

Assam dissidents 30/7/79

Borbora's bid for settlement

Amrita Bazar

GAUHATI, July 29 (PTI) : Chief Minister, Mr. Golap Borbora, appears to have made a major breakthrough for an amicable settlement on the dissidents' demands after his prolonged discussion with a group of prominent dissident MLAs here today.

Soon after discussion, the Chief Minister told newsmen in the presence of dissident MLAs that it had been decided to make united efforts to strengthen the Janata Party as well as the Janata Government in the State.

He further said that a two-day meeting of the Assam Janata Legislature Party would be held on August 6 and 7 to discuss the problems facing the party.

The Chief Minister said he as the leader of the JLP had made a fresh appeal to all the Janata MLAs not to desert the party at this "critical juncture". He hoped that a solution could be found at the proposed meeting.

Mr. Ajoy Dutta, secretary of the JLP, said the Janata Party in Assam should remain united and the members should sort out their differences so that there was no instability in the State.

He appealed to the JLP members not to leave the party and betray the trust of the people who voted them to power.

The decision announced by the dissident leader, Dr. Tarini Mohan Baruah, to form a new "Assam Janata Party" by resigning the primary membership of the Janata Party has created a rift among the dissidents.

Already seven MLAs, who are known to be dissidents, have opposed the decision, and appealed to the JLP members to maintain the unity.

This has apparently improved the position of Mr. Borbora, who has asserted that he had the majority support.

On the other hand, the dissidents who are now clearly divided in three groups, are continuing informal parleys in their respective camps, particularly in the context of change in the Government at the Centre.

However, it appears that a major section of the JLP are against the move of a coalition Government in the State.

Meanwhile, the district presidents and secretaries of the Janata Party of Assam today appealed to the dissidents of the State Janata Legislature Party to settle their differences through mutual discussions with the Chief Minister, Mr. Golap Borbora, and take all possible steps to bring stability to the Government.

The district presidents and secretaries who met here under the presidency of Mr. Golap Borbora, the president of the State Janata Party of Assam, in a resolution warned that in case the Janata Party was weakened, the authoritarian and sectarian forces would get the opportunity to raise their ugly heads.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Enowara Taimur, leader of the eight-member Congress (I) Assam Legislative Assembly group, today extended support for the formation of an alternative Government with democratic and secular outlook in the State.

Mrs. Taimur in a statement said the Assam Janata Ministry headed by Mr. Golap Borbora has already been reduced to minority as several JLP members have resigned from the party.

She demanded that the Chief Minister should step down and an alternative Government be formed.

30 - July - 1979.

Amrita Bazar Patrika.