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Assam Cabinet resigns

Amrita Bazar

From Our Gauhati Office
SEPT 4 — History was repeated in Assam after 42 years. The first non-Congress Chief Minister, Mr. Colap Borbora, today submitted the resignation of his Council of Ministers during lunch-break as the State Assembly was discussing the no trust motion.

Exactly 42 years ago, the then Premier of Assam, Sir Syed Mohammad Saadullah, who was heading a minority coalition Government, tendered his resignation to the then governor during the assembly session lunch-break when the Government was facing a no-Confidence motion.

PTI adds: Side-stepping the trial of strength in the State Assembly with several of his partymen having resigned from the legislature party and the decision of the CPI(M) to withdraw support, Mr Borbora submitted his resignation and the 18-month old Janata Ministry in Assam came to an end.

The Deputy Speaker, Mr Chand Mohammad, announced in the House when it met after the recess at 14.30 hours that the Governor, Mr L. P. Singh, in a communication to the Assembly had conveyed his acceptance of the resignation and asked Mr Borbora to continue in office till alternative arrangements were made.

Mr Mohammad said that the Governor in his message had also said that in view of the resignation, he adjourned the House sine die under Article 175(2) of the Constitution.

During the lunch recess of the House which had before it a no-confidence motion against the Ministry—tabled by Mr Giasuddin Ahmed (CPI) and supported by most of the Opposition parties and admitted by the Speaker, Mr J. N. Hazarika yesterday—for discussion when the House would reassemble, Mr Borbora sent the resignation of his Ministry to the Governor,

Mr L. P. Singh at the circuit house.

The final decision of the JLP which had all along been expressing confidence of surviving the motion was taken at a brief meeting after the lunch recess of the Assembly

The Deputy Speaker also in-



Mr. Borbora

formed the House that the Speaker, Mr J. N. Hazarika, who conducted the business of the House till the lunch-recess, had resigned from the JLP and joined the Assam Janata Dal, a breakway faction of the Janata.

Mr Hazarika told the newsmen that he had resigned from Speakership of the 126-member House and was elected leader of the A.J.D.

HAZARIKA'S CLAIM

Mr Hazarika later called on the Governor, Mr L. P. Singh, and staked his claim to form an alternative Government with support of the Congress, the CPI and some other political parties.

The leaders of the Congress, the Congress (I), the CPI, the Progressive Democratic Front (PDP) and the Janata (S) also jointly met the Governor this evening at the circuit house here and requested him to invite Mr Hazarika, leader of the Assam Jeanta Dal, to form a new Government. The Dal has a strength of 26, including nine associate members.

Mr Hazarika said that the leaders of all the parties had informed the Governor that they would extend support to the Dal

to form a Government without joining the Ministry.

Mr Hazarika said the Governor had asked him to meet again tomorrow with a list of his supporters.

The strength of the parties in the 126-member House is: Janata Party 39, Congress 23, Assam Janata Dal 17, CPI(M) 11, Cong (I) 7, CPI 6, PDP 6, PTCA 4, RCPI 4, Janata (S) 4, SUCI 2, CPIM(ML) 1 and Independent 2.

Moving the no-confidence motion shortly after question hours, the leader of the CPI group Mr, Pro mode Gogoi, vehemently criticised the Janata Government and alleged that the Government failed in all its policies and brought about miseries to the people.

Mr. Gogoi charged the Government with being "corrupt and inefficient" and said that the Government indulged in various types of illegal activities for fulfilment of their selfish interests.

Opposing the motion, Mr. Nagen Baruah, Deputy leader of the Janata Legislature Party, lashed out at the deserters for their anti-party activities for their vested interests.

Mr. Baruah was very critical of former Ministers of Borbora Cabinet, Mr. K. C. Gogoi, Mr. Jagannath Singh and another Janata member for their defection from the party. He alleged that they had breached the trust and joined hands for their selfish interests.

BORBORA'S ALLEGATION

Meanwhile, Mr. Borbora today expressed serious apprehension of stability of any alternative Ministry in Assam as the defectors would not be able to run the government.

Mr. Borbora, who resigned from the Ministry today, told a crowded press conference at his residence at Dispur that the 'reactionary forces and big business houses' were mainly responsible for the fall of his Government.

The Chief Minister qualified his statement saying that the decision of the Government to nationalize tea and plywood industries in phased manner and breaking the monopoly of big liquor business in Assam had adversely affected the Janata Government.

Mr. Borbora alleged that the defectors played at the hands of the reactionary forces which forced him to submit resignation of his Ministry.

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AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA.