

Assam Minister Quits After Portfolio Allocation

GAUHATI, July 16.

Mr. Keshab Chandra Gagoi, Irrigation, Planning and Development Minister, in the reconstituted Assam Ministry, resigned from the Cabinet after a few hours' of the announcement made by the Chief Minister, Mr. Golap Borbora, about the allocation of portfolios on Monday.

Mr. Gogoi said he had submitted his resignation to the Chief Minister.

Asked about the reason of his resignation, Mr. Gogoi said he would disclose the reason for his resignation at a press conference on Tuesday.—PTI.

UNI reports:

Mr. Sarat Chandra Sinha, Leader of the Opposition in the Assam Assembly, to-day demanded the resignation of the Borbora Ministry as it had been reduced to a minority and lost its constitutional right to be in office.

Mr. Sinha told newsmen that he had sent a telegram to the North Eastern States Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, requesting him to summon the Assembly immediately and ask Mr. Borbora to prove his majority. He is leading a ten-member delegation to Shillong to meet the Governor and submit a memorandum.

Replying to a question, Mr. Sinha said an alternative Government could be formed, but declined to elaborate. The Congress has 24 members in a House of 126.

Four MLAs of the ruling Janata Party, including two former Ministers had resigned and joined the Janata (Secular) headed by Mr. Raj Narain on Sunday. As a result, the party's strength in the legislature has been reduced to 57 from 61.

The Governor administered oaths of office and secrecy to 16 Ministers of the 21-member two-tier reconstituted Cabinet on Sunday. Three former Ministers were dropped from the new Cabinet.

The Hindu.

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