

# Assam Janata Ministry Loses CPI (M) Support

GAUHATI, Sept. 2.

The Janata Party Ministry in Assam to-day received a severe jolt on the eve of trial of strength in the Assembly as the 11-member CPI (M) group withdrew its support.

After prolonged discussions to-day the State committee of the CPI (M) in a resolution said the Ministry had lost confidence of the Assembly and that the party would help formation of a Government of left, democratic and secular forces in all the parties including the Janata.

Earlier in the day Mr. Abdul Latif, a Minister of State, resigned for the second time in less than two days.

The Congress, Congress (I), CPI, Assam Janata Dal and Progressive Democratic Front have already given notices for no-confidence motion against the Minis-

try, headed by Mr. Golap Bar-bora.

The ruling Ministerial group's strength has been reduced to 39 from its previous strength of 64 in a House of 126.

The Congress, Congress (I), with a strength of 28 and seven respectively have promised support to the breakaway Assam Janata Dal in forming an alternative Government. The Dal claims a strength of 19 MLAs, including Mr. Abdul Latif.

Four more Janata MLAs had resigned and formed the Janata (S). The Speaker has also resigned from the Janata Party. He has recognised the Janata Dal as an opposition party.

(The Janata Ministry has all along been supported by the Plains Tribal Council 4, CPI (M) 11 and the RCPI 4 as also three independents.)

Mr. Bedbrata Baruah, Minister of State for External Affairs, who is currently here, told newsmen that if the present Ministry was ousted, the Congress would support the Assam Janata Dal from outside to form an Alternative Government in the State.

The RCPI announced to-day it would not support the no-confidence motion, because that would "mean bringing the Congress and Congress (I) to power".

The State Committee of the Janata Party has constituted a five-member committee, including the former Union Minister of State for Education, Mrs. Renuka Devi Barkataki, to initiate talks with the breakaway group.

Mrs. Barkataki has already started talks with the members of the Janata Dal. An informed source

said that the Dal members had told Mrs. Barkataki that the Chief Minister, Mr. Golap Borbora, would have to resign first before any talks could be started.

The Janata Party has also appealed to the members who had left the party to come back to its fold and to all the left, democratic and progressive forces, who had till now been giving support to the Government to continue their support.—UNI and PTI.

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