

# AASU To Participate In Talks If Held At Guwahati

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ASSAM NEWS

GUWAHATI, Nov. 11—The All Assam Students Union today decided to participate in the next round of talks with the Centre on foreigners issue provided the discussions are held in Guwahati, reports PTL.

This was the consensus at the meeting of the Executive, which reviewed the situation following denial of permission for holding a public rally by Assam agitation leaders here yesterday.

The Executive also decided to request the Central officials to have the talks on November 20 and 21, Sri Bhriku Kumar Phukan, AASU General Secretary, said here.

The Central Government had invited the Assam agitation leaders for the 15th round of talks in New Delhi from November 19 for solving the foreigners issue in Assam.

Sri Phukan said that the AASU had already expressed its "unwillingness" at the last round of talks to go to Delhi again and again.

He, however, made it emphatically clear that AASU was not against continuing the discussion. "Our doors are always open", Sri Phukan added.

The AASU's decision would be placed before the Central Executive Committee of the All Assam Gana Sangram Pa-

trishad scheduled to be held here tomorrow.

Sri Phukan said the Executive discussed the next phase of agitational programmes as the Centre failed to accept the demands of the agitation leaders.

The programmes would be announced after discussion at AAGSP meeting tomorrow.

## Local Dealers Hit By Import Of Nitrogenous Fertilizers

By A Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Nov. 11 — The import of nitrogenous fertilizers and its sale through outside firms threatens to wipe out the Dibrugarh District Fertilizer Dealers Association composed of local educated unemployed youths, scheduled cases, scheduled tribes, disabled ex-servicemen etc. from business and also the Namrup Fertilizer unit whose production is sufficient to meet the demand of the State.

This was stated in a memorandum submitted by the Association to Sri Prakash Mendra, Governor of Assam. The association, sponsored by the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited, is developing the local agricultural market and distributing fertilizer in the tea sector since the of the Corporation in 1969, the memorandum added.

Only through the efforts of the association in consumption of fertilizers had picked up substantially but presently agricultural demand being low, the tea gardens are the mainstay of the dealers, the memorandum said.

However, the induction of imported nitrogenous fertilizers into Assam through an outside firm and the sale of the same through certain firms run by some persons with the sole motive of earning easy money without any regard to the development of agriculture and tea in Assam, will affect not only the agriculture of Assam but will also be the death-knell for a large number of local entrepreneurs, who would be wiped out of the fertilizer business, the memorandum said.

## FSU Convention On November 14

GUWAHATI, Nov. 11 — The Assam State Committee of Friends of Soviet Union (FSU) will hold its first convention on November 14, at 5 p.m. at the State Central Library Auditorium, informs Sri Bishnu Prasad, Convenor of the State Committee of FSU.

Mit Yuri F. Sepelev, Consul General of USSR in India, Sri Yogendra Makwana, Union Minister of State for Nore, Professor D. P. Chattopadhyaya, former Union Minister, Sri Bipinpal Das, MP Chairman, State Committee of FSU will preside.

The delegation session will be held at 10 a.m. on the same day. A cultural show will be held in the evening.

The memorandum also stated that these outside firms are illegally quoting much lower rates to different tea companies despite statutory control under Essential Commodities Act.

The HFCL production unit at Namrup which produces a daily average of 1,000 tonnes urea and 250 tonnes sulphate of ammonia is sufficient to meet the demand of the State (both tea and agriculture) but for a substantial quantity moved out of the State to West Bengal, Bihar, UP etc.

Taking the plea of shortage of fertilizer, which was temporary, the Agricultural Development Commission appointed by the Government of India suggested the building of buffer stock. On this plea, a quantity much above requirement has been brought to the State creating an imbalance in supply and demand position and has resulted in heavy losses to the Government exchequer by way of transportation cost and blockage of scarce railway wagons, the memorandum added.

The Association demanded immediate stoppage, of bringing pool fertilizers to Assam through any Agencies other than HFCL, and of cross movement of fertilizers when there is adequate production at Namrup, strict compliance of regulation of Fertilizer Control Order etc.

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