

82

Files pile up as crisis continues in Assam

Hindustan Times Correspondent

GAUHATI, July 25—The Ministerial crisis in Assam has assumed serious proportions affecting the administrative machinery from

the secretariat to the sub-divisional level.

How long the Borbora Ministry can survive? asked a senior civil servant at Dispur as he saw this reporter enter his chamber. Around him were several men of importance discussing State politics, with files piling up on the table. Hardly 50 per cent of the allocation for the current Plan has been spent.

Similar is the scene obtaining in almost all other Government offices while the Ministers are busy confabulating with their supporters on the threat to the Ministry headed by Mr Golap Borbora.

Efforts for reconciliation by Mr Borbora has so far failed to contain the erosion of Janata legislators from his side and at least 21 members, led by Dr T. M. Barooah, have openly revolted seeking immediate change in the leadership.

The Ministry was reconstituted two weeks ago to contain the dissidents. But the dissidents could not be won over. Instead, the disagreement widened with the resignation of two Cabinet Ministers, Mr Keshab Chandra Gogoi and Mr Jagannath Sinha. Mr Sinha has joined hands with the dissidents.

Indications are that more Janata MLAs will resign with the changing power pattern at the Centre. In a House of 126, the ruling Janata has 57 members, 21 of whom have revolted. The Congress has 23 and the Congress-I eight members.

The Congress has demanded resignation of the Chief Minister and has offered to form an alternative Government with the anti-Borbora Janata faction.

26-July-1979

Hindustan Times