

New Assam Ministry Sworn In

10/9/74 Statesman

GAUHATI, Sept. 9.—An eight-member Assam Ministry headed by the former Speaker, Mr Jogen-dranath Hazarika, was sworn in today, reports PTI. Mr L. P. Singh, Governor of North-eastern States, administered the oath of office and secrecy.

Apart from Mr Hazarika, the other Ministers sworn in today were Mr P. Bora, Mr Keshab Chandra Gogoi, Mr Tarini Mohan Baruah, Mr Altaf Hussain Mazumdar, Mr Jagannath Sinha, Mr Zahirul Islam and Mr Rabindra Nath Choudhury.

The function was attended by several MLAs and senior civil and police officials.

This is the first ever Ministry in Assam by a regional party. Assam Janata Dal constituted of MLAs who resigned from the Janata Party.

Mr Hazarika said his Ministry would be expanded and portfolios allocated later. The Dal came to power with the support of six other political groups and parties.

The party position in the 126-member House is: Assam Janata Dal—17, Congress—22, Congress (I)—8, CPI—6, Progressive Democratic Front—6, Janata (S)—4, SUC—2 (all supporting the Dal); Janata—39, CPI (M)—11, PTCA—4, RCPI—4, CPI (M-L)—1 and Independent—1, with one seat vacant.

Mr Hazarika said in a broadcast soon after assuming office that the consensus among different politi-

cal groups that had led to the formation of his Ministry was a welcome development in the State politics.

Mr Hazarika said the Governor had invited him to form the Ministry without any condition.

He told a Press conference here that he had advised the Governor yesterday to summon the Assembly session in October to transact the unfinished business pending before the House because of a sudden adjournment of the session on September 4, following the resignation of the Borbor Ministry.

Asked if the Dal would put up candidates in the coming Lok Sabha polls, the Chief Minister said the Dal would take the final decision shortly.

Mr Hazarika told reporters that the new Government would try its best to drive away infiltrators from the State.

10-SEP-1979.

THE STATEMENT.