AICC (I) Team Arriving Today To Select New ACLP Leader

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FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

NEW DELHI, NOV. 21—A THREE-MEMBER AICC (I) TEAM IS VISITING GUWAHATI TOMORROW TO SELECT A SUCCESSOR TO SRIMATI ANWARA TAIMUR, AS THE LEADER OF THE CONGRESS (I) LEGISLATURE PARTY. THE TEAM WILL CONSIST OF TWO MPs AND A CENTRAL MINISTER. THE NAMES ARE EXPECTED TO BE FINALISED TONIGHT.

Sources close to the Congress (I) High Command confirmed that Srimati Anwara Taimur has been given clear indications that the High Command proposes to replace her as the leader of the Congress (I) Legislature Party in Assam.

It is interesting that in her statement denying that she had been asked to step down Srimati Taimur mentioned the names of the Prime Minister and the Home Minister as the two leaders who she met and to whom she gave the assessment of the political situation in the State. It is only the half of the story. The other part is that both Srimati Indira Gandhi and Sri Zail Singh, advised her to see Sri Pranab Mukherjee, who is dealing with Assam. She met him in the morning to receive the final decision. In her statement nothing of this meeting had been mentioned.

The three-member team would meet the Congress (I) MLAs separately and assess their views on the party's leadership. On their recommendation the new leader will be named by the High Command.

Openly there are four aspirants. They are Sri Hiteswar Saikia, Sri Keshav Gogoi (both MLAs), Sri Bipinpal Das, MP, and Sri Tarun Gogoi, former MP and one of the General Secretaries of the AICC (I). But there are others waiting on the wings and their number is also not too small.

Congress (I) move to elect a new leader of the Legislature Party is regarded as purely tactical. It wants to stall the move of the nine-party Alliance to form a Ministry. Change of the leader, they believe, would induce members from other parties to join the party and give it single majority in the House with an effective strength of 119 members.

Arrests Condemned

GUWAHATI, Nov. 27—The Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba-Chatra Parishad has condemned the "indiscriminate arrest" of the Parishad's membres. In a statement it said police arrested Sri Tarini Kalita, the Treasurer of the Parishad at Nalbari. He was arrested along with several other student leaders while returning after addressing a public rally yesterday.

The Parishad condemned the arrest of six members of the Parishad at Guwahati yesterday. The arrested persons are Sri Mausam Mahanta, Sri Prabin Deka, Sri Achinta Barman, Sri Mukul Bora, Sri Jogen Kalita, and Sri Saroi Sarma. Along with them an aged and high blood pressure patient, Sri Nagen Saikia, was also allegedly arrested. The arrested persons are allegedly being ill-treated at the Dispur police station. The statement called upon the Government to put and end to such indiscriminate arrests and harassment and demanded their immediate release.

The Assistant General Secretary of the Cotton College Students Union, Sri Harendranath Tlaukdar, was arrested at Nalbari while going to address a mass rally there, The Cotton College Students Union has condemned his arrest and demanded immediate release.

The All Guwahati Students Union in a statement today said that police and CRP men today entered the Central workshop of the Assam State Road Transport Corporation at Paltanbazar and arrested a number of employees of the corporation. The AGSU has condemned the police action and arrest.

The students of the Arya Vidyapeeth today abstained from their classes in protest against arrest of Sri Prabin Deka, Sri Satyen Talukdar, Sri Rajib Sarma, Sri Mausam Mahanat, Sri Achinta Barman, students of the college on imaginary grounds.

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