

# Handicrafts of N-E on display

By A Staff Reporter

BOMBAY, December 13.

**EXQUISITE** cane and bamboo chairs, tables and baskets, Moga silk carpets, wood carvings, woolen shawls and intricate jewellery are some of the items displayed in the showcases of the recently inaugurated North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited sales emporium here.

The emporium, Purbashree, is the sixth of its kind in the country after the ones in Shillong, Gauhati, Bangalore, New Delhi, and Madras. The emporium displays the handicrafts of the "seven sisters" — Assam,

## Assam students' talks on Dec. 22

By Our Correspondent

GAUHATI, December 13: The All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and the All-Assam Students' Union will consider on December 22 the invitation to have talks with the government and the proposed committee of representatives of opposition parties for finding a solution to the foreign nationals issue.

Both organisations, which are spearheading the Assam agitation, have written to opposition parties to expedite the formation of the committee.

Meanwhile, their spokesmen indicated that they had some reservations about some left parties dominated by people from West Bengal which "have never been sympathetic to the Assamese cause and have been trying to mislead the people."

Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.

Mr. B.K. Das, marketing manager of the corporation, told newsmen here yesterday that the organisation had been started to give the rural artisans making these goods value for their work as well as help market the goods.

Mr. Das said that common facility centres had been up all over these states where craftsmen were employed on a piecemeal basis to turn out the handicrafts. The craftsmen were supplied the necessary raw material by the corporation, Mr. Das said. At present the corporation employs about 1,000 artisans which will be increased tenfold in five years.

Mr. Das said that the present turnover of the corporation from the sale of these handicrafts in the emporia was about Rs. 30 lakhs. He expected this year's turnover to touch Rs. 1.5 crores. Mr. Das said that the corporation was on the "threshold of profit making", but hastened to add that its basic function was the development of the little known art of north-eastern region.

The emporium, which has also displayed wooden panels for the ceiling as well as room partitions, will soon get an addition in the form of an ornament section. Mr. Das said that the emporium also contemplated an interior decoration section in the near future.

## Assam leaders invited for talks

GAUHATI, December 12 (PTI). The Centre's decision to hold tripartite talks on the foreigners' issue is being communicated to the Assam movement leaders, according to official sources here.

The communication on this subject received by the state government today, was expected to be conveyed to the agitation leaders tonight, the sources added.

Meanwhile, Mr. Pratulla Kumar Mahanta, president of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) said that the executive committee of the union meeting here on December 22 would take a decision on the Union home secretary, Mr. Chaturvedi's communication seeking early resumption of talks on the foreigners issue.

Mr. Mahanta told PTI that the AASU's stand on resumption of talks had already been explained to the Union home secretary through its letter sent to him on November 13.

"So far as talks are concerned we stick to the points raised in that letter", Mr. Mahanta added.

The AASU in this letter had insisted on holding the talks in Assam and keeping minutes of the discussions, he said.

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