Coalition With C.P.I.(M) In Assam Opposed

From Our Correspondent

JORHAT, March 1.—Janata has emerged as the single largest party in Assam capturing 53 seats in the 126-member Assembly.

The results of elections to all the seats were known today.

The Plains Tribal Council, which had an electoral adjustment with Janata, won four seats, the Congress 26, CPI(M) 11, Congress (I) 8, CPI-5, RCPI 4, SUCI 2 and CPI(ML) 1. Twelve seats were captured by Independents.

Mr Dulal Chandra Barua, vice-president of the State Janata Party, said here today in an interview that the party would "definitely" form the first non-Congress Government in the State with the support of "like-minded parties or Independent members who have the same approach to the problems of the State". But Janata would try to "avoid a coalition" with the CPI(M) because this might result in an "unstable" Government, he added. Janata's "primary objective" was to form a stable Government.

In Saturday's election Mr Barua won the prestigious Jorhat seat, defeating his nearest rival, a CPI(M) candidate, by a margin of more than 15,000 votes.

Mr Golap Borbora, chairman of the State Janata Party, said it might seek the cooperation of "progressive forces" in forming the new Government.

Samachar adds: The Assam State Committee of the Janata Party will meet in Gauhati on March 6 to finalize its stand on forming a Ministry.

Mr Biju Patnaik, Union Minister for Mines, and Mr R. K. Hedge, general secretary of the party, will attend as observers.

Disclosing this at a Press conference this evening, Mr Ajit Kumar Sharma, convener, election campaign committee of the Janata Party, praised the people of Assam "for giving a clear verdict for a change of Government".

Our Special Representative in New Delhi adds: The Central Janata leadership feels that the party will be able to form a Government with the help of its allies and supporters. With the total tally of the results now in hand, Janata is 11 short of absolute majority.

3-march-1978

The Statesment.