

CMs of N-Eastern states to meet next month

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 16: In an effort to sort out inter-state boundary and other problems between the north-eastern states, the Union home minister, Mr. H. M. Patel, is calling a meeting of the chief ministers of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh in the first week of April.

He has already met the chief ministers of these states individually and held discussions to acquaint himself with their problems. He would now like to go one step further and make a bid to persuade the chief ministers to solve the inter-state problems one by one. The priority item of course is the inter-state boundaries, especially between Assam and Nagaland and between Meghalaya and Assam.

During his visit to Assam and Nagaland in January, a few days after the raids on some villages in Assam territory and the killing of 50 people, Mr. Patel had persuaded the chief ministers to hold a meeting so that the problem could be frozen. Since then, the two chief ministers had met twice, once in Shillong and the second time in New Delhi.

The tension along the Assam-Nagaland border is sufficiently reduced. This has encouraged the Centre to resume talks for the settlement of the long-standing inter-state border problems. He is also likely to discuss with them the law and order situation, especially the activities of underground elements. The problem of illegal entry of people from Bangladesh into some of these states may also come up for discussion.

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