

# Gogoi Sworn In As Chief Minister

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The Statesman

GAUHATI, Jan. 13.—A Congress (I) Ministry in Assam, headed by Mr Keshab Chandra Gogoi, was sworn in here tonight ending the 197-day-old President's rule in the State, reports PTI. Mr Gogoi took the oath at a simple function at Raj Bhavan. It was attended by Congress (I) legislators and senior officials.

Leaders of the Plain Tribal Council of Assam, which has four members in the State Assembly, were present. But the former Congress(I) Chief Minister, Mrs Anwara Taimur, and leaders of the Left and Democratic alliance were absent.

Mr Gogoi, who on Monday, was elected leader of the CLP(I) the largest single party in the State Assembly, was invited by the Governor, Mr Prakash Mehrotra, to form a Ministry this afternoon.

He had claimed the support of 63 members, including 40 of his party, and four each of the PTCA and the tea garden labour group and some Independents, in a House with an effective strength of 119.

Earlier, President's rule was revoked to facilitate the installation of a popular Ministry.

Mr Gogoi told reporters that he would name other members of his Ministry within a couple of days after consulting the Congress(I) High Command.

He said he would like to have a three-tier Ministry and his main concern was to find a solution to the foreigners issue.

President's rule was imposed on June 30 when the Taimur Ministry "failed" to get the Assam Ap-

propriation Bill passed by the Assembly consequent on the withdrawal of support by the 23-member Left Front. It was extended for another term on December 30.

The Left and democratic alliance, which had claimed the support of 65 members, met the Governor earlier in the day and demanded that they be invited to form the Ministry.

Mr Sarat Chandra Sinha, the alliance leader, said in a statement that the Governor had told him that since the Congress(I) had also staked a claim he would have to examine both the cases.

Mr Sinha said three of the four MLAs, who had recently resigned from the ACLP(I), accompanied the alliance leaders.

In a statement later, Mr Sinha condemned the installation of "a minority Congress(I) Ministry".

"The Governor", he said, "brazenly retracted his own promise not to impose a minority Ministry".

Mr Gogoi, says UNI, was the Finance Minister in the last three Ministries including that of Mrs Anwara Taimur. He was elected to the Assam Assembly in 1977 from Dibrugarh constituency with a Janata Party ticket.

After the resignation of the Janata Ministry headed by Mr Golap Borbora, Mr Gogoi joined in the Assam Janata Dal led by Mr Jogen Hazarika and thereafter on the fall of the Hazarika Ministry he resigned from Janata and joined the Congress(I).

Our Special Representative in Shillong adds: The leader of the Opposition alliance of Left and democratic parties claimed a strength of 65, including the three of the four Congress(I) legislators, who had resigned from the party in protest against the change of leadership.

There were rumours of MLAs missing or under physical constraints. Opposition leaders have been outspoken about the alleged partisan role of the Governor. Mr Golap Borbora, a former Chief Minister and Janata Party leader, described the Governor's action as fantastic and a glaring case of discrimination. He demanded that the Assembly be summoned immediately for a trial of strength.

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