

Assam

## Events are Strikingly Similar

DISPUR to-day does not appear to be distant from Delhi politically with a striking similarity in the developments taking place in both capitals. While in Delhi, the Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, had to yield to the pressure of partymen and resign, in Dispur, the Chief Minister Mr. Borbora is in an embarrassing position with the dissidents in the ruling Janata Party mounting pressure on him to step down.

Mr. Borbora is apparently off to an inauspicious start with his reconstituted ministry. After a good deal of dillydallying and several airdashes to New Delhi, the reconstituted Assam Ministry was sworn in on July 14 last. But three of the five dissidents inducted into the Ministry did not take the oath as also a Plains Tribal Council of Assam member who, however, was sworn in later following clearance from the PTCA.

The crisis developed with the resignation of Mr. Keshab Chandra Gogoi, a senior member of the Borbora Cabinet, on July 16, from the reconstituted Council of Ministers, followed by the resignation of another senior member, Mr. Jagannath Singh.

A final solution, if it can be so described, could thus satisfy neither the dissidents nor the ministerialists.

The dissidents are not happy because the reconstituted Ministry has not been upto their expectations nor their demand for a Deputy Chief Minister has been accepted. Besides their representation in the Ministry is less than 25 per cent against their demand for 50 per cent.

82

The ministerialists are not happy because three of them have been dropped.

Meanwhile the developments in Delhi are casting their shadow on Dispur as is evident from the declared bid of Mr. Keshab Chandra Gogoi to form an alternative Government. He claims that along with 34 members of the JLP including pro-changers, he is in a position to form a Ministry.

He is stated to have been assured support from the Assam Congress Legislature Party, Congress-I and CPI, all however from outside.

Mr. Sarat Chandra Sinha Assam Congress Legislature Party leader and former Chief Minister, who along with some of his colleagues met the Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, at Shillong on July 16, said that the Governor was watching the situation in the State.

Mr. Borbora is of the view that the crisis at the Centre will not in any way affect the reconstituted Assam Ministry.

Two Ministers who were dropped from the Borbora Cabinet and joined the Janata (S) are Mr. Zehirul Islam and Mr. Golam Oswani. "We are watching developments on the national scene", Islam says in a statement. "We would take Assam politics into the mainstream of the national consolidation of progressive and secular forces". He expects more Janata MLAs in Assam to come into the Janata (S) fold.

22 - July - 1979

The Hindu