

Gogoi is Assam Cong-I leader Mrs Taimur resigns

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan. 9—Mr Keshab Chandra Gogoi, a former State Finance Minister, will be elected leader of the Assam Congress (I) Legislature Party on Monday to succeed Mrs Anwara Taimur, former Chief Minister.

The AICC (I) General Secretary, Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, is expected to proceed to Gauhati tomorrow to act as high command's observer at the legislature party meeting which will elect the new leader.

Change in the leadership is being made to make it possible for the Congress (I) to form a Ministry in the State, now under the President's rule.

Several legislators, now in the Opposition and also those who left the party recently, have reportedly told the Congress (I) Central leaders that they will return to the party provided a new leader was elected. It is expected that with Mr Gogoi as the leader it would be possible for the Congress (I) to form a stable Ministry in Assam.

Mrs Anwara Taimur told newsmen that she had conveyed to the Prime Minister her desire to step down if it helped in the formation of Congress (I) Ministry in the State. "I will not prove a stumbling block if my resignation will help formation of a stable Ministry", she said, adding that the leadership question would be decided by a consensus at the legislature party meeting.

Mr Keshab Gogoi, when asked whether he was also an aspirant for the leadership replied: "Very much".

The decision to ask Mrs Taimur to step down was taken following a report by Union Industry Minister N. D. Tiwari who visited the State recently to explore the possibilities of Congress (I) forming a Ministry. He, as well as, Mrs Bajpai are reported to have re-President a change in the Assam commended to the Congress (I) leadership.

According to a UNI report from Gauhati, a group from the non-Congress (I) Left and Democratic Alliance legislature party met Governor Prakash Mehrotra in Gauhati today and reiterated the alliance claim to form a Ministry in the State since it had "an absolute majority" of 62 in the 118-member House.

Govt warns disobedience agitators

GAUHATI, Jan. 9 (PTI) — The Assam Government today warned that any attempt to board public transports including buses, trains and ferries or enter cinema houses without tickets during the two-day civil disobedience movement in the State beginning tomorrow would be dealt with under the law.

Adequate precautionary measures have been taken by the law enforcing authorities against any breach of law during the period, according to an official release.

UNI adds:

Teachers and students in different parts of Assam launched a hunger strike and observed a "black day" in protest against alleged police and CRPF atrocities.

While the call for the 12-hour mass hunger strike was given by the Assam College Teachers' Association, students of all educational institutions in Kamrup district observed "black day" wearing black badges and hoisting black flags.

In Gauhati black flags flew atop many houses.

Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed for 15 hours at Tezpur, headquarters of Darrang district, from 6 a.m. today.