

Assam Ministry Reduced To Minority: Gogoi

GAUHATI, July 17.—Mr Keshab Chandra Gogoi, who resigned from the Assam Cabinet yesterday, demanded today the resignation of the Chief Minister, Mr Golap Borbora, reports PTI. He claimed that the Borbora Ministry had been reduced to a minority after 35 dissident Janata Party members decided to withdraw support.

Mr Gogoi told a Press conference that the dissidents had been given "all out support" by the 23-member Congress Legislature Party, headed by the Opposition leader, Mr Sarat Chandra Sinha, and with the "assured support" of

the CPI and the Congress (I) they would be in a comfortable position to form an alternative Government.

Mr Gogoi said the dissidents, who included some Ministers, would meet here tomorrow to work out strategies to "topple" the Government if Mr Borbora did not step down gracefully.

Meanwhile, Mr Sinha, who was to have flown to Delhi today to hold talks with Congress leaders, postponed his trip till tomorrow.

Mr Sinha met the Governor, Mr L. P. Singh, at Shillong yesterday and apprised him of the developments in the State. The Governor, according to Mr Sinha, assured him that he was keeping a close watch on the situation.

The general secretary of the Assam unit of the Janata Party, Mr Biswa Goswami, at a Press conference here today said the Borbora Government continued to command "a stable majority" and enjoyed the support of all progressive and democratic forces.

Mr Goswami appealed to progressive and Left forces to continue to lend their support to the Ministry.

(Editorial comment on page 8)

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