

Gogoi calls for stir leaders' co-operation

Hindustan Times Correspondent

GAUHATI, Jan. 14 — Undaunted by the swearing-in of the Gogoi Ministry, the Left and Democratic Party leader Sarat Chandra Sinha today claimed that the alliance strength in the 119-member had increased from 65 to 67.

Mr Sinha said that Mr Jogen-dra Nath Hazarika and Mr Manik Das of the Asom Janata Dal had joined the alliance.

The swearing-in ceremony at the Raj Bhavan last night took the political circles by surprise and the administration sent hurried messages to the newsmen. However, only three from the media could turn up for the occasion.

Chief Minister Gogoi told a news conference at the Janata Bhavan today that the foreign nationals issue and the law and order besides implementation of the 20-point economic programme would be the priorities of the new Government.

Mr Gogoi also sought the co-

operation of the agitation leaders to find an amicable solution on the foreign nationals issue.

Mr Gogoi said that without the co-operation of the movement leaders it would be difficult to find a solution to the problem, and urged them to create a congenial atmosphere for the proposed tripartite talks in Delhi on January 18 by calling off their agitational programme.

Mr Gogoi said the State as well as the people had suffered enormously during the past two years and this must not be allowed to continue. He appealed to the student community to rise to the occasion and extend their full co-operation to the Government to solve the problems now facing the State.

Mr Gogoi said that his Council of the Ministers would be in office within the next 10 days and a list of the members of the Cabinet will be submitted to the party high command soon for approval.

Asked if the new Government will seek representation in the ensuing tripartite talks with the Assam agitation leaders in Delhi on Jan. 18, Mr Gogoi said that if the Centre wanted the State Government to join the talks, it certainly would.

Meanwhile, Mr Sinha told newsmen that the installation of the Congress-I Ministry despite the opposition's majority in the House was violative of the basic norms of parliamentary democracy.

Mr Sinha termed the action of the Governor as a "fascist method" of imposing a minority Government on the State.

Mr Sinha demanded removal of the Governor "to save democracy in Assam". The other alliance leaders at the Press conference included CPM leader Hemen Dass, Janata leaders Golap Borbora and Dulal Chandra Baruah, Mr Golam Goswami, Mr Abdus Sobhan and Mr Lilamoy Das, the three whom had defected from the Congress-I.

The size of the Cabinet would be decided after considering all aspects, including representation of various groups such as Tea Garden Labour and PTCA, Mr Gogoi said, adds PTL.

"I believe in collective leadership and I seek the co-operation of all sections of the people and all political parties as the State is passing through difficult times," Mr Gogoi asserted.

He was hopeful of providing a stable Government in the State. "Otherwise I would not have taken over the leadership of the party and Government," he added.

Replying to a question about withdrawal of disciplinary measures against employees for participating in the movement and release of detenus under NSA and other charges, the Chief Minister said the Government would consider this matter on the merit of individual cases. The cases of those with specific charges would be dealt according to law after the records were examined, he added.

Hindustan Times
15/Jan/1982