

Assam govt. fate uncertain

GAUHATI, September 2 (UNI).

THE continuance of the 18-month-old Assam Janata ministry appeared to be uncertain as the minister of state for water supply and wakf, Mr. Abdul Latif, submitted his resignation from the cabinet and the primary membership of the party again today.

Mr. Latif has joined the Assam Janata Dal formed by dissidents to form alternative government.

Meanwhile, the political activity has reached its climax at Dispur, the

Floor-crossing record

GAUHATI, September 2 (PTI): Mr. A. B. Latif, Assam's minister of state for Wakf, properties and water supply, created history in the state by crossing the floor three times in 35 hours.

Mr. Latif, who resigned from the ministry and the Janata party on the night of Friday, had withdrawn his resignation within a couple of hours. The minister again announced this morning that he had submitted his resignation to the chief minister.

The entire process of crossing the floor had taken 35 hours.

According to the observers, political horse trading has started in Assam.

temporary capital complex, as the fate of the ministry is likely to be decided when the crucial assembly session begins tomorrow.

The Janata party strength has been reduced to 40 from its previous strength of 64, including four associate members. The speaker today confirmed that the strength of the newly-formed Assam Janata was 19, including Mr. Latif. All of them had resigned from the Janata party. Another four Janata members had resigned from the party and formed the Janata (S). The speaker himself has resigned from the Janata, but has not joined any other party.

Cong. to oppose Borbora govt

GAUHATI, September 2 (PTI): Mr. Bedabrata Baruah, Union minister of state for external affairs, said today that the Congress would extend its support to form an alternative government in Assam in the event of the Borbora ministry being voted out of office in the coming assembly session.

Mr. Baruah, who held talks with the Assam Congress leaders today, told a press conference here that the Congress would oppose authoritarian and communal forces and extend support to progressive, democratic left forces to install a stable and viable government.

Mr. Baruah made it clear that the Congress would not join the government.

The minister said he did not feel that the Bangladesh government had encouraged sending their people across the border. He admitted that there were cases of infiltration of Bangladesh nationals into Assam, but he had no figure.

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