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Assam Politics Enters Interesting Stage

By A Staff Reporter

GAUHATI, Aug. 9—Politics

in Assam appears to have entered an interesting stage following the report of resignation of 11 Janata MLAs from the primary membership of the party.

While the Chief Minister, Sri Golap Barborā, has not yet received the resignation letters, the Speaker of the Assam Assembly, Sri Jogendra Nath Hazarika, today disclosed the names of nine MLAs who had sent copies of the resignation letters to him.

Sri Hazarika said that nine MLAs had sent copies of resignation letters to him yesterday evening. They are: Dr. Tarini Mohan Barooa, Sri Atal Hussain Mazumdar, Sri Keshab Chandra Gogoi, Sri Gandhi Ram Timung, Sri Afzalur Rahman, Sri Santi Ranjan Dasgupta, Sri Fakhrul Rahman, Sri Padam Bahadur Chouhan and Kazi Kutubuddin.

On the other hand, the Chief Minister, Sri Barborā, when contacted this morning, said that he had not received resignation letter of any Janata MLA. He said that the Governor also had not received the copies of the resignation letters when he checked up

with the Governor this morning.

Sri Barborā reacted rather sharply to the reports of resignation of 11 MLAs and said that if those MLAs had "political honesty they should state clearly whether they would remain with the party or go out". "They could not eat the cake and have it too" he added.

It may be recalled here that four Janata MLAs had already resigned from the party and formed the Janata (S) group in the State Assembly. They are Sri A F Golam Osmani, Sri Zahirul Islam, Sri Abdul Soban and Sri Muzammil Ali.

PTI adds:

A Spokesman of the dissident faction of the AJLP said today that the Janata MLAs had tendered their resignation in protest against the 'adamant attitude' of the Chief Minister, who had refused to step down inspite of their persistent demands.

The Spokesman maintained that the Chief Minister lost the confidence of AJLP and his Ministry has been reduced to a minority.

He said that some more Janata MLAs are expected to tender their resignation from the party within a few days.