

Left Parties Express Concern At Price Rise

By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 1 — A convention on price rise, suppression of democratic rights etc, called by five Left parties of Assam, namely CPI (M), CPI, RCPI, SUCI, RSP was held here at Nabin Bardoloi Hall on August 30 last. A Presidium consisting of Sri Achintya Bhattacharyya CPI-M, Sri Dhireswar Kalita CPI, Sri Khagan Barbarua RCPI, Sri Upen Bhatta RSP and Sri Udayan Ghosh SUCI guided the work of the meeting.

The Convention fixed September 25 next as the Demand Day for Statewide mass demonstrations.

A draft declaration with charter of minimum demand presented by Sri Promode Gogoi, MLA (CPI) and supported by leaders of other sponsoring parties expressed deep concern at the economic and political situation in the State and squarely put the blame on the Congress (I) Government. The refusal to pay a fair support price for the farmers' produce and ordinance banning strikes and working class and employees' movements against mounting cost of living has put unbearable hardship on the workers and urban middle class.

The declaration alleged that under the pressure of World Bank and IMF the Government is controlling not the price but the consumption. By allowing the capitalists to raise prices freely, it is compelling the people to eat less and dress less.

The people on the other hand are being prevented from protesting against these attacks on their living conditions through virtual bans on meetings and rallies.

The declaration put forward the following minimum demands for which the people of Assam must fight for: reduction of prices supply of essential items at cheap price fair price for agricultural produce introduction of food for work scheme Bak and Brahmaputra river

control withdrawal of ESMO and Presidential order banning strikes in Assam,

Indigenous People Of Cachar Support AASU's Approach

By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Sept 1 — The Indigenous People's Conference of Cachar have extended full support to the objective of the movement against the foreigners and the principle of discussion adopted by All Assam Students' Union.

The President of the conference, Shaidul Alam Choudhury, has, in a statement, said the indigenous people of Cachar have full faith in the secular approach of AASU that the foreigners of 196-71 period should be dispersed is justified. The attempt by the Government to graft citizenship to a section of the foreigners in the name of so-called 'national commitment' will only encourage anti-Assam forces and it is dangerous.

The statement says indigenous population of Cachar have been supporting the movement from the very beginning. This was demonstrated by a large section of the indigenous people by abstaining from the last Parliamentary election.

Appealing to the people of the Brahmaputra valley, to understanding the agony of the indigenous people of Ca-

char, Sri Choudhury continued that most of the indigenous people of Cachar are scattered in the interior places of the district and the urban areas are dominated by non-indigenous people. The census reports reveal this aspect clearly. The anti-Assam conspiracies are hatched in these urban areas and their narrow-minded political representatives receive undue publicity in the media.

However, the statement adds, these few politicians do not reflect the hopes and aspirations of the indigenous people of Cachar and these politicians have gradually widened the gap that exists between the Brahmaputra Valley and Cachar. The latest example of this unhealthy trend is the demand, by a few individuals, of a separate university for Cachar. The indigenous People's Conference strongly has opposed this political demand to satisfy a handful of politicians. Regional Engineering College, Medical College and other industries have been established in Cachar.

But sadly enough these have served no interest of the indigenous population of Cachar. On the other hand these establishments have helped Cachar to become a colony of people migrating from outside Assam and of foreigners from across the border. The creation of separate university will be another added attraction for the anti-Assam forces, Sri Choudhury says.

The Central Government and the people of Brahmaputra Valley must note these developments of Cachar which may lead to serious consequences. The attitude of indifference of the indigenous population of Brahmaputra Valley has given a free hand to the urbanite anti-Assam quarters

2 SEP 1981
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P2

2-September-1981
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of Cachar to indulge in all sorts of damaging activities". Extremely resenting the lack of impartiality of the District Administration, Sri Choudhury further said "In every stage of District Administration the indigenous people are neglected. Jobs of administrative machinery, industries, banks, Railway, P & T and educational institutions are cornered by the non-indigenous section only. Inclusion of names of persons from across the international border is a common occurrence. Non-citizens can earn easy living without obstruction from administration. It is a reality that the Government is not at all concerned about the welfare of the indigenous population of Cachar. Officers in charge of development works are guided and motivated by a particular section living in urban areas".

The statement says the indigenous people of Cachar have demanded relaying of Assamese news and other items of AIR, Guwahati, through Silchar AIR Centre. However, the vested interests located mainly in urban areas frustrated the move by lobbying in Delhi.

Sri Choudhury concluded his statement by saying that irrespective of language and religion goodwill exists among the indigenous people of the Brahmaputra Valley and Cachar. However, to strengthen it, opportunities to exchange ideas and means to communicate must be explored. The indigenous people of Assam will work along with the people of Brahmaputra Valley to safeguard the future interest of Assam".