

Assam Parishad Meetings Crucial

From Our Special Representative
SHILLONG, Sept. 14.—The meetings of the Gana Sangram Parishad in Gauhati today and tomorrow are crucial in evolving a consensus. It is likely to discuss the report of the select committee which apparently studied the draft of a formula to solve the foreign nationals issue.

Differences within the Parishad are not discounted; it is also known that the AASU leadership is pragmatic and flexible without compromising its essential standpoint. The hardcore in the Parishad had taken the line that it could not underwrite an unconstitutional exercise as reportedly desired by the Centre. The expulsion of Mr Jatin Goswami from the Parishad is evidence of internal wrangling.

AASU, which met earlier, has perhaps finalized its standpoint and examined its options. It has been careful not to project an image of being responsible for, or associated with, a set of proposals. It has sought to avoid giving an impression of a split in the movement. Nevertheless, observers feel that AASU will try its best to carry the rest with them.

The proposed convention at Bongaigaon on October 2 and 3, as reported, is obviously a move to get the rank and file to approve the decisions. All AASU district leaders will be attending the conference.

The hectic lobbying among Congress (I) and Opposition MLAs to form a Ministry in Assam stems from expectations of a breakthrough. Although the presidency of the Congress (I) in Assam is open to contest, with Mr Lalit Doley's tenure nearing an end, there has been no talk of the CLP leader being changed.

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