

Crucial Assam issues discussed

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By Our Special Correspondent

plementing the steps it promised to take.

NEW DELHI, November 2.

THE Assam talks continued for four hours today when crucial issues of defining a foreigner and detection, deportation and deletion from electoral rolls of illegal immigrants in Assam were discussed.

It was the fourth day of the 14th round of talks. The discussions have so far covered proposals for the strengthening of the border with Bangladesh so as to prevent illegal infiltration from the other side. The agitation leaders were of the view that infiltration was continuing because of inadequate manning of the border.

The proposals constituted the first four points of the 15-point charter presented by the agitation leaders to the government. There appeared to be a large measure of agreement on how to strengthen the border though the Assam movement leaders emphasised that the government should display a greater measure of earnestness by im-

The differences on whether the Assam police should be associated with the guarding of the border were said to have been gone through at the beginning of today's session, without any conclusion being reached.

But the major part of today's discussions was taken up by what has now been abbreviated to the "triple D" — detection, deportation and deletion of names from voters' lists. By and large, the exercise was said to be a restatement of their respective positions by both sides.

UNI adds: The Union home minister, Mr. Zail Singh, today apprised the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, of the progress at the three-day-old Assam talks as the government officials and agitation leaders concluded discussions on the latter's draft proposals for resolving the aliens' issue.

The All Assam Students Union (AASU) president, Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, told UNI that the government was expected to convey its views on their proposals tomorrow.

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