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# Crucial Assam JLP meeting

FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

GAUHATI, AUG. 6. — The Assam Janata Legislature Party is going to meet at Dispur this evening in a bid to dissolve the nine-month old stalemate, which has recently been threatening to dislodge Mr. Golap Barбора's reconstituted ministry.

A crucial meeting without any specific agenda except for a general discussion on the political situation, it may, however, continue till tomorrow depending on the trend of discussions.

The detractors of Mr. Barбора, who call themselves 'pro-changers', have been demanding for a meeting of the JLP since some time back, but the Chief Minister and leader of the party had been shying away from the proposal in fear of a show-down. However, he at last agreed to call a meeting of the party even at the request of eight 'pro-changers' after finding that there had been a split in the rank of dissidents, some of whom desperately announced their decision a few days ago to form a new party and a ministry with the assured support of the CLP and other opposition groups in the legislature.

Convinced that he had no

danger from a "divided house" of dissidents, Mr. Barбора refused to have any conciliatory talks with their representatives even when the Janata party chief, Mr. Chandrasekhar, called him and them to New Delhi and offered to mediate. He demanded that the dissident leaders should publicly withdraw their decision to secede before coming the talks.

Notably, on the same plea these "secessionist" leaders of the dissidents have not been invited to the JLP meeting today. Not invited, however, are also the four members of the Janata (S) group, led by Mr. Golam Osmani and Mr. Jehirul Islam, two former ministers.

Most of the 'pro-changers' continue to be Mr Barбора's detractors though they are divided into two sections. One section is determined not to leave the JLP but to press its demand for resignation of the ministry from within and achieve it "today or tomorrow". In the projected JLP meeting, they propose to put up a no-confidence motion against the leader if the situation is found favourable. The other section, despaired of Mr. Barбора's

reluctance to step down or face a trial of strength in the JLP, has already taken the stand that, if necessary, its members would resign from the party and form a regional organisation to take over the government support from other legislature groups.

Significantly, members of this latter group want to name their regional organisation as 'the Assam Janata Party', since two erstwhile ministers have already formed a Janata (S) within the legislature.

Both the dissident groups met here last night, both jointly and separately — the secessionists numbering only 14 and the others 17, it is learnt. Neither group agreed to disclose its decision, if any, to the press, but it was indicated that both the groups were meeting again this morning.

Meanwhile, members of the ministerial group are feverishly active since a few days past to ensure that the JLP meeting today does not become stormy or suffocating for the Chief Minister. This evening's meeting is expected to reflect the result of their efforts.