

Assam CLP-I to elect new leader

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Nov. 26—The Congress-I Central leaders are hopeful that the party will be able to secure a majority in the Assam Legislature Party, after Mrs Anwara Taimur steps down from leadership, and forms a Government.

The advice to give up the post of the leader of the Congress-I Legislature Party was given to Mrs Taimur following the recommendation of some Central leaders who visited the State recently.

They told Mrs Indira Gandhi that return of popular rule in Assam was not possible unless the Congress-I Legislature Party elected a new leader. The State Governor has reportedly conveyed to the Central leaders that the claim of the left democratic front to majority support in the Assembly could not be substantiated because some of the 64 MLAs, whose names figured in the list submitted by Mr Sarat Sinha indicated that their support could not be taken for granted.

AICC-I general secretary, Dr

Rajendra Kumari Bajpai and the Union Minister of State for Home, Mr Yogenendra Makwana are understood to have recommended a change in the party leadership in the State. Dr Bajpai and the Law Minister, Mr Shiv Shankar are expected to visit Gauhati soon to supervise the election of a new leader by the Legislature Party as there are many contenders in the field.

The expectation here is that after the change in the leadership, many MLAs belonging to the non-Congress-I front will join Mrs Gandhi's party and give it a majority in the Assembly.

Meanwhile, the situation in the State in the light of the proposed "rasta roko" agitation from November 30, was discussed today by the senior Central officials including the Cabinet Secretary and the Home Secretary.

NEW DELHI: Mrs Anwara Taimur, former Assam Chief Minister, today described as "false and motivated" reports that the Congress-

I High Command had asked her to step down from the leadership of the State Congress-I Legislature Party, adds UNI.

In a statement, she said she had met Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Home Minister Zail Singh yesterday to apprise them about the latest political situation in the State.

Mrs Taimur said as the single largest party in the State Assembly, which has staked its claim to form a Government in the state, such reports will confuse party members.