

# AASU Leaders May Attend Tripartite Talks

**From Our Special Representative GAUHATI, Dec. 20.**—The Janata Party general secretary, Mr Ravindra Verma, told reporters here today that he had impressed upon the All Assam Students Union leaders that they should "respond favourably" to an invitation to the proposed tripartite talks on the foreign nationals issue. He felt that the student leaders' response would be positive.

Explaining his party's reason for not attending the earlier meeting with Opposition leaders in New Delhi, he said it was because his party wanted the Prime Minister to be present at the discussions—a condition which, he felt, would be fulfilled in the forthcoming meeting. The date of the meeting is yet to be announced.

Referring to alleged CRP and police excesses, he said they deserved the "severest condemna-

tion". The policy of precipitation and confrontation was blatantly undemocratic and fraught with danger. It was no way to create goodwill.

Following two days of talks with Janata legislators, members of the State Executive and other party leaders, including the Marxists, Ason Janata Dal (J. N. Hazarika), CPI, and the Lok Dal, he felt that the prospects of the alliance forming a Government in Assam were "very good". The Janata, he emphasized, would do everything possible to form a Government in Assam.

He said the Governor had no business to demand "certificates of participation" to satisfy his requirements of stability when there was ample precedence in Mrs Gandhi's minority Government with DMK support in the past and Mr Pillai's Ministry in Kerala. The Governor's action reeked of double standards. The sense of participation was evident in the election of a common leader for the legislature group of the alliance and the joint programme of action. Referring to their recent national council meeting at Ahmedabad, he said that it was decided that the Janata should do its utmost to revive the spirit of 1977.

UNI adds: The first State-level one-day convention of All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad began in Nowgong this evening. About 80 members, including two conveners of the AAGSP and an eight-member AASU delegation, are participating in the convention.

The convention, likely to continue till late tonight, reviewed the agitational programme of the past two years, and also the progress of negotiations with the Government on the foreign nationals issue.

The executive body of the AASU is meeting in Gauhati on Tuesday to take a decision on a formal communication of the Centre which it had received through the State Government in connexion with the tripartite talks and to chalk out their future agitational programme. The decision might be announced after a joint meeting with All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad on Wednesday.

## Assam Leader Leaves For Delhi

**GAUHATI, Dec. 20.**—Mr Keshob Chandra Gogoi, leader of the dissident group in the Assam Congress (I) Legislature Party left for New Delhi today to discuss with central leaders the formation of a Ministry in the State, reports PTL.

Mr Gogoi has been summoned to Delhi by the party high command to provide "some clarifications" about the strength of his supporters, according to Congress (I) sources here. They however, declined to elaborate on the issue.

Asked if the proposed extension of President's rule in the State would have some impact on the Ministry making process, the sources said: "It is immaterial" and added that their efforts to instal a Congress (I) Ministry would continue.

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