

Expulsion of Goswami to strengthen moderates

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI Sept. 4 — While no date has yet been fixed for resumption talks between the Centre and the Assam leaders over the

foreigners issue, the feeling here is that the expulsion of Mr Jatni Goswami from the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) may strengthen the moderates.

The fact that differences persisted among the various constituents of the AAGSP and the All Assam Students Union (AASU) over the stand taken by the leaders at the talks was known here. But it was felt that the moderates, who had displayed a sense of compromise at the talks would find themselves strengthened as more people get fed up with the continuance of the agitation.

According to reports reaching here, Mr Goswami, who represented the Assam Sahitya Sabha in the AAGSP, had been opposed to the talks and was blamed for allegedly circulating leaflets criticising the leaders for forsaking the interest of the people of Assam and having a nice time in Delhi.

The expulsion of Mr Goswami by the AAGSP leadership possibly indicates that the Assam leaders have full faith in the members of the delegation who have been negotiating with the Centre on the foreigners issue.

The younger elements, regarded as hardliners, seem to feel that the best way to solve the foreigners' issue is through a negotiated settlement. They have made several concessions from their original stand in the interest of peace. Some of the constituents of the AAGSP dominated by politicians, however, seem to think that continuance of the agitation and confrontation suit them best and that a peaceful solution would harm their interest.

The Centre is prepared to receive another delegation of the Assam leaders for talks and hopes that the agitators have applied their minds to the suggestions made by it earlier and come to a decision which would lead to a final solution of the problem.

Meanwhile, UNI reports from Gauhati that Mr Goswami alleged today that his expulsion was the result of "a deep-rooted conspiracy" by the anti-agitation forces.

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