

# Cong (I) govt in Assam likely

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Sept. 7.

The Congress (I) Parliamentary Board today considered the possibility of a Congress (I) Government in Assam, now under President's rule, with the Assembly in animated suspension.

The discussion was based on the report of the AICC (I) General Secretary, Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpayee, who visited Assam recently.

She appeared to be optimistic of the party's capacity to have popular rule restored.

In the Assembly with an effective strength of 120, the Congress (I) has 46 members, while six (representing tea garden labour areas) who had left the party, according to her, were anxious to return.

**Decision likely today:** It would not be difficult, she said, for the Congress (I) to get the support of another eight members. The Board is likely to make up its mind tomorrow.

The discussion was part of an overall review of the state of the organisation in most States, specially those in the north-eastern region. The Board favoured recognizing the Assam PCC.

The review covered party affairs in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, where the party set-up is to be overhauled under new chiefs. In Gujarat, the Chief Minister, Mr. Madhavsingh Solanki, who is also the PCC (I) President, is to give up the party post.

The reorganisation here was delayed because of sharp differences among various factions over the choice of his successor. The choice has now narrowed down to three to four members. The High Command would like to select a person who is not aligned to any faction, has a standing in the organisation and without being a rubber stamp could pull on smoothly with the Chief Minister.

In Andhra Pradesh, too, a new PCC (I) chief is to be chosen because of the induction of the present incumbent, Mr. M. A. Aziz, in the State Cabinet.

The Parliamentary Board was called primarily to select candidates for two Rajya Sabha seats from U.P. one from Sikkim and one Council vacancy in U.P. It decided to re-nominate the sitting member from Sikkim, Mr. Leonard Soloman Saring. Other decisions were deferred till tomorrow.

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