

Assam Minister Resigns Again

GAUHATI, Sept. 2.—Uncertainty loomed large over the political situation in Assam on the eve of commencement of the Assembly session as the Minister of State for Wakf Properties and Water Supply, Mr Abdul Latif, who had withdrawn his resignation yesterday, returned to the fold of dissident Janata legislators and Mr Furna Chandra Borah, who had earlier resigned from the party, formally joined the newly formed Assam Janata Dal today, rejoin UNI and PFI.

Mr Borah has requested the Speaker to allot him a seat with Dal members. With Mr Borah joining the Assam Janata Dal, its strength in the House increased to 23, including three associate members of the Progressive Democratic Front.

Mr Latif, who resigned from the Ministry and the Janata Party on Friday night, withdrew his resignation within a couple of hours. The Minister again announced this morning that he had submitted his resignation to the Chief Minister. The entire process took 35 hours.

Observers say political horse trading has started in Assam.

The ruling Janata Party, Congress, Congress (I), CPI and other political parties today intensified their last minute efforts to consolidate their position before tomorrow's Assembly session when there will be a trial of

strength of the Borbora Ministry.

The Congress, Congress (I), CPI, Assam Janata Dal and Progressive Democratic Front have already given notices for no-confidence motions against Mr Golap Borbora.

Mr Atul Goswami, a prominent independent member has given notice for a resolution for removal of the Speaker Mr J. N. Hazarika.

The Janata Party was supported by four Plains Tribal Council Ministers of Assam, 11 CPI(M), four RCPI and three independents in writing on the eve of the formation of the Assam Janata Ministry after the Assembly election last year and these parties have not so far withdrawn their support.

The reconstituted Assam Ministry suffered a major set-back when some Ministers did not turn up at the swearing-in ceremony on July 14. Later, three Ministers resigned from the Ministry and the JLP.

The Janata Party's strength has already been reduced to 40 from its previous 64, including four associate members. The Speaker today confirmed that the strength of the newly formed Assam Janata Dal was 19, including Mr Latif. All of them had resigned from the Janata Party and formed the Dal.

Another four Janata members had resigned from the party and formed the Janata (S). The Speaker has resigned from the party but has not joined any group.

Mr Borbora continues to maintain that he still commands comfortable majority and that there is no threat.

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THE STATEMENT.