

Gogoi told to face Assembly

Hindustan Times Correspondent

GAUHATI, Jan. 17 — Assam Chief Minister Keshab Chandra Gogoi will convene the State Assembly within the next five weeks to seek the confidence of the House.

Talking to newsmen prior to his departure for New Delhi today, Mr Gogoi said that Governor Prakash Mehrotra had asked him to convene the State Assembly within the next six months after they discussed the latest political situation in the State.

Mr Gogoi said that he had directed the concerned departments to prepare the State budget.

Mr Gogoi indicated that the Council of Ministers would be sworn in immediately after his return from Delhi with the Congress-I High Command's approval of the list of Cabinet members. The Ministry, he added, would be broad-based to accommodate the ethnic, linguistic and other sections of the people in the State.

Referring to the tripartite talks beginning in New Delhi tomorrow between the Assam agitation leaders, the Union Government and the opposition leaders on the aliens issue, Mr Gogoi expected that some positive results would come out. He appealed to the All-Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) leaders to call off the 12-hour total non-co-operation stir tomorrow to create a congenial atmosphere for the Delhi talks.

Replying to questions, the Chief Minister said that he had asked the officials to use restraint. Although law and order in the State had not been 'fair', there should not be any harassment of the people, he said, and appealed to the people to maintain peace.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Left and Democratic Parties alliance left for New Delhi to brief the Central Opposition leaders on the 'unprincipled imposition' of a minority Congress-I Government in the State.

At a Press conference in Siler, Governor Mehrotra today denied the charge that he had helped a minority Congress-I Govern-

ment to assume office in the State.

Mr Mehrotra said that he had asked Mr Gogoi to form the Ministry as "his party is the largest single party in the State Assembly."

The Pradesh Congress Committee-I today appealed to the people not to observe the 12-hour "total non-co-operation" tomorrow and

the "Assam curfew" agitation on Jan. 26 called by the anti-foreigners movement leaders in view of the tripartite talks on the issue.

Tripartite Assam talks today

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Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Jan. 17 — Tripartite talks between a 18-member delegation of Assam agitation leaders, Central Ministers and Opposition party leaders excluding Lok Dal, begin here on Monday while tension mounts in Assam over the 12-hour total non-co-operation call by organisers of the movement against foreigners.

Their protest is against installation of a Government in the State of defectors and legislators elected on foreigner's votes.

On the eve of the first ever concerted effort, virtually at all-party level, to formulate a decision on the future of those who migrated to Assam from erstwhile East Pakistan, there is cautious optimism that an acceptable solution may be evolved.

The meeting will be attended by the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress-S, Janata, CPI (M) and CPI leaders.

Opposition leaders have been

suggesting that they be associated with the effort to find a solution to a national problem.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bhisma Narain Singh has extended an invitation to them for the talks tomorrow. Lok Dal leader Charan Singh has declined his party's participation.

Mr Bhisma Narain Singh has invited new Law Minister Jagannath Kaushal to join the talks.

The representatives of the Janata Party (Mr Ravindra Varma), CPI (Mr Inderjeet Gupta), CPI (M) (Mr H. K. Surjit) and Congress (S) (Mr Bholu Paswan Shastri) and Bharatiya Janata Party (Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee) will participate in the talks being held in the afternoon.

An advanced party of the five-member AASU and AAGSP delegation today met Opposition leaders Mr Ravindra Varma, H. K. Surjit and CPI general secretary Rajeshwar Rao, and discussed the issue.

They want all those who entered the State between 1961 to 71 to be taken out of Assam and should be settled in other States or deported.

Meanwhile, the Citizens' Right Preservation Committee of Assam today warned the Government that its policy of appeasing those agitating on the foreign nationals issue in the State would only "encourage secessionists" in the north-eastern region and lead to disintegration of the country.

In a statement issued here, the committee said it was surprised at the "VIP treatment from the Government" to the Assam agitators, "who are engaged in violent secessionist agitation", for several rounds of talks at public cost.

The committee said the agitation had claimed over 1,000 lives and rendered thousands of people homeless. Yet the "Government and the political leadership" were trying to woo the "law-breakers", while the "oppressed minorities" in Assam were being denied due sympathy and human rights.

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