

Efforts Underway To Form Ministry In Assam

By A Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Sept. 13—The Assam State Janata Legislature Party is understood to have circulated a 12-point draft minimum programme of action for consideration of the non-Congress (I) groups and parties in the Assembly as a basis for formation of a Popular Government in Assam which is currently under President's Rule.

The leader of the 27-member AILP, Sri Golap Barbar, has reportedly written to leaders of all the parties and groups in the House stressing the utmost and immediate need of forming a Ministry by the non-Congress (I) parties to end the authoritarian rule in the State. The draft action programme enclosed along with the letter outlines the basis for discussion among them in their efforts to form a Government.

It is understood that the parties and groups have favourably responded and some of them have started preliminary talks and a full-scale discussion among the leaders and representatives of the parties is expected soon to decide and finalise the strategy.

The non-Congress (I) groups and parties in the Assam Assembly claim a combined strength of about 87 members in the 126-member House which has at present an effective strength of 119 members including the Speaker. Six members have died while one has no voting right following a High Court judgement. The break-up of non-Congress (I) groups and parties in the House is as follows: Janata—27, CPM—11, CPI—6, RCP—4, PTC—4, PDE & Assam Janata—4, Congress (S)—3,

Lok Dal—One, BJP—One, CPI (ML)—One, Independents—3. Besides the tea labour group has a strength of seven members but two of them are said to be with Congress (I) and the other five who resigned from the Congress (I) have not joined any party or group.

Meanwhile, the Congress (I) is also making all-out efforts to form Government in the State but is divided over the leadership issue. The dissidents have openly challenged the leadership of Srimati Anwara Taimur and are demanding a change of leadership. They are in no mood to support her under any circumstances. Once their leadership question is settled the Congress (I) will also try to form a Government.

According to reports available here no group of parties have so far approached the Governor in this regard. The Governor is reported to have expressed his opinion that while considering the proposals and claims of the different groups for forming a Ministry the stability of the Government would be his foremost consideration.

THE ASSAM

Decision To Celebrate Sukapha Day

From Our Correspondent

SONARJ, Sept. 13 — It has been decided to celebrate December 2, 1881 (16th Aghon) as "Sukapha Divas" at Saraideo, the first capital place of the Ahom Kingdom, in memory of the day of which the Tai Prince Swargadeu Sukapha, the founder of the Ahom Kingdom, entered the Saumara Pith of Kamrupa in 1228 A.D.

For this purpose a reception committee, with Sri Ambaswar Chetia Prukon as President, Sri B. Bra. Borgohain as Secretary and Sri Durlal Chetia as Joint Secretaries and Sri Durlal Borgohain as Treasurer and Editor of the proposed souvenir, was formed at a meeting at Sonarj on August 30. Sri Upen Konwar presided.

By a resolution the meeting demanded of the Government to take care about the preservation of the monuments of the Ahom period which are facing ruin and by another resolution condemned the undemocratic behaviour of the Government by arresting the Editor and the printer of the Dainik Janambhumi.

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