

## Assembly or war zone ?



The assembly session this time was awaited by the journalists of the state with baited breath . The session was set to be stormy one. But no one could gauge the magnitude on what was to come. On the first day itself one could notice the assumptions of trouble becoming true. The situation reached such a piquant state that speaker Ramendra Debnath had to expel MLA Sudip Roy Barman. And what followed was a scene that should never be repeated . Nearly a

hundred special branch officials and assembly staff forcibly evicted Mr Barman and with him all the opposition members who tried to obstruct his eviction. In fact in order to save themselves the opposition members were seen brandishing fisticuffs at the special branch and assembly staff. If the opposition members are to be believed they could have suffered grievous injuries if they did not retaliate the offensive of the special branch personnel and assembly secretariat staff.

The scene inside the assembly resembles a war zone. They may be in plain white dress but the special branch staff are posted to face any eventuality. It seems that the ten opposition members are out to attack the chief minister and other ruling party members and the nearly 80 odd security staff inside seems to be providing security to the 39 ruling party members in the ratio 2 : 1. So is the situation so alarming. The prelude to this assembly session had the ruling party worried. The intelligence reports had warned that the opposition members were out to take up the ginger scam in Satchand block and chit fund issue in a big way. Hence the interior of the assembly was declared into a war zone. No chances would be taken . And this is precisely what happened. After all, state assembly remains the last bastion where the opposition parties are in a position to raise their voice. In the TTAADC there is no semblance of opposition.

In this regard one must note that the decision taken by the opposition parties to boycott the chief minister Mr Manik Sarkar has also led to a situation where there is total mistrust between the opposition and the ruling party. This is not at all an ideal scene in a democratic setup. The willingness of the opposition to clear the air and thereby the boycott has been turned down by the chief minister. This means that there will be no love lost between the two benches in the days to come. So the big question is whether Tripura will go the West Bengal way or not ? This will be the most unfortunate thing to happen. This is so because semblance of peace now makes the situation in the state conducive for investments to come. But in the event of a fiery opposition like West Bengal the investors will shy away from this state. In order to make sure that the situation in Tripura does not take a U turn as a replica of the situation in West Bengal time is still there for the chief minister to reach out. After all Mr Sarkar should remember that he is chief minister of not any particular group or party but of the whole state.

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