

Borbora Ministry facing defeat?

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The strength of the ruling Janata Party in the 126-member Assam Legislative Assembly was yesterday reduced to 47 when one more Janata dissident, Mr. Shanti Ranjan Dasgupta, resigned from the primary membership of the party and communicated his decision to Governor, L. P. Singh and Speaker J. N. Hazarika.

Enquiries made at the Raj Bhavan here yesterday confirmed the receipt of a communication from 10 Janata dissident Legislators intimating their decision to quit the party.

Among those Legislators who have resigned from the Janata Party are: Dr. Tarini Mohan Barooah, Mr. Keshab Chandra Gogoi, Mr. Gandhi Ram Tamang, Mr. Fazlur Rahman, Mr. Tarini Chandra Das, Mr. Padam Bahadur Chauhan, Mohd. Fakhrul Islam, Mr. Altaf Hussain Mazumdar, Kazi Qutabuddin and Mr. Shanti Ranjan Dasgupta.

According to the dissident leader, Dr. Barooah, more resignations will follow.

Dr. Barooah said that Chief Minister Goalp Chandra Borbora has clearly lost the support of the majority in the Assembly and should resign gracefully. Failing this he should be dismissed by the Governor.

The Governor, Mr. Singh, who is going to dispur tomorrow, will discuss the latest developments with the Chief Minister Borbora.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister,

who continues to claim majority support, has sounded the Governor of his plans to expand his Ministry tomorrow.

He has not, however, intimated the names of the new incumbents in the proposed enlarged Ministry.

Mr. Hazarika yesterday confirmed having received a communication from 14 Janata Legislators intimating their decision to quit the party. While four of these Legislators — Mr. A. F. Golam Osman, Mr. Zahirul Ismam (both former Ministers in the Borbora Government), Mr. Abdul Zaman and Mr. Muzamam Ali — have informed the Speaker that they had joined the Janata (Secular), the other 10 have not stated about their future affiliations except that they would like to be allotted seats in a separate block.

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