

Assam C.P.I.(M) To Meet In Gauhati Next Month

From Our Special Representative

GAUHATI, April 28.—The Assam unit of the CPI(M) will hold a conference in Gauhati towards the end of May. Mr E. M. S. Namboodripad and Mr Promod Dasgupta are expected to attend it along with 125 delegates.

The conference will review the results of the March general election and the political situation in the past six months. New committees and office-bearers will be elected.

Efforts are being made to hold a convention of trade unions in Greater Gauhati irrespective of their affiliations. A spokesman of the party said hundreds of workers had been retrenched following closure of factories. A delegation of workers had met the Prime Minister and Mr George Fernandes.

There have been "exchanges of opinion" between Marxist and CPI leaders in Assam after the Jullundur session of the CPI(M). It has been proposed to consolidate the peasants' movement.

The CPI(M) will continue to support the ruling Janata in Assam but other Left parties do not conceal their disillusionment which is "affecting or can affect" their relationship with Janata.

The Marxists feel that the "balance of power in the State depends on the traditional forces".

A senior leader said the party did not expect any spectacular change in the political alignments in Assam. It was hopeful of "enlarging" its base with the support of some Janata and Congress workers.

The CPI(M) feels that "authoritarian forces" are trying to regroup themselves. According to it, some "foreign agencies" are taking interest in the north-eastern region.

The Marxists do not underestimate the Congress. The Leftist forces, despite winning 20% of the seats in the Assembly, polled only 11% of votes. The Congress together polled 5% more than Janata's 28%.

The Statesman, 29 April 1978