

[Shri P. Chetia.]

will be clear beyond doubt that such charges against the Government of Assam are entirely baseless. The Commission has itself admitted in paragraph 66 of the Report when it says: "Thus, to conclude, we have been unable to find evidence of deliberate neglect of the hill areas." The Government of Assam have been doing their best for the uplift and welfare of the hill areas and no charge of neglect or discrimination can be levelled against them. However, in this connection it is proper and relevant to cite the example of Nagaland. Financially Nagaland was never a viable proposition. But the Government of India have been allocating larger amounts of subvention to Nagaland after it has become a separate State than what the Government of Assam could spend having regard to its slender resources for the development of the hill districts in Assam. This special treatment to Nagaland undoubtedly served as an eye-opener to the hill leaders in Assam giving them both material and psychological cause for discontentment and a convincing ground for a separate State.

It is charged again that on account of the passing of the Official Language Act in 1960 the hills people want separation. This allegation is nothing but political blackmailing. There is no provision in the Assam Official Language Act by which the Assamese Language can be imposed on the hills people. Hence this allegation is also equally baseless and untrue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): Mr. Chetia, you will have to come to the conclusion.

SHRI P. CHETIA: I am coming to the conclusion.

In the context of the reorganisation of the State of Assam, the Governor of

Assam in his address to the State Assembly declared on 20th March last:

"As far as my Government is concerned, their stand has consistently been that from the points of view of defence, security and also overall accelerated development of the region, the basic unity of Assam must be maintained and its status not impaired; at the same time the political aspirations of the people have to be respected."

The plains people in Assam will be extremely happy and welcome a formula of administrative reorganisation of the State that is acceptable to all and will satisfy the political aspirations of the leaders of the APHLC. It is earnestly hoped that it will be possible to do so. But, on the other hand, if no tangible result is achieved after discussions with the leaders of the APHLC except on the basis of a separate hill State, then, what is the remedy or the next step? Though personal, I feel constrained to express my views very candidly in this regard. In the past we lived with the hills in peace, amity and concord; in the future we sincerely pledge ourselves to live with them in harmony, peace and friendship sharing our fortunes both in prosperity and adversity. Even then if some of our brethren in the hills do not like to live with us let us have the parting of the ways with them in an atmosphere of friendship and goodwill. We bear no grudge against them and their desire for separation. We wish them well.

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SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN FOR THE YEAR 1966-67—contd.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants for expenditure of Government of Rajasthan for the year 1966-67.