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N-E CMs to ask for governors in each state

NEW DELHI, September 25 (UNI): The chief ministers of the five full-fledged states in the north-eastern region are likely to send their formal proposals to the Centre in support of their demand for a separate governor for each of their states.

The Meghalaya chief minister, Mr. Darwin Pugh, who participated in the chief ministers' conference here, told UNI that he would be sending the state's proposal to the Centre for a separate governor within this week. The other chief ministers would be sending their proposals early, Mr. Pugh said.

The demand for separate governors came up for a passing discussion at a dinner hosted by Mr. Pugh in Shillong in honour of the chief ministers who had assembled there to attend the north-eastern council meeting in August. All chief ministers agreed that they should have a separate governor for their states.

Mr. Pugh said that at a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, on July 28, he had proposed two governors for the five states, but Mr. Desai did not appreciate the suggestion.

Mr. Pugh, who had earlier been to Srinagar, said he had detailed discussions with the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Sheikh Abdullah, on various matters relating to the national development council and issues of mutual interest.

The chief ministers, according to Mr. Pugh, felt that even if the Gadgil formula, now being reviewed by a small working group of the committee, was reversed, the special status enjoyed by the north-eastern states must not be disturbed. Meghalaya and Kashmir come under the special category states.

Mr. Pugh, who is also a member of the working group of the NDC to go into the entire question of Centre-state relations, said he would take up the case of the north-eastern states at the meeting of the working group to be held here from October 5 to 7.