

New Assam cabinet by Sunday

By Our Correspondent

GAUHATI, March 7: The new Assam ministry led by Mr. Golap Chandra Borbora is expected to assume office on Sunday.

Mr. Borbora, who has left for Delhi apparently to finalise the list of ministers in consultation with the Janata Party high command, may find the task far from easy, according to observers here. The Janata party, which failed to secure an absolute majority, is banking on the support of its electoral ally, the plains tribal council of Assam (which won four seats) and some independents.

Five independents have joined the

Janata party, raising its strength to 58. Five more are likely to follow suit, according to informed sources.

Mr. Biju Patnaik, one of the two Central observers who were present at the election of leader of the Janata legislature party yesterday, told newsmen that the strength of the new cabinet would be 10 per cent of that of the assembly in keeping with the recommendation of the administrative reforms commission. It, however, remains to be seen whether the leadership will be able to stick to this norm in view of the pressures for ministerial representation from different quarters.

PROBABLE MINISTERS

The list of council of ministers is likely to be announced by March 11.

Among those being mentioned in this connection are Mr. Dulal Chandra Baruah, Mr. Lakshyadhar Choudhury, Mr. Kiron Chandra Baruah, Mr. Muhammad Gola Osmani, Mr. Ramesh Mohan Kauli, Mr. Laksheswar Gohain, Mr. Zahir-ul Islam, Mr. Santi Ranjan Dasgupta, Mr. Soneswar Bora, Mr. Nagen Baruah, Mr. Ramesh Das, Mr. Sonaram Thaosan and Mr. Gahdiram Tumung.

Mr. Jogen Hazarika and Mr. Altaf Hussain Mazumdar are likely to be elected speaker and deputy speaker, respectively, of the assembly.

Samachar adds: Born in 1925, Mr. Golap Borbora joined the 1942 movement during his school days. Later, as a college student in Calcutta, he came in contact with the then underground leaders like Aruna Asaf Ali, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and others.

He joined the Congress socialist party in 1945 and later, joined the socialist party.

He was arrested nine times between 1947 and 1976 in Assam as well as in Delhi. He was a secretary of the all-India Socialist Party in 1965 and became member of the Rajya Sabha between 1968 to 1974.

Mr. Borbora is a prominent trade union leader and held various offices in the Hind Mazdoor Panchayat and the all-India Railwaymen's Federation.

He was a leader of the Janata andolan parishad and was arrested during the emergency and was detained under MISA for 19 months.

A brief session of the Assam assembly is likely to be held from March 22.

A vote-on-account budget will be presented to the house the following day. For want of sufficient time, a regular budget may not be presented during the first session.

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