

2 Advisers to Assam Governor

From G. K. Reddy

NEW DELHI, July 9.

The Centre has appointed two senior South Indian officials as Advisers to the Governor of Assam to assist him in the administration of the State during President's rule.

One is Mr. R. V. Subramanian, who belonged to the Assam cadre of IAS before he retired as Secretary of the Ministry of Energy at the Centre. He served as one of the Advisers to the Governor of Tamil Nadu during President's rule after the dismissal of Mr. M. Karunanidhi's Government.

The other one is Mr. V. Natarajan, who belongs to the Orissa cadre of IAS and is still in service.

The Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, who was due to retire soon after serving in this difficult post for 7-1/2 years, has been asked to continue for the present.

Pro-Pahadia march in Delhi

NEW DELHI, July 9.

Supporters of the Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr. Jagannath Pahadia, today marched in procession to the residence of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, but their deputation could not meet her.

An anti-Pahadia deputation also could not meet the Prime Minister. She is reported to have told them that she would not like to meet either of them.

Meanwhile some posters, in support of Mr. Pahadia's continuance as Chief Minister, have appeared in Delhi. The Congress (I) High Command is understood to have taken a serious view of a meeting of MLAs in support of Mr. Pahadia at Jaipur yesterday and the appearance of the posters.—PTI.

Assam: New offer on cut-off?

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 9.

An attempt may be made to end the present stalemate in the Assam talks, through a new formula, when agitation leaders begin another round of discussion with the Home Minister, Mr. Zail Singh, tomorrow.

The 10-day talks between the Centre and representatives of the AASU and AAGSP got stuck because of differences on suggestions for dealing with those who had entered Assam between 1961 and 1971.

A way out may be sought by suggesting a new cut-off date, say, 1967, for detection of foreigners. This is not exactly a new or an original idea and had been mooted in the past in informal discussions between the agitation leaders and the State Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, but somehow did not form the basis of formal talks in Delhi.

This formula may be tried now that the Centre and the agitation leaders have failed to agree on modalities for the 1961-71 entrants. The Government was prepared to accept an arrangement under which only "unauthorised" foreigners could be moved out of Assam but the agitation leaders had different ideas on the point.

Because of the differing perceptions of the two sides, the estimates of the number of those who entered Assam in the sixties varied considerably. If one estimate put their total at 5.5 lakhs, according to the other, it was 13 lakhs. This underscored the difficulty in reconciling the differences within the framework of the old formula.

There was no meeting today between the Assam delegations and the team of officials who have been conducting negotiations with them in a bid to hammer out a solution. The Assam teams had yesterday itself expressed

their unwillingness to pursue the dialogue with the officials.

The Assam delegations have clearly expressed their unwillingness to allow anyone of those who came to the State from erstwhile East Pakistan between 1961 and 1971 to stay in Assam. In their opinion all such people are illegal infiltrators.

They are prepared to allow those who came between 1951 and 1961 to continue in Assam provided those who arrived in the State in the next decade are moved out.

The farthest that the Government has gone on this issue—and this is the crux of the whole matter—is to assure the Assam delegations that "unauthorised" foreigners will be moved out of the State.

Not acceptable: The AAGSP and AASU teams think this is nothing but a subterfuge to regularise the stay in Assam of all refugees from East Pakistan and have declared that they are not reconciled to such a position.

During the current series of talks there has been a good deal of hair-splitting on the implications of the Citizenship Act and the Government's right to grant citizenship to people of Pakistani origin.

Government sources say if the contention of the Assam teams is accepted, then one million persons (not counting their families) from East and West Pakistan already granted citizenship certificates will become non-citizens. Such a situation is not tenable, in the Government's view.

Official sources said unless the Assam agitation leaders reconciled themselves to the reality and accepted the Government proposal to shift unauthorised entrants between the period 1961 and 1971 from the State, there was little hope of a negotiated settlement.

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