

600

agitators

held in Assam

By Our Special Correspondent

SHILLONG, December 15: The 36-hour "civil disobedience" movement in Assam, ended at 5 p.m. today with the situation in the state today remaining by and large peaceful.

According to the Assam chief secretary, Mr. Ramesh Chandra, at least 600 persons were taken into custody by the police for various offences, including ticketless travel, during the last 36 hours, many of the arrested persons were released tonight.

The chief secretary said that barring the incidents of stone-throwing at Nowgong and Sainpathar in Goalpara district and an abortive attempt to block the movement of a passenger train near Nowgong yesterday, the situation throughout the state remained peaceful. Window panes of a few buses were shattered in incidents of stone-throwing, he added.

Today, trains, escorted by armed police personnel, ran to full capacity and the public sector Assam State Road Transport Corporation bus services were maintained although with fewer passengers.

Indian Airlines flights and private buses and taxis, exempted from the purview of the "civil disobedience" movement, operated as usual.

An official spokesman at Dispur said the programme evoked a "poor response". But an AASU spokesman claimed that it was a "grand success."

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