

# Assam rebels hopeful of ousting CM

Our Staff Correspondent

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JANATA Party dissidents here appear confident to oust Mr Golap Borbora from the Chief Ministership. "It is now only a matter of days".

9-APR-1979

Patriot.

The Janata Parliamentary Board has not asked Mr Borbora, unlike his counterparts in Bihar, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh, to seek a confidence vote of the Legislature Party.

But the dissidents claim that they have already succeeded in convincing the High Command that Mr Borbora has lost majority in the party.

Mr Borbora is leaving for Delhi on 9 April. It is claimed that the High Command will ask him to resign to avoid "further bad blood in the party".

The Janata Party in Assam has 60 MLAs including five associate members. The dissidents claim that more than half of them, including some ministers, have already signed a letter addressed to the High Command expressing their lack of confidence in Mr Borbora.

A dissident MLA is leaving for Delhi tomorrow with the signatures. Mr Borbora, it is said, will be confronted with the letter when he visits Delhi.

In case he still insists on a vote of confidence in the Legislature Party, a meeting of the JLP will be convened at which a Central observer will be present.

The search for Mr Borbora's successor has already begun, as far as the dissidents are concerned. There are two contenders in the field: Finance Minister Keshab Gogoi and Speaker Jogen Hazarika, both of whom are former Congressmen, having come to the Janata Party via CFD.

Meanwhile, Mr Borbora is making an air dash to Silchar tomorrow to meet Union Industries Minister George Fernandes who will arrive there on his way to Mizoram for electioneering.

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