

Asom Janata Govt. Develops Cracks

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From Our Special Representative

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The Asom Janata Government has already developed cracks. Many even in the party doubt if it would stand till the first session of the Assembly that the Government would be required to face next month after the puja holiday.

The 17-member party feel that they could not stand of their own. Hence their salvation lies in either collaboration or merging with some other political parties. The question is with whom they should merge.

Some of the members want that they should merge with the local parties like the Jati-yatabadi Dal or the Purbanchalia Lok Parishad (PLP). Another group thinks they should merge with the newly formed Lok Dal.

The Janata (S) wants this merger more than anybody else. Another group thinks that their future would be safe in merging with Congress (I) while the last group want the party to merge with the Congress.

A 42-member delegation of

the Janata (S) joined the convention which formed the Lok Dal. Three MLAs and a Minister of the Assam Government belonging to the party attended the convention.

According to one of the participants Union Health Minister Sri Rabi Ray will attend to a convention in Assam on October 9 and 10. Like minded people would also be invited to attend the convention.

This will be followed by a convention of anti authoritarian and anti communal forces to be addressed by George Fernandes on October 17. A unit of the Lok Dal would formally inaugurate be in the convention. It was also tentatively decided that the Assam unit of the Lok Dal would contest four Lok Sabha seats in the December elections.

A leader of the Janata (S) disclosed that, according to the understanding they had with Chief Minister Sri J N Hazarika if the cabinet consisted of seven members the Janata (S) should have one member in the Cabinet. But if the cabinet is to be expanded they should have more representation. Even though the cabinet has now been expanded the representation of the party has remained at one. One more seat has been offered as Parliamentary Secretary. But the Janata (S) has refused to accept it on the ground that Sri Hazarika has violated the earlier agreement.

Sri Golam Osmani, another Janata (S) member who was offered the speakership has not accepted it so far. In the mean time Sri Osmani has left for Calcutta to attend the left party alliance convened by the CPI (M) of West Bengal to draw their strategy for forging a left alliance to fight the Parliament elections in the eastern region. Sri Osmani it is said, will represent the Assam Lok Dal.

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