

Arrest Of Employees: IS Office At Tezpur Remains Closed

From Our Correspondent
TEZPUR, Dec. 19—The office of the Inspector of Schools here remained closed today as a result of the arrest of almost all the employees of the office yesterday. The office remained closed today for want of employees. Only the Inspector of Schools and two other fourth grade employees attended the office today. The office is under lock and key today. The employees participated in the 'Protest Day' yesterday.

It is reported that out of total strength of 26 both ministerial and fourth grade staff 20 were arrested by the police yesterday. One office Assistant was on leave and another Assistant was in Guwahati on official duty and the two Sports Officers were on field duty. A piquant situation arises here when all the arrested employees refused to go on bail it is learnt.

Our Nowgong correspondent adds: The students of Nowgong college boycotted their classes and hoisted black flag today in protest of non-participation in the 'Protest Day' yesterday by the teaching staff of the college. The teacher unit is the member of the Nowgong Karmachari Parishad. They also protested against the unauthorised entry of CRP into the college campus, while the students were organising a meeting to discuss about non observance of the Protest Day by their teachers. The students also warned their teachers not to sabotage the future programme.

Meanwhile, all the arrested office bearers of Nowgong Amchalik Karmachari Parishad namely its President, Sri Puspita Bora, Secretary, Sri Nagen Saikia, Organising Secretary, Sri Jibeswar Goswami and Sri Lalit Sarma and Sri Ghana Nath Bora were enlarged on bail by the court yesterday.

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Assam's Demand For More Plan Allocations Rejected

FROM OUR SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE

NEW DELHI, DEC. 19—
ASSAM IS NOT AGREEABLE
TO ACCEPT THE NEXT
YEAR'S PLAN SIZE EQUAL
TO THIS YEAR'S WHICH
WILL MEAN RS. 210 CRO-
RES. ASSAM HAS SOUGHT
A HIGHER ALLOCATION OF
RS. 310 CRORES.

The team of Assam Government officials consisting of the two Advisers and the Financial Commissioner led by the Governor, Sri Prakash Mehrotra had a two-hour discussion with the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Sri S B Chavan and his team of officials. They insisted that in view of the difficult resources position and Assam's inability to make its contribution in the current plan, the coming year's plan should also be restricted to the size of the current year.

The Governor, Sri Mehrotra made a strong plea that unless the Plan allocations were higher Assam would not be able to meet her various commitments. The Planning Commission must realise that considering the backlog of years there must be better job opportunities for the educated young men and women of the State. This is one of the causes of the unrest in the State now. Assam has been put in the special category and there should be special considera-

tion for the State also in the matter of investment.

However, the Planning Commission could not agree to the State's demand and the Governor met the Finance Minister to fight his case. There would therefore be a second round of discussions on December 22.

It may be recalled that the working group recommended a plan of the size of Rs. 239 crores for Assam earlier. In the current year's plan there is a gap of Rs. 98 crores. Due to various factors Assam was not able to make its contribution to the Plan to the extent that the Planning Commission wanted. But the Commission did not take into consideration the injustice in the matter of oil royalty to the State. Sri Mehrotra will emphasise this point during his discussions with the Finance Minister.

The Governor met the Industries Minister, Sri N D Tewari and impressed on him to locate a unit of the HMT in the State. The Governor pointed out that the Industries Minister should take more interest in starting industrial units in the State, so that the State could progress in the industrial sector. Sri Tewari assured Sri Mehrotra that he would set up the HMT unit as also some medium and minor industries in the State. He pointed out that his Deputy Minister, Sri P A Sangma, who hails from that area has already been taking a number of steps for industrial development of the entire region.

The Governor is sore that the Railway Ministry has not found it feasible to make the

Silghat bridge into a rail-cum-road one. He is meeting the Railway Minister, Sri Kedar Pandey to press this demand further. He will also insist on that the proposed Joghopa bridge should be a rail-cum-road one so that the south bank of the Brahmaputra could be opened for railway communication.

Sri Mehrotra fully agreed that the BG railway line from Saraighat bridge to Guwahati should go along the National Highway touching Dispur and then joining Narengi, instead of following the town. This would only help making Guwahati into a bigger slum, he said.

ARMY CHIEF MEETING

Another important engagement that the Governor had here was with the Chief of Army Staff, General Krishna Rao. It was a social call, Sri Mehrotra told this reporter. But that may not be the whole truth. Social calls are not made in offices. Asked pointedly whether it is a fact that the Army Chief is not very happy in calling out his men and officers in aid of the civil authorities in Assam on all occasions, Sri Mehrotra denied it completely.

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