

Janata for alliance in Assam

By Our Special Correspondent
NEW DELHI, October 29.

THE Assam Janata party has urged its central leadership to allow it to enter into an alliance with the state Congress (U) for toppling the Hazarika ministry and form a Janata-Congress (U) coalition in the state.

The Assam unit of the party has reacted enthusiastically to the report that the Congress (U) is prepared to have a poll alliance with the Janata party at the state level.

On behalf of the state unit, Mr. P. N. Sinha, Janata member of the dissolved Lok Sabha, has written to the party chief, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, seeking his permission to try out the "Maharashtra experiment" in Assam also. The reference obviously is to the continuance of Janata members in the Sharad Pawar ministry even though the Parallel Congress is lined up with the Congress (U) for the mid-term elections.

Mr. Sinha has suggested that Assam be chosen to test the sincerity of the Congress (U) move for a region-wise pact with the Janata party.

The Assam unit feels that it is an opportune time for such a pact with the Congress (U) in the state. It wants the pact to be concluded before the forthcoming session of the state assembly, opening on November 6, when a trial of strength is due to take place on the floor of the house. The Janata legislature party has already tabled a no-confidence motion against the Hazarika ministry.

CLEAR MAJORITY

The Janata party (39) and the Congress (U) (25) can give the alliance a clear majority of 64 members in a house of 125. It is also likely to get the support of two members of the Plains Tribal Council which, in the present circumstances, will give it the required stability.

If the alliance can be forged, and the Congress (U) is prepared to accept Mr. Golap Borbora as the chief minister, Mr. Sinha has suggested that the Congress (U) leader, Mr. Sarat Sinha, be made the deputy chief minister and the representation on the ministry should be in the proportion of 65 per cent for the Janata party, 29 per cent for the Congress (U) and six per cent for the PITCA.

The Assam unit has pointed out that the formation of the coalition could be the first step towards forging an electoral alliance with the Congress (U) for the mid-term elections. It feels that political expediency dictates that the three-party coalition is formed in the state since the party is now not in power either at the Centre or in the state, and with all the odds against it, it will be difficult for it to win an appreciable number of seats from the state.

The party finds itself at a disadvantage because of "the communal line adopted by the Congress (I) in whipping up Muslim sentiments. And, owing to the "ethnic distribution" of the voters, it may lose several seats in the coming contest.

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which has an electoral agreement with the Janata, was out of nine seats it had contested, while the CPI-M had a doubtful in the poll fray in the State bagged 11 seats. It was also in the electoral battle for the first time secured one seat. Of 115 candidates, 100 were returned.

The CPI won five seats, while four, SUCI two while the rest 12 seats went to Independent.

In the 1973 Assembly election, the CPI won 11 seats in the 116-member House. The Socialist Party won 10 seats in the 116-member House. The Socialist Party won 10 seats in the 116-member House. The Socialist Party won 10 seats in the 116-member House.

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There are over 100 new faces who will be entering the Assembly for the first time. Out of 92 sitting MLAs who contested, 69 have been elected and 23 returned.

There will be only one woman member in the new assembly—Jyoti Basu, Minister for PWD, Assam, who has won on Congress ticket.

A remarkable and encouraging sign of the election results is the emergence of a new party, the Janata Party. From 5 in the previous assembly, its strength has gone up to 39 in the new Assembly—a more than four-fold increase.

Although the left parties could not arrive at any alliance or understanding or adjustment of seats—the CPI's appeal to avoid mutual enmity between the left parties went unheeded—the people have opted for the left wherever they could, and this in spite of the vicious and venomous anti-Communist propaganda by some regional parties and forces.

One of the striking results is that it was well within the realm of possibility to have a left front government in Assam that time if the left parties could unite.

The coming of the Communist party has also the Janata Party is most conspicuous. For example, in the 1973 election, the CPI and the CPI(M) candidates polled 2236 and 2219 votes respectively. The CPI(M) vote was over 10,000. The CPI division helped the Janata Party to win with only 11,000 votes.

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