

# Centre Rejects Demand To Hold Talks At Guwahati

NEW DELHI, Nov. 17—The Centre has rejected the demand of Assam movement leaders that Guwahati should be the venue of the next round of talks on the future of foreign nationals, reports PTI.

Sri T N Chaturvedi, Union Home Secretary, has however, offered to fix a new date if November 19 at Delhi did not suit the representatives of All-Assam Students Union and All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad.

He has also pleaded that they should review the movement's decision to resume agitation on November 19.

In a letter to Sri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta of AASU and Sri Atul Bora of AAGSP, Sri Chaturvedi has written:

"I have given most careful thought to your suggestion to have talks at Guwahati on 21st November, but regret to say that it would not be convenient for me to do so. However, as I told you, I could make a brief visit to Guwahati sometime later if necessary.

"I have been, in fact, expecting a positive response to my invitation to have talks in Delhi on the 19th November. However if this date does not suit you, another date can be fixed.

"I am pained to know that, in the meantime, you have announced a programme of agitation from 19th November onwards. I trust that you would review your decision as it is extremely important to maintain an atmosphere conducive for finding a satisfactory solution and also avoid inconvenience to the people in Assam".

## 'NO QUESTION' OF REVIEW

According to a Guwahati report:

The Assam movement leaders said today there was 'no question' of their reviewing the decision to revive the agitation on the foreigners issue.

Asked about their reaction to the Union Home Secretary's plea made in his letter to the agitation leaders

today, Sri Bhriku Kumar Phukan, AASU General Secretary and Sri Atul Bora, AAGSP Convenor, told PTI that it was the Government's action which 'forced' them to resume the agitation. They were referring to the refusal by Government for permission to hold a mass rally here on November 10.

Sri Phukan and Sri Bora, however, added they had not received the Home Secretary's letter till 2000 hours.

Sri Chandra however, said the Union Home Secretary's letter was being delivered to the AASU and AAGSP tonight.

Sri Phukan and Sri Bora said had the rally, meant to explain their stand and also of the progress of the talks to the people, been allowed, the present situation would not have developed.

They reiterated that discussion and movement would go on simultaneously. The next round of talks would however largely depend upon the Government's attitude, they added.

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