

Borbora throws the gauntlet

Our Staff Correspondent

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"I HAVE been a life long socialist. Whether I am in power or not, under no circumstances shall I compromise with or surrender to the forces opposed to the national ideals of socialism, secularism and democracy."

This was stated by Assam Chief Minister Golap Borbora in an exclusive interview with PATRIOT, in the context of the persistent efforts to dislodge him from power.

Mr Borbora identified the forces which are trying to oust him as "narrow chauvinistic elements, local upper caste people, moneyed interests and communal forces as represented by the RSS and other similar organisations".

These forces were trying to oust him for their own interests, he said. Mr Borbora said the propaganda that since his coming to power, large-scale infiltration from Bangladesh had been allowed to continue unabated was "totally false". Referring to the historical background to the problem, he said immigration of people from what is now Bangladesh for economic reasons had continued from the beginning of this century and it was not at all a new phenomenon.

MONEYED INTERESTS

Asked why the moneyed interests are up against him, the Chief Minister said the decision of the State Government to distribute all essential commodities through the cooperatives had seriously affected these interests. Similarly, the attitude adopted

by the various State Assembly committees to industries etc, had also alarmed them. In this context, Mr Borbora specifically mentioned the recent report of the House committee on employment which recommended nationalisation of the thriving plywood industry in the State which is monopolized by a few private sector firms.

His Government's policy of treating all unions on the same footing, without any favour or prejudice, had also been disliked by the capitalist and some other trade unions, he said.

For example, the INTUC under the Congress regime had received official patronage and this was to the liking of the industrialists. No such special treatment is being accorded to any union now.

Similarly, the RSS-controlled Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh was also trying to expand, but his Government would not give it any special preference.

ships and possessions in the sea
and within a radius of 200

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Terms of India

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