

# North-Eastern States Want Separate <sup>SM</sup> Governors <sup>3 Apr 1978</sup>

**From Our Special Representative**  
SHILLONG, Sept. 2.—The seven Chief Ministers of the north-eastern region have decided unanimously to demand separate Governors, Mr L. P. Singh is the common Governor. The region includes five States and two Union Territories.

The decision was taken at a dinner hosted by Mr Darwin Pugh, Meghalaya Chief Minister, before the meeting of the North-Eastern Council which has just ended.

The Chief Ministers felt that separate Governors would not entail heavy expenditure since the physical infrastructure was there.

A common Governor had to face certain problems. The Governor's address to legislatures touching on inter-State or boundary disputes on occasion caused him embarrassment.

The Chief Ministers decided to place on record the "absolute necessity for the North-Eastern Council to function as an advisory body". A council document, reviewing its activities over the past five years, appears to have aroused the fears of the members about the council infringing the autonomy of the States.

The Chief Ministers want the North-Eastern Council Act reviewed and amended if necessary.

The move to have Chief Minis-

ters as chairman of the council by rotation was considered redundant in view of the demand for separate Governors. The seven Chief Ministers will meet in Gauhati on September 11. Mr Pugh will attend a meeting in Srinagar later where Centre-State relations will be discussed.

PTI adds: Mr Pugh said public order was a State subject and security was a subject to be dealt with by the Defence Ministry and if the provisions of the Act were not changed, "we will all remain defaulters".

The Chief Ministers decided that any regional project of the council should be implemented by the State Government concerned.

The council has urged the Planning Commission to allocate Rs 20 crores as the first instalment of the Rs 30 crores for the construction of the second bridge on the Brahmaputra connecting Silghat to Bhomoraguri in central Assam.

*The statesman, 3 Sept 1978*