

# Borbora is unwilling to drop Ministers

Hindustan Times Correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 5—Assam Chief Minister Golap Borbora today expressed his unwillingness to drop any member of his Government. Instead, he felt one or two new faces could be accommodated.

Talking to newsmen after meeting Prime Minister Morarji Desai and Janata president Chandra Shekhar, Mr Borbora said: "I am prepared for minor adjustments here and there. If I am to drop any Minister—I must know the charges against them and have proof of their validity."

This position does not conform to the decision of the Janata Parliamentary Board which had asked him on June 22 to reconstitute the Cabinet in consultation with the party chief.

It was understood that he would secure the resignations of all the members of his team. Thereafter, a fresh team consisting of a majority of old and a few new faces was to be installed.

There was reportedly resistance to this proposal from within his Cabinet. Mr Borbora showed to

newsmen a bundle of letters purporting to be resignations of nine or 17 colleagues. But, why anybody should be dropped when the Government had been constituted carefully after giving regional representation? However, he would agree to expand the Ministry by taking one or two new members.

To a query about the campaign against him being waged by 11 to 15 dissidents in Gauhati and New Delhi, Mr Borbora asserted he could handle the situation by himself "if my legs are not pulled from New Delhi."

He candidly stated that he was holding power with marginal majority in the legislation. "I am not for a show-down with the Central leadership—but I hope they will allow for my views too for ensuring a cohesive Cabinet".

The Janata Parliamentary Board had decided that the present leadership in Assam should not be disturbed. But Mr Borbora was apprehensive that since the dissidents had failed to dislodge him, "It may be so arranged that my wings are clipped, so that in the near future I can be pushed out."

In the light of Mr Borbora's approach to the crisis facing him and the dissidents continuing to mount their attack, the question engaging the attention of some members of the party High Command is whether he should be asked to seek a vote of confidence from the State Legislature Party as had been done in other States. A group of dissidents is already here, impressing upon the Central leaders the need to change the leadership in the State.

The Hindustan Times.

6 - July 6 - July - 1979.