

7 - March - 1978
Hindustan Times.

7/3/78

Borbora unanimously chosen JLP leader

Hindustan Times Correspondent

GAUHATI, March 6—The unanimity bid in selecting the leader of the Janata Legislature Party in Assam succeeded here today with Mr Golap Chandra Borbora being chosen as leader.

Mr Borbora is likely to be invited by Governor L. P. Singh to form the first-ever non-Congress Government in Assam by Wednesday.

A Janata Government, with a Cabinet set to the accepted norm of representation, is being installed by this weekend.

Mr Borbora's election as leader underwent hectic lobbying for about a week now and a contest for the chair seemed inevitable even before

Party MLAs sat around the table in the State Assembly hall this afternoon.

Union Minister for Steel and Mines Biju Patnaik and Janata Party General Secretary Rama Krishna Hegde, accompanied by Union Minister of State for Education, Mrs Renukadevi Barkataki, acted as the Central observers. They were closeted with the elected members individually from the morning today. Following the start of the legislature party's meeting, the observers untied the immediate contest by giving the legislators "free choice" to enlist the name of a leader secretly.

The observers did not openly give out the names of the contestants but suggested that the MLAs could, if they so desired, enlist any one even from outside the legislature party.

The device worked well and the consensus veered round to Mr Borbora. There had been three other candidates in the run—Mr Jogen Hazarika, Mr Dulal Chandra Baruah and Mr Kiran Chandra Barooah.

Mr Lakshyadhar Choudhury, after the secret enlistment of the leadership choice was over, proposed Mr Borbora as the leader. The three other aspirants seconded the proposal.

The Janata Legislature Party has the strength of 77 members in the house of 126. The break up is Janata 53, Plains Tribal Council four and five independents. The party is being supported in the House by 11 CPI-M and four RCPI members.