

Left front claims majority support in Assam House

Hindustan Times Correspondent

GAUHATI, Jan. 12 — The Congress-I, which is trying to come back to power in Assam following the change in leadership, still faces many problems because of the resignation of four MLAs yesterday.

Three of these MLAs — Mr Abdul Fazal Golem Osmani, Mr Afzalul Rahman and Mr Abdus Sobhan — today announced their support to the left and democratic alliance in forming a ministry.

Mr Keshab Chandra Gogoi, who was unanimously elected leader of the Congress-I legislative party after Mrs Anwara Taimur's resignation from the office, today met Governor Prakash Mehrotra and stated his claim to form a Ministry.

Mr Gogoi later said that he was hopeful that the Governor would invite him to form the Ministry as the Congress-I was the largest majority party in the 119-member State legislature.

He also said that he had been assured support by the like-minded parties and independents in the House. He was awaiting the Governor's communication in this regard and added that the Ministry could be sworn in within the next three days.

Meanwhile, leader of the Left and Democratic alliance Sarat Chandra Sinha has reiterated that the alliance had increased its strength to 65 and the Governor must not go back on his commitments and "impose" any Government in the State.

Mr Sinha, who met the Governor separately, also claimed his right to be invited to form a Ministry and the agencies.

Mr Gogoi, however, said he had not submitted any list of his supporters to the Governor. He said he would send such a list if the Governor asked for it.

Mr Gogoi was accompanied by Mr Dharanidhar Das, president of the Assam Pradesh Congress-I Committee, Mr Samar Brahma Choudhury leader of the four-member PTCA and representatives of the four-member Tea Garden Labour Group.

Assam stir paralyses work in offices

Hindustan Times Correspondent

GAUHATI, Jan. 12—The State and Central Government employees' "total non-cooperation" stir today virtually paralysed the civil administration in the Brahmaputra valley marking their protest against CRPF atrocities during the current phase of the Assam agitation on the foreigners' issue.

Official sources here claimed that the Civil Secretariat at Dispur temporary Capital, and the North-East Frontier Railway headquarters at Maligaon functioned "normally" although reports from the districts said that the attendance

of the employees there was almost nil.

While the nationalised banks and Government undertakings remained closed, the surface and water transport services were drastically curtailed due to lack of manes to run them on schedule.

There were few passengers in State Road Transport Corporation buses which operated with police escorts. The telegraph and telephone services in Gauhati and other areas of the State were also affected while the Central Telegraph Office and the telephone exchange in Gauhati were run by army personnel.

All private city buses and other passenger services between Gauhati and its surrounding districts of Goalpara, Darrang and Nowgong were also off the road.

UNI adds:

Meanwhile, a delayed official report received here said that during the 36-hour civil disobedience which ended last evening, one person who was seriously injured in a clash between two rival groups at Cnaper in Goalpara district, died in hospital. The police have registered a case in this connection, the report said.

IMPHAL: A peaceful protest by stopping vehicular traffic was recorded in the State at the call of the Manipur Panchayat Parishad today to compel the Government to enforce the Panchayat Raj Act.

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