

Govt's Assurance To College Principals' Council

GUWAHATI, Sept 6—The Executive Committee of the Assam College Principals Council led by its president Dr Bhagaban Chandra Lahkar held discussions with Sri V Natarajan Adviser to the Governor of Assam the Education Secretary Sri U C Sarania and the DPI In-charge Dr S Bharali regarding the acute financial problems as well as other major problems of the aided colleges of Assam.

The Government side agreed to pay the colleges as arrear grants for the loss of fee income in 1980-81 subject to the concurrence of the Finance Department. The Council pressed for release of the entire instalments of dearness allowances of July 1979 and July 1980 before the Puja Vacation. The Adviser agreed to release the balance amount of the 1979 DA before Pulas but he said that a Government decision for the DA instalments of 1980 would be necessary which he assured would be done soon.

The deputationists of the Principals' Council pressed for relaxation of UGC norms for appointment of lecturers in the colleges on the ground of non-availability of candidates. The Government agreed to examine the matter in the light of the prevalent practices in West Bengal Orissa Bihar and UP etc. The Adviser also agreed to expedite the sanction of additional posts of lecturers to the Colleges enhanced shift allowance and Science laboratory Grants. The Government also agreed to examine the problems of the grade IV and grade III employees of the Colleges.

The Government also agreed to regularise the services of the Principals and teachers of the Colleges recently brought under the deficit system of grant-in-aid to examine necessary revision of the Management Rules of 1976 and the Employees Rules of 1961 and also to keep in indefinite abeyance the Finance Rules of 1976.

Protest Day Today

By A Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, Sept. 6—Students of Greater Guwahati will observe 'Protest Day' tomorrow by abstaining from their classes as a mark of protest against the arrest of Sri Devadutta Barkataki, a lecturer in chemistry and the Hostel Superintendent of the B Barooah College.

Meanwhile, the 16½ hours token fast in protest against the arrest of the lecturer by the students of the college came to an end at 5.30 am today. Several organisations including the All Assam Tribal Youth Students Union, Natun Sarania, Gandhi Basti Gana Sangram Parishad, Sandou Asom Nibanua Swartha Rakshi Samaj, Natun Sarania Mahila Samiti, Natun Sarania Volunteer Force etc, have extended their support to the 'Protest Day'.

Meanwhile, more details regarding the arrest have come to light. Sri Barkataki who was arrested on September 4 in connection with Gauhati P/S Case No. 160(3)81 U/S 3 of the Indian Explosive Substance Act, is still lodged in the police lock-up. Police simultaneously searched the hostel quarter of Sri Barkataki and his father's residence at Chandmari and seized three sheets of paper including one containing a rough sketch of some houses located on the GS Road, another containing notes on sulphuric acid (H₂SO₄) with rough sketches and names of four persons, and still another containing notes on iodine and fromine with a rough sketch.

Knowledgeable sources pointed out here, today that notes on chemical formulations are but natural in the quarter of a lecturer in chemistry and the sheet containing the rough sketch of some houses is reported to have been a former hostel superintendent's who got it prepared by an engineer for construction of his house on GS Road.

In the simultaneous search at the residence of Sri Durgadutta Barkataki, the father

of Sri D Barkataki, the police, allegedly ransacked the entire house and seized a passport size photograph of the lecturer.

In a statement to the Press Md. Matlur Rahman, convenor of All Gauhati Students Union (Ad Hoc), has informed that he had a talk with the Chief Secretary and the Advisers to the Governor wherein he demanded immediate and unconditional release of Sri Barkataki, but reportedly failed to get any assurance in this regard. He further alleged physical and mental torture on Sri Barkataki in the police lock up. He is subjected to harassing interrogation at odd times also.

The Pub Kamrup Students' Union, Pub Kamrup College Students' Union, Puthimari Students' Union and the Balhata Charali Gana Sangram Parishad have demanded the immediate release of Sri Barkataki.

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