

Assam, Naga CMs fail to resolve boundary row

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, April 10: Assam and Nagaland chief ministers who met here for three and a half hours today in the presence of the Union home minister, Mr. H. D. Patel, failed to sort out the inter-state boundary problem.

Besides the chief ministers, a minister from each of the two states and the chief secretaries of Assam and Nagaland were present. The Union home secretary, Mr. T. C. A. Srinivasawardhan, and another senior officer of the home ministry looking after the north-eastern states were also present. Though the officers were not prepared to comment, it was learnt that the representatives of the two states continued to stick to their stands.

Mr. Patel later agreed to hold another round of discussions tomorrow. This is the second meeting that the two chief ministers are having in the presence of Mr. Patel.

It is learnt that Nagaland is objecting to the presence of the Assam police in the reserved forests areas which are under dispute but are within Assam. Nagaland wants the presence of the Assam Rifles and the CRP but not that of the Assam police. This is not acceptable to Assam.

The Meghalaya chief minister who was expected to meet the Assam chief minister in the presence of Mr. Patel during the current round of talks to sort out inter-state boundary problems in the north-eastern region is not likely to come to Delhi soon. The Assam and Meghalaya chief ministers had met last week and agreed on the ground rules to demarcate the inter-state boundary. A meeting of the chief ministers of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh with Mr. Patel will take place as scheduled on April 12.

NINE DIE IN ASSAM CLASH:

Nine people were killed and 39 injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between two groups of labourers of the Saklatiga tea estate near Jorhat, in upper Assam, on Monday.

The deputy commissioner of Sibsagar district told UNI that the situation was under control and altogether 225 persons were arrested in this connection. Police pickets had been posted in the area to maintain peace, he said.

9 die in clash in tea estate

JORHAT, April 10 (UNI): Altogether 243 tea garden labourers have been arrested in connection with yesterday's clash between two groups of tea garden workers in Socklatings tea estate in which nine people were killed and 37 injured.

The district magistrate of Sibsagar has ordered a magisterial inquiry to ascertain if the management was involved and how the labourers had gathered there in such a short time.

Strong police pickets have been posted as a precautionary measure and prohibitory orders under section 144 Cr. P. C. promulgated banning meetings and processions in the tea estate and within a radius of 200 yards.

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