

Borbora Advised To Seek Confidence Vote

SHILLONG, Aug. 21.—Mr L. P. Singh, Governor of Assam, today advised the Chief Minister, Mr Golap Borbora, to seek a vote of confidence in the Assembly, report UNI and PTI. Mr Borbora quoted the Governor as having said after an hour-long meeting at Raj Bhavan here that he was convinced that the dissidents had a strength of 64 in the 126-member House.

Mr Borbora was asked to consider summoning an emergency session of the Assembly as demanded by the dissidents for a trial of strength and not to wait till the autumn session scheduled to begin on September 12.

The Chief Minister told reporters that he would discuss the Governor's suggestion with his party colleagues in Gauhati tomorrow and make an announcement.

Mr Borbora, who had been asked by the Governor to meet him here, had claimed the support of at least 73 members.

He said there was no threat to his Ministry. Janata had a strength of 46 in the Assembly while all the Leftist parties, including three members of the six-man Progressive Democratic Front group, had extended support to him. He named the three members as Mr Atul Goswami, Mr A. Ahmed and Mr Romesh Sahoria.

The Chief Minister said it would not be necessary to seek a vote of confidence when the Assembly met. The dissidents were free to move a no-confidence motion.

The Assembly would have a routine session, he said. The last session ended on April 7.

Asked about the strength of the dissidents, the Chief Minister said that till now 15 Janata MLAs had resigned.

The dissidents, however, were not sure of their stand and all of them had personal ambitions. They were envisaging a Congress-led alternative Government in the State, Mr Borbora added.

The Chief Minister said he was

trying to settle differences with the dissidents and hoped that some of them would return to the party.

Mr Jogendra Nath Hazarika, Speaker of the Assembly, is the unanimous choice of the dissidents as their leader.

Dissident members said tonight: "We will elect our leader in a minute if called upon to form an alternative Government."

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THE STATEMANT,