

# Cong. (I) prospect better in Assam

By Our Special Correspondent

SHILLONG, October 11.

**T**HE prospects of formation of a Congress (I) ministry in president-ruled Assam have brightened with the Centre agreeing, in principle, to set up a high-powered tribal development authority for supervision and co-ordination of development activities in the preponderantly tribal areas of the state.

The representatives of the Plains Tribal Council of Assam (PTCA) — a regional party — held discussions with Central leaders in New Delhi recently.

The PTCA leaders are understood to have demanded the setting up of an elected tribal development authority as a pre-condition for its support to the Congress (I) in the formation of a ministry in the state. The PTCA has four MLAs in the 125-member Assam assembly (effective strength 118).

Besides other things, the PTCA also demanded suitable amendment to chapter 10 of the Assam land and revenue regulations for effective protection of tribal land and retrospective restoration of alienated tribal lands.

The Union government is understood to have agreed to concede both demands of the PTCA.

According to political observers, these concessions have assured Congress (I) of PTCA support in its bid to form a popular government in the state.

However, the demand for change of leadership of the Assam Congress (I) legislature party continues to be the main hitch in the formation of a Congress (I) ministry in the state. While the former chief minister, Mrs. Anwara Taimur, is averse to the idea of stepping down from office, her detractors have made it plain to the Congress (I) high command that they would not accept her as their leader any more.

## Curfew imposed on tea estate

**GAUHATI, October 11 (UNI):** An indefinite curfew was imposed on the Nagrijali tea estate area, about 80 km. from here, early today following tension in wake of the police firing yesterday, according to official reports.

The reports said one person was seriously injured when a police party fired a few rounds to ward off an attack by a mob armed with lethal weapons. A CRP jawan was stated to be seriously injured in the attack.

The trouble started when a tea labourer was arrested in connection with an alleged assault on a policeman.

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