

Assam Dissidents Claim They Can form Govt.

GAUHATI, July 17.

Mr. Keshab Chandra Gogoi, who quit the Assam Cabinet yesterday, to-day demanded the resignation of the Chief Minister, Mr. Golap Borbora, claiming that his Government had been reduced to a minority with the decision of 35 dissident Janata Legislature Party members to withdraw support.

The ruling Janata Legislature Party is left with 57 members following defection of four members to Janata (S).

Mr. Gogoi claimed at a press conference the dissidents had been given "all out support" by the 23-member Congress Legislature Party, headed by the Opposition leader, Mr. Sarat Chandra Sinha, and with the "assured support" of the CPI and eight-member Congress (I) they would be in a comfortable position to form an alternative Government.

Mr. Gogoi said that the dissidents, who included some Ministers, would meet in Gauhati tomorrow to work out strategies to "topple" the Government of Mr. Borbora "if he failed to step down gracefully".

The General Secretary of the Assam unit of the Janata Party, Mr. Biswa Goswami at a press conference maintained that the Borbora Government continued to have a stable majority and enjoyed the support and confidence of all progressive and democratic forces.

Mr. Samar Brahma Choudhury, a former Minister of the Borbora Cabinet, who was also included in the reconstituted Ministry will be sworn in as Cabinet Minister by the Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh tomorrow, official sources said.

Mr. Brahma Choudhury, a representative of the Plains Tribal Council of Assam, an ally of the Janata Party did not take the oath on Saturday last along with 16 Ministers as the PTCA had directed him to watch the political situation for some time more.

The PTCA has now directed Mr. Brahma Choudhury to join the Cabinet and strengthen the position of Mr. Borbora. The PTCA has four members in the Assam Assembly.—PTI.

Vast Areas in Assam Inundated

NEW DELHI, July 17.

Three persons lost their lives in Rajasthan and vast areas of crop lands and human habitations were inundated in Assam following heavy rain and floods, according to reports reaching here.

While the Brahmaputra was flowing above the danger mark at Dibrugarh and Neamtighat in Upper Assam, the Ganga and the Yamuna continued to rise at several points in Uttar Pradesh. Several tributaries of the Brahmaputra, including Subansiri, are also in spate and flowing above the danger mark.

Two girls were killed in house collapses in Ajmer. A watchman was swept away in flood waters gushing through a breach in the Nagdi Dam on Monday.

GANGA, YAMUNA RISING

In Uttar Pradesh the Ganga and Yamuna continued to rise at several points, but the Ghaghra started receding in the eastern parts of the State.

The Ganga and Yamuna were, however, far below the danger level, the Central Flood Forecasting Division said in Lucknow.

In Calcutta, there was a three-hour continuous heavy downpour — first of this magnitude this season. There was knee to waist-

deep water in low-lying areas of the city and suburbs.

Heavy water-logging accentuated by a tidal bore in the Hooghly stalled for over two hours traffic even on main thoroughfares.

The roof of the eastern side of the GPO developed a crack as lightning struck it, hitting a rain water pipe and burning out electric wiring.

An official of the GPO said rain water gushed through the crack, necessitating quick removal of the postal articles in the delivery department.—PTI.

See also Page 7

18-July-1979

THE HINDU.