

36-hour agitation planned in Assam

THE TIMES OF INDIA

By Our Special Correspondent
SHILLONG, December 3.

THE Assam agitation leaders today decided to launch a 36-hour civil disobedience movement from 5 a.m. on December 14.

The decision was taken jointly by the All-Assam Students' Union and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad in Gauhati.

The leaders of the two organisations said that the movement was being launched to force the government to come out with an acceptable solution of the foreign national problem without further delay.

The AASU and the AAGSP said that the proposed civil disobedience movement would be confined to forcible ticketless travel by people by all modes of government transport except the airlines.

A government spokesman in Dispur reacted by declaring the government's decision to maintain law and order and foil all attempts at violating law.

Mr. Prafulla Kumar Mohanta and Mr. Bhriku Kumar Phukan, president and general secretary of the AASU, respectively, said that all educational institutions in the state would remain closed during the proposed civil disobedience movement to enable the students to participate in the agitational programme.

The two AASU leaders said that massive rallies would be held through-

out the state from December 5 to 20 to mobilise public opinion for pressing the government to come forward with an acceptable solution.

Prayer meetings would be held all over the state to mourn those killed in police firing during the agitation.

A call was also given to the people of Assam to stall any government move to hold general elections or conduct census operations in the state without fulfilling the demand for revision of electoral rolls by deleting the names of foreign nationals. Any such attempt, the student leaders said, would be frustrated.

The AASU and the AAGSP executives condemned "police atrocities on non-violent agitators" and paid

homage to those who were killed in police firing.

UNI adds: Private vehicles would be exempt from the purview of the disobedience programme, according to the AAGSP leader, Mr. Atul Bora.

He said a committee comprising members from all the constituent units of the Gana Sangram Parishad and the AASU, had been formed to assess the success of the disobedience programme and suggest further action.

Sources close to today's joint meeting said although no formal decision had been taken, the movement leaders, depending on the success of the December 14-15 programme, might widen the scope of the disobedience agitation to embrace other vital aspects.

These aspects, according to sources, could include call to the people to refuse payment of land revenue and government bills and taxes.

The AASU and the AAGSP would meet again on December 22 and 23 to discuss the feasibility of introducing these aspects.

Imphal (UNI): A police party, led by the deputy superintendent of police of Manipur Central district was attacked by unidentified insurgents on Thursday morning at Keisamthong in Imphal town, according to a police source.

The source said that the insurgents fired several rounds at the jeep in which the police party were travelling. The police party returned the fire but no one was injured on either side. Some persons were later taken into custody for interrogation after a combing operation in the area.

Assam governor's act 'arbitrary'

GAUHATI, December 3 (PTI):

The non-Congress (I) opposition left and democratic alliance leaders in Assam today alleged that the governor's reported rejection of their claim to form a ministry has "seriously prejudiced" the alliance's efforts at ministry formation.

Addressing a crowded press conference here, the alliance leaders deplored the announcement made by Raj Bhavan in this regard.

This was "an open invitation for defection" to members of other parties to help the Congress (I) in its effort to form the government, the leaders said.

All parties, they said, had the constitutional right to make efforts or claim to form a government and in case of fulfillment or non-fulfilment of the constitutional requirements, the governor might or might not call them to form the government.

"PRINCIPLE VIOLATED"

"In no case has the governor any power to reject the claim," they added.

Mr. Sarat Chandra Sinha, leader of the left and democratic alliance, said the governor's action was violative of the principle, specially when the effort by the alliance was still continuing with his knowledge. He accused the governor of adopting "partisan attitude."

The alliance leaders said that the governor was informed that the decision of the SUCI, one of the constituents of the alliance, supporting the

proposed ministry would be communicated to him on December 1 and accordingly it was communicated to him on that date. "But, the governor arbitrarily and deliberately ignored this request and took the decision on November 30, thereby allowing the Raj Bhavan source to disclose something otherwise."

They pointed out that Dr. Tarini Charan Das, MLA, was present at Raj Bhavan to hand over his letter in support of the alliance. "If his letter has been withdrawn, through the process of procuring a letter from him, the administrative propriety requires personal verification," they added.

The alliance leaders said the governor should not nullify a majority under the plea of stability. Similarly, he had no prerogative to probe the participation of the parties in ministry-making.

4-December-1987-The Times of India