

# Assam Talks Virtually P2 Break Down

From Our Special Representative

**NEW DELHI, July 13.**—The committee-level discussion between Home Ministry and Law Ministry officers and the Assam leaders on the three-point Government plan to resettle with adequate incentives the "unauthorized foreigners" out of the State, virtually broke down this evening. The talks may not be resumed unless Mr Zail Singh, Union Home Minister, or, presumably, the Prime Minister, intervenes.

(The Assam leaders will meet Mr Zail Singh tomorrow, the All-Assam Students' Union general secretary, Mr Bhriгу Phukan, said late tonight, according to UNI. "This does not mean any change in our stand", he said.)

The All-Assam Students' Union president, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, said that in spite of two weeks of talks at the committee-level, the word "foreigner" had not been defined. "The Government must clearly spell out a formula for detection of a foreigner. We want to know clearly who is to be called a foreigner and this must be in terms of the law and the Constitution", he added after today's talks with the officers.

Mr Mahanta said the Union Home Minister's mini-committee had failed to find a solution to the foreign nationals problem "within the framework of the Constitution".

Other members of AASU, Mr Nurul Hasan and Mr Debakumar Bora, gave expression to their sense of frustration more categorically.

Mr Bora read out a statement: "Nothing could be evolved to our satisfaction at the 'mini-committee'. We are swearing by the Constitution but are being killed by the CRP. We have lost valuable time. Our meeting point is zero.

"Now it is clearly indicated that the Government is pushing us to streets. It is satyagraha and picketing for us after hours and hours of discussion."

He said: "We must now fight to the last drop of our blood".

A Government spokesman said that both the Assam delegations met in the "mini-committee" in two sessions lasting nearly three hours. The committee will report the outcome of the talks to the Union Home Minister tomorrow.

Asked if the Assam delegations had walked out of this evening's meeting, the spokesman replied in the negative, and stated that when the "mini-committee" met Mr Zail Singh tomorrow, the Assam delegations would be there. The spokesman held that the talks had not broken down. Only there had been no agreement.

The Assam movement leaders wanted the solution to be in terms of the Constitution and the law in force all over the country, whereas the Government officials stressed "policy instructions" that had been issued from time to time for grant of citizenship certificates to foreign nationals in Assam.

PTI adds: Mr Mahanta and Mr Phukan said tonight that while ready to continue negotiations, they would be compelled to renew the Assam movement in "a non-violent manner" if a solution was not found within the framework of the Constitution and the laws. They said that they did not consider the talks to have broken down.

## TWO LEADERS' STAND

The two leaders said: "Assam as an integral part of India will always welcome fellow-brothers and sisters from all other States as the Assam brothers and sisters are welcome in all parts of India. But, we cannot reconcile ourselves to any position which permits foreign nationals to stay in Assam illegally".

The Union accused the Centre of adamant attitude.

AASU's acting president, Mr Atul Koch and acting general secretary, Mr Bharat Narah, in a joint statement said it was most unfortunate and regrettable that despite a congenial atmosphere created by AASU and the AAGSP by postponing the agitation for the time being, the Government was adamant in finding an honourable solution to the issue.

Mr R. V. Subramaniam today joined as Advisor to the Assam Governor, Mr L. P. Singh, adds UNI. Another Advisor, Mr V. Natarajan, is likely to join soon.

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