

Assam Janata rift persists

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The rift in the ruling Janata Party in Assam remains unhealed despite the recent week-long exercise by the party High Command at New Delhi to set right the cracks in its State unit.

The formula evolved by the Party High Command to bring a rapprochement between Chief Minister Golap Chandra Borbora and his detractors has failed to satisfy the dissidents.

The formula envisaged by Mr. Borbora would reconstitute his Council of Ministers by dropping his two Cabinet colleagues — Mr. O. F. Golam Osmani and Mr. Zahurul Islam and raising its present strength to 21 by including some dissidents. However, sharp differences have arisen over the choice of dissidents to be inducted in the reconstituted Council of Ministers.

Oblivious of the crisis that the grips the party at the Centre, the

dissidents yesterday demanded an emergency meeting of the Assam Janata Legislature Party to discuss threadbare the pros and cons of the proposed reconstitution of the Borbora Ministry.

The demand for convening an emergency meeting of the JLP came while Mr. Borbora was giving finishing touches to his plans to reconstitute his outfit.

Mr. Borbora, it may be recalled, had told waiting newsmen at Gauhati airport on Tuesday, that he would be reconstituting his Ministry early next week. The new outfit, he had announced, would have 21 members — 13 Ministers of Cabinet rank and eight Ministers of State. He also indicated that two Cabinet Ministers in the present Ministry would be dropped.

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