

# Feelers to CPM on Assam govt.

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, October 31.

AFTER the collapse of the "left and democratic" experiment in Kerala, the CPM has found such a political grouping taking shape in Assam.

A resolution adopted by the central committee of the party, currently in session here, said today that the "democratic" parties like the Janata, the Congress (S) and the Lok Dal had started rethinking on their stand on the Assam agitation. Along with the CPM, they were now opposing the imposition of a minority government in the state.

Mr. E. M. S. Namboodiripad, CPM general secretary, who released the resolutions adopted by the central committee on Assam and Punjab, emphatically denied that his party had ever given support to the minority government of Mrs. Anwara Taimur in Assam.

When it was pointed out to him that by remaining "neutral" on the no-confidence motion against the Taimur government, the CPM had indirectly supported it by allowing it to remain in office, Mr. Namboodiripad, asked: "What was the alternative? Did you want us to support a government formed by secessionists (consisting of some opposition parties)? We could never have done that."

He said that his party was fighting against "secessionist forces" both in Assam and Punjab.

In Punjab, it was doing so by appealing to the "democratic-minded Akalis to dissociate themselves" from the Khalistan demand and "not allow the use of gurdwaras for anti-national activities."

The resolution, however, noted that the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC), the highest religious body of the Sikhs, "was used to pass a resolution calling for a 'Sikh nation' in the same way as the Jamat-e-Islami and the RSS are raising the slogan of a Muslim nation and a Hindu nation."

It also noted that the Talwandi group of Akalis had already launched a movement for the implementation of the Anandpur resolution which called for maintaining the separate independent entity of the Sikh panth.

The party has, however, found relief in the fact that talks have been initiated between the Akali Dal (L) and the central government in order to find amicable solutions to the issues that are aggravating communal tensions in Punjab and has wished the talks success.

In Assam, the resolution revealed that the "democratic parties" had approached the CPM to lend support to them to form a non-Congress (I) government, but the CPM demanded of them an unambiguous stand on the secessionist agitation. Nevertheless, it welcomed the "growing unity and understanding among the left parties and democratic forces" hoping that they would bring about a solution of the foreigners issue.

In Kerala, Mr. Namboodiripad told the press conference, that his party remained uncompromising on its decision of not supporting a government with Congress (I) participation. He also denied that he had offered support to a government formed by the Congress (S) from outside.

Asked why he was seeking a discussion with the Congress (S) chief, Mr. Sharad Pawar, if not to explore the possibility of forming a non-Con-

gress (I) government in the state, Mr. Namboodiripad said his purpose was to tell the Congress (S) leader what the central committee had stated in its resolution.

The resolution had said that the Congress (S) and the Kerala Congress (Mani), by their action, had "betrayed the trust" of the people, and that the CPM wanted fresh elections in the state to renew the trust.

# Agreement on Assam, Bangla border

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, October 31.

THE creation of a no man's land along the 270-km.-long Assam border with Bangladesh was agreed upon on the third day of talks on the Assam foreigners issue today, according to a spokesman of the All-Assam Students' Union, Mr. Bhriгу Phukan.

After today's hour-long session, the AASU and the AAGSP representatives claimed that a broad agreement had been reached with the government on measures to strengthen the border so as to prevent infiltration of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The government spokesman, however, only commented that the talks were cordial.

Among the measures agreed upon are said to be the reinforcing of barbed wire fencing along the border and increasing the number of border posts as well as more intensive patrolling by BSF men.

Starting the discussion in the fore-

noon, both sides appear to have gone into the issues with a sense of purpose so much so that they continued their talks without break till 3 p.m. The talks will be resumed on Monday.

If the agitation leaders' claim is correct, the two sides may have done well by starting with the least controversial issue, thereby creating the proper atmosphere for grappling with more complicated questions like defining a "foreigner" and laying down the modalities for their detection, dispersal and deportation.

The pall of gloom that marked the talks on the opening day may go if the agitation leaders choose to be more accommodating when these issues come up for discussion from Monday onwards.

Today's marathon session was not attended by the cabinet secretary Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao Saheb, who leads the government team; but since the talks covered only questions of security, the presence of the home secretary, Mr. T. N. Chaturvedi, and the additional home secretary Mr. M. L. Chaturvedi, was obviously considered adequate.

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