

# Borbora quits; Hazarika to submit list

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FROM OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

GAUHATI, SEPT. 4.—The 18-month old Janata Ministry of Assam, headed by Mr. Golap Borbora, today bowed out of office in the midst of the debate on a no-confidence motion tabled against it yesterday.

Accepting the Ministry's resignation, the Governor, Mr. L. P. Singh, has asked Mr. Borbora to carry on till a new arrangement is made.

As a sequel to the ministry's resignation, the Autumn session of the legislature, which commenced here yesterday, has been adjourned sine die.

Later, the leaders of six legislature groups — Asom Janata Vidayini Dal (AJVD), Congress (S), Congress (I), CPI, PDF and Janata (S) — met the Governor at the local circuit house and requested him to summon Mr. Jogendra Nath Hazarika, leader of the AJVD, to form a new Ministry. The AJVD was recognised yesterday as the largest Opposition group in the legislature. Mr. Hazarika was elected its leader this afternoon.

The Governor has asked Mr. Hazarika to submit a full list of his supporters tomorrow morning.

In the State Assembly campus, it was a day of drama. Before the legislature began its day's sitting, the members of the Borbora Ministry had a brief meeting in which the Chief Minister was given a green signal to resign. However, the JLP was intimated of this decision during the lunch break of the session. After that, the Chief Minister met the Governor, who has been camping here since yesterday evening.

The Chief Minister and two other Ministers were absent when the afternoon sitting of the legislature began. But the morning sitting was attended by almost all the members of the JLP and the other groups in the house.

In the morning session, a debate on the no-confidence

motion was opened by the CPI leader, Mr. Promode Gogoi, who discussed the performances of the Borbora Ministry during the past 18 months and maintained that this government, already shorn of the majority support in the House, had no right to continue. Participating in the debate, Mr. Nagen Barua, a deputy leader of the JLP strongly criticised the role of some of the members who had deserted the JLP. Mr. Barua's speech raised a row in the House. With members shouting and counter-shouting it was difficult for the speaker to restore order.

Mr. Hazarika did not attend in the afternoon. The Deputy Speaker, Sheikh Chand Mohammed, who presided over the session, announced that Mr. Hazarika had resigned the office of the Speaker. The resignation of the Borbora Ministry and the Governor's orders for adjournment the session were announced by the Deputy Speaker when an RCPI member, Mr. Banerwar Saikia, was speaking on the no-confidence motion.

Later, talking to newsmen at his residence, the Chief Minister, Mr. Borbora said he had decided to resign "considering the present circumstances". He, however, did not advise the Governor to dissolve the legislature. He said when the legislature met again his party would play the role of the Opposition.

Asked by a reporter as to who "engineered" the fall of his government, Mr. Borbora replied: "tea and plywood industries and the upper Assam liquor lobby".

He said the decision that the Ministry should resign before the voting on the no-confidence motion was taken unanimously in today's Cabinet meeting. The JLP also approved of it. There was no rift in the present JLP, he said, adding: "the party has now become more cohesive".

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