

Assam left parties stake claim

GAUHATI, November 16 (UNI).

REPRESENTATIVES of the nine left and democratic party combine in Assam, led by Mr. Sarat Chandra Sinha, met the governor, Mr. Prakash Mehrotra, at Raj Bhavan here today and staked their claim to form a ministry.

A spokesman of the alliance said they had submitted a list of 64 members to the governor in support of their claim.

The Assam assembly has a strength of 126 members. Six seats are vacant.

Earlier, Mr. Sinha, a former chief minister, was elected leader of the alliance unanimously, the spokesman said. He belongs to the Congress (S).

The nine parties are: the Congress

(S), the Janata, the CPM, the CPI, the RCPI, the Assam Janata, the Progressive Democratic Front, the Lok Dal and the SUCI.

The RSP, which has no representative in the assembly, has sided with the alliance.

Meanwhile, the All-Assam Minority Students' Union opposed the proposed 36-hour statewide bandh on Thursday and the "rasto roko" programme on November 30 called by the All-Assam Students' Union and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad.

In a joint statement, the AAMSU vice-president, Mr. Maktar Hussain, and the general secretary, Mr. Azgar Ali, appealed to the AASU and the AAGSP not to take the path of agitation again but come forward with constructive views for a discussion with the government to find an acceptable solution of the foreigners issue.

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