party leaders and ascertaining their views on the situation prevailing in the State Party.

He declined to disclose to news- men his assessment of the situation but was frank enough to observe that both the Central and the State party leaderships were to blame for allowing the crisis to develop so long without taking remedial measures in time.

It is due to this indifference

that the crisis had assumed the present magnitude, he opined.

He, however, hoped that both the no-changer and the pro-changer groups would abide by the decision of the Central leadership, whatever be that decision.

He was also of the definite opinion that election of office-bearer of the State Council of the party should be completed without further delay since members to the state council have already been elected.

During his stay, Mr Hegde attended a dinner hosted by Chief Minister Golap Borbora yesterday at which almost all Janata MLAs of both groups were present.

He met the State Cabinet this morning and addressed later a meeting of the Janata Legislature Party.

Significantly, Mr Hegde stayed away from a meeting of the State ad hoc committee held yesterday over which Mr Borbora presided as chairman.

The dissident group had strongly opposed the holding of the ad hoc committee meeting on the ground that after the members of the State Council had been elected, the old ad hoc committee had no locus standi in party affairs.

Mr Hegde's refusal to attend that meeting is being interpreted as his disapproval of the Chief Minister's action in convening the ad hoc body meeting.

According to informed sources, Mr Borbora came under severe criticism in that meeting for the way the Government was functioning and for alleged corruption of certain ministers.

The situation after Mr Hegde's visit seems to be that Mr Borbora will continue to lead the JLP while the High Command would try to bring about a rapprochement between the two groups without disturbing Mr Borbora.

Mr Borbora confirmed today that Steel Minister Biju Patnaik would visit Gauhati by the middle of June to achieve cohesion within the party. Till then, nothing significant is likely to happen.

## ASSAM OFFICIAL SUSPENDED

Our Staff Correspondent

GAUHATI, May 31 — Mr L Kakoti, Secretary of the Assam Agro-Industries development corporation Ltd., has been suspended with immediate effect for 'committing financial anomalies of serious type' said an official release issued yesterday.

*Patriot*

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*The Statesman*

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