

Congress (S) Members

Oppose Separate State Move

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Assam Tribune

From Our Correspondent
DIPHU Jan 8—The Karbi Anglong District Council in its 126th winter Session which began on December 28 last passed resolution requesting the Government of India to create a separate State comprising the two Hills district of Assam—Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills (briefly reported earlier)

Moving the resolution on the second day of the session Sri Biren Sing Ingti, Chief Executive Member, Karbi Anglong District Council said that the Karbi Anglong District Council feels that by living in a separate State the people of the two hills district of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar Hills will find more scope for all-round development and self-determinations. He further felt that by living separately the people would find better scope for preservation of their identity, culture, tradition, language and genius.

The nine-member Congress (S) opposition in a 30-member House vehemently opposed the resolution and urged upon creation of an Autonomous State under Section 214 (A) of the Indian Constitution. Before placing the resolution, the Opposition members put questions on the legal procedures of placing the same. The Chief Executive Member in reply said that the House had the right to place the said resolution and then the 'Chairman' of the House allowed the resolution for discussion and after prolonged discussion the House led by the Congress(I) passed the resolution on Voice Vote against strong protest by the Opposition group.

STRONG PROTEST

Participating on the deliberations on the resolution the Opposition members vehemently protested the proposal of a separate State saying that this would result in further jeopardisation of the identity and culture of the hills tribes as in a separate State the protection as enjoyed by them presently under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitu-

tion will not be there. Moreover, it would create serious repercussion among different sections of population living in this district. It would also create bitter relations between the Hills and plains of Assam, especially because of the critical time at which the resolution demanding a separate State had to be moved when the people of Assam are struggling with a life and death question on the foreigners issue.

The Opposition members further expressed the fear that if the bifurcation of the hills districts with Assam takes place, Cachar district will automatically be separated from Assam geographically and in that case Cachar might also be forced to be annexed with the Hills districts thereby creating a separate State consisting of these three districts. If Cachar was to be tagged on to the start separate State the culture and the identity of the hills tribes would be further jeopardised and it would become a second Tripura, they said.

'FRAUGHT WITH DANGER'

Sri Bidya Sing Inglang, leader of the Opposition, warned that before going to raise the issue of a separate State, they should understand the gravity of the issue as it was fraught with deep consequences. For instance, Sri Inglang said that the creation of a separate State would not help solve the problems of Karbi people, because there were about 3 lakh of Karbi people in the plains districts of Assam. Sri Inglang suggested creation of an Autonomous State, within Assam.

Sri Lapse Timung, MDC, opposing the resolution said that there must have been deep conspiracy for raising the question of creation of a separate State comprising the Assam hills areas. He said it was part of a well-planned strategy of certain groups of people with vested interest and he warned the ruling party of the District Council to guard against it. Sri Timung expressed the feeling that the people of these hills districts would never join hands with the people of Barak Valley and be separated from the people of Brahmaputra valley.

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Referring to a common saying that when Brahmaputra Valley smiles, Barak Valley weeps and when Brahmaputra Valley weeps, Barak Valley smiles, Sri Timung said that if Cachar district found a scope to creep into the proposed separate State one day then Karbi Anglong Lungpi River would weep while Barak Valley would smile. It was therefore a calculated move of a well-planned game which the District Council authority must realise before throwing the hill people into an uncertain future with dangerous consequences entailing losing of their own language, culture and identity. Sri Timung opted for an Autonomous State

FOREIGNERS ISSUE

Speaking on the foreigners issue now going on in Assam Sri Timung said that it was not a problem of Brahmaputra Valley, rather it was a problem of Karbi Anglong district also. Both Hills and Plains must fight out the problem unitedly. It would not be possible for Karbi Anglong or North Cachar Hills alone to drive out the foreigners, but, this issue of separate State would tend to separate the people of hills and plains. He sternly warned that raising this issue at this particular time was nothing but the policy of the Government to adopt divide and rule policy.

Participating on the resolution, the Opposition members Sri Mangal Singh Ingti, Sri Kanta Ram Mech, Sri Khar Sing Bey Sri Kunja Lal Hagjer strongly opposed the resolution and suggested for an Autonomous State.

In the first day of the session there were three 'No Confidence' motions against the Ruling Party but at the eleventh hour the motions were withdrawn on the ground that there was a resolution on the separate State on the table for next day and in the common interest of the Ruling and Opposition party the 'No Confidence' motions were withdrawn. A Land Reform Regulation was placed and passed in the House.

On the last day of the session the House discussed the question of development affairs of the district. The House was adjourned sine die by the Chairman before completion of the agenda for the day.

Token Hunger Strike By College Teachers

By A Staff Reporter
GUWAHATI, Jan. 9—The College teachers of Greater Guwahati observed an 8-hour token hunger strike from 8 this morning in their respective institutions in protest against the atrocities of the Police and the CRPF and the reign of terror perpetrated by the authorities on the innocent people of Assam.

In a statement, Sri M C Saloi, the General Secretary of the Assam College Teachers Association. The strike without affecting the normal teaching was observed in response to a call given by the Association. Each Unit of the ACTA of Greater Guwahati Colleges also sent telegrams to the Prime Minister demanding immediate withdrawal of all repressive measures and urging for immediate solution of the foreign nationals problem.

The ACTA has also extended support to the proposed non-cooperation of January 12 and has advised its Units to take necessary action accordingly subject to local situation.