

Assam Cong. men for Delhi: unity mission

By Our Staff Correspondent

SHILLONG, August 4.

CONSIDERABLE importance is attached to the trip to Delhi by prominent Congress leaders of the state, including the former chief minister, Mr. Williamson Sangma.

Their apparent objective is to press the central leaders of the party to try for unity between the two Congress parties. However, if their move fails, they have alternative plans at the state level, according to observers.

There is speculation that state

Congress leaders do not wish to wait indefinitely for a united Congress party, especially in view of the fact that the Congress has lost its dominant position in the state assembly as well as in the district councils. This has led them to believe that in the absence of a united Congress party, the better course for them will be to identify themselves with regional parties in the state. These parties are becoming stronger in the entire north-eastern region.

The Congress party's name in the state assembly has already been obliterated by the new designation, "Meghalaya united legislative front," a nomenclature adopted with the obvious intention of attracting independents and others to its fold.

NEW NAME LIKELY

Outside the legislative assembly, the party may go in for a new name to acquire a regional complexion and refurbish its image.

In such an eventuality, a major partner in the non-Congress coalition government in the state is expected to withdraw from the government and join hands with the Congress in its new garb.

Such a move is certain to sound to death knell of the present uneasy coalition government in Meghalaya, which has been "limping along" since it assumed office on March 10. As it is, the fate of the coalition government hangs on the results of elections to the Khasi Hills district council. Elections to the council are expected to be held in late September or the beginning of October.

Observers also feel that if the Congress party in the state decides to break away from the parent body, some non-tribal members of the party may join the Congress (I).