

# Borbora to take oath as Assam CM on Mar. 12

GAUHATI, MARCH 6.—The proposed swearing-in ceremony of the first non-Congress Ministry in Assam, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed, due to some procedural wrangle, reports Samachar.

Mr. Golap Borbora, the newly-elected leader of the Janata Legislature Party, told newsmen midnight tonight that it has now been decided to postpone the swearing-in ceremony till March 12.

Mr. Borbora will leave tomorrow for Delhi for consultation with the Janata Party High Command.

Mr. Borbora said that he has already received the letter from the Governor of Assam, Mr. L. P. Singh, tonight inviting him to form the new Council of Ministers and to take oath of office and secrecy.

Earlier, Mr. Borbora called on the Governor, who is now camping here, and is understood to have discussed with him on the formation of the new Council of Ministers and about the swearing-in ceremony.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Mr. Borbora was elected this evening as leader of the Janata Legislature Bloc. Mr. Borbora's election was announced by Mr. Biju Patnaik on behalf of himself and Mr. R. K. Hegde, representatives of the party's Central leadership, who conducted the process of election.

Both of them later also addressed a letter to the Gov-

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ernor of Assam, intimating Mr. Borbora's election as leader of the 62-member Janata bloc in the State's new legislature, comprising 53 members of the Janata Party, 4 belonging to the PTCA and 5 Independents, who had since joined the Janata Party.

The letter also affirmed that the 11-member CPI(M) and the four-member CPI groups in the new legislature had signalled their support to the Janata bloc in forming a Ministry.

The 62 newly-elected MLAs, who attended the first meeting of the JLP at Dispur this afternoon, were asked by the two Central leaders to put down on a secret ballot the name of the person whom they individually liked to become the leader of the bloc. They were told that they could name even a non-MLA if they liked.

After the ballot papers were drawn and scrutinised, Mr. Lakhyadhar Choudhury (elected from Jhalukbari) proposed the name of Mr. Borbora as leader of the bloc. The proposal was supported by Mr. Dulal Chandra Barua (Jorhat), Mr. Kiran Bezbaruwa

(West Gauhati) and Mr. Jogen Hazarika (Duliajan)—all of whom had earlier been reported to be contestants for the leadership. Mr. Borbora was then declared as elected unanimously.

Briefing the reporters later, Mr. R. K. Hegde, observer from the Central committee, said that he did not think the Ministry to be composed by Mr. Borbora would be a big one.