

Assam CM resigns

By Our Correspondent

GAUHATI, September 4.

THE 18-month-old Janata ministry in Assam, headed by Mr. Golap Borbora, resigned today, as the debate on a no-confidence motion against the ministry began in the state assembly.

This was announced in the state assembly by the deputy speaker, Sheikh Chand Muhammad. He read out the message of the governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, accepting the designation tendered by Mr. Borbora on behalf of his council of ministers. The governor requested Mr. Borbora and his



Mr. Borbora

colleagues to continue till alternative arrangements were made.

The governor, in his message, also ordered the adjournment of the house sine die.

In the afternoon, the chief minister did not come to the house. The speaker, Mr. J. N. Hazarika, was also

conspicuous by his absence. The deputy speaker made the announcement of the resignation of the Borbora ministry and adjourned the assembly sine die.

PTI adds: The deputy speaker, Mr. Chand Mohammad, informed 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 breakaway faction of the Janata.

The announcement was greeted with shouts and counter-shouts from the opposition and treasury benches. Slogans of "Inquilab Zindabad" echoed within the house where the strength of JLP was produced to 39.

The shouts continued till the deputy speaker left the house after adjournment.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hazarika told newsmen that he had resigned from speakership of the 126-member house and was elected leader of the AJD.

The present party position in the state assembly is: Janata—39, Cong.—22, Assam Janata Dal—16, CPM—11, Cong. (I)—8, CPI—6, PFED—6, PTCA—4, RCPI—4, Janata (S)—4, SUC—2, CPI (ML)—1, Ind.—2.

(One seat is vacant since the death of a Congress legislator last week.)

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

Mr. Hazarika told PTI that he would call on the governor again tomorrow.

SUPPORT TO HAZARIKA

The leader of the legislature Congress party, Mr. S. C. Sinha, also called on the governor and apprised him of his party's support to Mr. Hazarika to form an alternative stable government in Assam.

The chief minister Mr. Borbora, today expressed serious apprehension of the stability of any alternative ministry as the defectors would not be able to run the government.

Mr. Borbora told a crowded press conference 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 nationalise tea and plywood industries in a phased manner and breaking the monopoly of big liquor business in Assam had adversely affected the Janata government.

Mr. Borbora alleged that the defectors had played into the hands of the reactionary forces which forced him to submit the resignation of his ministry.

Asked if the resignation of the ministry would help the Janata party in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections in Assam, the chief minister felt that it would surely help them in winning more seats.

The chief minister said that he had no moral and constitutional right to continue in power following the resignation of several Janata MLAs which had reduced the government

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