

Assam Ministers' Portfolios May Be Reallocated

From Our Special Representative
GAUHATI, June 30.—Assam Ministers' portfolios are likely to be reallocated soon. The Chief Minister, Mr Golap Borbora, will leave for New Delhi in a day or two to discuss the issue with the party president, Mr Chandra Shekhar.

Mr K. S. Hegde, general secretary of the party, was authorized by the Janata president to assess the situation, following campaigns by a dissident group to get Mr Borbora seek a vote of confidence. He has submitted his report to the party.

Despite rumours here that Mr Borbora will drop a few Ministers connected with the dissident group, reliable sources dismiss such action as risky. Reallocation of portfolios may result in threats of resignation. Some Ministers are lobbying in Delhi either for or against the Chief Minister.

The party high command has accepted Mr Borbora's reasons for expanding the team which, he says, will reflect Assam's "peculiar population complex". Addition of a Minister of Cabinet rank is believed to be certain.

Mr Borbora may ask the Centre for at least two battalions from outside to deal with the law and order situation in the plains districts where communal feelings are being exploited. Because of student movements, price rise and the current police agitation, the State should maintain a reserve force to deal with any situation that may arise. Out of the 10 Assam Police battalions, including the one which is being raised, seven battalions are on the State's borders with Nagaland, Arunachal, Meghalaya and Mizoram.

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