

Assam alert against “people’s curfew”

GAUHATI, January 24
: 1 (UNI).

THE Assam government today tightened security measures in the state and alerted troops to assist the civil authorities, if necessary, to maintain law and order in view of the “statewide dawn-to-dusk people’s curfew” called by the agitators on Republic Day.

An official spokesman told UNI today that adequate forces were being deployed all over the state and instructions had already been sent to the district authorities to prevent any disturbance on Republic Day and, if necessary, to take the help of troops.

The spokesman said preparations were being made to celebrate Republic Day. Ministers would leave tomorrow for different parts of the state to take part in various functions.

The main function would be held at Janata Bhavan field at Dispur, near here, where the chief minister, Mr. Gogoi, would hoist the national flag, the spokesman added.

The All-Assam Students’ Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), the sponsors of the foreigners issue agita-

tion, have given the “people’s curfew” call to protest against the “curtailment of the democratic rights of the citizens and the murders committed by the government.”

Reaffirming their respect for the constitution and the national flag, they appealed to the people to stay indoors from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Republic Day and said the protest was only against the “misuse of power by the government.”

They also called upon their volunteer forces and the people to keep an eye on violators of the “curfew” and to maintain peace at any cost.

The “curfew” comes at the end of a month-long agitation programme worked out jointly by the AASU and the AAGSP.

The chief minister last night sought help and co-operation from all sections of the people to create a cordial atmosphere and appealed to them to refrain from activities which might create tensions and bitterness.

He also appealed to the agitation leaders to call off their agitation in view of the tripartite talks which had given a new hope for an early solution to the vexed problem.

The Communist Party of India also appealed to the sponsors of the agitation to call off the programme and urged the state government to withdraw “repressive” measures to create

a climate conducive to the success of the tripartite talks.

The Assam Pradesh Youth Congress (I) president, Mr. Naren Sarmal, also called upon the agitation leaders to withdraw their non-cooperation call.

In a statement, he said they had no right to curtail the democratic rights of the people by imposing “curfew.”

New Delhi (PTI): The central executive committee of the CPI on Sunday condemned the “arbitrary action” of the Central government in imposing a “minority” Congress (I) government in Assam by ignoring the legitimate claim of the left and democratic alliance commanding an absolute majority of 65 members out of an effective strength of 119 of the house.

In a press release, the committee called the action a “shameless violation of all elementary norms of parliamentary practice and a fraud committed on the constitution of our country.”

It called the method adopted by the newly-appointed governor of Assam and Meghalaya to set up the ministry as “unheard of.”

Imphal (PTI): The left front in Manipur will “boycott” the Republic Day celebration to protest against the “government’s failure” to declare ‘May Day’ and September 30, the birthday of Hajim Irabot Singh, a patriot, as government holidays.

25-January-1982.

the times of India,