

## **Amit Mitra may step down due to ill health; Mamata likely to keep finance**

**KOLKATA, DHNS:** West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra is set to put an end to his 10-year tenure as he has informed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee that he will step down after November 4.

Mitra (74) who did not contest the Assembly elections due to ill health and was given the Finance portfolio by the

chief minister, will complete six months on November 4. He first became finance minister after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) came to power in 2011.

Since Mitra is not an MLA he either has to step down or get elected in a by-election.

"Mamata urged Mitra to continue for six months and the future course of action will be



**Amit Mitra**

the finance portfolio to herself. She is unwilling to completely let go of Mitra and is

decided later," a TMC leader said.

Mamata is yet to decide Mitra's replacement and may keep

considering appointing him as an advisor to the Finance Department.

Mitra was unable to present the State Budget on July 7 due to ill health and it was presented by Industries Minister Partha Chatterjee.

Mitra has efficiently dealt with the State's debt. His performance in managing

the expenditure for the TMC government's social security schemes has made him "an asset" to Mamata, TMC sources said. Mitra has also played a key role in bargaining for Bengal in GST council meetings.

TMC sources said that the party leadership was keen on making Mitra a member of the proposed Legislative Council.