

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**First Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)**



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**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 27, 1998/Chaitra 6, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at one minute past Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of Sarvashri M. Nageshwararao and V.K. Ramaswamy.

Shri M. Nageshwararao was a Member of the Fifth to Seventh Lok Sabhas representing the Machilipatnam and Tenali Parliamentary Constituencies of Andhra Pradesh during 1971-77 and 1977-84 respectively.

Earlier, he was a Member of the Legislative Assembly of the erstwhile Madras State during 1946-52 and Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly during 1954-62.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Nageshwararao actively participated in the freedom movement. In 1930, he left studies and participated in the Salt Satyagraha Movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

An able parliamentarian he took active part in the proceeding of the House and its Committees and made notable contribution thereto. He was a Member of the Estimates Committee during 1974-75.

Shri M. Nageshwararao passed away on 13th January, 1998 at Guntur, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 88 years.

Shri V.K. Ramaswamy was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha representing Namakkal Parliamentary Constituency of the erstwhile Madras State during 1962-67.

An active social and political worker, Shri Ramaswamy worked hard for the upliftment of the down-trodden and made significant contribution in various social activities relating to his constituency. He was the founder member of Kasthurba Girls Hostel, Namakkal, Tamil Nadu.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Ramaswamy worked hard for improving the lot of landless farmers.

Shri V.K. Ramaswamy passed away on 25th January, 1998 at Namakkal, Tamil Nadu at the age of 73 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.03 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.04 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to make one more announcement. Members are informed that the discussion on the Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers which is to take place on 27th and 28th March, 1998, will be telecast on DD-1 and DD-2 International. Since the Doordarshan has to telecast the normal news programme from 2 p.m. to 2.20 p.m., Lunch Break of the House will be observed from 1.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m. on these days.

11.05 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Statement showing action taken by the Government on the assurances etc. by the Ministries during various sessions of Eighth, Ninth, Tenth & Eleventh Lok Sabha

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and

undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabha:

EIGHTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XLII Eleventh Session 1988
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT No 22/98]

2. Statement No. XXXX Thirteenth Session, 1989
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 23/98]

NINTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XXXXII Second Session 1990
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 24/98]

4. Statement No. XXX Sixth Session 1990
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 25/98]

TENTH LOK SABHA

5. Statement No. XXXIII First Session 1991
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 26/98]

6. Statement No. XXXII Second Session 1991
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 27/98]

7. Statement No. XXXIV Third Session 1992
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 28/98]

8. Statement No. XXXII Fourth Session 1992
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 29/98]

9. Statement No. XXVII Fifth Session 1992
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 30/98]

10. Statement No. XXIX Sixth Session 1993
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 31/98]

11. Statement No. XXV Seventh Session 1993
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 32/98]

12. Statement No. XXIV Eighth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 33/98]

13. Statement No. XXII Ninth Session 1994
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 34/98]

14. Statement No. XVII Eleventh Session 1994
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 35/98]

15. Statement No. XV Twelfth Session 1994
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 36/98]

16. Statement No. XIII Thirteenth Session 1995
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 37/98]

17. Statement No. X Fourteenth Session 1995
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 38/98]

18. Statement No. VIII Fifteenth Session 1995
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 39/98]

19. Statement No. VII Sixteenth Session 1996
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 40/98]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

20. Statement No. V Second Session 1996
(Vol I & II)
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 41/98]

21. Statement No. IV Third Session 1996
(Vol. I & II)
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 42/98]

22. Statement No. III Fourth Session 1997
(Vol. I, II and III)
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 43/98]

23. Statement No. I Fifth Session 1997
(Vol. I & II)
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 44/98]

24. Statement No I Sixth Session 1997
[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 45/98]

11.5½ hrs.

INCOME -TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the income-tax Act, 1961.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Part II Section 2, dated 27.03.98.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce** the Bill.

11.06 hrs

STATEMENT RE: INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT)
SECOND ORDINANCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Income-Tax (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 46/98]

11.06½ hrs.

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House expresses its Confidence in the Council of Ministers."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move this motion with mixed feelings, for I am reminded of the day, the 28th of May, 1996 when I had moved the Confidence Motion in this very House from this very place on behalf of the then B.J.P. Government. Since then much water has flown under the bridge. It is imperative for a democracy to function smoothly. However at times, it seems as if smooth current of democracy is being hindered through creating a crisis in the form of expressing no-confidence in the Government. At that time, I had tendered resignation because mine was a minority Government and before the umpires of democracy could direct me to leave the field, I preferred to quit. But the country has to think seriously about the cycle of events which took place after that. The scenario of democracy caught in the Whirlpool of Confidence Motion since 1989 is a cause of concern.

The Confidence Motion was moved once again on December 21, 1989. The Government lasted only for 11 months. Confidence Motion was moved again on November 7, 1990. The new Prime Minister moved the Confidence Motion in 1990 but instead of completing its full term of five years, the Government ran only for five months. Lok Sabha was dissolved. Nobody managed to muster majority in 1991 elections. The minority Congress party Government was formed. Initially we lended our support to the Government. I do not want to go into details as to how the position of minority was converted into majority position as the matter is *sub-judice*. That Government was not threatened by instability, however this Government was mauled by the alligators of corruption. That is why the Congress lost the elections. Congress has to face unprecedented defeat. The Congress had to lose power earlier due to the crime of imposing emergency in 1977, even then, the Congress emerged as a single largest party. But at that time, the Congress had lost its position of being the largest party. Bhartiya Janata Party succeeded in wresting the coveted status of being the largest party on the basis of increasing support of the masses. However a period of instability was witnessed after the Congress lost the elections. Being short in number, we decided to withdraw from the field. However, while addressing the House on 28th May, I had said that we will come back with a mandate and as promised, I am here in the House once again.....(Interruptions) There is a sea change in the circumstances prevalent on that day and the present circumstances. In the meanwhile, the politics of untouchability failed and attempts at separatism have also failed. We have emerged as a single largest party and as largest coalition with the support of our allies(Interruptions) We are somewhat short of the required majority. We never tried to hide this fact. We did not go to the president to stake our claim. The President himself invited us for consultation and we informed him that our number is a little less than the required number. He said that he will be consulting other parties also and he did so. The President asked for the documents regarding the support of the parties claimed by us. Separate consultations were held. He talked to the leaders of the Telugu Desam Party and thereafter he took this decision. The Congress party did not stake claim to form the Government. The Chairperson of Congress and the Head of Congress Parliamentary party, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi also met the President and informed him that they were not going to stake the claim to form the Government. There was no question of United Front staking the claim for they have suffered most in these elections.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President of India.

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

The number of Congress members might have gone up but the number of United Front members has been reduced to one-half. The Front also did not express its interest in forming the Government. Then the President directed me to form the Government and set a time-limit upto 29th. I stand before the House to seek the vote of Confidence.

I would like to submit as to how long should we continue with this process of seeking Confidence year after year. It is not as if I am raising this question only because I am required to seek the Confidence of the House. But it is not so. Today, a question is agitating the mind of every citizen and champions of democracy that why this country is capsized in the whirlpool of political uncertainty. As I have mentioned earlier also that it should not be allowed to continue. We hoped for a clear-cut decision in recent elections. The popular mandate is today in favour of the BJP and its allies. Congress party and United Front cannot claim that(Interruptions) Our opponents have also contested against each other. I therefore, asked the hon. President to explore the possibilities by inviting other parties also. Before taking up the responsibility, we want that you should give an opportunity to other parties also. However, nobody was prepared to form the government. Today, I once again repeat my point. If all parties can unite against us and become successful in giving a stable government, they should come forward. They had been united last time also and, the Congress Party was giving support from outside. However, it gave support for some months and later on withdrew it, as a result of which Shri Deve Gowda had to face lot of problem.....(Interruptions) Charges were levelled against him that he wanted to divide the Congress party. I do not know that how far it is true. After that, my friend Shri Indra Kumar Gujral became the Prime Minister and after few months, Congress Party again withdrew its support. Now who will trust Congress? However, if people have expressed a new trust and if there is expectation for a new initiative, I will say that the country requires a stable and honest government, and we will fulfil this requirement(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the Hon. President invited us he had two things in his mind at that time. He considered on both these points. One is, Bhartiya Janata Party emerged as the biggest party and secondly the alliance between Bhartiya Janta Party and other friendly parties was the most powerful alliance. There was another characteristic that this alliance was forged before the elections and not after elections. We

went before the electorate with this alliance. The alliances which are forged before elections have uniform ideology. Therefore, the Hon'ble President preferred the fact of forming alliance before elections and invited us to form the Government. We went to the public with two main objectives—firstly, to give political stability to the country and secondly, to give the country a clean government. This alliance was formed before election, therefore, it is wrong to say that this alliance was formed with a view to come in power. Participation in government is a natural phenomenon in democracy, it is essential also but one should understand the qualitative difference between the alliance which was formed before election and which was formed after elections. The Hon'ble President realised this fact and invited us to form government.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to briefly mention about the election results. The election observers were surprised as AIADMK returned to power in Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Ms. Jaya Lalitha. In Karnataka, our alliance with Lok Shakti under the leadership of Shri Hegde has proved to be useful. In Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik, son of Shri Biju Patnaik, has changed the political scenario by forming Biju Janata Dal. In West Bengal, the Trinamul Congress under the leadership of Mamataji has routed the Congress and Marxist Parties (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask the hon'ble Members not to interfere otherwise we will also not allow their leaders to speak. After this Shri Sharad Pawar has to speak(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : In Gujarat, the alliance devoid of sound principles was defeated and the people have again reposed their faith in us. We did not get the desired success in some states. We are deeply considering the reasons of failure. Our alliance with some parties is not due to this election, we were working with them earlier also. The alliance between Akali Dal and BJP is not for sharing power between them, but to strengthen the centuries old Hindu and Sikh brotherhood in Punjab. Now, the mustard fields in Punjab will not be stained with blood. One can hear the sounds of Giddha in evenings. The festival of Baisakhi is approaching. Entire Punjab will enjoy....(Interruptions) The Congress takes the credit for defeating terrorism in Punjab but the public does not accept this claim. If they

would have accepted, why the congress has to face defeat in Punjab. In Himachal Pradesh, we are working with Himachal Vikas Congress. ... (Interruptions) Bhartiya Janta Party and Haryana Vikas Party's alliance is in power in Haryana. Now, there is an atmosphere of mutual co-operation between Haryana and Punjab and contentious issues are not complicated further. Wherever Bhartiya Janta Party is in Power, prohibition has been imposed. As this is a democratic government, it is being reconsidered to lift the prohibition on public demand. In other states also prohibition has been experimeted in many ways. We learn from our experiments and try to improve our policies. However, if the government bring about changes in the policy after taking into consideration, the difficulties being experienced, then the credit should be given to the government. I am sure that Bhajan Lal ji must be appreciating this policy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already clarified that because of lack of majority we did not stake our claim to form the Government. However, today, we are in majority in the House and we shall prove it. However, I would like to repeat that though the majority and minority are essential components of democracy, whether the democratic process will remain caught in the game of majority and minority? Whether the never ending phase of instability will continue? My colleague Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha has given a realistic picture as to how the country has suffered, particularly on the economic front, due to this uncertainty and unstability in the last 18 months. Our economy has been badly affected by the uncertainty and short sighted policies adopted during the last 18 months. Foodgrain production has decreased, exports have decreased and government revenue has gone down. There has been increase in financial deficit. We will have to take steps to check this trend and for that a stable, capable and an honest government is needed at the centre. All of us have to face the challenges of the next century. It is not the question of one party or an alliance of parties. When you were in power, we saw your difficulties and never hesitated to extend help whenever it was sought to overcome those difficulties. After all, the parties are for the country and the nation is the supreme. India is the largest democracy of the world. However, political instability is not only damaging our economy, but it is also tarnishing our image as the largest democracy in the world.

I have tried to highlight the priorities and policies of my government through the President's Address. If there are any differences in this regard, we are ready to have a discussion on them. Or programme is for the

overall development of the nation. It covers each and every one. It is for the development of all parts of the country and for all sections of the society. That is why, we have not termed it as Minimum Programme. We have called it National Agenda. We would like to have serious discussion on it. Through this agenda, we want to bridge the increasing gap between the people's aspirations and the performance of the government. India is a multi-party democracy. We are proud of it and are committed to uphold the dignity of our democracy. After independence, due to some historical reasons, one particular party remained in power for long at the centre as well in the states. As a result, several distortions appeared. No doubt, there were certain advantages also, but the situation deteriorated to such an extent that even the Chief Ministers were nominated by the Centre. Practically, there was a decline in the autonomy of the states. There was no appropriate medium to express the Regional aspirations and requirements. Today, it is a matter of great happiness that the regional parties have formed the Government in different states and they are contributing in development of the nation by adopting an all India attitude. They all deserve our praise and congratulations.

There is no conflict between a powerful centre and a powerful state. We would like to give more autonomy to the states so that the Chief Ministers do not have to rush to New Delhi forgetting small amounts of grants or for completion of small projects. The resources should be divided in such a way that the states become self-sufficient and fulfil their responsibilities with regard to development. For this, it is required to eliminate the negative approach and the feeling of discrimination which has crept into the politics. Last time, an alliance was formed only to keep Bhartiya Janata Party away from power, but it has broken down.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country again faced the elections. Whether the same scenario will be repeated? Old political parties are there where they were but the public has made progress. The number of people supporting us is also increasing day by day. Today, we are representing the entire country. We want to progress, alongwith all the sections. Alongwith the multi-parties system, we have several languages and many religions in our country. People of different tribes live in this country. They are less in number, so they are worried about their existence. People living in the north-eastern states of the country feel themselves neglected being geographically located far away from the Centre. This situation has to be changed and we are committed to it. This task can be easily accomplished by general consensus instead of looking towards the Government.

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

Diversity is not a sign of our weakness but is the symbol of our rich culture. Study of the literature of different languages sounds like harmonious notes of our culture. Though, we belong to same species, people who are in minority either due to language or religion have apprehensions in their minds with regard to their existence in society. We are aware of such feelings and we will try to remove such fear.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this occasion I would not like to speak in detail. Discussion would be held on various issues and I will get an opportunity to reply to all these issues. Some of these issues always have the consensus and I would like to mention particularly the foreign policy here. When our neighbour decided to raise the issue of Kashmir during the Human Right Conference held in Geneva, the then Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao asked me to represent the country. It amazed the leaders of our neighbouring country. Someone had remarked that the Indian democracy was of a strange kind in respect that the leader of the Opposition was being nominated to represent the Government in the International Conference whereas in his country his Counterpart created obstacles in the smooth functioning of the Government which led to international problems.

People argued that Narasimha Rao was not a simple but a cunning man. His purpose of nominating Vajpayeeji may not be only to show the integrity of the country but also Vajpayee can be made scape goat should the Geneva talks, fail. I never believed this as we relied upon each other in the past.

My friend Shri Gujral is present here. He was Ambassador of our country in Moscow when I became the Foreign Minister for a short period. We know each other from that time. Drastic changes were witnessed in the country in the post emergency period in 1977. Many stalwarts lost election at that time. The party which was ruling the nation for many years had lost faith of the public. When we got power for a short period, even at that time also the Foreign Policy was formulated on the basis of general consensus.

At that time a foreign diplomat had asked me as a Foreign Minister as to what change was going to take place in the South block where I sat. Thereupon I replied that nothing was going to change, only the Minister had changed. Perhaps, my friends in the Congress party will not believe this. There was a Portrait of Nehru ji in the South Block which I used to gaze while passing from there. I also recall the days

when we used to have skirmishes in the House. That was the time when I was a new Member and a back-bencher. I had to stage walk out to get an opportunity to speak but gradually I made a place for myself. With the passage of time I became the Foreign Minister but I found the portrait of Nehruji missing from the corridors. I enquired about it but did not get the reply. Then the Portrait was replaced there. Has the country any respect for this feeling? Should not we work towards strengthening such a feeling in the country?

But it doesn't mean that I had no difference of opinion with Nehruji. Difference of opinion emerged clearly during the discussion in the House. Once I told Pandit ji that he was a man of mixed personality that he was Churchill, as well as Chamberlain also. He did mind it. On the same day we met at a banquet. He told that my speech was very powerful, then he smiled and went away. Today, such a criticism would invite animosity and the people would stop talking. Can't we, the leaders of the country co-operate with each other and face the challenges before the nation unitedly.

One century is coming to an end. The other is knocking at our doors. I have no objection if you want to conduct a new experiment without us. However, I would request you to pave the way for making our experiment a success.

With these words, I conclude my speech as a mover of the Motion. I shall reply to the issues that will be raised during the debate at the end of the discussion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House expresses its confidence in the Council of Ministers."

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views the Motion brought before the House under the leadership of the Prime Minister. I have listened to the speech of the Hon'ble Prime Minister with apt attention. I have to agree with one thing that his language is quite rich but I cannot say the same thing about the issues that he has raised. The Prime Minister stated in the House that initially they did not have the majority. Now it is being assured that they have got the majority. At the moment, I do not wish to go into the question as to how did they muster the majority. But we have to see as to what is the mandate of the people of country. How many percentage of people have given right to Atalji to form this

government. All people know that he forged alliance with a number of groups of various political parties before election.

He has explained in the House his role in the formation of alliance before and after the elections. I do give ample weightage to the pre-poll alliances, but in that case one has to go to the electorate with a definite programme. There is a need for giving importance to this alliance. Bhartiya Janata Party prepared its own manifesto. Shri George Fernandes prepared his own and other allied parties also prepared their own manifestoes. After going through all the manifestoes, one comes to the conclusion that the parties which are now a part of the government had different views. They had different programmes about the manner in which the country was proposed to be run.

The Congress party too had put its manifesto before the electorate. The United Front presented its own programme before the people. We did not form an alliance to contest the election. However when we went through the policies proposed by all the parties constituting the United Front, we came to know that there were several such similar programmes in the manifestoes of the Congress and United Front with regard to which we could take united stand in the House, express the same mindset and can work together. Hence we will have to see the manner in which the people of our country came to vote for those in power and also why they voted for my colleagues sitting on the opposition benches. The figures pertaining to the BJP and their allies, which I have with me, reveal that 37% votes were cast in their favour and Congress and its allies, United Front and their allies, taken together, got 55% votes. I have given these figures excluding the votes received by the Telugu Desam and National Conference. Therefore, I and my friends sitting with me have some responsibility in this regard. This responsibility has been entrusted by the people of this country. They want to make India strong and their dream was to make it a secular country. We will take concrete steps to make India a powerful nation strong enough to bring changes on the economic front in the world heading towards the 21st century.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The Government has been formed with the support of fifteen parties and four independent candidates. I think that it took more than

twelve days to muster this strength. One Constituent of the ruling combine has still not joined the Government. It took the option of lending outside support. I am reminded of the speech of the present Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the time when Shri Gujralji had moved the motion to prove his majority. At that time, he had stated that lending support to the Government from outside gives rise to several problems.....(Interruptions) After sometime, a state of conflict arises and so long as the parties lending support from outside do not join the government, it would be very difficult to bring stability and express confidence in the government.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM (Garhwal) : At that time they were 140.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We are witnessing the same position here. One party is lending support from outside. There is one constituent which had openly expressed its distrust just two days before formation of government with regard to government's commitment and trust-worthness. They have said that regional forces should be strengthened. To some extent I agree with this. The states should be strengthened but a weak Central Government won't be able to run the country. We want a strong centre but we also want strong states. I have apprehensions in my mind regarding the claims about the stable Government especially in view of the feelings of distrust in policies of the party being expressed by the leadership of a state in a press conference just before the formation of the Government. How long that government will last?

Jaswantji was compelled to go to Chennai. They kept on waiting for the letter to arrive. But actually the letter came after two days, when he returned.....(Interruptions) one party of this alliance perhaps can extend support on issue based policies. The alliance claiming to form a stable Government is itself not in a position to do that. BJP is the largest party in this House. BJP contested elections on the basis of its election manifesto and got mandate of people. But now a different programme has been formulated as National Agenda. We have also listened to the Presidential Address. Several important issues of election manifesto have been consigned to cold storage or some secret agenda has been formulated. We also have a right to know the viewpoint of the alliance partners towards the manifesto of the BJP.

In its election manifesto, the BJP promised to provide an administration free from fear and corruption.....(Interruptions) I do not want to raise

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

issue regarding hunger as they have attained power now. Uttar Pradesh is the biggest state of the country and in the context of society free from fear, I would like to say that almost all the newspapers publish news reports that all those, who are part of the government have criminal background and that cases are going on against them in various courts

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : 28 Ministers of Uttar Pradesh Government have criminal record(Interruptions)

SHRISHARAD PAWAR : I am grateful to Mayawati ji for giving this latest information to the people of the country.

The third point was with regard to a corruption free society. What type of corruption free society is this? A national crisis was created and this House was not allowed to function for 13 days due to Shri Sukh Ram. Everyday newspapers published headlines about it and today the same Sukh Ramji has been made Deputy Chief Minister(Interruptions) Congress Party had expelled Sukh Ramji but now the same person.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Please also say something about Bofors.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You can do whatever you want to do as you are in power now. Please do not interrupt. You can show that in Parliament(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Sharad Pawar ji, one minute. Hon. Members, please understand the position. The Doordarshan is telecasting the proceedings nationally and internationally. Please understand the position. When the hon. Leader of the Opposition is on his legs, please do not disturb him.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The issue on which Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were not allowed to function for 13 days, the same person is now the Deputy Chief Minister in a BJP ruled state. Several cases were filed against his son and now BJP has paved way for his entry into the Rajya Sabha.

12.00 hrs.

These people talk of creating a corruption free

society. I need not speak much in this regard.....(Interruptions) I remember that at the time of Rathyatra of Advaniji he stated that we have Shri Ram and Congress has Sukh Ram but now the same person has joined hands with the BJP.....(Interruptions) I need not say more about it. I do agree that our country required political stability at this juncture. How can it be created or how can we achieve that end? Unity in the society can lead to stability. We would be able to unite the country only when we succeed in generating confidence among all sections of the society. Issues like Mandir-Masjid can never bring unity in the country.

We have to pay a heavy price if we try to move forward leaving aside the very basic principles of the country.....(Interruptions) Attention should be paid to the manifesto of Bhartiya Janata Party. As far as unity is concerned, secularism can not be ignored. Atalji has stated that the people belonging to all religious sections of the society must remain united and all of them should be made to understand it. I do agree with him. But in their manifesto, it has been stated, "our concept of nationalism is not confined to geographical or political identity of India but it reflects the dignity of our eternal cultural heritage." This cultural heritage is the nodal point of all the religions and languages. It is the identity of our civilization and formulates the national culture which is the origin of Hindutva.....(Interruptions) Hindutva is the basis of national culture(Interruptions) Concept of Hindu Nation is being promoted by them.....(Interruptions) My Hon'ble friend in the House(Interruptions) I remember a statement given by my friend in this very House in December, 1990, who is now in the ruling party and is a Cabinet Minister today. I would like to present his statement before you. Those who wish to promote the concept of Hindu nation instead of Indian nation should also keep in mind that in that case it would become difficult to keep the country united. It was stated by Shri Nitish Kumar in this House.....(Interruptions) Today, I would like to ask him whether he does agree with the concept of Hindu nation, promoted by Bhartiya Janata Party in their election manifesto and on the basis of which it has got the people's mandate. He must reply to it. The country has witnessed many conflicts on the issue of Mandir. I am very happy at the Prime Minister's statement that the issue of Ayodhya does not carry much significance for his Party. It is good that he has stated that the issue of Ayodhya does not carry any importance for his Party.....(Interruptions) I would like to quote a para of their election manifesto here which states that "Bhartiya Janata Party is fully confident that Hindutva has immense possibilities for re-emergence of the nation and strengthening of the country. It can

generate a sense of deep patriotism and awareness which may lead to better performance and efficiency of the country. With these concerted notions, Bhartiya Janata Party participated in the Ram Janam Bhoomi Movement for the construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. This largest movement of the history awakened the dormant political situation and consolidated the basis of national culture of India. It has two points. On the one hand, Atalji has stated that his party does not give much importance to the Ayodhya issue but still they have included this issue in their election manifesto. On the other hand he has termed this movement as the biggest mass movement of the history. The country had fought the battle of Independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Can this movement be termed bigger than the freedom movement? Do you wish to make a new history? You are trying to dilute the importance of freedom struggle for the future generations. It clearly indicates that you wish to change the history. Though you are talking about consensus but your hidden and secret agenda is creating apprehensions in the minds of the people of the country.

I would like to read out the statement of your party President and present Home Minister. He has stated that he will not sit idle till the construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya. This statement was made on 7th Feb., 1998 and not something which was stated very long ago. It further states : Shri Lal Krishan Advani, President of Bhartiya Janata Party had stated that in spite of entering into alliance with different parties, BJP has not compromised with its Principles. While giving emotional touch to Ayodhya issue, he has stated that in his political career, the construction of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya is the most important issue. Ram Janam Bhoomi movement has given much popularity to the Bhartiya Janata Party and it has emerged as a single largest Party. In such a situation, backing out of BJP on Ram Mandir issue has no truth in it. Advaniji has stated that prior to the release of election manifesto of BJP, other Political Parties made an assumption that Bhartiya Janata Party will not stress upon the issue of Ram Mandir this time, but by according priority to this issue in its manifesto, BJP has proved that it respects the mandate. This statement has been given by the Home Minister of the country during elections.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : This is also his opinion about his leader.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : In his statement of 11th February, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has said that in democracy, people have the right to know the views of all the parties, on important issue like Ram

Mandir. This will make the easy for the people to take decision.

The Bhartiya Janata Party has declared that it will construct Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Now your party should also clarify whether they also desire to construct Masjid there. They have said that the issue of Ram Mandir can never be settled in the court. We will have to find a way out to solve this issue and we will find out. After coming in power at the centre, we will be succeed in solving this issue.....(*Interruptions*)

Now I would like to ask my freind Shri George Fernandes and Marntaji as to what will be their policy towards what Advaniji has said and what has been given in the Bhartiya Janata Party manifesto which was taken to the people and to some extent on that issue they got support from the people and also they will try to fulfil. I would like to ask the Prime Minister Shri Atalji the reasons which led to that fateful day six years ago in this country, as he now claims that Ayodhya issue has rolled into insignificance given the present circumstances. I belong to Mumbai. Why such large scale bloodshed took place there, so many persons were killed and property worth crores of rupees was gutted?.....(*Interruptions*)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Who did this?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Who did this ?
.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : If these people will not allow to our leader to speak, we will also repay in the same coin.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Why are you shouting now? Why were you interrupting earlier?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Who did this? Shri Kulkarni a sitting judge of Mumbai High Court was appointed to enquire into this incident. When this commission started functioning then the BJP - Shivsena Government of Maharashtra decided to wind up this commission. I thank Shri Atalji that during the tenure of his thirteen days government he sent message to Maharashtra Government to revive this commission. That commission was revived. The commission has submitted its final report to Maharashtra Government. A big melee is going on in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council of Maharashtra during the last few weeks to lay that report in the House. However, the report has not been laid because there is mention in the report about the people who were responsible for the blood shed there, killed people, encouraged arson and

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the communal forces behind this.....(*Interruptions*) This is the conclusion of the sitting judge of High Court. Today, if the issue of Ram Mandir is not important, what was the need of blood shed in the country six years ago? What was the need to demolish the Masjid? What was the need to create differences in the society and to attack at the unity of the society. Until you clear this point, no person like me would believe you.....(*Interruptions*). We want to place this issue specially before you.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : I am on point of order.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please co-operate.

[*Translation*]

Not like this

.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated. Take your seats.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Secularism has an unusual significance of its own in this country. This society cannot be united if somebody tries to dilute the concept of secularism. This point will have to be kept in mind that until society is united, there will be no stability. I want to say these points before the House. These are your shortcomings. You cannot think about these shortcomings. These are your biggest shortcomings. You will have to think about this. Until you clarify your policies, you will not be able to have faith of all sections of the country.

There is one thing more. A mention has been made about Swadeshi here. A person like me who thinks about the progress of the country, is compelled to think many more things. In which direction the world is going? I always try to closely observe the economic changes that are taking place in neighbouring countries. Many a times, it seems that India has every thing, we have talent, a big class of laborious society, we have good agriculture, sufficient availability of water, under ground resources are also available here. Sun light is available in abundance. We will be able to come at par with the

developed countries if we work with co-operation and pay attention towards infrastructure field. When we talk about changes and development, the changes could not be taken up on broader sense if our attitudes will be limited to a certain state or country. We, therefore, cannot entirely ignore globalization.

The word 'Swadeshi' was coined by Gandhiji. When Mahatma Gandhi expressed his views about Swadeshi before the country, he was of the opinion to boycott the foreign clothes. He was against an attempt to sell the things in the country which were produced in other countries of the world. He also led agitation against this. I do that India should progress with the efforts of its own people. But simultaneously, we cannot ignore the views of Gandhiji about Swadeshi. The congress had created the fever of freedom in this country by the word 'Swadeshi'. Swadeshi was such an incantation, in which there was the feeling of reverence, self respect and self confidence. Today, the feelings of Swadeshi in our country is being presented by Bhartiya Janata Party and its allies in the government in such a way which create the psyche of fear amongst whole of the country. There are so many areas, whether they call it basic development or infrastructure where we have the responsibility to keep the funds on a large scale. When we are short of funds for rest of the work of the country then the persons from foreign countries could come and cooperate to a certain limit. Then there is no need to fear from them. It is being said the East India Company will come here. I remember that when Enron Project was cleared here, Bhartiya Janata Party staged agitation and struggle in Maharashtra. They used to tell again and again that East India Company will again come here. The place where Enron project was to be established, there was idea of constructing of a harbour. It was also said that the 10th fleet of America will come there and will attack India.

There were so many issues but I am happy that you had cleared that project within those thirteen days. That has given at least some benefit. But today, it seems to me, the psyche of fear which we want to present before our country, will cause damage to the country. The new generation of this country and also the intellectuals should have faith in the administration and we should make such preparations. I believe that all the people of the country whether they are of new generation, or learned persons or labourers, will come forward to strengthen the country.

Whatever investment was made in this country for the last few years, that the foreign investment was no more than 2% of the total GDP. There will be no use if fear is created in our mind by this. Today, when we talk

of becoming super power in the economic field then I am worried on a point that by making wrong explanation of Swadeshi we will stall our economic progress and our coming generations will have to pay for it. This fear in my mind is about the rule of Bhartiya Janata Party and its allies. They have chalked out an economic agenda. I am worried that my friend George Fernandes used to chalk out an economic agenda daily. This was a strange government. National agenda was released separately, George Saheb released his own agenda and Shri Hegde released his own agenda regarding foreign policy. Thank heavens that separate agendas have stopped coming after they become ministers, but nobody can put a stop to different ideologies they pursue and the nation will have to pay for it in coming years.

There is another apprehension in my mind regarding this government. I do agree with Shri Atalji that the national policy of the country was considered for many years and was formed with consensus of all the friends of his House. Today I am worried after reading the statements of some of the friends who are in power. I have gone through the statement of the Defence Minister of this country. I have just read a statement about Lohiaji Memorial Day and the Indian land occupied by China. You have stressed the need to have relation with neighbours in your National Agenda and therefore you will have to take this statement seriously. I would like to say that Atal ji should give clarification to country in this regard and apprise about the factual position. I am sorry that when the Head of the State of China visited India about one and a half year ago, a big demonstration was held against his visit by our present Defence Minister. I remember the day and we cannot ignore this fact as to and what impact will such an event leave on our relationship with our neighbours. We will have to pay its price.

I have put forth only a few issues here. I feel that there is a lot of difference in policies and ideologies of this government, which are replete with contradictions and I fail to understand whether with all their contradictory programmes, they will be able to tread their path smoothly. Therefore, I consider it my duty to oppose this motion.

I would not like to take much time of the House, but I want to say one thing clearly that today stability is the need of hour for this country. If the ruling party or the Prime Minister is having required number for majority, we would certainly be agreed that he has right to run the government. But by breaking the parties--several hours of this House were wasted on discussing this

issue yesterday--if efforts would be made to mobilise majority in the House, then such a situation can even arise time and again. I believe that we will have to take further steps so as to avoid such a situation. In case you move ahead with all these contradictions, I don't know whether you would be successful or not in maintaining stability. You would have made some understanding with the regional parties and their leaders, but it is difficult to believe as to how long this understanding will last. Therefore the countrymen do know as to how long this stability will last.....(Interruptions) With these words I oppose this motion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai-South) : Who provoked riots in Mumbai city.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha) : Those were provoked by you.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Those were provoked by the builders.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Those riots were provoked by your Shivsena.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Shri Somanth Chatterjee will speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolgpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion as I consider this to be my patriotic duty. I have heard our Prime Minister's speech with rapt attention and I never disturbed him. I was thinking of the slogan that was used this time 'Abke Bari Atal Bihari', but what Atal Bihari, which Atal Bihari is this? Is it Atal Bihari with a guilty conscience, feeling the weight of the combination that he has formed? His speech clearly betrays the guilty conscience. He has talked of consensus, but that consensus is to surrender to this type of politics.

Sir, I do not think that the Indian political system has ever exhibited in the past a more opportunist, a more power hungry, a more brazen faced and a more dubious political combination than this which is today masquerading as alliance partners.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our attachment or commitment to secularism and unity and integrity of the nation is not a mere slogan. Our Constitution provides for a secular,

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democratic Republic. Our Supreme Court has construed that secularism is one of the basic features of our Constitution to which we all swear. But the multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic character of our society is under severe attack today. In regard to Hindutva, about which Shri Sharad Pawar has spoken, I will not read out the manifesto of BJP again. It is based on the RSS slogan of 'one nation, one people and one culture' and to them, the minorities like Christians, Muslims and Parsis are acceptable if they follow the Indian tradition or Hindutva as they understand. We have seen the intolerance of the BJP and its supporters to other religions, other view points and other thoughts. I know, they got upset when I refer to the demolition of Babri Masjid.....(Interruptions)

But what is it apart from intolerance? Only a few days before the elections were held we read about the attack on a museum of modern art in Delhi. One of the leading luminaries of the B.J.P. staged an attack because he did not like two paintings of Shri M.F. Hussain and one of the most celebrated artists of this country was beaten up. This is their spirit of tolerance for others. One of the most celebrated literatures of this country who is a member of the Sahitya Akademi has spoken of the fate of the Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : We are fed up of hearing all these things. He has to repeat the same views.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is the intolerance. They are not even prepared to hear others and now to talk of a consensus sounds very hollow. Let it be very clear; we shall never make any compromise on the question of democracy and secularism in this country. We can never allow the unity and integrity of this country to be destroyed. We have already had one division of this country.....(Interruptions) You do not like *bhasan*. What are we here for? Fisticuffs?

Sir, our country has not been strengthened. Let not a situation be created when we have another attack on the unity and integrity of our country.

Sir, we are told *ad nauseam* - even today the Prime Minister had referred - that the people of this country had voted for a change, for a stable Government under

an able Prime Minister, where different political parties entered into an alliance even before the elections. We know the figures, we have also heard the figures and I need not repeat them. But, I believe, the time has come when this myth of pre-poll alliance has to be exploded.

I am sorry, Sir, with all my respect and unbounded veneration of our Rashtrapatiiji, he seems to have also fallen into this error that there was a pre-poll alliance. Sir, after that 13 day, what I said, constitutional aberration ended, I had said in this House that I would like to see Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the permanent Ex-Prime Minister of this country. But I have been proved wrong; I have been proved wrong because I wrongly assumed that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had a conscience. I assumed that he was committed to certain basic values and that grievous mistake was made by me, a very humble political worker. My mistake was, I thought that the B.J.P. believed in political morality and we have been lectured on that from housetops.

Sir, we have heard from the B.J.P., from Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, his friends in his party and, maybe, his present cohorts also, about the danger to the country emanating from corruption. Shri Sharad Pawar has rightly reminded us how in the House we had also joined in our protest against the activities of Shri Sukh Ram. We remember how Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his friends had criticised Shri Lal Prasad Yadav. I had also, on the floor of this House, demanded his resignation. I admit that.

Sir, I remember how some of the events in Tamil Nadu had been criticised on the floor of the House. We admired the decision of Shri Lal Krishna Advani when he resigned from even the membership of this House and for his decision of not contesting the election because he was under some cloud. Happily he is free from that. But that was we thought to be the morality of B.J.P. But as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is only a mask, all your commitments to fight corruption are nothing but also masks. That is why, we see today another Constitutional distortion. We have found that all their commitments, all their so called moral stand, have been breached in every aspect of it, with only one object, to get power by hook or crook or on the basis of give and take as Laloo ji said the other day.

Sir, alliance means coming together. For what purpose? There has to be a purpose even if you go by literal meaning. So, what was the objective? What was the common basis? It has been correctly pointed out. What was the purpose? Was there any unity of purpose on economic policy or was there unity of objectives

between the B.J.P and any of the parties? As has rightly been pointed out, then there would not have been separate manifestoes. The Samata Party, the AIADMK and the Trinamool Congress are all entitled to have their own separate manifestoes. They did. What is the foreign policy of the different parties? What is their attitude towards Swadeshi? What is the attitude towards land reforms? We know nothing of it. They had no common policy at all. They had no common objective. What is the attitude of the respective parties on industry and on multinational corporations? There was no common programme, there was no common manifesto and there was no commitment to any principle or to unity of action. So, what was this alliance then? Today I am thinking of the day, 1st of September, 1997 in this House when the celebration of the Golden Jubilee Year ended with a Resolution which was passed unanimously during the Special Session. The Resolution was moved from the Chair by your distinguished predecessor, Shri P.A. Sangma. Sir, I quote a few lines :

"Having reflected upon the state of the nation with the Preamble to Constitution as the guide...

...That meaningful electoral reforms be carried out so that our Parliament and other Legislative bodies be balanced and effective instruments of democracy; and further that political life and processes be free of the adverse impact on governance of undesirable extraneous factors including criminalisation.

That continuous and pro-active efforts be launched for ensuring greater transparency, probity and accountability in public life so that the freedom, authority and dignity of the Parliament and other Legislative bodies are ensured and enhanced; that more especially, all political parties shall undertake all such steps as will attain the objective of ridding our polity of criminalisation or its influence."

One of the great leaders in this House said and I quote :

"The demon of criminalisation of politics is devouring the basic tenets of our democracy."

I am reading from the synopsis of the debate issued by the Lok Sabha.

"In order to identify and declare ineligible candidates from contesting elections, we shall have to consider every aspect of this malady and judge according to the law who is a criminal. Then, the whole house has to reach a consensus on the twin issues of criminalisation of politics and corruption in public life. Corruption is

devastating our public life. The entire country is fed up because of this problem. People should not give bribes to get their work done. Ultimately, it is the duty of our leaders and administrators that such practices are dealt with a heavy hand and stringent steps should be taken to curb this menace."

Sir, thus spoke Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Probably, every word has been breached today. That is why, I know that he has a guilty conscience.

Sir, the B.J.P. manifesto, if I read one sentence, says :

"B.J.P. will set an example of unimpeachable accountability and impeachable probity in public life. It will expeditiously deal with unresolved cases of corruption in which no action has been taken in the last 12 years.."

Of course, they have not spoken of new cases of corruption or of their alliance partners.

Sir, shall we try to find out what is the commonality? We have to refer to this U.P. Government episode because this is a party of so-called principles and morality. Well, I do not know all the details. But who does not know of a Government consisting of deserters, those who defected from one party to several other parties? I remember the picture which came out on the T.V., and newspapers on the day Mayawatiiji was ensconced in the centre with Shri Vajpayee on one side and Shri L.K. Advani on the other side in the Main Committee Room of the Parliament House Annex announcing the great alliance and sharing of the Chief Ministership every six months what I had called a constitutional monstrosity. That was the first time ever when the high office of the Chief Ministership became a matter of *sauda* or a matter of sharing every six months. I am sure, Mayawatiiji will be able to defend herself now, who is at the receiving end, because she is not supporting them.

We cannot forget Shri Sukh Ram, who was a very prominent Member of this House and a Minister. We remember, even in the room of the hon. Speaker, how he was trying to impress Shri Advani, Shri Jaswant Singh and others about his supposed innocence. But it was not acceptable to anybody.

Now, let us see what has happened in Tamil Nadu. What is the common basis? We cannot forget that Shri Vajpayee had to send a list of 240 Members. Where were these alliance Members - 18 Members of the AIADMK, four Members of the PMK, three Members of

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

the MDMK and one Member of the TRC? They were supposedly alliance partners, who fought together on a certain basis and it was supposedly a pre-poll alliance.

Now, the Prime Minister has not said to us as to why their names were not include in the list. He said: "Now, the ball is in the President's court. Rashtrapathiji called me, and I never staked the claim."

They could not stake the claim because they deserted you then for other *saudas*. How can we forget what had happened here when there were cases against the leader of that party there in Tamil Nadu?

What was their attitude towards the former Bihar Chief Minister? I am not going into the details. But how many cases are pending against the leader of the Party there in Tamil Nadu? We see in the newspapers and in the journals the list of cases. Now what is the approach? If Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav was wrong in sticking to his Chair, if a Sukh Ram was wrong then, not now, then how could this type of alliance be entered into? Today I find a host of cases. I need not read them and I do not wish to take up the time of the House. Today one of the leading national dailies says that one of the Minister has been asked to appear in court on 6th of April or, the court will issue a non-bailable arrest warrant. I am not taking any name on the floor of the House(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Wha is your point of order?

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : There are cases, according to some news items in the newspapers. I am not denying it. But all cases are foisted on our party leader and on other people. We cannot take newspaper reports as authentic. No court has proved it in any single case. All ar foisted cases.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order? Please sit down. Please take your seat.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : Not one case has been proved in any court. All the cases are foisted ones.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not even taken any name. I have only said that he is one of the colleagues of the hon. Prime Minister in his Cabinet now. Let us see the perfect understanding and relationship between these alliance partners. I do not know he may be somewhere, the leader of the Janata Party.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : He is attributing motives for political decision by the leaders.

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Let us see the perfect understanding and good relationship between the alliance partners.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to talk like that

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please continue, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Janata Party President described himself like this. I am reading from "India Today" of 23rd March.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : He is a senior and experienced Member. He is putting a false report.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am reading the report :

"She is mentally unstable, charged her with colluding with LTTE to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi and initiated corruption case that have dogged her since she lost power in May, 1996. On her part, she described him as a pathological liar."

What else have we seen in Tamil Nadu but a drama? We miss, particularly I miss my very good friend, Shri Jaswant Singhji in the House. He shuld have been here. I do not know if there is a sabotage in his election because they did not want him to be the Finance Minister.

You have got a substitute as close to him as possible. I know that Atalji is sorry. I am also very sorry. But he is very handy, useful, the Prince Charming. The articulate Prince Charming was sent there. Although he could not win over the hearts of the people of Chittorgarh, yet he could win over her heart.....(Interruptions) It was a real, palace coup or a Garden coup, Poes Garden or something, I do not know. She said for three or four days.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please take your seat.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, Shri Vajpayee and Shri Advani were accused of taking a

negative attitude. Even Shri Advani was accused of mocking at her, making fun of her(Interruptions) Although she did not want to indulge in a slanging match with Shri Hegde, she did retaliate. She said that she also had brought Shri Hegde's behaviour to the notice of Shri Vajpayee and Shri Advani. Perfect harmony! Perfect understanding! Great personal respect for each other.....(Interruptions)

She complained that the AIADMK and its allies were treated as inferior partners and second class citizens. She further said: "If this is their attitude before forming the Government, what would their attitude be after forming the Government?"

She then referred to very important issues concerning Tamil Nadu. I am not minimising the importance, the issues such as Cauvery(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. I have not allowed you. Please take your seat. This is not good. This will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I agree that these are very important issues for Tamil Nadu which were raised by her(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Take your seat

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The question of Cauvery, the 69 per cent reservation, raising the height, the level of the Periyar dam and the question of making Tamil as an official language were all put as conditions for her support.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that you will get the time to rebut this

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I say that these are important demands. I am telling them about this. I do not know what to do.....(Interruptions) I am not objecting to them. I am supporting you. You please get those demands accepted by them.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that you have got a chance to speak. At that time, you can rebut this.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : As I said, Shri Jaswant Singh went there and we were told of a happy resolution(Interruptions)

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet) : Sir, when a very senior Member is speaking, they must have some restraint. This type of interruptions from the ruling party are not good.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Janardhanan, please take your seat

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have never said that those demands are unjustified. Please listen. Do not be too touchy. I know why you are touchy. I am only saying that for three, four days, the second biggest alliance partner of the BJP, the AIADMK and its allies with 18 Members, refused to send a letter of support. As Shri Sharad Pawar said : "letter is coming" Then I said, Shri Jaswant Singh did the trick. Of course, that was all inside the room. We do not know. We are humble mortals. We do not know what happened there. But then we were told, I remember, on the TV.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : I am very sorry about that observation.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That will not go on record.

..... (Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY (Krishnagiri) : He is misleading the House. He is unnecessarily talking.....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : This is not proper to use such words against a woman(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Whatever I have said, I withdraw that(Interruptions)

SHRI P. RAJARETHINAM (Perambalur) : We do not allow him to speak.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, if there is any objectionable sentence, I will go through the record.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. If there is any thing objectionable, I will go through the record.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It seems, I have been misunderstood. I withdraw that(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North East): He must withdraw that(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : He should apologise.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please cooperate with me.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If there is anything objectionable, I will remove that from the record

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : It is proper(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will request the Members that if there is anything objectionable, I will remove that from the record.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : He should not use such cheap words. He should apologise(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this is very unfair(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, he should withdraw those words.....(Interruptions)

13.02 hrs.

At this stage, Shri K.P. Munusamy and some other hon. Members came and sat on the floor near the Table.

SHRI M. THIYAGARAJAN (Pollachi) : He is giving wrong information. He must apologise.....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. RAJARETHINAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is misleading the House. He must apologise(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker Sir,(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West) : Is he going to withdraw his words or not?

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat first.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It seems many of my hon. friends on that side felt upset about what I might have said or might have meant. I wish to make it categorically clear that I never meant any disrespect to anybody, nor have I said, had in mind even, anything derogatory about anybody either within or outside the House.

It is very painful to me that after twenty-eight years I am being charged with some sort of an alleged impropriety. Without in any way admitting that I have committed any impropriety, since some of my hon. friends felt very upset, I regret if there was any misunderstanding about what I have said.

MR. SPEAKER : Please continue.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What I was saying was that initially the AIADMK did not agree to join the Government for a few days. Thereafter they changed their mind and they expressed their intention to join the Government. What I wanted to say was that there must have been some terms and conditions on the basis of which some agreement was arrived at or there was this change of mind. That was what really I wanted to mean. We would not know this until it is disclosed. We know of the demands that were made.

I remember having seen on the television Shri Jaswant Singh, my very good friend, who, again I say unfortunately is not here, said that what has been agreed to will find a place in the National Agenda, if I am not mistaken. He also very categorically said; I believe I am quoting his words, "the past is behind us, the future is beckoning us". Therefore, we would have been very happy if the hon. Prime Minister had said what ultimately was arrived at, what was agreed to. Why I am mentioning this is because I am trying to show that this alliance is a fragile alliance and this so called pre-poll alliance is a myth. That is my contention. They would not agree. But allow me to say what I feel.

Similarly, in my State, the BJP had a seat sharing arrangement with West Bengal TMC and I congratulate them for having won so many seats. It is the people's verdict. We accept it.

I am very unhappy that Shri Tapan Sikdar has won, but I respect the people's verdict. I have congratulated him. My understanding is that he is out of the Government because of some comments that he had made - "Didigiri Nahi Chalega". This came out in the papers, nobody denied it. Therefore, it has been repeated even after the formation of the Government, if I am not mistaken. She is here, she will speak about it. There was only a seat sharing arrangement. I was in my constituency, I did not know anything except what appeared in the papers.

I read that even in her meetings the leader of the Trinamool Congress did not allow BJP flags. She did not share the platform with any BJP leaders. That is what I saw. If I am wrong, please correct me. Therefore, where is that alliance? What is the commonality of the view points or the approach or the attitude or the policies and programmes?

As a matter of fact, they contested each other at least in one constituency in West Bengal. I was trying to find out the basis of the claim that there was a so-called 'pre-poll alliance' and the distinction which is being sought to be made with the understanding between the U.F. Government and the Congress understanding after the 1996 elections. It was being said that was a post-poll alliance or a post-poll understanding. Now, they take greater credit saying that this is a pre-poll alliance and therefore the people have voted for them.

The people have voted for which manifesto in West Bengal, in Andhra Pradesh, in Tamil Nadu and in Orissa? We do not know what the Biju Janata Dal's

economic policy is, if there is any; we do not know what their education policy is, what their policy about MNCs is and what their policy about the nuclear option is. But they say that they are allies. Can seat sharing during an election be the basis of a durable alliance? This is an issue which is staring the country in the face.

Now, of course, the AIADMK has said that it will unconditionally support this Government. We saw that there was a denial that any particular Ministry was asked for. I accept it if they have denied it. I am not questioning it. There are many versions coming out in the Press but we do not find any denial.

What was said in the Press? I am referring to very responsible journals. I will not take long. Now, I quote: 'Refusal by the AIADMK leader to forward a letter of support for the BJP has upset the party's plans to form a Government at the Centre'. I remember those two or three days when television was showing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee not in a very happy mood, all of them sitting very glum faced, waiting for a letter to come from Tamil Nadu. That is why he was forced to go to the hon. Rashtrapatiiji with 240 names.

We have been told then of a Tamil Nadu package, we have been told now of a West Bengal package and we have also been told of the Orissa package! We have been told that they will find a due place in the National Agenda but where are they? We have not seen them in the National Agenda. This is what I wanted to mean. There must be some hidden agendas on which they are not taking the people of the country into confidence, about which they are not telling the people. Therefore, according to me, this National Agenda is nothing but a 'national *tamasha*'. Where are those agreements? Mr. Prime Minister, where are those packages on the basis of which you have got their support?

14.39 hrs

[SHRI P. M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

In this National Agenda, one aspect is very clear. As we had seen in the President's Address of 1996, they have suddenly omitted their main issues, main demands like building of a Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, abrogation of Article 370 and bringing in a Uniform Civil Code. Earlier, Shri Sharad Pawar has read it out and I need not read it out again. These issues find primacy in their manifesto. They get primacy in the BJP manifesto. But today, the National Agenda does not mention about them. There is only a very fleeting reference to corruption. They have referred to it only in the case of electoral reforms. These are very difficult subjects for them now.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Although building of a Ram Mandir is not in the National Agenda, what has been said by many of our hon. friends?

Shri Vinay Katiyar was here. He had very categorically said, "Atalji will make the *mandir* possible". That was his statement on 21st March. Then, "Hindutva hawks want Ram revived." Under this it is said: "The BJP high command has incurred the wrath of some MPs, chiefly sants-turned-politicians- I find quite a few here - and Ayodhya-based sadhus, who resent the party's soft line on Ayodhya and the uniform civil code." I am not reading the entire report. Therefore, there are already protests in the BJP itself on the omission of the *Ram mandir* issue from the national agenda. Then what is cohesiveness? The BJP itself is not cohesive. How can the Government be united.....(Interruptions) ...We would like to know from the Prime Minister on this point. He should tell us and take the party people into confidence on this when he is asking for confidence vote. You cannot ask for confidence vote without disclosing your commitments to different so-called alliance partners.

I want to make it clear that I do not grudge on any special arrangements or any benefits given to any State in India. I am glad that the Prime Minister said that for a strong India, there have to be strong States. And that is our demand all along. We had quarrelled with Congress and we still quarrel with them because they feel that a strong Centres will be sufficient which does not help the development of this country. There are areas of disparities from place to place.

I cannot but comment in view of the AIADMK and its allies in Tamil Nadu being the major partners of this alliance. I am reminded of what Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee had said. He said, "India, that is *Bharat*," that is, Tamil Nadu now. This Government's life depends on this. Sir, there are very disquieting reports that the hon. Minister of Law had already said that certain cases are falsely instituted. Within a day or two of his assumption of power, he passes judgement when the cases are pending in the courts.....(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI) : I had never passed any judgement. I had made only observations. When I went to Chennai, some people approached me to enquire regarding the false cases made against my leader and some workers. Then, I said, "I will go through and find out the facts." What was wrong in that? What was the judgement that I gave? I cannot understand it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Very well. He did not pass any judgement but made only comments.....(Interruptions)

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I am not a judge. I made only a comment. When you are making comments, I can also make a comment.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Thambi Durai, please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I stand by my statement and what I said. It is a false case and I will prove it in the court. I have no doubt at all on this point(Interruptions).. I am not a judge to give a judgement.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I agree and I stand corrected. The Law Minister cannot pass judgements but he has passed comments(Interruptions)

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I did not interfere with the judiciary. We cannot influence our judges on any account.....(Interruptions).

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have not implicated the judiciary(Interruptions). You do not know what is in my mouth. Sir, I have only said that he has passed comments about the truth or the correctness or otherwise of certain cases(Interruptions)... Therefore, with a Government of such disparate and desperate forces, I wonder what will happen to this country.

As I said earlier, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a mask. It has been said by one of their leaders....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : No running commentary, please.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not do that.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am asking him to conclude now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : 'Sangh Parivar' has utilised Shri Vajpayee's charismatic leadership and stature. I feel that if unfortunately this Government

continues and is saddled in power, apart from the common people and the country, the biggest victim will be Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He does not know when the rug will be drawn from under his feet(Interruptions). Then, it will be.

[Translation]

'Abki Bari Lal Bihari aur Pramod Bihar.'

14.46 hrs.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Chairman,(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singh Yadavji, just wait for a minute.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : I was told that Shri George Fernandes would now be given the opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It would be better if Mr. George speaks after my turn is over....(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I have already called him.

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : That will be all right.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry, it is written here.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You have also deceived him and he too has deceived you and all others.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If interruptions like this continue, it would be difficult to cover even two or three persons(Interruptions).

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It would be difficult to make him understand as to how he was deceived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singhji, do not look at him, please address to the Chair.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are certain things, which I do not want to repeat, as honourable leader of opposition and Shri Somnath Chatterjee has already mentioned the same. But I would definitely like to say that B.J.P. may create rumours as much as it likes and can resort to falsehood....(Interruptions). By resorting to rumours and falsehood election can be won, but the government cannot be run....(Interruptions). Keep on adding our time, I have no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not react to his comments. I am also asking him.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am also saying the same thing. I am only expressing my views. Just now it was said that Bhartiya Janata Party got the mandate(Interruptions). The mandate you got is on record. Compared to 1996 elections there was an increase of 15-16 seats of Bhartiya Janta Party and they say they have got the mandate. On what basis you have got the mandate, all that has been explained here. When will you change yourself, nobody can believe your words and now the people of the country know you. We want to reiterate that they got votes in the name of Article 370, Ram Mandir, Uniform civil code, criminalisation, clean administration able Prime Minister and other such slogans. Only Bhartiya Janata Party has capable Prime Minister others are incapable.

Sir, had the votes not sought on these issues, then in place of 179 Members of parliament only 79 would have been elected. Honourable Advaniji will agree with me but I want to tell all of you and especially to Shri George Saheb that in all the interviews B.J.P. leaders have said that now we do not have majority but the day we get majority i.e. when Bhartiya Janata Party will get absolute majority, that day construction of temple will take place, Article 370 and uniform civil code will also be implemented. I would like Shri George Saheb to ponder over it. Once we accepted Shri George Fernandes as our leader. but now we are facing difficulties in accepting him as our leader because he is giving his cooperation to the communalists.

Sir, before elections we have said at many places that Bhartiya Janata Party has two faces and two election manifestoes, one which is issued before the elections and propagated among people and the second one is issued when they came to power. They have dual memberships. They have two leaders and dual character. Honourable Prime Minister ji, you are a mask for this party. I am not saying this. This has been said by your party officials holding important posts and

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

somebody was saying in a foreign embassy that Atalji is only a front for the party and their real leader is Mr. Advanji who is going to become Prime Minister very soon. You remember these words, if you got majority today, you would not continue as Prime Minister. Real Prime Minister is sitting near you. Advanji will become Prime Minister....(Interruptions).

Sir, just now some honourable members from back benches have said that we had been misinformed. How, when and who becomes Chief Minister or Prime Minister, is to be seen. Earlier, we were very close with Atalji, but now he is angry with us. He is having problem even in talking about us. Therefore, we are cautioning you that they have been elected in your name. We know that how did they get votes in your name, and we do not disagree with it. We accepted this fact not only on T.V. but everywhere. This is another thing that you got more votes in the name of Atalji and we got less votes in my name. Therefore we want to caution Atalji as well as you. The Real Prime Minister is sitting behind you whose name will come from Nagpur very soon.

Sir, recently, they formed the cabinet but they were not happy. Gujarji formed his cabinet with consensus. But the Prime Minister is not happy with the formation of this cabinet. This has been stated by a leader of the Sangha that all ministers should be from his own party. I don't have that newspaper with me otherwise I would have read it out for you. Honourable Jaswant Singhji is our friend. We also respect him. Earlier it was decided to appoint him as Finance Minister, but Sangh people did not approve it, so, Prime Minister decided to keep the finance portfolio with himself, but later the same night Shri Yashwant Sinha was made the Finance Minister.

When the mind of the leaders who are running the Govt. is not stable how can we expect them to form stable Govt. They were unable to decide about the Finance Minister. How to get the support of A.I.D.M.K. members so that they may not be angry. Comrade Somnath Chatterjee is sitting here he was also saying the same thing but they misunderstood him. However he has taken back his words. What were Bhartiya Janta Party saying about our Govt. When we were in the Government and they were in the opposition they called our Government a 'Khichri' Government. Now what is their Government--this is a Khichra(Interruptions). They will tell you. If our colleagues from south are unable to understand this, then tell them

that 'Khichri' is digested easily but 'Khichra' can not be digested....(Interruptions). That is what I am saying.(Interruptions).

SHRI VIRENDRASINGH (Mirzapur) : Mr. Mulayam Singh ji 'Khichri' which is not cooked properly, is difficult to digest. Your 'Khichri' was not cooked properly that is why it could not be digested....(Interruptions).

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am saying the same thing that 'Khichri' is digested but khichra cannot be digested.

Sir, morality has its base. Discussion on morality often takes place here. Our friends from B.J.P always talk about "morality" and "JI". What morality do they have? What promises they have made to the whole country and what they have said in the National Agenda is just contrary to those promises. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has rightly said that this is not a national agenda, rather this is a drama and our colleagues feel that this national agenda is anti-national. I will give you an example. You are talking about an integrated India but in which direction you are leading the country. What sort of feeling do you want to provoke. This is highly immoral. Election manifesto of any party is its highest and sacred document. What have you promised to the public and now after changing it they say it is not in their agenda.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, This is not a question of programme, this is a question of mentality. Their mentality is for the construction of temple, abolition of Article 370 and they will implement uniform civil code. We will not say anything about uniform civil code otherwise many problems will come up....(Interruptions). Many secrets regarding uniform civil code will come out. They are trying to enforce one marriage norm for Muslims through uniform civil code but I would like to know as to whether the practice of marrying more than once is not prevalent in Hindu Community?(Interruptions). ... we will tell this in public also(Interruptions).

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Had this drama not taken place on 21st, you would not have come here....(Interruptions).

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you kindly observe my time. Time deducted from that side, should be given to us. Please be helpful in this regard. We were also in the National Integration Council. It was promised in the National Integration Council which is the highest political forum of the country, that the mosque will not be demolished. Even in Supreme

Court an affidavit was filed to this effect but despite that the mosque was demolished. Is it their morality? They say something and do something else and such people cannot serve the nation....(*Interruptions*).

1500 hrs.

They do not want to listen about morality. They say something and do something else. Those who have double standards are very dangerous. Don't take it otherwise, don't double speak. We have spoken clearly. We have resolved to fight the communal forces and we will continue our fight against them till these forces are totally finished. History is witness that India has never accepted fundamentalist forces. But it is unfortunate that some of our like minded leaders have preferred to float with them. George Saheb you could have taken anything from Mulayam Singh but should not have preferred to sit with communal forces. Whatever differences you have with Laloo Prasad, I was with you, you should have joined us. George Saheb it is a fact that you would have been remembered for that. Whatever you would have become a member of parliament or Defence Minister or not, whether you wear Kurta Pyjama or not but you would have been welcomed with the slogans of "Zindabad" by Lakhs of people(*Interruptions*). Forget about the Defence Ministry, it is not a very big achievement. If I would have insisted I would have become Prime Minister. But I have not left united front to fight against communalism(*Interruptions*). First of all in elections they made an alliance with Laxmi Parvati and now against the consensus they are striking a deal with Telgu Desham. It is nothing except fraud(*Interruptions*). After forming an alliance with Chaudhari Bansi Lal they contested in Haryana and now they are forming alliance with other parties saying that Bansi Lal will be dethroned. This is their morality. Their morality is how to remain in power. This is the agenda of power, this is not a national agenda. So, Somnath Chatterji has rightly said that this is a drama. We have seen many examples of their morality.

You did not allow proceedings of the House to continue for thirteen days continuously in the name of corruption and now all of you have joined hands. There is nothing to feel surprised. You have now become both the ocean and the Ganges. It is a fact. Think over it seriously. You have become the ocean, anybody can come and join you. Anybody joining becomes sacred. Anyone who stays on the other side, is considered unholy; Mulayam Singh was considered unholy, George Sahib and several others were considered to be unholy but they become sacred when they switch over to your side whatever their deeds might have been

....(*Interruptions*). Where has criminalisation gone? Madhya Pradesh is a testimony to it. The B.J.P. fielded two such persons whose nominations were rejected due to their criminal records(*Interruptions*). They fought as dummy candidates. Which criminalisation are they talking of and what they are doing to check it.(*Interruptions*).

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Two criminals accused under section 302 filed their nominations in Dhar and Murena. Their nomination papers were cancelled.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pradhani, this is not correct.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Now I give you the biggest example. I will give you only one example though there are several examples. Some ministers in the present government of Uttar Pradesh, in whose formation the honourable Prime Minister has played the key role are involved in serious crimes and they are corrupt also. There were non-bailable warrants against them on the day they took oath as Cabinet Minister in Uttar Pradesh. After three or four days of oath taking they obtained a stay from the High Court to avert arrest. Therefore, it is pointless for BJP to raise the issue of criminalisation(*Interruptions*).

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : When United Front had formed its government, how many such ministers were included in that government(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Now even in this present cabinet persons facing charges of corruptions have been included as ministers. Why do you force me to divulge their names, many of them are my friends. What can I say?(*Interruptions*) I am speaking please listen. We will keep on speaking about this, please listen....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : You also continue with your own story.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : While replying, the Hon'ble Prime Minister must state that when your Cabinet Ministers are not facing any corruption charges then why a special session of the Lok Sabha was summoned for six days.

Then there is a question of a clean administration, an honest Prime Minister. When the Cabinet of Prime

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

Minister includes ministers who are facing corruption charges, then people of the country would raise their finger at the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister is an honest person then all the persons in his cabinet should be equally honest. Advaniji had set a very good example. When charges of corruption were levelled against him, then he resigned. After his resignation he said that he will not accept any position in the government or in the Lok Sabha till such time he is absolved of these charges by the court.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : He said that he would not enter the Parliament.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Yes, he has said that I am singing his praises and we will continue to do that. But now how can we appreciate the Prime Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mulayam Singh Ji, please donot speak to him, address the Chair.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Is this the only criteria to run the Home Ministry. All that depends on him. He will maintain the file. He is not a weak person. He will maintain a file of everyone and this process must have begun by now. We are not criticising you, rather we are cautioning the Prime Minister. Do not take it otherwise. We are cautioning you of the dangers ahead. We are ready to face the crises that has arisen before us. You have not got a big majority. Time and again you are saying that which party caused the fall of our government. The Congress Party was responsible for the fall of our Government and that Party is a big Party. Your government can fall if honourable Buta Singh Ji so desires. Then what will happen?(Interruptions). That was a big party. But now a single independent member can be responsible the fall of your government. So you donot ask who was responsible for the fall of our government. That was a big party and that party was responsible for the fall of our Government. But at present your strength is in such a critical stage that only Sardar Buta Singh is enough to topple your government.

How pitiful it is that culture is also a slogan given by your party. Now in Uttar Pradesh, Government of Bhartiya Janta Party has enacted an anti-copying law. We are not in favour of copying. This is what you must believe(Interruptions).

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Your party workers are staging a dhama. What more can be said.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That is why we are saying that we are not in favour of copying, we are against it. I have served as a teacher. We have laid such conventions that copying is not being done in the internal examinations even now in the institution I have served in(Interruptions). Such a black law has never been enacted in any civilised society or country or any where in India for their educational institutions as is prevalent in Uttar Pradesh. We will oppose it vehemently....(Interruptions). Students in the age group of 15-16 years will be sent to jails and then these criminals will become ministers in Uttar Pradesh.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : How many cases are registered against you?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Your Home Minister is sitting in the house. He will tell you. Then I will count your cases. I have said nothing wrong. Mr. Chairman Sir, I will answer their queries simultaneously.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not a matter of question and answers. You need not pay attention to them.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I am only addressing you. If I look at them, it will become all the more worse. These people talk of morality and ethics and they talk of eliminating corruption but these people gave tickets to criminals to contest the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections. There is evidence that since 1991, they never gave a ticket to any gentleman with a good record to contest an election against me.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Who was the person that you nominated to contest election against me....(Interruptions). You had nominated Phoolan Devi to contest against me.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why don't you sit down? He is not yielding.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. You sit down. I am sorry, this is too bad.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior member. You know the traditions of the House.

* Not recorded.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I have the same rights as he has got. I have only spoken when the matter concerned me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When a member is making his speech in the House, you can raise your point only when he yields

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House cannot proceed like this. Please sit down. Enough is enough.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I said so because our party is branded as a party of the criminals. In every magazine and on television it is shown that there are the criminals belonging to Mulayam Singh party. We are nothing but criminals(Interruptions) but you claim to be a person of the clean image. Tell us about yourself what you are. Much is said about us that we are enemies of the Hindus and friends of the Muslims. We can say with pride that.....(Interruptions)

SN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur) : They say that we are criminals but go and ask Mayawati Ji what we are. An attempt was made to kill her.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kamal Ji, please sit down.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV :(Interruptions) That is why I have said that we are not criminals. You keep on saying that we are criminals. (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) : A plan was made to kill her, Mayawati has already spoken about this.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I was saying that everyone has accused our party as being criminals. Charges have been levelled against us continuously but you claim yourself of having a clean image. We said that we will not give tickets to any criminal and we have not given the same to any criminal. You had objected. We do not want to say anything more to Shri Virendra Singh.....(Interruptions). You had objected. But the Election Commission and the court found Phoolan Devi papers to be correct..(Interruptions) We do not want to say anything more than this about Phoolan Devi.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Please do not talk about Election Commission..(Interruptions). Do not talk about Election Commission here(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : She is a strong lady. Atrocities have been committed upon Phoolan Devi ...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi, why you are getting up? Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav is capable enough to defend himself.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You see the consensus(Interruptions) They are talking about consensus. How come they will agree for a consensus candidate when they have always adopted a confrontationist politics. Where will you get consensus. We formed Government in 1977 after suffering a lot in jail during emergency. On the ground of dual membership they adopted such a confrontationist approach that we could not run our majority Government in 1977. They have always adopted the path of confrontation. What was the need of carrying lakhs of people to Ayodhya when I became the Chief Minister? Who has created this confrontation? Who has created this dissension in the country after demolishing the Mosque? Riots, murders and loot took place in Mumbai, Surat, Bhopal, Kanpur, Varanasi and due to this despicable act a number of families in Mumbai were rendered homeless. Who has created this confrontation? Confrontation has been created at every level in society and in the country. Day before yesterday only you created confrontation. Accept my congratulation for being elected as the Speaker but if you really wanted to make the country stronger then it would have been in the fitness of things to get Sangmajhi, who belongs to North-Eastern region elected as the Speaker. Had he been elected as the Speaker the people living in border areas must have elated with pride that a person belonging to their area is occupying one of the topmost position in the country ... (Interruptions) How come you talk about consensus ... (Interruptions) When Sangama Saheb was elected unanimously last time(Interruptions) I am referring about your intention. You talk of consensus but always choose the path of confrontation. Don't use dual policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Have you given me only that much of time?(Interruptions) I will conclude in a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You had been allotted 15 minutes and by now you already have taken 16 minutes.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : It's good to talk about transparency. If there is transparency, the Hon'ble Prime Minister should tell us as to whether he is a member of R.S.S. or not ? Where will transparency come? There is no transparency in R.S.S. Kindly tell us whether you have any relation with R.S.S. and whether you are a members of R.S.S.? We are looking forward to a good opportunity to have discussion with you on the issue of transparency and also to hear from you on this issue. I won't say more. You have talked about cooperation of your alliance partners in forming the Cabinet. Kindly tell us, have you ever said that it is a Coalition Government? It is being said that this is a B.J.P. Government. When we were in the Government we told that it's a United Front Government. George Saheb, it is still a B.J.P.'s Government and not yours. This has been pointed out in the newspapers also...*(Interruptions)*

I believe in the promotion of Indian languages. I believe in the promotion of all Indian languages, be it Tamil, Gurumukhi, Malayalam, Kanada, Bengali, Punjabi or Assamese or Urdu . You kindly tell us the reasons for the loss of your love for Hindi. If you have love for Hindi remove English but you haven't said a single word about removing English. We were incarcerated and caned for Independence. All regional languages should be promoted. When I was the Chief Minister, I allowed to impart education in eight languages but fascination with English remained and Advaniji, you talk of Indianism. Your national programme, National Agenda is full of imperialistic feelings and thoughts.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : What will happen to Somnathiji?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We will make him agree.

Now I talk of peasants. Today not only of U.P. but peasants of entire country are in distress. At some place they have to face cyclone and at other places they have to face tornado and hailstorm. You have promised to do something special on the very first day of your rule. You have said that within six months we will do something that the people of this country will start recognising that this Government is doing something. May I know what have you done? Hours have elapsed but nothing happened as such, when will you do that. The farmers have not been provided assistance till now ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR : (Mumbai North-West) : It's a matter of six months....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : That's different. The matter of six months is something different.

Hon'ble Sir, we want to know*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : The Prime Minister's speech concluded at 11.40. It's now 15.25 P.M. The hon'ble member has been speaking continuously. He is taking the whole two and half hours time*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : So far the country's security is concerned, hon'ble Prime Minister you have stated that we will make atom bomb. I have nothing to say to George Saheb but earlier you were Prime Minister for thirteen days. You know everything. I was also Defence Minister and you were also the Prime Minister of this country. Were you not aware of this? In spite of that, you created an unnecessary euphoria about making Atom Bomb and misleading people. It is surprising that you could not know about it in those thirteen days! This is a sensitive issue. How far it is appropriate to say that we will make atom bomb? Our Government had said that we have kept our options open, then what is new in your statement. If you implement the programme initiated by us to equip our forces with latest weapons for the security of our country, it will be sufficient and strengthen the military might*(Interruptions)*

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, whoever cast their vote in favour of this motion will be doing so against the poor people and against the freedom fighters who fought for the Independence of the country. It will be a vote in favour of corruption immorality and against minorities and students. We are trying to strengthen this great country by uniting Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Christian in the knot of harmony. Your apprehension about the Muslim community is unfounded rather it is an excellent community of this country. Ever since the freedom struggle, whenever the country has been in danger, they have been in the forefront. I am proud of them.*(Interruptions)* Don't doubt them. If you look at them with suspicion, then it will create problem whereas if you shower love at them, the country will emerge stronger and Muslims will always be in the forefront to lay down their lives for the nation.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, alongwith this I advise you to go through the history of -1930 and 1931*(Interruptions)* Hitler emerged as a powerful leader by creating feeling of nationalism among people and by

giving the same slogan of socialism(Interruptions) I want to say to Shri George Saheb and Shri Barnala Saheb clearly that our coming generation will never foregive you. The way Hitler grabbed power, similarly through the Parliament(Interruptions) today these communal forces are trying to grab the power in India but these nazi intentions will not be allowed to succeed. I would like to caution you in this regard. With these words, I oppose this motion

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : Mr. Chairman, in this House in 1996 when Confidence Motion was moved, I spoke in favour of the motion and now again I stand to speak in favour of the Confidence Motion moved in this House. This occasion might not have come, had the Congress party not forced us to go for election by withdrawing its support to the UF Government.

We had just listened the speech of the leader of opposition. He has not thrown light on the circumstances under which this government came into existence. But Shri Somnath Baboo has expressed his views and vehemently expressed his anguish towards this Government. I have in my hands the copy of weekly, "People's Democracy" of 22 February of CPI (M). It contains the speech of the General Secretary of CPI(M) delivered on behalf of his party and UF on Doordarshan. Before elections every party got an opportunity to speak on Television. This speech was delivered on that occasion. The second sentence is :

[English]

"This unnecessary election has been thrust on the people of India by the Congress Party which brought down the United Front Government for no valid reason at all. The Congress cited the Jain Commission Report and its totally baseless charge against the D.M.K. and the people of Tamil Nadu."

[Translation]

Somnath Baboo and Sharad Pawarji, please listen to me attentively.

[English]

"The real game of the Congress whose leaders cannot exist without power, was to blackmail the United Front and join the Government. But all the constituents of the United Front stood firm."

[Translation]

It seems that your firmness is eroded and you have become lax. Sitting by his side you are saying the same thing which he said here. I do agree that the all the

members of the United Front who are present here, would not agree with his points. But above all I want that country should know as to what is the opinion of Congress party on these comments. The opinion is given in their manifesto. You had the manifesto of Bhartiya Janata Party in your hands. Now I would request you to take your own manifesto in your hands. Take out page No. 4. Now take the manifesto of Congress party and not of Bhartiya Janata Party. The Congress party has given seven reasons for toppling the UF Government. The first reason is :

[English]

"The United Front failed to live up to its own Common Minimum Programme.

[Translation]

It means that you have backed out of your promise. You are guilty of that. Further it is said :

[English]

What was worse was that the United Front spared no effort and lost no opportunity to damage the congress "even while continuing to enjoy with Congress support."

[Translation]

It means that you have used it. It is at S.No. 3.

[English]

"The United Front's commitment to secularism was put to test in Uttar Pradesh but the United Front failed to establish its secular credentials."

[Translation]

How, the Congress demanded that BSP, Congress and UF should fight unitedly against communal forces, but you didn't agree and as a result in Uttar Pradesh and in whole country you have given the chance to communal forces to raise their heads. This is the allegation of the Congress Party in its manifesto that is levelled against UF. Further they say that -

[English]

"The United Front constituents had made common cause with the BJP in the past in their pursuit of anti-congressism.

[Translation]

It means that there is a direct allegation on you that there is no differences between you and us. Thus you need not to worry. They further say that -

[Shri George Fernandes]

[English]

"It wanted the Congress to fight communal forces alone while it continued to enjoy power with the support of Congress."

[Translation]

It is an attack on your intention - Somnath Baboo on you also, because you were running that government and all of you, who are seated here and this is a question mark on your integrity of all of you. Again they say that you have made an attempt to break the Congress party.

[English]

"In April, 1996, the Congress asked the United Front to change its leadership, since it had built up firm evidence that the agencies of the Government were being used blatantly to subvert the Congress."

[Translation]

All this, according to him, is correct.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : That is their view.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : This can be either correct or incorrect. This is not the view. It is an allegation against you.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : (Raigarh) : Is it relevant to today's Vote of Confidence?.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri George Fernandes, are you yielding to him?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : (Mahabubnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not necessarily agree with the Congress Party. Let Shri George Fernandes speak something about himself ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is their manifesto and not mine. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is their own opinion(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated. Please resume your seat.

[Translation]

AN. HON. MEMBER : We want to know whether you are a socialist or not....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

.....(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, truth is very bitter and always pinches. Its always very difficult to accept the truth. Therefore, I can well understand the difficulty of our hon'ble Member Shri Jaipal Reddy. The matter is not finished here. A step ahead the allegations are against DMK, in defence of which I am speaking. They say that you have prevented the Jain Commission report to be presented here. They further said :

[English]

"This report exhaustively dealt with the role of a section of the DMK party and of the then Tamil Nadu Government headed by Shri Karunanidhi in aiding and abetting the LTTE organisation. The LTTE could not have killed Rajiv Gandhi without the support and assistance it received from the DMK led Government and a section of the DMK leadership."

It further says :

"How could the Congress continue to support the United Front Government, a constituent of which is held by a Commission of Inquiry to be the abetter of an agency that killed the Congress President, a former Congress Prime Minister and a future Congress Prime Minister?"

[Translation]

Friends from DMK are also sitting here. It is their opinion about them and you want their support just to get power...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : Are you in conformity with the statement?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, I am not. That is the point I am making. That is precisely the point I am making.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Thank you.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You are in a very bad and dangerous company. That is what I am saying(Interruptions)

[Translation]

I also agree this that what Jaipal Reddy has said will not be acceptable to the UF parties because this is their own opinion. Before discussing this opinion I will discuss the opinion of Sharad Pawar that the number of parties with whom they can form the front, what is the ideological similarity among them ...(Interruptions). Plenty ...(Interruptions) Therefore, I will also explain to you the extent of similarities, and closeness between them. Somnath Babu, his opinion for your party is as follow: ...(Interruptions)

[English]

"As for the Left parties, even after seven decades, the CPI and the CPI(M) have not been able to integrate themselves into the national mainstream. They are still out of it. Their national importance has been dwindling."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He is agreeing with all that which I am not agreeing to. So, what is the good of putting it on me?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, I am not. I am trying to save you. I am trying to rescue you from them ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He should speak on the Confidence Motion(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Shri Somnath Chatterjee, it is important because they are claiming your vote as their vote. That 55 per cent includes all of you.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are not saying this...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : They claim it ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : Shir Sharad Pawar was saying about the secular vote against the BJP...(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It further says :

"Their national importance has been dwindling and today their presence is confined to only three States, West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura. For the past 20 years, the Left Front continues to be in power in West Bengal even though the Congress has continued to enjoy 40 per cent of the popular vote."

[Translation]

Where is Mamataji?

[English]

The Trinamul Congress has now very successfully reduced it to 16 per cent ...(Interruptions)

Sir I quote again and it says :

"The Left Front has simply ruined West Bengal. That was one of the premier Industrial States in the country prior to 1977. Most industries are sick and obsolete. New investment is a trickle."

[Translation]

Our friend Shri Mulayam Singh Ji has given a double talk.

[English]

This document further says:

"Double-speak is characteristic of the CPI(M) and the Marxists. It opposes all sensible economic policies in Parliament, but its State Government try to attract new businesses from abroad and other parts of India...."

Lack of infrastructure towards road connectivity, non-responsive administration and overwhelming influence of partisan interests is holding back investors from investing in these three States." (Interruptions)

[Shri George Fernandes]

[Translation]

It is imperative to know that votes of which group enables you to come here. You are taking the support of one-another, and giving the support to one another ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : (Chikballapur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, let him speak on the Motion of Confidence.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, his opinion about them is this . Let us listen to his opinion also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : This is your manifesto and you are stating in your manifesto about secularism...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Please tell us what is your opinion about BJP.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Shri Tariq Anwar, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHandigarh) : I will tell that also, you please sit down.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It pains a lot. Mr. Chairman, Sir, what do the Marxist say now? They speak about Congress pungently and see their secularism about congress. Their document says :

[English]

"The Congress Party has degenerated both politically and organisationally. It is a party in decline as it has pursued, when in power, economic policies which militate against the people. It betrayed the secular heritage by compromising with communal parties and it is a party riddled with corruption. It is this dismal record of the Congress which led to its resounding defeat in the 1996 election....

Its attitude since then shows no redemption. The Congress is no more a party which can govern at the Centre or provide the country with a national agenda." ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I know that you have changed your opinion. Now you are ready to go in his government. We know that your leaders have said this. Now both of them have exchanged their views. Now what is their opinion about our friends in Janata Dal and UF.

[English]

"The Janata Dal was born in a convulsive fit of anti-Congressism in 1989. It is a collection of desperate groups and embittered individuals driven by egos. It can hardly be called a serious political formation. Like an ameba it lives on splitting itself into smaller and smaller groups. Its platform of social justice is a hollow."

[Translation]

Ram Vilas Ji, it has been said :

[English]

"It is just a misleading power for the practice of divisive caste politics. The leadership of the Janata Dal in the United Front under two Prime Ministers has been disastrous."

[Translation]

Both of them are not here.

[English]

It further says :

"The economy had been ruined."

[Translation]

It is they not we who are saying this.

[English]

That is what we have inherited and the hon. Finance Minister has to now repair it. It adds :

"There has been no real governance. All matters have been allowed to drift."

[Translation]

This is his opinion about you. But what is his opinion.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Speak something else. Leave this for Atalji. Your speech should be different.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is going on. You are talking to each other.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : What is their opinion about you. I quote:

"The Congress Party in its present state of decay and disarray is in no position to even claim to provide a stable Government. Its anti-people policies, its compromising attitude with communal forces and the corruption scandals involving many of its leaders.".....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You have been speaking much, your party and your friend is saying this for him.

[English]

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (Bangalore North) : Shri Fernandes, when you are speaking on the Vote of Confidence, it should be your endeavour to speak positive and not take the negative points of others(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : They asked us to reply to this question.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, we are very positive. Our programme is here with me. It is a very positive programme - the National Agenda. It was mentioned in the Address of the President. We will come to that. In fact, all of you should be happy with it.

[Translation]

This is about United Front. Janata Dal has written some good things, in its manifesto. It is necessary to come into record of the House.

[English]

"Corruption in India has reached alarming levels. Among those who are on the mat today for corruption include some of those who held the highest positions in the country."

[Translation]

It is good that name has not been mentioned here.

[English]

"Some of them in their drive to become Indian Marcos".....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Who is Marcos? Marcos is he who looted the coffers of Phillipines.

[English]

It further adds :

"In their drive to become Indian Marcos they chose to enlist the collaboration of even foreign commission agents to defraud the Indian treasury from the highest seat of power."

"Though some political leaders vainly tried to explain away corruption as an international phenomenon and a personal matter, no civilised society can survive for as long as such a cancer is in its body politic, a parasitical approach pursued at all levels of administration and a new tendency to defraud the public exchequer even from the highest seat of power and pile up deposits at secret bank accounts abroad."

[Translation]

Now everything is clear.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is right. I have read out these two three documents because it was necessary. First, I would like to say that till this debate continues.(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Please read the manifesto of BJP also.....(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We have not only read it but have chalked out our Programme on its basis.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : (Jhabua) : You please read out the manifesto of Bhartiya Janata Party also.....(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : If anyone has missed to hear it, he may give his ear to me because some matters are important. I would like to tell you what the Congress has said about Telugu Desam. You are very angry with Telugu Desam.

[English]

"The Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh, the Assam Gana Parishad in Assam and the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab cannot play any meaningful role in national politics."

[Translation]

The second sentence is a very dangerous one.

[English]

"In the event of a conflict between national and regional or local interests, regional parties will choose the latter to the detriment of India as we know it and as we cherish it."

[Translation]

These are really very dangerous things. You are putting question mark on the patriotism of Akali Dal, Telugu Desam and Assam Gana Parishad. This is what it meant, it conveys no other meanings except this. Ours is a National party, not a regional one. That is why we thought that all of you should listen to these things, understand them well and when the time comes for taking the decision, we decide together.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many points were raised during this debate especially, the Leader of the Opposition spoke about his views on 'Swadeshi'. When the question of 'Swadeshi' arises, everybody get disturbed and the people present here also think that the development of the National will be hindered. Just now, the Leader of the Opposition referred the name of Gandhiji and interpreted Gandhiji's concept of Swadeshi the other way and said that Gandhi ji did not mean to put a ban on foreign goods. Sharad ji, I think you need to study Gandhi a fresh because Gandhiji had said that whenever the Government wanted to adopt a welfare measure it must keep in mind the face of the poorest man in order to ensure whether such a measure is going to benefit the poor or not. If that measure or decision of the Government is detrimental to the interests of that poor man, such a policy would not be in the national interests. The Government must make its policies and take decisions keeping in view the face of the poorest of the poor. This is what we are aiming at.

Our concept of Swadeshi means nothing else but patriotism. A person lacking the feelings of patriotism is of no use to the Nation.

Sharad Pawar ji, our country has completed 50 years of freedom and we are celebrating the Golden Jubilee this year. If we call them the Non-Congress Governments there were only two of them and they lasted only for three years. Those Governments were headed by Shri Morarji Desai and Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh and the three Governments were Non-Congress Governments for name sake because they were on support of the Congress on the condition that they will follow their policies.

The Congress party ruled for over 45 years and not one or two but the three generations have ruled the country. You people have ruled this country for 45 years. And now dont you know who is responsible for the present condition of the Nation. You go and see the life in slums.....(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : (Katihar) : The Nation has progressed.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be seated. Shri Tariq Anwar, please be seated.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : You go through the figures(Interruptions) Mr. George, you talk about the figures(Interruptions) You tell us the figures please ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am not yielding(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It should not go like this.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will tell him where the National stands today(Interruptions) 50 years of freedom(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : (Janjgir) : I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under what rule have you the point of order? Where is the rule? There is no response.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was about to tell but when someone shouted and asked about the present state of the Nation, I had to say that. I am ready to start classes for those who are not aware of the country's economic condition, I would spare my time for their classes. I have enough time.

There is a report of National Council for Applied Economic Research which is India's topmost Research Institute. The report for the year 1994 was prepared to let the Multinationals know India's economic condition. It says that 58 percent of Indians i.e. 52 crore people are living on subsistence level as they spend only Rs. 10 or less per day which means that today in this country 26 crore people are living on Rs. 5 or less per day, 13 crore people are living on Rs. 2.50 or less per day and 6.5 crore people are living on Rs. 1.25 or less per day. If we have to build India then it becomes necessary that we adopt such policies which may help finding solutions to these problems. This is exactly what this Government is going to do.

We are not opposed to foreign investment in the country. In the year 1977, I was country's Minister of Industry. Foreign capital was invested in India at that time also and I had given my consent in writing. Here, it is not the question of capital it is a question of fulfilling the requirements of the country and with pride we say that our policy of Swadeshi should be one which fulfills the basic needs of the people of India. We would like our friends in the Opposition to keep this point always in their mind.

16.00 hrs.

He had raised another point related to the security of the country. He referred to the speech I had delivered in the constitution club on 23rd March on the occasion of Dr. Lohia's birthday. What did I say there? In that speech I had said that this is the first time that a Non-Congress Government came into power in India. Earlier the so called Non-Congress Governments were in fact Congress Government somehow. This Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the first Non-Congress Government in

India(Interruptions). However most of the people in Indian politics who are above 50 years of age somehow belong to congress party and will continue to come.....(Interruptions). You may also come some day.....(Interruptions) Don't speak with such a confidence, you may also come.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : I never do such a foolishness(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I never interrupt anybody in this House but unfortunately they interrupt me.

I said at that time that the Non-Congressism which has been talked about in the country, how did it come into existence. After the invasion of China in the month of September-October in 1962, Dr. Lohia had said that this is the National Government and we should stand united to face such a situation. I referred to it in my speech talked about the land of our own country. I said that the borderline of our country as it existed on 15th of August, 1947 is not the same today. Today, some of our land is under the possession of others. I said that it will be the endeavour of our Government to solve the border dispute through a dialogue. But I did not know that if I talk about the land of our country, Shri Sharad Pawar will get agitated. To me it is not important to be in the Government.....(Interruptions) This country matters much to me, it is more important to keep the land of the country intact. Therefore, whatever I have said Mr. Sharad Pawar should not have any objection because he himself had been the Defence Minister of India. If I would say that you did not care much about the border of the country, how would you feel, what would you think. If I talk about the border of this country, you have objections. We are unable to understand in which direction of this debate is going. Therefore, as far as the question of our border is concerned in the context of our country's security we want to solve this problem. We want to keep a close watch over our border and I think nobody especially the Congress need to worry about it.

There also arise the question of patriotism. I want to go on repeating the history of Post-Independence period of our country so that the new generation may become well aware of the country's stand, its problems and the matters related to its safety and security. They should know about the struggle their forefathers have fought. That is why, we are determined to speak on such matters and we want you not to worry about it.

The question of corruption has been raised: We have put forward yours and everybody's views on corruption and with regard to the Government I would

[Shri George Fernandes]

only say that only one sentence of the speech delivered by Mr. President - the day before yesterday conveys everything.

[English]

"The Government proposes to make all those who hold public office accountable by enacting the Lok Pal Bill. The Official Secrets Act will be reviewed so that we can put in place a right to information law that will enable transparency and integrity in decision making without compromising national security."

[Translation]

So you should not worry about it. This Government will not compromise with any body on the issue of corruption. It will not compromise so far as the enforcement of Law is concerned.

Now I come to the last point. I will not take much time. The point is regarding secularism. Since long, I am trying to initiate a debate on this issue but nobody is ready to do so. You are saying that they are non-secular, they are saying that you are non-secular. Both of you are saying that we are not non-seculars. I am unable to understand what is secular and what is non-secular. I want to ask from Somnath Babu if his party opines that Congress is a non-secular Party which has repeatedly been mentioned in their election manifesto. How do you form the Government in alliance with them?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Where have you formed?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Where not, how could that Government be formed without your support and how could he become the Prime Minister. How could he remain the Prime Minister without your support? Neither Deva Gowda Sahib nor Gujral Sahib could remain the Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You remember, the BJP and we supported the V.P. Singh Government from outside. Why? It was because we wanted Shri V.P. Singh to form a Government. The BJP also supported it. Of course, they let them down very badly.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Somnath Babu, neither the Government of Deve Gowda nor the Government of Gujral could be formed without your

support. That Government was formed by the support of Congress and you again and again say that they are non-seculars. Therefore, I want to know what type of debate is this?

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Does that make you secular? Does that make them secular?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : We all are saying that we are secular. But I would like to tell you about our party and our programme that what is our secularism and what is our stand on this issue. I would like you to just read out our programme...*(Interruptions)* and follow it. It is necessary to read it.

[English]

"We are committed to establishing a civilised, humane and just civil order that which does not discriminate on grounds of caste, religion, class, colour, race or sex. We will truly and genuinely uphold the practice to save secularism consistent with the Indian tradition of "Sarva Panth Samadar" equal respect for all faiths and on the basis of equality for all. We are committed to the economic and educational development of the minorities and will take effective steps in this regard."

[Translation]

Yes, it is our, the BJP's....*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. It is the programe of B.J.P., Samata Party, A.I.A.D.M.K. and all of us and this programme*(Interruptions)* Our programmes for this year is derived from the President's Address. Please listen to it.

[English]

"Secularism is integral to India's traditions. My Government is committed to unequivocally committed to upholding our secular values."

[Translation]

I am unable to comprehend that is why I do not understand. The day on which this programme was published.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR (Akola) : Shri George Fernandes, will you yield for a minute?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : No, I would not.

[Translation]

I am astonished to find that two great leaders of opposition today reiterated the statement of Congress spokesman that B.J.P. betrayed us. This statement was made on the day, when this programme was published. They did not use these words, but their spokesman did. When it is said that we have a Common Minimum Programme which has no controversial points, it should be welcomed. You would have welcomed the issue of secularism had you been clear in your heart, instead it was said that we have betrayed them. It has become a joke today. If anything happens according to your wishes it is good and you welcome it but if we take some good measures in the interest of the country instead of welcoming it you start criticising it. You make fun of it and pass comments. It is also said that it is secularism and it is not a verbal fight, it is fight for the power, they have nothing to do with Secularism. They unite on only one point and that is power. Let them unite, I don't have any objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you please, conclude.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, I am concluding. Please bring an end to this fight. It is not good to fight on words. The moment the words Hindutva is used you immediately get agitated, I fear you may say one day that the word 'Hindustan' should be removed. Hindustan is the name of this country, it is also called Bharatvarsh. Gandhiji had always called this country by the name of Hindustan throughout his life. What should I say if you feel ashamed, 'Saare Jahan se achcha, Hindustan Hamara. I do not understand why you people get agitated when the native of Hindustan talk about Hindustan, and about our culture.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI : (Amravati) : What is written in the Constitution?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Gavai, you please sit down.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Please don't fight on words, fight on the issues. People have elected you. I urge you to do your duty. You oppose us but it should be constructive. Please extend your issue based cooperation in adopting the motion moved by Shri

Atalji in order to give the country a strong and stable government for the next five years.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : (Calcutta-South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the confidence motion. We represent the people on behalf of Trinmool Congress. Here, two leader of opposition and one leader of CPI(M) have raised an issue. They have raised their finger on me and Mr. George. I would like to say a few words to them but before that, I would like to begin my speech with couplet.

Muddai lakh bura chahey to kyan hota hai
Vahi hota hai jo manjoore khuda hota hai.

Today question about our identity has been raised. If somebody is willing to know about us, we are ready to provide the information. Recently, we participated in the election, we did not have any allies with BJP. But we had seat adjustments. Since we were expelled from the Congress Party, we formed a small party. When we were expelled from the congress party we formed a small party. When we contested election, within a month we were told that this is a Lok Sabha election and caste is playing a major role now - it is a matter of regret. It is a shame for West Bengal as there was no cast factor before this election there. We were branded communal and allies of BJP, which we are not. We were accused a lot(Interruptions) Please wait for a while, I will reply to that point also(Interruptions)

It was published in the newspaper that CPM has received Rs. 9 crore from BJP. If we have received even a single paisa, BJP should tell us. We didn't received even a single paise(Interruptions) If we have taken, BJP should tell....(Interruptions) After sometime, they united against us....(Interruptions) I never interrupt in anybody's speech and do not pass any comment. I have the right to speak....(Interruptions) What have we witnessed in the country?(Interruptions) I have listened everyboyd carefully, and noted their comment. They have raised their finger on us, I must reply them.

It is a matter of regret that during Lok Sabha elections, there were no issues like stable Government, Economic Stability and food for all etc. The only issue raised was to divide the Hindus and Muslims. But, we do not believe in the politics of dividing people rather we want to unite them. With this aim we have entered the Parliament. I am ready to resign from the membership

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

if any of the allegation levelled by me is proved false. Whatever, I am saying, I am saying with confidence because I have got proof with me. I am not making any personal attack. Serious debate took place on 'TADA' Leader of the Opposition is not present here, I am grateful to the Government of Maharashtra. When Shri Sunil Dutt met me, he told me that his son should have been booked under Arms Act but they being vindictive had arrested his son under TADA. I asked him to show the report. I had seen the report sent by Maharashtra Government. Sanjay Dutt's case should have been registered under Arms Act but they did not consider it.

[English]

Sunil Dutt is a secular man of this country. It is a matter of shame that his son is being unnecessarily harassed. Why is it so? May I ask this question to all the leaders who were in State Government? I raised this issue to many times.

[Translation]

We people are called communal....(Interruptions) It was propagated in our constituency that we will burn Quran. How can I do this, when I myself read the Quran and pray to the God. It is our religion and communalism is not our religion....(Interruptions) You must have the information. What has not been said during the elections(Interruptions) We were termed as Horse Traders and 420. Am I 420? I had told the people that if I am 420 then what number the person will get who is Chief Minister for the last 20 years. If I were 420 then why I had left the Ministership.

It is regretful that we were not allowed to enter the counting booths. It was stated that being a registered Party they will not allow us to enter. It is true that our's is a regional Party. It is also true that Congress and CPM contested the elections in alliance. Tariq Ji I am not pointing you but to your state unit. You are aware that you have been left alone with Shri Sitaram Kesri. I am saying all this because CPM and Congress have fought the election together we have tried to win the election in triangular contests and begging of votes. Hooliganism has taken place during elections in Bengal(Interruptions)

AN. HON'BLE MEMBER : Whether we are debating elections in Bengal(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : When you can speak about U.P. Bihar and Tamil Nadu, why I can not take up the Bengal issue(Interruptions)

Sir, the day before yesterday, Prime Minister has sent a team to survey the area affected with natural calamity. It is not our duty. It is the duty of the State Government.

[English]

It is the duty of the State Government to inform the hon. Prime Minister about what happened in the State. We are sorry for the disaster. The hon. Prime Minister has been kind enough. I rang up the hon. Prime Minister on receiving information about the disaster and asked him to send a team to the spot. He agreed to send a team to the spot. We went to the spot along with the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Som Pal. He is not here right now.

[Translation]

We found that even drinking water was not available there. These people created a ruckus as to why I was being sent there. I walked out of the House but it is unfortunate that people play politics even at the time of natural calamity. Prime Minister had asked Shri Inderjit Gupta also to go there but due to some prior appointment elsewhere, he could not go. An M.P. from Orissa has also gone there. I said that I must go there. We went to Bengal and Orissa also but even drinking water was not there.

[English]

The Ramakrishna Mission went there for relief work. They did not allow them to provide relief to the poor people and the other social organizations. This is about West Bengal. But what about Orissa? The Government of Orissa was present there. The Chief Minister of Orissa went to the spot. They have arranged everything. Now, what has the Chief Minister of West Bengal done? He has done nothing. Instead, even for a glass of water, they insulted the Minister and I request the hon. Prime Minister to take action against that District Magistrate in Orissa. When Shri Som Pal asked the District Magistrate of Midnapur Distt. to tell us the number of bodies that they had recovered, the number of people they had admitted in the hospital and the number of people missing, they said that they did not have any information with them. This was the way in which the Government of West Bengal was functioning.(Interruptions)

Is it not the duty of the Chief Minister to visit the spot? It is the duty of the Chief Minister to visit the spot. But we are unfortunate enough that the Chief Minister of Orissa went there but the Chief Minister of West

Bengal did not. The BJP have not asked for support from us but we are giving it ourselves.

[Translation]

We have witnessed the grievances of the people. Within a span of one and a half year, three Governments have been formed here. When Deve Gowda Government was in power, it was toppled. I opposed that it is not right to topple a Government on a single individual issue.

[English]

I raised this matter at that time also. You also may be remembering it now.

[Translation]

When Gujral Government was in power, it was argued that so long DMK was there, they won't allow it to run. I moved a no confidence motion when the House was in stalemata for two and a half days. I wanted to know as to who was responsible for assassinating Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But these people adjusted every thing by resigning and dissolving the House *sine die*. I would like to know these facts which is my right. Who murdered Indira Gandhi we would like to know the facts. Who are responsible for that. Submit the Takker Commission Report. We would like to know about the Reports of Jain Commission and Vohra Commission.

[English]

The full Report of the Vohra Committee has not yet been submitted. We know that it was reported in the Press. There are many politicians who have got link with the underworld and underground elements. There are some politicians who have nexus with the anti-social elements. So, the people have got the right to know as to who are these people. Please submit the full Report of the Vohra Committee.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, I would like to bring one fact to the notice of Kumari Mamata Benerjee that the Report of the Vohra Committee has been laid on the floor the House in detail. Now, you are in the Government. You can go through it. Everything has been placed on the Table of the House and it is on record. Nothing has been hidden from the nation.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am asking for the record. (Interruptions) Shri Rajesh Pilot, I may be wrong. But this is for my information. What we have seen is a small Report. We have not seen the full

Report. Their names were not mentioned in that Report. I am asking for the names. I would like to know the names of the culprits. I would like to know as to who are those politicians who have links with the underworld who are doing mischief in this country. We want to know that.

[Translation]

People have witnessed the regime of previous Government for the last one and a half year. The prices of onion and potatoes increased to Rs. 25 and Rs. 7 respectively. The Government was not concerned about the sufferings of the public. The Government should function for the welfare of general public. Diesel prices were increased twice in a year but there was no one to listen. Today, there is need of a stable Government. It is the desire of public also. You call the present Government a humbug, but we proudly claim that it is not humbug. It is people's mandate. That is why we asked the public what to do. It is the desire of the public to support Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Only he can form a Stable Government. No one else can do it. They are not in a mood to form the Government. Therefore I would like to say :

“Roshni Chand sey hoti hay Sitaro say nahi, Mohabat kam sey hoti hay, bato-bato sey nahi.”

Mr. Chairman, Sir, much has been said against us as to why we are supporting Bhartiya Janata Party. We support it -

[English]

This was in our manifesto. We had mentioned that we would take care of the interests of those who would take care of our interests. We are following our manifesto. If there is anything wrong let them point it out.

They, especially the CPI(M) Party projected Shri Basu as their Prime Ministerial candidate. Sir, you will be happy to know that even in his constituency we got lead. We got lead in the constituencies of 36 Ministers. Within one month, two Mayors from Calcutta Corporation and Howrah Corporation had been defeated. This is not our fault. This is the blessing of the people on us.

[Translation]

We asked people as to whom they want as Prime Minister--Jyoti Basu or Atal Bihari Vajpayee (Interruptions) Since you have asked me, I must give reply (Interruptions)

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

[English]

They asked me to reply to the question and that is why I am replying(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Harin Pathak, I will come to you.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : They have no commitment and principle regarding secularism.

[English]

Sir, it is not fair to say it. This is our national agenda. It is genuine secularism instead of the so-called secularism only to play the communal card. What have we seen, Sir?

[Translation]

At that time of election they tell us as to who is Hindu and who is Muslim, but they never think about their drinking water and employment. You have never realised their problems. You forgot Muslim Community after becoming a leader. But we people say that--

"Jab tak Suraj Chand Rahega,

Tab tak minorities ki Izzat bana rahega"

This will be our success.

[English]

This is our fundamental right and that is why, instead of secularism, we have put it as genuine secularism. You may kindly see paragraph 7 of page 2 of President's Address. It says : "Secularism is integral to India's traditions. My Government is unequivocally committed to upholding our secular values." What we need today is dynamic secularism. Dynamic secularism means we should not exploit Muslims only for vote politics but we should extend our full support to that community so that they will come out from the disaster. We want to build up the community and integrate them. We do not want to disturb them.

[Translation]

When they have said this much against us, then we have decided that we will remain in alliance. You have no faith in alliance but we did have faith. You are talking vague. It is true that we belong to small party but it is

regions which constitute centre. Centre can be formed only when all states unite together. Even Sarkaria Commission has said that :

[English]

If the State is strong, then the Centre is strong. Let us strengthen small parties also. The combination is with the national parties or the State parties. What is the harm in it? Why are you so jealous? Do not be jealous.

[Translation]

You should not be jealous. Somnathji, you have said one thing that one of the Member of BJP has said that hooliganism will not be allowed. We know whether hooliganism is allowed or not? Yes, if you people do not respect women, then hooliganism will exist(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Shri Tapan Sikdar was not appointed as Minister.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Then, you are pleading for Shri Tapan Sikdar. You are pleading. You have taken the plead.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Shri Tapan Sikdar was not appointed as Minister.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Are you pleading for him?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have said that I am unhappy that he has won but I respect the verdict of the people.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : When they hurt us(Interruptions) Why I joined BJP?

[English]

We have a separate manifesto but our commitment is to the people and we will continue to extend our support to this Government. We are not going to see that the Government is toppled. We want to see that this Government continues for full five years and that this Government should be stable economically,

Internationally, nationally and you can add all sorts of stability. That is why, we are extending our support to it.

[Translation]

We felt hurt as Jyoti Basu could not become the Prime Minister. Earlier Harkishan Singh Surjit had control over the government. After that you thought that Jyoti Basu will come to power but it did not happen. We have also proved that you cannot divide Hindu Muslim. I contested elections earlier also and this is my fourth term.

[English]

This is my fourth term here. Why I am saying this is because you are a senior member, Sir.

You are a very senior Member from Lakshadweep. First, my margin was 20,000 votes. Then, I won by a margin of 95,000 votes. Thereafter, it was 1,03,000 votes. Now, the figure is about 2,25,000.

[Translation]

We have received 35% votes. This is not due to adjustment of seats. The percentage of votes of communist party of India which is the national party has declined. Our party is a registered one but it has not got recognition. We can give our party symbol to you and to the entire India.(Interruptions) I would like to make a few requests.

[English]

The so-called secularism or communalism have to be stopped in the interests of the nation. Please consider ourselves as human beings or a family of this nation.

It is a fact that the BJP is not the single largest party for absolute majority.

[Translation]

Is it not true that votes reflect opinion of people? When rigging takes place, whether the opinion of the people was reflected correctly at that time? Had rigging not taken place, we would have won 22 seats.

[English]

My request is that you should strengthen the Election Commission. As and when the elections take place, they should be held without any misuse of power

by the State Government. The Election Commission should handle the election process. Please forward the electoral reforms Bill as early as possible.

Regarding judicial reforms, today, the country is lagging behind. Thousands of cases are pending in the courts. The people are frustrated.

Regarding corruption, the Lokpal is all right. But what about corruption? You said that you would take all sorts of steps against corruption.

[Translation]

The Government has no information about the Chief Ministers and political leaders who go abroad. They make crores of rupees in the name of N.R.I. investment and commit foreign exchange violations. During the last 20 years, our Chief Minister has gone on foreign tours for about 30 times. But he does not get time to visit Midnapore, when there is natural calamity. If we people visit that place, they criticise our relationship with BJP? Are they not untouchables at that time? When my friends from Left Front were going in flight with me and BJP members, I asked him as to why they were going with them? On this, they said that it is defensive. When we have given our support to BJP Government, it became offensive. This double standard will not work. The Bill regarding 33 percent reservation of seats for women should be passed here. Besides this, CRPC Amendment Bill and Lok Pal Bill should also be passed. Action should be taken on the report of Vohra Commission. Electoral as well as judicial reforms should be made. Plans should be formulated for removing unemployment.

[English]

There should be a comprehensive plan of action for minorities. I request you to do something for the minorities and also for the unemployed youth, especially in the Bengal package.

There are 42 MPs from West Bengal. We supported that Government. They have not announced that Calcutta is a category 'A-1' city(Interruptions) We are not begging for it. because of a lacuna on the part of the State Government, we are not able to announce that Calcutta is a category 'A-1' city. Here is an order of the High Court. We went to the High Court. The court passed an order that an announcement has to be made within six week that Calcutta is a category 'A-1' city.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

I would like to bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister that whatever has been given in the Bengal package does not involve any money or any such thing. The Bengal package is especially for the development of West Bengal. It is development-oriented project.

A rumour is doing the rounds that this Government is not willing to invite foreign investment in this country. Shri George Fernandes has already clarified the position in this regard. I would also like to request the Government that we, in this country need NRI investment generally for the development of the eastern region and more specially for the north-eastern region and for all the regions of this country as well.

Sir, I would also like to mention a point about the unemployed youth. I would like to request the Government to do something about the Postal Order fees. I know this is a Motion of Vote of Confidence and I should not mention all these points but the Postal Order fees is a big headache for the unemployed youth. These youths would largely be saved if the Government could do something about it.

[Translation]

Some people accuse us of being instrumental in bringing the BJP to power. Our answer to such people is that unless they improve themselves this Government will continue. There is not Question that BJP will lose power. You people play the role of constructive opposition. We will also play this role, but along with this we will say that if you want to level wrong allegation against us then we are also ready to say that:-

"Sarpharoshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai, dekhna hai jor kitna baju-e-katil mein hai"

Since you are severely opposing our alliance with the BJP, I would like to say that we are ready to give reply to the so-called communalism and so-called secularism in the forthcoming Panchayat Elections. We will fight election after making seat adjustment with the BJP and we will prove that it will not make any difference if such allegations are levelled against us. You just think what you are doing. C.P.M. and Congress have joined hands in one day. Mulaymji came to West Bengal but Jyoti Babu did not leave even a single seat in his State for him. He had asked for only one seat, even that he did not get. Lalu Prasad was saying that people are opposing him but please excuse me, now he wants power.

Before concluding my point I would like to say that you should look towards the country and must listen to what the people want to say.

[English]

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is a sensible man. He is a very sensible person; he is a man of commitment. Therefore, I would like to request the Members of this House to support him. Before I conclude I would like to convey our gratitude to all the senior leaders of this House. I would like to appeal to each Member of this House that this Government should not be toppled for individual interests. This Government should continue for a full term of five years.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Why should we support this Government?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : This is my appeal to you. You may not do it. An appeal is an appeal. Our appeal and our request to our colleagues is that they should support this Government so that this Government could pave the way for a greater development of this country. My request to the Government is that it should be assertive, effective and should deliver the goods keeping in view the interests of the country. This Government must be pro-people and truly a Government of the people, by the people, for the people.

[Translation]

I want to say only one thing that this Government has been formed with alliance partners with a sound footing. You should not divide the country on caste lines just to grab power. Let people remain united.

I want to say only the thing about Babri Masjid. The case which was referred to the Supreme Court :

[English]

It should be resolved according to the decision of the Supreme Court. I would like to request that the verdict of the Supreme Court should be accepted. We do not want to divide this country. We want unity of our country. That is why, my suggestion to the Government is --

[Translation]

That Vajpayeeji, you run this Government. Your Government will get confidence vote, no one can do anything against this Government. We are fully confident that :

"Jo hamse takrayega, voh choor-choor ho Jayega"

You call us communal. To this, I will say that I very much like urdu language. When the Question of language was raised then I had given full respect to official languages like Marathi, Punjabi, Kannada and Telugu.

[English]

Bengali is a very good language. Similarly, Urdu, Marathi and Punjabi are also good languages.

[Translation]

You can ask Shri Vajpayeeji and Advaniji. Just because this country should not be divided, country should be strengthened. It will be proved in the coming days.

"Khudi ko kar buland itna ki har tadbir se pehle, Khuda bande se puchhe ki bata teri raza ky hai"

With these words, I support this Government.

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, certain derogatory remarks have been made about a very very elderly political leader and the Chief Minister of West Bengal and certain other political leaders. You should look into it and delete those remarks from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If there is anything objectionable, I will go through it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You may go through the proceedings. If the hon. Member has made any derogatory remarks, you may delete those remarks from the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, that will be done.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, four ministers of the West Bengal Government went to the place of incident as soon as the news was received. Not one, but four of them had gone there.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : The Chief Minister of West Bengal had never gone there.

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, how much time is allotted for each party. I would like to know as to how much time has been allotted to Trinamul Congress and how much time she has taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the House conduct its business now. We will tell the time allotted to each party at six O' Clock. The time is allotted according to the strength of the party in the House.

[English]

For your Party, 26 minutes have been allotted which have already been exhausted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the Prime Minister initiated the discussion I expected that he will throw light on some issues while seeking confidence vote and there were more hopes from the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Even since the formation of the Government it is being discussed in the newspaper and other forum as to what will be the direction of the country. Although the Prime Minister tried to speak every point in his own style, but he overlooked the main point. Hon'ble Prime Minister will accept that the country is in the state of bewilderment. This is fifth or sixth time when I have returned to the Parliament. When I don't even know as to what is the direction of the Government how a common man can presume the direction the Government will give to the common people. Their opposition had always been only on one point that the Congress has done nothing during these fifty years. The Congress was in power for 50 years. Congress has been blamed for every fault whether it is institutions or any other field. But the Prime Minister should make this point clear today. We are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Independence the Prime Minister should tell the nation that during these fifty years whether the nation has moved forward or not. Yesterday, our Finance Minister was delivering the speech and before that Prime Minister has addressed to the nation, in which he said a few good points.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have personally heard and I thought he will explain the points he has mentioned in his address, but he overlooked them in his speech here. I don't say that Congress had not committed any mistakes. Congress has committed mistakes but congress has given one thing and it is that due to the Congress Party only the democracy has survived in the country. It was possible because of the democratic policies of the Congress party and the people of India. Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the country became independent its total population was only 36 crore and the foodgrains production was 5000 crore tonnes. Today we are producing 18,500 crore tonnes of foodgrains. This has become possible today because of the policies of the congress party and the hard labour put up by labourers

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

and farmers. There was one British agriculturist Willicum Padrick, who had made a forecast about India that by 1975 the country's population will increase drastically and the foodgrains production will be so less that the 2/3 of the population will remain starved. But due to the policies of the congress and the hard labour put in by labourers and farmers of the country this forecast was proved wrong. Another person known as Laser Brown who is the President of World Watch Institute has written two books one 'Full house' and another "Who will feed China-2030", wherein he has mentioned that by 2030, in China foodgrains production will be so less that in order to fulfil its own demand it will have to purchase 21,000 tonnes of more foodgrains than its wheat production. Similarly, he has written about India that India's population by 2030 will increase so much that in order to fulfil its demand it will have to purchase 4500 tonnes of foodgrains in addition to its own production from outside. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel very sad to say that just now our sister Mamata Banerji, was speaking. But she didn't utter a single word about the developments in the government since the last ten days constantly. You are discussing as to who should be given commerce portfolio and who should be the Law Minister. Nobody is ready to take Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development. I am distressed to say that in your Government there is no Cabinet Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. This show your love for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. I would like to say that such a situation never occurred during the Congress regime. During Congress rule there was either a Minister of Cabinet Minister rank in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development or the Prime Minister himself has kept these ministries with him. You should have atleast appointed Shri Som Pal a Minister of Cabinet rank(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL) : It is for the first time that the Prime Minister has kept Ministry of Agriculture with him. Which Ministry you are talking about?.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : He has done so under some compulsion. Som Pal ji you had also asked for the same but you didn't get it.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOM PAL : It is the interest of the Prime Minister towards the farmers that he has kept this department with him and he did it to assure the farmers.....(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : If the Prime Minister has so much faith in the farmers he should have appointed Som Pal a Cabinet Minister.(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This proceeding of the House is being telecast directly(Interruptions)

SHRI SOM PAL : My intention is also that my words reaches the farmers.(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : What you preach, you should profess, only then you will be able to save yourself from the situation of 2030. But look at the factual position as to how many farmers are sowing wheat and how many farmers are sowing sugar cane. If they do not grow the wheat and sugar cane then the country will face the foodgrains crisis.(Interruptions)

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY (Hoshiarpur) : The increase of population to 100 crore during the last fifty years is also the gift of Congress(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : You also are the gift of Congress.(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Kamal ji, as far as population is concerned the country is worried, but if your count then you will feel that the number of BJP families are more than the Congress(Interruptions)

SQN. LDR. KAMAL CHAUDHRY : My father was elected MLA for four times by defeating the Congress candidate and was elected MP by defeating Congress candidate. He defeated Congress for five times(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Now you may not talk about Atal ji.(Interruptions) I will give example of others also.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kamal Chaudhry, please sit down.....(Interruptions) There is a limit(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I have to make two-three points. When Hon'ble Prime Minister addressed the nation for the first time then he emphasised on three four points and he was right that the government should work with consensus. There should be

consensus on the policies. We all support it. There should be transparency, accountability and there should be fight against corruption. He told about all four points. We accept by heart, all the four points. I honestly ask Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who is a senior leader that on how many points he has stuck to since 19th and till date. The question today is not of the party, the question today is not of the Prime Minister. The question today is about the credibility of the system of the country. It is a question of the credibility of politics in the country. Whether we have been able to project transparency during these three four days. Whether tirade against corruption has been raised. Whether we could fight it out? Today the question is not of a person whose name was mentioned by Shri Sharad Pawar. Today only one message goes throughout the country, what we leaders say.....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonia) : I would like to ask Shri Rajesh Pilot ji that he is again and again asking as to what the Prime Minister has done during the last 8 days. You should also explain as to how the country has suffered during 45 years of Congress rule.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : We have talked about corruption. We have not suffered a lot. I am not saying that you could have done a lot during these four days. I want to say that we should set an ideal for the nation. There are governments which have their credibility. I am including myself also among them. Today credibility is going down. Today if you go to a village people ask questions. The Government in Himachal was formed day before yesterday. Yesterday, I went on tour of my constituency. Common people were raising questions there. In a speech some where I promised that we will support the good policies of the Government. We will support the government policies and if governments' intention are clear, then we will support all the same which are good in the country's interest. Yesterday I received two FAX messages with regard to their intentions and policies. I want to place the same before you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am putting those records which I have received. I am ready to lay them on the Table of the House and also ready to tell the sources from where I got the same. When the BJP has come to power and I said that if they will work in the interest of the country, we will support them because country is above the parties. But on this I received a letter from a gentleman doubting the intentions. Shri Rajesh Pilotji you have said like that but would they be able to keep the country united? He has cited an example. A camp was organised on 4th February, 1991 in Jaipur. Shri Murli Manohar

Joshi was elected Chairman of the Party in that camp. Shri Advaniji would recall that a number of questions were raised in that camp. Perhaps at that time Shri Advaniji had finished his yatra and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav had stopped his yatra. He reached there after suspending his yatra. The questionnaire, distributed to the delegates in the camp, was published on same day i.e. 4th February, 1991 in *Observer Business* in political. Shri Subhanshu Mishra is its editor, who prepared the questionnaire. What do they ask in questionnaire. This is a matter of concern and I am telling this with heavy heart.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : In which year did this happen?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : It happened on 4th February 1991.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : This letter has come yesterday after six years(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Intentions never change. The camp was organised in Jaipur on 4th February, 1991. In the question No. 1 of questionnaire he has written his name in Acharya Jagdish Muni. He belongs to the BJP and is the President of Haridwar unit. I would not discuss all the questions. I will only refer to the concerned questions. At question No. 13(Interruptions) I am talking about the year 1991. I am telling what I have gone through. At question No. 13 it has been asked whether the people of your constituency do believe that the communal riots occurred in different parts of the country is the aftermath effect of Advani's yatra? Please answer in Yes/No or don't know. Let it go. They wanted to know whether their party has any link to this.

17.00 hrs.

Question No. 14- what would be the effect of communal riots on BJP in case elections take place in the country? Multiple choice given are, it will affect adversely, it will not have any impact and third they left blank. Someone answers that it will have a positive effect.

This questionnaire was given to the delegates in 1991 in Jaipur.

Question No. 15 - name the two issues which will affect the electorates in case of election in the country? Kindly put a tick mark on any two. They are : Political organisation, religions ground, personality of the candidates and caste factor. Let us accept this contention also.

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

Question No. 16 - we get hurt with this, Atalji because it affects our heart. This creates doubt that the intention is not good. If the first question pertains to unity and integrity of the country then I would have been happy and believed that you will stand for unity and integrity of the country because your intention is good. First question pertains Ram Janam Bhoomi. Kindly put a tick mark on three election issues of BJP during ensuing election (i) Ram Janam Bhoomi (ii) Unemployment, (iii) Price rise, (iv) Unity and integrity. It is your priority for country's unity and integrity.

These questionnaires were distributed in that camp of BJP. Someone has provided me these facts and figures. I lay it on the Table so that you can find out the truth behind it and who has distributed it. This has been published on 4th February, 1991 in Business Standard.....(Interruptions)

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI K. PRADHANI in the Chair]

Today the question is to make country stronger. I have to say a few sentences in regard to the challenges which the country is facing.....(Interruptions) Some of our friends have given stress on Hindutva in the manifesto whereas BJP in its manifesto explains the meaning of Hindutva.

[English]

'Justice for all.'

Hindutva means justice for all. That is the definition which has been given in the manifesto.

[Translation]

George Saheb, you have also said a lot of things today. I respect you very much, you are a senior member and are in politics for quite a long time. Somewhere you have explained the meaning of Hindutva - 'Justice for all' whereas you go through the language used for genuine citizen, written in your National Agenda.

[English]

"We are committed to establishing a civilised, humane and just civil order..."

We will truly and genuinely uphold and practice the concept of secularism consistent with the Indian tradition of equal respect for all faiths."

[Translation]

Hindutva and equal faith cannot go hand in hand. You will have to admit this fact that the kind of education being imparted in Jamait-e-Islami institutions, Sishu Mandir and Vidya Mandir cannot keep the citizen of this country united. The citizen of this country are hurt at the language used by Jamait-e-Islami in Kashmir. I am telling this with heavy heart to my BJP's friends that you are also treading on same path and speaking the language of Sishu Mandir, Vidya Mandir which is not good for the country. I consider it my duty to inform the country about it. I know that you will not appreciate this. But the common man of this country believes that these two things cannot keep our country united, you will have to do something for this.....(Interruptions)

George Saheb you were speaking in this House on 7th November, 1990. I have got access to it after much efforts. If you remember, you were telling on 7th November, 1990 that -

[English]

"It was with a great courage and forbearance that Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav tried to control the situation which otherwise would have taken an explosive turn."

You have mentioned that.

You had further mentioned the reasons. I quote :

"People of India are for secularism. There is an effort in this country today to judge people by their religion."

You know, where you were hinting at in your speech.

[Translation]

Today you have advocated it very nicely. I remember your words of 19th July, 1979 when you were speaking. I was in Air Force at that time. We all were listening it attentively that George Saheb has saved Morarji Bhai. I do not know what happened next day. What will happen tomorrow and whether incidence of 19th July, 1979 will be repeated or not, it all depends on Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's luck and on the mercy of God that how much time he provides him.

I am here to say all this. Some of my papers are left in the library. When I went to get the papers, you called my name and by mistake I left those papers there. I have to say two points only, Shri Sharadji has talked

about it in details. This is a fact that the people of our country did not give mandate to either of us but we have stated in the beginning only that whosoever will have the majority would form the Government. This is necessary in democracy but Atalji, you said today that you did not approach the President for giving invitation for formation of the Government rather President himself called you to form the Government. Almost every leaders of your party giving statements in the media said that it is their due right, we should be invited, it is our right to form the Government. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is sitting here, I was also participating in that debate. I told her that it was nobody's right to form the Government and when I said that the President would himself invite the party which has got majority, she started having verbal dual with me saying that it was their right to form the Government. How come you stop us, we will definitely form the Government. It may be possible that you wouldn't have made up your mind but the BJP had already made up its mind to form the Government. You have formed the Government irrespective of your wishes but one thing I want to say is that there is a lot of contradiction.

I do not want to say but in 1993 I was minister of state of Ministry of Home Affairs and Shri Monmohan Singh ji was the Finance Minister. Our revenue Secretary took some action against the AIADMK and I remember the languages used against the AIADMK. When the issue of corruption was discussed, a lot of thing i.e. one thousand saris, two thousand sandals and what not were published in the newspapers. At that time we were defending and promising to look into it. At that time we were blamed for this and we talked about enquiry when we reached there. Shri Manmohan Singh and I was sitting there. We told Shri Narsimha Rao ji that all this has been said against a Chief Minister and we have to answer the people of our country. We will have to take some action. Then the matter regarding alliance cropped up. When I pointed about the news published in newspaper they became upset. Shri Mulayam Singhji has rightly said that so far they were there, all of them were guilty but as soon as they reached here, they have become honest.

This attitude needs to be changed. One who is dishonest, is dishonest to everyone. There is a need to cleanse the politics in this country, and it is possible only when you will also speak fairly with a clear perception. So far this fairness has not been talked about.

I had been the Communication Minister and I don't want to mention the condition prevailing in the country

at that time. I was speaking in the Rajya Sabha and Shri Pramod Mahajanji did not let me speak for two hours, he handed over all the papers of tender to me and when the amount of 4 crores was seized from the residence, the situation became such that every BJP passer by used to taunt us with such remarks as to how much share we got. And today, the same brethren are embracing each other, now they have taken oath and the departments of P.W.D. has been given to him saying that go, take the P.W.D.

Atalji, I have not expected this from you atleast. If some body else would done it, then it was another matters. A resistance should have come from you. But you did not.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj) : I am on a point of order. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down, he is not yielding.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Please listen to me for a minute.(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the ideologies are concerned we welcome the conflict of ideologies. If anything is wrong in our ideology, we will rectify that and if anything is wrong in your ideology, you should also rectify that. It will send a good signal to the country. If in future the politics of ideologies is practised the country will be strengthened further.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : One thing is true, today that it is not a matter of Parliament, it is not a matter of

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

conflict, declare it in the Manifesto. But it is not fair to exclude it from the National Agenda.

I was expecting Mr. Prime Minister to stand and say that we have won the election on the basis of our manifesto. But the matters which were the part of the manifesto are either nowhere or we will include them in the National Agenda. It will atleast convey some message to the Nation. Why was there such a disorder in Kashmir. I have heard the speeches of B.J.P. fellowmen of 1992-93. When Shri Murl Manohar Joshi went to Srinagar to unfurl the National flag, the issue of Section 370 was raised there. One thing struck the minds of every Kashmiri, that what to talk of autonomy in this country, even what has already been given shall be withdrawn. It had created a new problem in Kashmir. It was solved with great difficulty. Today, nobody talks about it. They are also keeping their lips tight. There is a proverb in the village that a babbler speaks out whatever is in his mind but nothing can be said about a taciturn, what would he say or do. Now, B.J.P. is silent, it is not even speaking that much, that it used to speak. Earlier they used to say something but today, they are also silent. I did not have the full details. I want to give two examples, I have left my papers somewhere. When the Government was still under process of being formed in Lucknow, someone asked about the Cabinet expansion. Atalji had said of that time BJP is learning the art of governance. I have read this somewhere in *National Herald* in the Pioneer. I had brought the cutting today but perhaps I have left it in the Library. If the art of governance will be of this kind what will become of our Nation, how will the Government run. Atalji, a naked wound can easily be treated and bandaged but the same treatment can not be carried on to the wounds and shocks that are internal. They need a long time to heal up. So, I request you not to resort to any such trait, it will become difficult for us to recover from it.

I would request you to have open talks on sensitive issues. We should place our policies before the country openly. Due to uncertainty in the country, no policy is being declared freely. Till now the BJP has not uttered a single word about its stand on Kashmir. If Government's vision is not clear in respect of Kashmir or the North-East, it can create problems for us. These are sensitive areas.

Today, you have talked about the idea of one culture. The idea of one nation one culture, sounds nice from a distance. Hon'ble Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, this country has various customs and traditions. You have not led a life of a householder. I have I can tell you that as per our customs, after marriage, girl has to go with

her husband to her in-laws house, you might be following the same custom but Shri Kindiyaji from Meghalaya who is sitting here, has different customs. The boy has to move to his in-laws house which is just opposite. Don't make them an issue, leave them as they are, it will only help to maintain love towards each other. There had been various traditions in our country. We have different religions, different customs and traditions. Our Nation will remain strong if these customs continue. These slogans will only harm us, they will create misunderstanding, and then the things will be more out of your control.

In the end, I would like to give my elder brother Atalji a suggestion not as a member of Parliament but as a brother. Whenever the two persons had tried to sit here together, be it in 1957, 1977 1991 or 1996, it had only caused utter confusion which in turn destroys the stability. You may see it yourself. I am saying only what I think. History tells us that in 1957 Nehruji and Sardar Patel were together, during our times in 1991 the case was the same and in 1977 too the same thing happened. At that time three persons Morarji Desai, Chaudhary Charan Singh and Babu Jagjeevan Ram tried to sit together. It created problem. Then, in 1996 too, the same thing happened. The CPI(M) fellowmen are sitting here, Ram Vilas ji is not here, he remained there but the scene on the other side went on changing. Therefore, there is a doubt about stability with two persons sitting there. I would like to speak on behalf of Mulayamji also, rest all depends on you. I was reading this, someone has sent it.

Today's messages will be conveyed to the whole nation and every move of the Government will form the basis of policy and future of the Nation. A poet has said:

Vah daur bhi dekha hai tawarikh ke Panno ne,
Lambo ne khata ki thi sadiyon ne saze Pai"

The same may not happen to our country and we expect of you and we hope that tomorrow we shall express ourselves by pushing the button. Concluding with these words I thank you.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Motion. The mandate in this election too is not very clear. No party could get the full majority. This Government is formed but not on the basis of majority, that is why it has been given the opportunity to prove their majority in the House. That is why we are having this debate. All of you are well aware of the reasons that are responsible for this situation.

After the 1996 elections, an opportunity was given to the BJP to form the Government but that Government fell after few days, just after thirteen days. After that an attempt was again made to form a Government. Many parties grouped together and named themselves as United Front. Congress and Left parties promised to give them support from outside. A coalition Government under the leadership of Shri H.D. Deve Gowda came to power, the Government worked but it was always in trouble. Slowly the trouble brewed so much so that it became difficult for the Government to work. After some time, it was said that we do not like this Government and it was pulled down. At that time also, many people and myself too had said the Congress often behaves in this manner. It promises its support hiding its inner feelings. This has happened not once but many times. History bears testimony to this. I have mentioned the name of Chaudhary Charan Singhji, and Chandra Shekharji. The people have experienced earlier also, this time also they would not be true to their promise. And that is exactly what happened the Government of H.D. Deve Gowda had to go and later Shri Gujral formed the Government. After sometime the Congress started finding fault with it also. Eventually, it was decided to pull this Government down. Actually in the core of it they were waiting for an opportunity to form their own Government, it was clear from their gestures. We all knew that they were trying to come to power.

At that time, a Congress leader, who is not here today and perhaps has left the party, tried hard to create such circumstances in order to get a chance to be in power. But alas, the Lok Sabha was dissolved. The country had to face the elections, the mandate in these elections is also not very clear. People have not given their mandate to any party. Some parties failed to secure even single seat. A number of components of the United Front could not get even one seat. They can be counted on the finger tips, the trend of voting was anti-establishment. In most of the states voting was against the ruling party but in Punjab only, voting was pro-establishment. Last time congress got two seats and before that congress had won entire thirteen seats because Akali Dal had boycotted the election but this time congress has been completely wiped out. There were some basic reasons as to why congress was wiped out in Punjab and failed to win even a single seat there. The reason is that the people of Punjab have now come to know, that the terrorism the people of Punjab had to face was created by the Congress Party itself. The people of Punjab have come to know this fact now that they have suffered a lot during 12-13 years of terrorism. They have realised that it was the congress party which had created terrorism there. Approximately one lakh

people have been killed in terrorism in Punjab. Most of them were innocent. Even those who have no relation with this, have been killed. A number of policemen as well as terrorists have been killed. As I have told approximately one lac people have been killed and among them were prominent people like Harchand Singh Longowal. This was a blot which Punjab had to bear. Punjab has to bear all this and it resulted into a debt of over Rs. 8000 crores on Punjab. Efforts were made to get this debt waived off. Many a Governments came to power and it was requested that this should be waived off because Punjab was fighting terrorism on behalf of the nation but they didn't care. But I am happy to say that when Shri Inder Kumar Gujral became the Prime Minister he took a decision to waive off the debt of Punjab since he was aware of the condition of Punjab. He did this work and we are thankful to him. Therefore, Shiromani Akali Dal decided that he should contest the election from Punjab and Gujral Saheb contested his election from Punjab and won. Although his party was not present there even at the grass-root level but the people of Punjab know that Gujral Saheb has helped them that's why he has won election from there. I am happy to say that we fulfilled our promise.

My submission is that the work Congress has done in Punjab is despicable so the congress has been routed there. People of Punjab can never forget the operation Bluestar. Indian army was sent to Darbar Sahib on June 6, 1984, which was attacked by the tanks and hundreds of people were killed. Army of the country does not attack the people of the same country and they never defile religious places, but it happened there due to which sikh community is quite anguished and nobody or the government has sought any, apology for this heinous crime. I feel very sorry for that apology has not been sought even at party level. Therefore, the people of Punjab are against the congress party. Not only that whatever happened after this was more dreadful, and with the help of the media the entire sikh community was defamed. Government was taking the help of whole of the media to defame them, in the name of terrorists. Sikhs were defamed not only in the country but also in the whole world. The result came before you. Whatever had happened in the country during November, 1984 is now a part of the history. There was a genocide in Delhi, the capital of the country. Such a massacre was not witnessed in Delhi after Nadir Shah. The people belonging to Sikh community were killed brutally. Their houses were torched and their property looted and this continued for three days.

Sir, there was a government in the country. Home Minister was there, they could have given an order. The

[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

new Prime Minister took oath and started his work but they were a mute spectator for three days. The sikhs were being killed. In every Mohalla-colony their houses were being set on fire. Some people were mute spectator and some were instigating. Police was not called, no order for shoot-at-sight was issued. Army was there but no order was given to the army, so that by the way of falg-march at least a fear could be developed among the people that what they were doing was not good. No order was given for three days. Three thousand people were killed in Delhi itself. It happened in many parts of the country. Some people gave shelter to Sikhs. Of them, many Members of Parliament are sitting here, if I start mentioning their names, it is possible that I may miss a few names. But some people, having sympathetic consideration, offered them hiding place in their homes. It has become an incident worth remembering.

Sir a number of cases have been registered but not a single case has been filed in the Court. Years have passed....*(Interruptions)* It will continue until you apologize for it. I am saying that these cases have not been filed in the court for the last 10-12 years. Thereafter we made some efforts. I still remember an incident of 1993 when Rajesh Pilot was in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I along with him went to the Prime Minister and we made a request to the then Prime Minister that these cases should be filed in the court, although some Congressmen including some Congress leaders were involved therein. We told him that it would be good if these people are prosecuted in a court of law. Perhaps the party's image will improve by doing so. But after prolonged efforts it was not done. The result was that it was being realised that, in fact, these people were responsible for that. I am happy that this those persons have been denied tickets for contesting elections. Earlier, not only tickets were given to such persons but after winning the election they were given the posts in the Ministry. They were given opportunity to participate in the Government. But this time they have not been asked to contest election. Ultimately it has been admitted that people of their party were involved in these cases.

I was saying that apology was sought for Babri Masjid demolition because that particular Community constitutes quite a large numbers so they thought that after seeking apology they will get their votes. Sikh community is small. So no apology was sought for the desecration of Akal Takht and for Operation Bluestar. It is a politics of votes. It is a matter of sorrow that this is being done for votes.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL (Kamal) : Barnala Sahib, excuse me for a minute. When Sonia Gandiji went to Chandigarh, she expressed her regret on Hamandir Sahib incident in a meeting attended by one lakh people.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : In fact, they went there to garner votes. At that time she was neither the President nor the Member of the Party. Now she has been made the President of the Party.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bhajan Lal ji has said that when Soniaji went to Chandigarh for election campaign, she had spoken something. What was the justification for speaking such things. Soniaji was present in Delhi since long. She could also speak such things earlier but she never spoke the same. I want to ask as to why she did not speak earlier? She has spoken this only in an election meeting. All this has been said to garner votes. But the party has not been benefited by this. Now people have understood that these things have been spoken only to garner votes. This is all politics of vote and nothing else....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, there is an announcement. Please take your seat for a minute.

In pursuance of the decision taken in the Meeting with Leaders of Parties and Groups held on 18th November, 1997, 24 Members, under Rule 377, are being allowed to raise matters per day. As per that decision, Members are to read only the brief subject of their notice given by the Secretary and the text of the matter will be treated as laid on the Table.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, let Shri Surjit Singh Barnala complete his speech. We can take it up after his speech is over.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. We will take it up after Shri Surjit Singh Barnala completes his speech.

[Translation]

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : I was saying that B.J.P. and Shiromani Akali Dal has only entered into alliance in the Parliamentary election but earlier also these parties had contested the assembly election unitedly. Common Minimum Programme was released before assembly election and on the basis of that Common Minimum Programme, we contested elections and after that the B.J.P. and Shiromani Akali

Dal formed alliance Government in the state. This time also Shiromani Akali Dal contested election as alliance of B.J.P. and we got a clean sweep in Punjab. I would like to say that this situation has emerged in Punjab due to our alliance. Mamataji was telling that attempts were being made here to divide the people. She was talking about Hindus and Muslims but in Punjab an attempt was being made to create a rift between Hindus and Sikhs who have been living together for ages. Attempt was being made to divide them but they did not succeed. With the B.J.P. and Shiromani Akali Dal entering into political alliance in Punjab, the Hindu and Sikh communities have come closer. Such an atmosphere of brotherhood has been created there as was visualised by Sant Longowal(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR (Bikaner) : Both Hindus and Sikhs are brothers. They are sons of the same soil. No one can even attempt to separate the two nor any such attempt has been made. So kindly keep this in mind and spare us.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : It is not possible but I was saying that attempts were made to divide them however they did not succeed. If I say that Punjab is the most peaceful state of the country, then it would not be wrong. Recently, Lok Sabha elections have concluded there. There was not a single case of bloodshed in Punjab whereas in other parts of country, 65 people were killed during elections. You must be knowing what was happening in many states. But in Punjab, election was held in a most peaceful manner. For this, I would like to thank Election Commission, Government of Punjab and its people. Such an atmosphere was created in the state that elections were held in peaceful manner, there was no case of rigging at any place and there were no disturbances. Elections were held in a peaceful manner. You have been seeing the result that people have started migrating to Punjab from other places. After the results, attempts were made to keep BJP and its allies out of powers on one pretext or the other. Shri George Fernandes was just reading out the manifestoes of all parties that how they have contested election against each other and especially against Congress but now attempt was being made to keep B.J.P. away from power even if the congress form the government. Somnath Babu has left. He and his party tried their best, their leader is my friend, he made all efforts to pave way for formation of congress government. They were even prepared to support it again. They have given each other tough competition in the elections. I am unable to understand as to what kind of secularism is this? Just now I have narrated the story of their secularism. In 1984, people of the country

have seen that secularism when sikhs were massacred in streets. This is their secularism. It is their ideology of secularism that forces were sent into the most sacred place. They want to unite together in the name of that secularism and want to form the Government of congress. United Front was not in a position to form government. They were disappointed. T.D.P. said that they cannot go along with the Congress. Though members of A.G.P. have not been returned to the House but on behalf of their party, they have said that they will not form alliance with congress. They have seen their behaviour and attitude. Similarly National Conference party of Jammu and Kashmir has said that they will not keep any relation with them. Under these circumstances, people want that this government should function and elections should not be held again and again. In my opinion, no one wants that elections should be held again. The newly elected Members of Eleventh Lok Sabha went to the President with a request to find out a way so that Lok Sabha may not be dissolved but it could not be done and Lok Sabha was dissolved. The people of this country do not want elections after every six months or a year. Not a single Member present here will say that elections should be held again. All are present here. We should find some way out. As the term of Rajya Sabha is fixed for six years, similarly the term of Lok Sabha should be fixed for five years whether there is any government or not. We should try and evolve a consensus to bring forward a constitutional amendment in this regard. We should take some initiative for the benefit of Members and people of this country.

I would like to say something about regional parties because I belong to a regional party. What do the regional parties want? They were demanding that more powers should be given to states. Autonomy should be given to them so that they can do some of their work themselves. Earlier, this is what we were saying that structure of our Constitution should be federal, but we were criticised by saying that we are encouraging separatism. Big parties used to hurl such type of allegations upon us. Regional parties kept on convening conalaves. In those conclaves, all parties were of the view that more powers should be given to states. Today that has become a general notion. Regional Parties which were earlier kept away from the centre have got some importance of late. It has been said here that regional parties will harm the country. They said that states should be strong. All of you stated that strong states will constitute a strong nation. We have been saying the same thing for the last 27 years. Gradually, the whole nation has accepted it. Just now Shri Vajpayee has stated that the States would be

[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

provided more powers. Discussions have taken place on the issues like rights and autonomy to be given to states. Now, the federal structure will be considered. Many years ago, it had been said that the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission Report would be implemented. We had demanded the setting up of Sarkaria Commission and it was after great difficulties that this commission was set up. The Commission had prepared its report in two volumes after a lot of hard work. But that Report has been stacked away and is now gathering dust. For the last 10 years, the report has not seen the light of the day. Previous Government had started saying that the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission would be implemented, that states would be provided more powers and work would be done in regard to federal structure. United Front Government had taken initiative in this regard and I hope it will be continued.

I would like to say that we have enough experience of collapse of Governments. People did not like it. Tomorrow there is confidence vote. You should take a decision not to do anything to topple the Government. I request the members that tomorrow there should be a positive vote in the House and that vote should be in favour of the present Government.

17.44 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up matters under Rule 377.

(i) Need to release special grant to State Government of West Bengal to meet Drinking Water Scarcity in Hilly Areas of Darjeeling District

SHRI ANAND PATHAK (Darjeeling) : A serious situation has arisen due to the acute scarcity of drinking water in the hilly areas of the district of Darjeeling, namely, Darjeeling Sadar and two other sub-divisions. The scarcity is felt more seriously in Dadar Sub-division during the summer season. The local population as well as the seasonal tourists miserably suffer during this period due to want of water. They are compelled to purchase bucket of water at the rate of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. That too is not available sufficiently. Due to lack of water, Hydel Power Project, irrigation and other essential services are also seriously affected. To ease this

situation and remove the scarcity of water, a huge amount of money is required which is beyond the means of the State Government within its limited resources.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into this problem seriously and sanction a special grant from the usual fund sanctioned to the State Government and Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

[Translation]

(ii) Need to Fix Support Price of Wheat at Rs. 600 per quintal

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has fixed the support price of wheat at Rs. 455 per quintal for the next Rabi crop. We can say that this price is 40 Rs. per quintal more than the last year's price but in reality it is 20 Rs. per quintal less than the last year's support price. Last year's support price was Rs. 415 and a bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal was given. The cost of production in agriculture has increased in comparison to last year but in real terms the Government has reduced the price of wheat in comparison to last year's price. In the present situation if the price of wheat is not increased, a loss of Rs. 200 crore is likely to be suffered by the farmers of Punjab alone. Besides, loss suffered by the farmers of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is also there. As the farmers are not getting remunerative price for wheat, they have reduced its cultivation and the result is that the Government have to import wheat to meet the requirement of the country. Today wheat is being imported at a price of Rs. 750 per quintal. It is a matter of surprise that the Government is ready to pay Rs. 750 per quintal to the farmers of other countries but paying only Rs. 455 per quintal to the farmers of its own country.

Therefore, I request the Government to fix the support price of wheat at Rs. 600 per quintal so that the farmers may be benefited from the sale of wheat, which in turn may encourage them to produce more wheat and make the country self reliant in the food sector.

(iii) Need to clear the proposal of U.P. Government for Construction of a Canal from Narora Dam to Dataganj

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, two segments of Legislative Assembly in Badaun district comes under Aonla Lok Sabha Constituency. Due to lack of irrigational means, the level of ground water is decreasing day by day in district Badaun. Not even a single canal is there.

* Texts treated as laid on the Table.

Therefore, I demand that a canal should be constructed from Narora Dam to Dataganj. In this regard Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal to the Central Government. The farmers of Badaun will be benefited in the agriculture production as well as the declining ground water level will also be checked with the construction of this canal.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to conduct a survey in this regard immediately and canal should be constructed during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(iv) Need to formulate a Comprehensive Policy to protect the interests of Farmers

[English]

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, suicides by farmers due to indebtedness in different States is an important issue. Hundreds of farmers are committing suicides every year and this year it has reached alarming proportion. Government should do something to save the peasants. Government should announce a moratorium on the debts of peasants to private money lenders, cooperative societies, banks and other public institutions. Union Government should reimburse to public finance institutions. Particularly peasants holding less than five acres of land should be given this facility. Now, loans without interest should be provided to peasants who suffered loss of crops. All companies which were blackmarked with bogus pesticides and adulterated seeds should be banned and their properties should be confiscated and the compensation should be paid from this amount and Government fund.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter seriously.

17.51 hrs

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS--*Contd.*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, BJP Government is trying to win the vote of confidence by hook or crook and I rise here to oppose the Motion of Confidence moved by this government. Hon. President called the Prime Minister and asked him to handover the letters written in support of his party by its allies so that the hon. President could invite this party to form government. The day this proposal was

made by the hon. President, the very next day around 8 o'clock in the early morning a senior leader of BJP who is also very close to hon. Prime Minister called me up and asked me to join the government. He offered me the office of the Home Minister and ministership for one of the four members of my party. I told the senior leader of BJP that our party had such an arrangement twice with BJP and now we are not going to take another chance. We will not join BJP even if they offer me the office of Prime Minister. That senior leader of BJP was very upset on hearing my reply. I received another telephone calls on the second and third day. Not only this but other members of my party were also offered the ministership. They tried to bribe the Members of my party but the members of BSP resisted the temptation.

I would like to inform this august House that the day on which BJP Government was formed and hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as Prime Minister of the country. I heard a news on Delhi Doordarshan that CBI has registered a case against Mayawati in connection with float pump scam. I would like to say that BJP has tried each and every trick in the book when I refused to have any truck with them, they implicated me in a false case of corruption to tarnish my image. They tried to frighten me through political pressure to get vote of my party in support of the Motion of Confidence moved by them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell that Mayawati is not a woman who is afraid of anyone and she cannot be lured by any temptation. It is a decision of Bahujan Samaj Party. BJP has used CBI against me for asserting political pressure but I would like to say that they will have to pay for their act. I would also like to say that the case, which has been registered against me did not take place during my tenure but in 1995 when the state was under President's Rule. I am unable to understand as to why they implicated me in it. It clearly indicates that the Government tries to get our vote by asserting political pressure. Therefore, I oppose this Motion of Confidence.

Secondly, I myself as well as BSP oppose this Motion of Confidence because BJP is not a trustworthy party. I would like to say something in this regard. No political party could get clear-cut majority during legislative assembly elections held in U.P. in 1996. No political party was in a position to form government and thus President's Rule was imposed in U.P. Then the leaders of BJP approached Kashiramji and gave proposal to form a coalition government. It was the decision of national leader of BSP and BJP
.....(Interruptions)

18.00 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is 6 o'clock now. In the meeting of the leaders of all the political parties, a decision was taken that this debate will continue till late night. Several members from both sides have given their names for speaking on this motion. Therefore, I request you to extend the time of the House by three hours.

We have made the arrangement for dinner here. Dinner is arranged at 7.30 p.m for all members, media persons and staff of the Secretariat.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the sense of the House to extend the time of the House?

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : I am on a point of order. Khuranaji is inviting us for dinner. But food certainly has salt. Therefore, I will not eat it because if I take their salt, I shall feel indebted.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is not our salt. The meals have been arranged by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and we are the members of the same family. Therefore, you should not have any objections.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have no objection to extend this House but my suggestion is that Lalooji should be served food without salt.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. The time of the House is extended for another two hours, that is, up to 8.00 p.m.

[Translation]

Now the House is extended upto 8.00 p.m. We will see afterwards.

.....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAYAWATI : I was just telling that when no party got absolute majority in U.P. President's Rule was again imposed. But after this, Senior leaders of

BJP through some of their friends met Hon'ble Kashi Ramji who is the President of Bahujan Samaj Party and said that it is better to form coalition government instead of President's Rule. It was decided that for the first six months Bahujan Samaj Party would run the government and for next six months coalition government will function under the leadership of Bhartiya Janata Party during the tenure of Bahujan Samaj Party for the first six months for every class of society in U.P. We have(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH VISHWANATH PARANJPE (Thane) : We are deviating from the subject(Interruptions) They are wasting the time of the House(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : We have suffered in U.P. because of them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AKBAR AHMAD (Azamgarh) : I want to ask this thing from BJP members(Interruptions) This is very important issue(Interruptions) It was a deep conspiracy(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Mumbai North Central) : Just now Bengal was mentioned. Shri George raised the issue of manifestoes. Some other member from other side raised the issue of Tamilnadu(Interruptions)

18.06 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad) : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Just now in Presidential Address, Hon'ble Prime Minister and those in the government have been profiled and now if Mayawatiiji is quoting the same profile, then they should not have any objection. She is also hitting on the same point about which you are saying daily.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. This is not good. The Chair has not permitted you.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the people of ruling party that truth is always bitter, but today I will definitely tell the truth even if you attempt to create uproar in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was telling about the character of Bharatiya Janata Party that it is not a trustworthy party. In this context, I was giving an example that(*Interruptions*) it was decided that during first six months government will function under the leadership of Bahujan Samaj Party and in the remaining six months it will function under the leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party. But when in the first six months, the question of forming government under the leadership of Bahujan Samaj Party arised, it was also decided that the Chief Minister would be from their quota/party. But the Speaker of Legislative Assembly would be from BJP quota. We agreed with the opinion of national leaders of BJP and accepted BJP speaker during our six months tenure. We formed coalition government. But when the period of six months was to complete, we informed the national Leaders of BJP that as was previously agreed upon, we will hand over power to you but there is one condition that for the remaining six months the Speaker should be from the quota of Bahujan Samaj Party. When we put this point before national leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party, then BJP's(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Please speak about the Confidence Motion, not about Uttar Pradesh.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER : Please take your seats first.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please take your seats first.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, please take your seat. The hon. lady Member can continue to speak.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I am telling about the character of Bharatiya Janata Party

the members of ruling party are becoming restless. But I must put forward my point though there may be tumult and uproar. I was saying that when we told national leaders of BJP that as per our promise we would hand over power after the term of six months, but there is one condition that for the remaining next six months, the Chief Minister of U.P. would be from their quota but the Speaker of Legislative Assembly should be from our quota. Instead of accepting our term the national leaders of BJP called Press Conference in Parliament Annexe, Delhi in which Shri L.K. Advani and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and their other friends were also present. In that conference, our Party President Hon'ble Kashi Ram ji and I was also present. In that Press Conference BJP's President Shri L.K. Advani has given an assurance to the people of the entire country through Press Media that BJP will not ask any MLA to defect to their side. BJP will not misuse the powers of Speaker. If the office of the Speaker is resumed by Bharatiya Janata Party member as it is, then we assure the people of entire country through Press Media that they will not misuse their power and will not ask Party MLA to defect to their side. Relying upon the assurance given by national leaders of BJP as per our promise we handed over the power to them after the completion of six months. But I am constrained to say that after coming to power BJP Government has started changing those decisions which we have taken for the welfare of Dalits and backward classes during our tenure of six months. Not only this, the work which we have done in U.P. and the decision which we have taken in the interest of all sections of society, they have started to change them one by one. After this we have withdrawn our support and afterwards the BJP government has*. They have encouraged defection not only in Bahujan Samaj Party but in Congress Party and other parties also. They misused their power. Not only this, BJP is saying that they are against corruption. Our MLA's were made to defect to their sides and they were paid bribes so where from they got that money?

[*English*]

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : I am on a point of order. The conduct of the Speaker of U.P. cannot be discussed in this House.(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order.

.....(*Interruptions*)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be seated.

Shri Satya Pal Jain, what is your point of order?

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : I am on a point of order under rule 352. We cannot discuss the conduct of the Speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly in this House. She has used some derogatory remarks and those remarks should be expunged.
.....(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAYAWATI : *

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, no references can be made to the conduct of the Speaker of any Legislature in this House. It should be expunged.

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : They are saying that Rajbhawan should not be made a centre of petty politics. I would like to tell that you are saying that you will keep Raj Bhawan away from politics but in U.P. the Speaker has used his office for political mileage
.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Sir, what is your ruling?

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the record and if there is anything objectionable, it will be expunged.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mayawati, only four minutes have been allotted to your party. Please conclude.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : This is an anti Dalit Party and not only this, Hon'ble Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who framed the Constitution of the country.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : In his memory, our government had made one big park in the name of Baba Saheb in Lucknow which is the capital of U.P.
.....(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on records.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI : The Government of BJP has stopped construction work there and has disconnected electricity.....(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I call Shri Vaiko to speak.

.....(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Only Shri Vaiko's speech will go on record. Kumari Mayawati's speech will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

.....(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Kumari Mayawati, please take your seat.

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakashi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for the opportunity you have given to me to take part in the deliberations of this august Chamber. Today's debate in which I participate is going to be recorded in the annals of the political history of India as one of the very significant debates so as to decide the direction of its onward march. The country stands at the crossroads of the history. The political destiny of this great country has been decided by about 370 million people of this country, men and women, aged and the youth, haves and have-nots. They exercised their franchise on the 16th, 22nd and 28th February. The outcome of the polls started coming in the television

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

** Not Recorded.

since the evening of 2nd March. Of course, elections took place on 7th March also in Jammu & Kashmir. The people have given their mandate for the BJP and its alliance partners to form the Government.

I have been listening with rapt attention to the speeches made by Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Rajesh Pilot. They were questioning the very verdict of the people as if the Bharatiya Janta Party does not have a majority. At times, in their speeches they used harsh epithets and strong vocabulary even though they know that they can never defeat this Confidence Motion, voting for which is going to take place tomorrow. This has drawn too attention of the people of India and also the political observers throughout the world. One thing is certain. Our friends from the other side could not find a sense of doubt or not even complacency in our camp. They could witness and understand the inflexible purpose and sure proof of well grounded confidence in the final outcome.

Sir, the national agenda of the BJP and its allied partners was criticised by our esteemed friends here. This country commands tremendous reputation and respect before the eyes of the world as a country committed to democracy, as a country which has withstood the trials and tribulations over time and as a country which carries the flag of Gettysberg ideal 'of the people, for the people and by the people'. Regarding the national agenda for governance, some people say that there is hidden agenda. But we have put the agenda before the country after deep deliberations and dialogue and a considerable thinking from our side. We have participated in the dialogue, placed our own points of view and finally evolved this agenda. They say that the BJP and its allied partners did not get a majority. The hon. President who is the sheet-anchor of this democratic polity, with right earnestness, invited Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to form the Government.

Sir, we follow a system. We have followed the British Parliamentary system. The cardinal principle of the British parliamentary system was followed by our forefathers and in their wisdom, when they evolved this Constitution, they have followed the principle of first past the post, whether he or she is the winner. That is the principle. I do not say that it is the only perfect system. But this is the system which we have adopted. There are other systems. In France, unless they get more than 50 per cent, there will be another reconsideration again. Even in the United States of America, although a political party, whether the Republican or the Democrat, gets more votes in the States, it cannot get the chair of the President because

of the electoral college system. Here, in India, first past the post is the medal winner. We should take into account that in many other constituencies, out of 630 million total voters, only 62 per cent of them have exercised their franchise. In some constituencies, the candidates who have won irrespective of the political parties, have got 30 per cent or 35 per cent, 40 per cent and even 28 per cent out of this 62 per cent. If you take into account and calculate the total voters of the constituency, they will be having 20 or 25 per cent. In some of the constituencies, the candidates who have won have got lesser votes than what other candidates put together have got. That is the system. So many representatives who have come here do not have 50 per cent of the franchise of their constituencies. The system of who comes the first or first past the post is the medal winner. So, from India, taken as one constituency, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the winner who first comes the post.

Even in the first general elections of 1952, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at his pinnacle of glory and fame inherited the legacy and credit of freedom struggle and Independence.

The Congress Party could not get 50 per cent of the total votes. Even in the year 1971, when the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi reached the height of political glory after the Bangladesh War, they could not get 50 per cent of the total votes. That is why I would say that she also had a minority Government, in 1969 when Shri Narasimha Rao was invited to form the Government, first of all, they got 239 seats along with the allies.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was invited to form the Government. There is going to be a verdict of the House tomorrow. My humble wish is that the verdict of the people should be reflected by the verdict of the House. This House should reflect and respect the will of the people who have exercised their franchise in the polls. So, the House should reflect the verdict of the people.

They have levelled criticism about the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party Front. More or less, many of them are pre-poll alliance partners. They have gone beyond their limits in their own way because they were defeated, in their own way because they could not form the Government, in their own way because that could not thrust their will and desire into the minds of the people. But they should not forget one thing. It is not only a multi-party system. We have now nurtured a multi-regional system in our Front which is one of the basic characteristics of the federal system. The question is about the ideology and the way of approach of the partners of the Bharatiya Janata Party Front.

[Shri Vaiko]

I have the honour to belong to the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. We cherish the ideals of the late lamented Anna. We do not compromise on our basic ideals. I would bring it to the attention of my esteemed hon. friend from that side. When we decided to join this Front after deep deliberation and thinking, we made this firm commitment in our minds : "Let us join this Front for the betterment of the country after witnessing what happened in this country for, more or less, five decades of the Congress rule."

I recall the historic conference of All-India Anna-DMK Silver Jubilee Conference which was held at the banks of river Tamiraparani. I was given a privilege to address more than a million people on 3rd January this year. Hon. Shri Lal Krishna Advani was also present on the dais at that time. The Conference was presided over by the supreme of All India Anna DMK, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, hon. Dr. Jayalalitha. I emphatically made one point that we are committed to the concept of secularism and have unshakeable confidence in the concept of secularism is its true letter and spirit.

I stated in my speech that let *namaz* be conducted in every Mosque, right from the Himalayas down to Kanyakumari, prayers may be conducted in every Church throughout the length and breath of this country, *pujas* may be performed in all the temples, prayers may be held in *Gurudwaras*, in Bodhvihars, Jain temples and the message of rationalism may also be spread by the torch-bearers of rationalism without any hinderance and without offending anybody. This is the nucleus of secularism.

Sir, I stated that this is a multi-religious, multi-lingual and a multi-ethnic State. This country consists of different religions, different languages, different ethnic groups, different customs, different traditions

AN HON. MEMBER : ...different nationalities as well,

SHRI VAIKO : I agree with you. I do not object to it. But your friends are not accepting that point. You first ask your allies about it. I agree with you.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Mukundpuram) : But you are agreeing without asking your allies.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : If everybody accepts the ideology of another Party then there is no need for somebody to be in some other Party. Then there is no need for any variety.

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : Anna never compromised with Manu.....(Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : No, I am not yielding (Interruptions)

At some other time I would speak about what you did and what kind of an opportunistic politics you played. There is no time now and because of the constraint of time I would confine myself to my speech.

Sir, in a country with different religions, languages, ethnic groups, traditions and customs, the concept of unity in diversity has to be accepted. Variety gives beauty. The different colours enrich the beauty of the rainbow on the horizon. The different flowers with sweet fragrance enrich the beauty of the garden and likewise diversity lends strength to the unity and integrity of this country. The individuality and originality of ethnic groups and linguistic groups should be protected and preserved.

Sir, I am proud to say that from the same dais, the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, hon. Shri L.K. Advani in his address, very emphatically stated that the Bhartiya Janata Party was committed to secularism as enshrined in the Constitution of India(Interruptions) You please listen now. You say when you get your chance.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb him.

SHRI VAIKO : Sir, the people are disappointed with our agenda and that is why they - right from Somnath to Shri Selvarasu - have become touchy and nervous. It is because they are terribly disappointed with the agenda. In stead of applauding and appreciating this agenda they are complaining as to why we not talked about article 370, as to why we have not made any reference to the Uniform Civil Code etc. This is where their disappointment lies.

Sir, hon. Shri Barnala was narrating the political scenario of the State of Punjab as it prevailed a few years ago. Could you forget those terrible days some 15 years ago in the State of Punjab? We have to accept the reality. The Hindus and Sikhs were fighting each other. There were very sad and tragic incidents. We should to recollect the reports of those days. In apprehension and fear the Hindus had to flee the State like refugees and live in exile.

We were terribly worried. People all over the country were terribly worried and concerned about the fate of the people of Punjab. Blood was flowing in the rivers of

Punjab. Every day a number of people were being killed. The same Hindus and Sikhs, who stood shoulder to shoulder, marched in diverse directions. The previous Government had driven them far way. During the freedom struggle the Hindus and the Sikhs who fought the enemies, the aggressors from foreign land standing shoulder to shoulder, then stood separated in that land. Many tragic events took place. The most tragic was the assassination of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the brutal killings of innocent Sikhs in the streets of Delhi. A statement was made that when a big tree falls the earth is bound to shake. Such reckless statement was also made.

Gone are the days of bitterness. Gone are the days of bloodshed and carnage. Today, the Akali Dal and the BJP have reached an agreement in Punjab. When they joined together and formed a Government in the State, it was thought why not it be tried at the Central People ask, what happened in 1992, What about the ideology of the BJP? The very same persons have forgotten the reality that in 1977, till the previous day, the Party was known as the Jan Sangh. Under the able leadership of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan, they joined together and came under one umbrella. But that did not prevent them to get support from the same Jan Sangh in 1977. In order to become Ministers, our Marxist friends were also extending support to the then Government of 1977. In 1989 also some of my friends enjoyed the posts of Cabinet Ministers or Ministers of State in the National Front Government getting the support from the same BJP. When it suits them, they do not criticise the party. It would not then look like a saffron or anti-secular Party to them. With changing time when different Parties cope up, what is wrong in changing the attitude.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : And also changing the ideology.

SHRI VAIKO : Yes. What is wrong in it? There is nothign wrong in it. There is a difference between compromise and change in the attitude. These are two different things.....(*Interruptions*) You please listen, I am coming to your point.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Do not cut your time short.

SHRI VAIKO : Unfortunately, you are not the Speaker. You tried to get that chair but you could not.

The time has changed. In the pre-historic time, the people used to live in caves. In this modern computer age they could walk in space due to the contributions of Science and Technology. The time is changing.

What happened in England? The Labour Party which was kept away from power for decades, which could not gain power, in 1996 won more than 400 seats and Mr. Tony Blair became the Prime Minister of England. What is the secret of it? What is the basic reason for it? It would be very pertinent on my part to point out the basic reason behind it. The basic concept of the Labour Party, that is socialism, was deleted from the Constitution of the Labour Party. Mr. Blair was able to carry on his colleagues together deleting the basic concept of socialism from the Labour Party.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI VAIKO : Please allow me some more time, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a lot of Members to speak. You have to conclude now.

SHRI VAIKO : I have not dealt with the role of Shri Sitaram Kesri and the way in which the Governments were toppled. As to how the Deve Gowda and Gujral Governments were toppled is a very important issue in the context of this Vote of Confidence.

MR .SPEAKER : There are ten Members more to speak today.

SHRI VAIKO : We have to change according to changing times. What is wrong in it? We have joined together for the welfare and betterment of the country.

On the issue of stability of the Government, I would like to draw the attention of my friends from the other side to certain happenings of 1997. On 31st March, 1997, Shri Sitaram Kesri, the then President of the Congress Party, instead of going to Shri Deve Gowda, the then Prime Minister of India, went straight to Rashtrapati Bhavan and submitted a letter withdrawing the support of his party to the Government. In that letter, Shri Sitaram Kesri cited the reasons in clear-cut terms for withdrawal of suport. The relevant text of the letter reads :

"Law and order situation has completely collapsed in the State of Uttar Pradesh where the Central Government is directly responsible for administration. The Union Home Minister was constrained to observe that the situation there was heading towards anarchy, chaos and destruction. Sensitive Defence issues and security requirements of the country have not been properly addressed. There is an overall demoralising effect in the civil services and in the various organs of the Government. Lack of coordination, direction and will to govern have created a situation of drift."

[Shri Vaiko]

However, after a few days of levelling nine charges against the United Front Government and withdrawing support, the very same Government, with the very same Ministers occupying the very same portfolios, was supported by the Congress Party again. It was only the poor Shri Deve Gowda who had to pay the price. Other Ministers against whom charges were made continued to occupy the very same portfolios.

SHRI A.C. JOS : What is he driving at, Sir?

SHRI VAIKO : I am explaining as to how Governments were toppled by the Congress Party.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee spoke as if some *tamasha* was going on here. I recall the very same words being spoken about the performance of the United Front Government. The leader of one of the constituent parties of the United Front described the functioning of its Government as nothing but a *tamasha*. He also said that, like in a circus buffoonery was being performed in the United Front Government and some of the constituent parties of the United Front were satiating their suicidal urge. He also said that they were not there to commit harakiri or *sati*. The statement was made by none other than the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the President of DMK, hon. Dr. Karunanidhi.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI VAIKO : On 14th July last year, he said that he was going to withdraw support and that he was going to come out of the United Front Government. He described the performance of the United Front Government as buffoonery in circus. That was the performance of that Government.

Sir, today we are determined to solve many of the ills and problems of the country. The strength of democracy lies with the people who could change any Government. The strength of the democracy lies with the concept that you could criticise the Government without fear.

Therefore, you are welcome to make any criticism.

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up. A lot of hon. Members are also there to speak.

SHRI VAIKO : I will wind up in two minutes, Sir.

I appeal to the hon. Members of the House to support the Motion of Confidence, not because of the fact that we may be defeated, but the country is watching the will and verdict of the people and that should be

respected. Therefore, I wish, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee from the core of my heart on behalf of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) and on my own behalf, the full term of five years rule and I wish Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to take the country through the threshold of the third millennium and to make this country a mighty power among the galaxy of nations and to bring more and more laurels for the democratic functionign of the country.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a small announcement.

The Secretary General to report a message received from Rajya Sabha.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

18.46 hrs.

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am

directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (iv) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (v) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (vi) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th March, 1998 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS - *Contd.*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, I rise to oppose the Motion moved by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sir, we are a parliamentary democracy. The duty of an Opposition is to oppose and if possible to depose the Government of the day. That does not mean that as long as the Government remains in office, the Opposition will not be reasonable or constructive or helpful or cooperative. But this system of parliamentary democracy can work only if there is an Opposition which is vigilant, an Opposition which is willing to oppose; an Opposition which is ready and willing to bear the responsibility of forming an alternative Government if the need arises; and an Opposition that will not hesitate to depose the Government of the day. This is the role which I believe Shri Vajpayee played when he was the Leader of the Opposition and this is the role that I wish Shri Sharad Pawar will continue to play as long as he is the Leader of the Opposition.

We begin today a new Lok Sabha. Tomorrow, we will vote. Shri Vajpayee may yet win the Vote of Confidence, which he did not in 1996. But, I wish the Government to know that this is not the only test. This is not the last test. This Government will be tested every day on the floor of the House. Therefore, it is better for all of us to recognise the nature of the mandate, the nature of this House.

Sir, there are many Members of this House who have served here much longer than I have. I have been here for almost 13 years. Never, never in the last 13 years has this House been virtually divided right down the middle.

It has had been a party with a massive majority as it was in 1984. It has had been a Government with support which made for it a large majority as was in 1989. There had been a Government which had a tenuous majority but which had support from a large number of others. Never in the last thirteen years had there been a Lok Sabha which had a line dividing the ruling benches and the Opposition benches running right down this corridor which is facing you. That is why I submit most humbly to all distinguished Members of this House, that we should understand the nature of this mandate.

Sir, the National Agenda for Governance starts like this. It says "The electorate has given its verdict BJP and alliance partners have unitedly won. We have the mandate to govern". Sir, I question this. No Party in this country was given a mandate by the people. The largest Party, the BJP has won less than one-third of the strength of this House. The people are unwilling to give a mandate to any Party. Less than one-third is all that they have given to the largest Party which went to the people on a slogan of a stable Government and an able leadership.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

I have gone through the Manifesto of the BJP, there is not a word about regional parties. In fact please correct me if I am wrong in saying there is no reference to regional parties. There is no reference to a coalition. There is no reference to any alliance. The BJP went to the people in the hope that it would be elected with a majority. It came back to this House with less than one-third members. Even the National Agenda for Governance makes no reference to regional parties. It makes no reference to building an alliance between the national parties and the regional parties. It makes no reference to the phrase that we coined when we were in Government "Cooperative federalism". I think, therefore, we are falling into a grave error. We are not recognising this mandate. This mandate is a fractured mandate as it was in 1996.

Sir, there are in this country indigenous bone-setters. You come from the State of Andhra Pradesh. Puthoor, near Tirupati, is famous for indigenous bone-setters. How do they set bones? If you suffer a fracture, the indigenous bone-setters sometimes, not always, break a few more bones and then try to set them right.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : You did it in 1991.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My concern is this. Is hon. Shri Vajpayee trying to play the role of an indigenous bone-setter? I do not want to expatiate on this point.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : It is a plastic surgery.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Thanks to television, thanks to the many many Channels, the last twenty days, have taken us virtually into the inner rooms of every Party.

Sir, a sober newspaper *The Hindu* day before yesterday in a front page article referred to the deals that the BJP was making. I am not using that word myself. I assume that Shri Vajpayee will not make any deals. But why does a newspaper like *The Hindu* describe actions of the BJP in the last twenty days as deals? Were not deals made in many States in this country in the last twenty days, the most recent one being in Himachal Pradesh? I ask Shri Vajpayee who

promised us a stable Government and an able leadership to search his conscience and tell us whether deals were or not.

The word 'deal' itself is not pejorative. A deal can be a transparent arrangement. A deal can be a common programme. A deal can even be a grand alliance like in Germany when the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats came together. Were not deals made in the last twenty days in this country in order to win the majority? Has not the BJP sent out a message that it is willing to pay any price to anybody; it is willing to meet any enemy or any foe; it is willing to arrive at any compromise; it is willing to forget every chapter of the past as long as it can be assured that it will remain in power? That is why, I oppose this Motion of Confidence.

Sir, in this very House, in 1995-96, the House was paralysed for 13 days on a scandal involving the Telecommunication Ministry. Sir, the number 'thirteen' has become a magic number. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister last time for 13 days. We formed a coalition initially of 13 parties. I find that the National Agenda also lists 13 parties....*(Interruptions)* This House was paralysed for 13 days. It was the height of cynicism that the gentleman involved was allotted the telephone symbol when he contested the elections. I thought, that was the height of cynicism. But we have scaled greater heights by inducting him into the Ministry, promising his son a Rajya Sabha seat, making all the members of his party Ministers in the Government.

I know, we cannot talk about the State Governments. We are the Parliament of India. If we cannot talk about governance in the States, what do we talk about? What is India? India is composed of States. The Union Government does not have any separate territory to govern. We have to talk about governance in the States. What about governance in UP of which Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has eloquently spoken? Is the Prime Minister happy that his Government there has 95 Ministers? When poor Shri Anjaiah inducted 60 or 65 Ministers in Andhra Pradesh many years ago it was described as an 'Airbus Ministry'? What do we call this?....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Prime Minister, the point that I am making is this. Is the BJP really concerned about good governance? Or, are we right in drawing this conclusion? I salute you for what you did in 1996 and I am disappointed for what is being done perhaps in your name, perhaps by others in your party, in 1998. The difference between 1996 and 1998 is too apparent to be ignored. Is the BJP today becoming a party willing to pay any price in order to remain in power? Is that the

way you have understood this mandate? This mandate of the people of 1998 cannot be understood in that manner. It is a mandate for national parties and regional parties to work together. It is a mandate to reach across manifestoes, to reach across criticisms, to reach across the political dividing line and say "let us work together to build this country".

I am disappointed by the tone of Shri George Fernandes. Did he win a single friend by his speech today? Was he able to make a single friend by the tone of his speech, contrast was the speech of Shri Barnala?

I think, this mandate is being misunderstood. And if you understand this mandate for a unitarian system, which, I believe, the BJP believes in, if you understand this mandate in that manner, you will use political parties and discard them as you like, like you did to Shrimati Lakshmi Parvathi in Andhra, like you will perhaps do to either Shri Chautala or to Shri Bansi Lal in Haryana. If the regional parties are being used and discarded in order to remain in power, I question your conclusion of this mandate and, therefore, as long as you understand this mandate in this manner, I have to oppose you and I oppose you.

19.00 hrs.

The next question, Sir, that I wish to raise is : what will we measure them by? They ask us to vote on what? Obviously they are not asking us to vote for them on the strength of their manifesto because they have given up many parts of their manifesto, at least, temporarily. I do not know when they will be revived. I do not know when they will be directed to revive it.

Only a few days ago, the RSS held a conclave, I believe, in Bangalore and this is what many newspapers reported. I am reading from a digest of these reports put forward by the Press Information Bureau after your Government took over.

"The RSS has asserted it would play an influential role in the functioning of the BJP-led coalition Government while conceding that its hands were tied on the Kasl, Mathura and Ayodhya issues."

Sir, I quote : " At an appropriate time, the three issues would be settled through an Act of Parliament, the RSS General Secretary Mr. H.V. Sheshadri said."

Whose agenda is this? Is this the hidden agenda?

The RSS would have preferred the BJP to form a Government on its own. Such a Government would not

have put many issues on the back burner as has been done now," Sarsangh Chalak Rajendra Singh said yesterday. Thanks to the newspapers.

Is this the hidden agenda? The RSS in the same conclave said and I quote: "Foreign direct investment is not welcome into India and foreign institutional investors must be turned away". Is that the hidden agenda? What is the agenda? What is the programme? What is the plank on which they ask us our support? Obviously it is not their manifesto. But I suspect that there is a hidden agenda. You have a national agenda. You have the President's Address. Between the national agenda and the President's Address, there was enough time to make a considerable advance. Unfortunately, as many papers have reported, the President's Address was simply a reprint of the national agenda. Word by word, sentences were picked out. What do they want us to measure them by? Their national agenda said that foreign direct investment will be welcome in core industries and it will not be allowed in non-priority sectors. The President's Address dropped the last part of that sentence and the Finance Minister's speech introducing the interim Budget dropped the last part. Is the omission significant or is it inadvertent? I do not know.

When they ask us for our support, they must put forward a coherent programme. There is a difference. And I am not trying to score a debating point here. There is a difference between the national agenda and the Common Minimum Programme as every newspaper has commented. I do not have to go very far. Take *India Today*, a magazine which broadly supported them during the election campaign and it has every right to support them. They have every right to support them. They have every right to editorially support them, every right to editorially say that theirs is perhaps the most likely party which can give a stable Government. Even that magazine in its editorial after the national agenda described it as vacuous, described it as simply empty words. There was no programme.

Contrast it with the CMP. I am not saying everything that we wrote in the CMP is right. I am not saying that is the last word on what a programme should be. But there is a vast qualitative difference between an agenda which they have put forward and a programme that we had put forward.

Even today Mr. Prime Minister, you are unwilling to come forward with a programme. The President's Address was an opportunity. The Finance Minister's

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

speech introducing the Bill was an opportunity. But the Prime Minister did not take that opportunity. I suspect that he is unable or unwilling to put together a coherent programme.

Let me highlight one or two things. Again I am not trying to be critical. I am only trying to point out where we find them wanting.

There are many river disputes in this country. One such is the Cauvery dispute. There are two sides to it and every Member of Parliament will naturally speak up for the State he represents. There is a Tribunal. That Tribunal has given an Award. That Award has to be notified. For one reason or the other - I include the Congress Government, I include the United Front Government, and, therefore, I am not scoring a point here. I am not trying to score a political point - that Award has not been notified. That is the crux of the matter. There are rival positions. What is your programme?....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO : Shri Chidambaram, will you yield for a minute?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I will yield to you in a minute. Let me just complete the thought. I include the Congress Government; I include the United Front Government. For one reason or the other, they were not able to notify it.

What is your programme? The difference between an agenda and a programme is highlighted by this example. You do not say that the Award, under the law of today, has to be notified, nor do you say that the Award by virtue of supervening circumstances cannot be notified. What you say is that you would have a National Water Policy which will evolve a system for settlement of disputes. But that is not a programme. That has not satisfied anyone; that has not taken you far and that simply puts the issue on the backburner. You could have come forward with a programme. But you are unwilling to come forward with a programme. I could multiply the examples, but I will not do so because there is a constraint of time. You are asking us to support you on no programme at all.

In fact, a number of editorials have been written in the last few days. Where is the programme of this Party? Where is the programme of the Prime Minister? Where is the programme of this alliance? When you ask us to support you without a programme, it will mean that

there is a hidden agenda and at an appropriate time, after discarding some of your present friends and, perhaps winning some new friends who are hiding behind the corner, you are likely to reveal your true agenda and without knowing your agendas, we cannot support you. He have to oppose your Government where there is no agenda or no programme.

SHRI VAIKO : May I know from my hon. friend, Shri Chidambaram what steps did he take for implementation of the Award? As a constituent party of the United Front Government when steps were taken not to implement the Award under the guise of talks, when the Tamils were betrayed, what role did he play as a constituent part of the United Front Government?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My learned friend should know that not once but twice I said that both Governments could not notify the Award. I thought that the Prime Minister understood it; the Home Minister understood it and I am sure he will understand it in course of time....*(Interruptions)*

Finally, I have to oppose you because you started on a wrong footing. In the last few days many statements were made which undermine the confidence of the people of India.*(Interruptions)* I will take just as long as the hon. Speaker will allow me and I am not going to take longer time than my distinguished predecessor did.

We heard so many voices for fifteen days on television. So many people were speaking in so many voices. One of the pitfalls of taking too long to form a Government and the pitfall of having too many television channels.

We have heard some extraordinary statements. One of their Ministers said that the only trade left in Thailand was the flesh trade. As External Affairs Minister, Shri Vajpayee will have to answer it when he visits South-East Asian countries. Ministers have said that foreign Direct Investment is not welcome to this country, Ministers have said that the rupee must go back to Rs. 17 a dollar, as it was in 1990-91, Ministers today have said that there should be a lock-in period for Foreign Institutional Investment. I agree, others have corrected it. That is why their alliance looks like a Tower of Babel. If nobody had corrected it, at least that would have been the policy. If one present Minister says that the rupee must be Rs. 17 to a dollar and nobody corrects him or her, that would be the policy, but when you correct that, it becomes a Tower of Babel.

You are undermining confidence. Please remember that at any given time, the country's economy will have

strengths and weaknesses. I have been a Minister here, I have been in the Opposition also. I have never exaggerated India's strength, I have never underestimated India's weakness. In fact, 1996-97 was good year, following two good years. We have reported 7.5 per cent growth. But 1997-98 was not a good year. 1997-98 has been a year of slowing down. We will probably end up with a growth of five to six per cent. But Mr. Prime Minister, you know, a hundred countries in the world and a hundred Prime Ministers will give one arm and one leg to have five to six per cent growth. It is not enough for India. India needs seven per cent growth. I congratulate you for the statement that India needs and will attain seven to eight per cent growth. I warmly congratulate you for accepting high growth as an ideal. But you cannot achieve that growth by undermining confidence. Whichever Government begins in this Lok Sabha - and your Government has made a beginning today - starts with tremendous advantages and, at the same time, with many disadvantages. One is not blind to the disadvantages. Growth has slowed down. There is no recession. It has slowed down to five to six per cent. Industrial growth has slowed down.

Thanks to the previous year of record agricultural harvest, statistically, last year's agricultural harvest will show a decline. The services sector continues to be buoyant. There are problems. Yet, please remembers, in 1991, Dr. Manmohan Singh inherited a billion dollars foreign exchange. On 1st of June, 1996, the United Front Government inherited 17 billion dollars foreign exchange and in 1998, we leave to the Government of the day 24 billion dollars foreign exchange. Is that not an advantage? I would urge hon. Members not to venture adventurous statements on foreign exchange without understanding the nature of foreign exchange. They will understand it in course of time.

The second thing is inflation. In 1991, Dr. Manmohan Singh inherited an average inflation of ten per cent. In 1996, the United Front Government inherited an average inflation of 7.5 per cent, and we have left to the Government of the day an average inflation of not more than five per cent. Is that not an advantage? India's debt service ratio has come down to 24 per cent from a high of 35 per cent and India's debt to GDP ratio has come down to 20 per cent--the lowest ratios achieved in the last many years. He will soon be rated not as a moderately indebted country but as a less indebted country. India's short term debt is less than seven per cent. Is that not an advantage? Instead of building confidence, instead of augmenting confidence, in the last fifteen days, the Ministers of your Government, the

spokesmen of your Government have undermined confidence in India. Look at what happens to the institutional investment market.

Because of the elections, because of the high degree of political uncertainty, in November, December and January institutional investment was negative. In February, there was net institutional investment worth 200 million dollars. In March, the first week was positive, the second week was neutral and in the third week we are turning negative....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up.

.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please do not undermine their confidence.*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please wind up.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Please do not undermine their confidence. On political issues, on economic issues and on international issues, statements made in the last 15 days have shaken their confidence in this country. For that reason, we have to oppose their Motion of Confidence.

Sir, I believe that we are at a stage in history where the Indian people are carrying on a number of political experiments. The whole nation looks like a laboratory. Every time an experiment is made it is unmade. Nothing is certain. A high degree of political uncertainty characterises India today as it did over the last two years. Therefore, whoever is in Government, whoever occupies authority, whoever is in opposition has to behave with a great degree of responsibility. I do not believe that our opposition to you is irresponsible, nor do I believe that your asking for our support under the circumstances is undeserved. But let us remember that we find ourselves in the middle of an experiment. A great political churning is going on in this country. I do not know what the churning will throw up.

I only want to draw your attention to some very thoughtful articles that have appeared recently in the Press - one by Prof. Kancha Yelliah of the Osmania University and one by Shri Pandian. The churning is throwing up a set of players and a set of parties which may go against the grain of democratisation in this country. I do not know where the BJP stands here, but I suspect that it stands for a unitarian system where plurality is crushed and plurality is ignored. That would be a great danger. I am not yet confident that you understand the plurality of India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : You people have sold the country to the foreigners(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not confident that you understand that India, today, is throwing up, the Indian people are throwing up a number of political parties because they are satisfied with none. There were 29 political parties in the last Lok Sabha. Now, there are 41 political parties.(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. Chidambaram, please wind up.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have no evidence at all that your Government understands the plurality of India. Therefore, I have to oppose your Government.

With these words, I submit that this Motion of Confidence should be defeated and I oppose this Motion.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker Sir, since today morning the debate is going on in this House on the Confidence Motion moved by the Prime Minister. It is quite natural for the Opposition to be aggressive while participating in the debate on Confidence Motion. But this time I can sense more of restlessness than aggression in the debate. Some of the speeches made from the opposition benches were carried away by the restlessness of their not being able to form the Government whereas some speeches betrayed the perplexity of losing their government. But I am quite delighted that the Prime Minister has put his version confidently with conviction, composure and soberity.

Chidambaramji, I am distressed that you made a reference to the speech of Shri George Fernandes but you did not pay a heed to the speech made by the Prime Minister who has moved the Confidence Motion. Chidambaram ji, there was a touch of concern about the prevailing political situation, agony of the present plight of India and an appeal to solve all these things with a consensus in the speech of the Prime Minister. The Government under the leadership of Atal ji has not been formed only on the people's mandate, it also has

the good-wishes and blessings of the common man living in the country and the Indians abroad. So I would like to say that irrespective of the fact that some people personally may or may not like this Govt. but in a democratic set up it is necessary that we should respect the people's mandate.

Sir, Atal ji is a household name in the country so far as popularity is concerned. Every member of this House know this. Today, the people are not only waiting for the result of the confidence motion but they are also blessing that he should win the vote of confidence. Today Sharad Pawar Ji has said in his speech that BJP has polled only 36 per cent votes and as such, they do not have the people's mandate to form the Government. Sharad ji, is not present in the House. I want to remind him, through you, that if people's mandate means to govern by getting 51 per cent votes, the people of India had never given a chance to the congress party to form the govt. They have governed the country for 40 years by getting 32 per cent votes and 68 percent voters of the country were against that party, but...

[*English*]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara) : In the 1984 elections, the Congress Party had got 54 per cent vote. You check your record. Do not mislead the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : That is why I have said 40 years out of 45 years. Kindly tell us the number of years you were in power by getting 32% of votes? So, I want to say.....(*Interruptions*) That is why I have said 40 out of 45 years. The election of 1984 was not an ordinary one. I have said that barring those five years, you were in power in this country by getting more 32% of votes. So please do not play with the emotions of the people by spreading such misleading propaganda and do not show disrespect to the mandate.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir they have levelled a number of allegations since morning and cited three cases to buttress their claim- they are citing U.P., they are citing the name of Sukramji, and Jayalalithaji. So far as the case of U.P. is concerned, I want to ask them as to why they are terribly enraged by first move where as they continued to cling to power by playing the same tricks again and again. The gentlemen, who operated from the Governor's house of U.P., nobody could answer this question honestly. He was playing all sorts of dirty tricks by sitting there. Do you expect us to digest their wrong doings without any relation. Is that morality, is that idealism, is that the principle?....(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the conduct of the Governor cannot be discussed here. She is a responsible Minister. She should behave responsibly.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : She has not mentioned the name of the Governor....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. The conduct of the Governor cannot be discussed here in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : When your turn comes you can rebut it.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : (Chandni Chowk) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this House Shri Romesh Bhandari's(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record

....(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, they keep mum when Mayawatiji discusses the conduct of the Speaker by sitting there. I did not mention anybody's name.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good.

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR KALITA (Guwahati) : That has been expunged from the records(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If there is anything objectionable. I will expunge it from the records.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have learnt from our culture to die for our ideals. But at the same time the policy framers of our culture have also stated that it is not by dying everytime that we can same ideals. Sometimes it is necessary to kill the wicked in order to protect the ideals. So, far the first time "Shathe Shathyam Samacharet". We have defeated them in U.P. and that is why they are arranged and are behaving like that and levelling allegations against us by repeatedly mentioning about U.P.(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No running commentary please. You will also get an opportunity to make your points.

....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, he has remembered Mr. Sukhram so many times since morning today. Had Sharad Pawarji been here, I would have reminded him that Shri Sukhram returned here empty handed after giving all his happiness to him and he poses no threat or loss to the country. You have enjoyed his company for a number of years(Interruptions)

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, so many times since morning today he has spoken of Jayalalitaji and Shri Somnathji devoted 1/3rd of his speech on Jayalalita. Had Somnath da been sitting here, I would have definitely asked him—didn't the Congress party with whose support he was trying to form the government in the name of secularism send Shri Sharad Pawarji to Jayalalita to get her support in forming the government - I am not alking about pre-poll alliance. Didn't Shri Sharad Pawarji, on a slightest hint of misunderstanding, establish contact with Miss Jayalalitaji clandestinely to grab the opportunity? They had candidly announced on T.V. the name of persons to whom they had contacted which included Miss Jayalalitaji also. Today, they were sarcastically saying here that letter of support is on the

* Not recorded.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

way. I wanted to know whether Shri Sharad Pawarji was not desperately waiting for that letter(Interruptions). That's why media reportedly stated that the said letter was expected at two places, two people are waiting for her letter. But we knew that we will receive her letter of support and as expected we got it. But this is below his dignity to speak here sarcastically now that the grapes are sour.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Shri Somnathji devoted half of his speech on Miss Jayalalitaji and half of it on Hindutva. I would have delighted had Shri Somnathji and Shri Sharad Pawarji been present here during my speech. Shri Somnathji is an advocate by profession. He cites that judgement of Supreme Court in which secularism is stated as a basic feature of the constitution. But Shri Somnathji perhaps has failed to take notice of a judgement delivered by the same Supreme Court where Hindutva has been defined.....(Interruptions) Perhaps he did not bother to go through it.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, had Shri Somnathji been present here, I would have read it out for him. But, now I want to tell this House through you. This judgement was delivered in 1994 and has not been reviewed(Interruptions) I want to tell clearly who is the petitioner and who is the judge. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it was M. Ismail Farooqui & others v/s Union of India & others. Kindly write down citation in order to tell Shri Somnathji. This Judgement is on page No. 36 of 1994 (6) S.T.C. I will also tell whose judgement was this? This was delivered by justice Bharucha and justice Ahmadi, the same justice Ahmadi who later became the Chief Justice of India and occupied the highest judicial post of India. I will read only two of its paragraphs(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Are you an advocate(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Shri Somnathji is also an advocate and only an advocate would reply an advocate. So my point is that this training is imparted in court that one should go through the judgement delivered in one's favour as well as for his opponent. I do not know how could be forget to go through this judgement?

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the judgement delivered by justice Ahmadi and justice Bharucha states :

[English]

"Hinduism is a tolerant faith. It is that tolerance that has enabled Islam, Christianity, Zoroastranism, Judaism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism to find shelter and support upon this land."

[Translation]

Kindly listen carefully what I wish to say.

[English]

"Ordinarily, Hindutva is understood as a way of life or as a state of mind and it is not to be equated, I repeat, it is not to be equated with or understood as a religious Hindu fundamentalism."

[Translation]

Don't equate Hindutva with religious fundamentalism. Hindutva is a way of life and the same has been said by the Supreme Court. If Supreme Court has acknowledged the secularism as the basic feature of the constitution, BJP has termed its commitment towards secularism in its National Agenda for governance and President's address in unequivocal terms. It will be better if you imbed the definition of Hindutva given by the Supreme Court so that you do not take the Hindutva enunciated in our 'National Agenda' and manifesto as a communal feature, so that you do not feel a finge of communalism in it. So far as your definition regarding secularism is concerned, it keeps on changing from time to time as it suits you. In order to garner votes you play Hindu card in Jammu, anti Sikh card in Delhi, sometime you sit in treasury benches in Kerala with the Muslim league and sometimes in Mizoram you seek votes by making promises to rule according to the Bible. Not only you but even the members of United Front also accuse the alliance of Akali-BJP's as the highest communal alliance in the country. But when their secularism fails to provide a single seat for their former Prime Minister then he had to take the crutches of the same Akali Dal in order to reach Lok Sabha. This is your secularism. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was talking a lot here. My problem is that most of the member are not present in the House when their turn came to have the reply. Kindly see that these messages reach him through proxy. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was levelling allegations here(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : He is listening it sitting in his home(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur) : He left the House for he couldn't dare to be present here(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was accusing that Shri Atalji is not free to constitute his own cabinet. He is constituting it the suggestions given by R.S.S. Even if I take the logic of Shri Mulayam Singhji as true and Shri George Fernandes is asked to shoulder the responsibility of the security of the country on the advice of R.S.S. then this country should have no fear and trepidation from this Govt. But here allegations levelled for the sake of allegation. Allegation were made here that B.J.P. always puts up a criminal against him. Shall I submit the names of those candidates who fought elections against Shri. Mulayam Singhji? Once BJP put up Shri Updesh Chauhan, who was an MLA from his party. Next time Shri D.P. Yadav contested against him. Who was a minister in his own cabinet. Third time Shri Ashok Yadav contested against him who had been a member of his party. When they are in his party they are free from all sorts of malice and they are respectable members and hon'ble ministers but as soon as they join BJP they become history sheeters and criminals.

19.36 hrs.

[DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Katihar) : How far can you manage by borrowing?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Tariq Anwarji we are not managing our affairs by borrowings. Someday you are likely to come here as borrowed one. I wish to tell them that they have brought the bandit queen for elections. We have no prince and princess but they have bandit queen to fight election. Those who live in glass house should not throw stones on others. Therefore, it is better to think twice before accusing others. They were saying that they have shapped their alliance with Laxmi Parvati and entered into an alliance with the TDP. Miss Mayawati was alleging that BJP is an unreliable party but forgotten the incident of U.P.'s frest house. It was the BJP's workers who saved her life from the clutches of Sh. Mulayam Singh Yadav. She has forgotten those Charges which were labelled against her. I want to ask her about the morality behind the alliance reached on 21st night in order to topple Shri Kalyan Singh' government? What were those principles and ideals on which this alliance was based. Was it not a sheer opportunism? Didn't they do so in order to grab power? Therefore, I say that before pointing a finger towards to others, don't forget that remaining four fingers are pointing back at you. People

forget nothing and those who forget are forced to remember. Someone stands up and make him remember.

Shri George Fernandes talked a lot about inner wranglings of Congress and U.F. I do not want to repeat that but I will definitely recall the statement of Shri Somnath da regarding the attitude of our party and alliance partners. He was repeatedly saying that he wanted to ask from the alliance partners.

[English]

What is your attitude towards BJP's economic policy and towards BJP's Hindutva?

[Translation]

I would like to ask him in his own words.

[English]

What is your attitude towards GATT, WTO and Patent Law?

[Translation]

Your guide Comrade Surjit, to be political chanakya and was talking about forming the Government with the help of Congress. Is his attitude similar to that of yours? Therefore if you pretend to ignor all that is happening here and level charges on others, these bear no effect. It becomes ineffective. I would like to say that there have been enough of arguments, sarcasm, attacks and counter attacks. This battle of words can do not good to the country. We can be proved good debators, but the country required a good administrator and a good ruler and not a good debator.

There are a lot of problems before the country - Mr. Chidambaram is not present in this House. Had I wished, I could have immediately replied to the point raised by him during the course of his speech. He was saying why should we support you? There is no programme in your National Agenda. There is no programme in your Presidential Address. He alleged that the Presidential Address is prepared from the points culled out from National Agenda rather it is the same word for word. I would like to point out to Shri Upendra that had we not prepared the Presidential Address on the basis of national agenda for governance, you would have accused us of inconsistency and now when we have prepared the Presidential Address from the National Agenda, you are saying that everything has been copied from national agenda.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Presidential Address is a policy document of any Government and if we have taken that policy from the National Agenda for governance then what is the harm. They level allegation that we have no programme. They ask, why should they support us. If they go through para wise the Presidential Address and National Agenda for governance, they will find nothing except the programmes which we intend to implement. I would like to ask the friends sitting on the other side as to whether the resolution not to let any child go to sleep hungry, to build 20 lakh houses every year for the shelterless, to increase the political participation of women by providing 33 percent reservation as their political right, and to provide free education to women upto graduation are not programmes? Since some other members of my party are waiting for their turn and there is paucity of time I am not reading all the paras, otherwise I would have replied to each and every point raised by Chidambaramji and would have asked him which paragraph he found devoid of any programme in it and now they are asking us that on which programme should they support our Government? With all due respect, I would like to say that if the time to form the Government with consensus and unanimity has to ever come, it is today only. Because neither we have such a majority that we could run the government strongly, by keeping the opposition at bay and nor we have such a small majority as to succumb to the pressures of those who are sitting outside. Today we are not under such a pressure that any body could throttle our neck by a remote control. But we don't have even such a big majority that we can solve the problems without your cooperation. Therefore I would like to say that today is the time that we should run the government with consensus. Today is the time to create an atmosphere of unanimity. The problems have been pending for years together, but the solution has not been found out because either the Government was run under pressure or by coercion.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Do not be arrogant.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I am not talking with arrogance. When you made a little noise, I kept quiet. I feel my responsibility. That is why I replied to him. However through you, I would like to appeal to all the members sitting on the opposition benches that we should come together and write the fate of the country together. Let us rebuild the nation together but, it cannot be done with hatred. If you harbour prejudice against us, then we would not be able to build the nation. I am making just an appeal. For just once shed the prejudices and test us.(Interruptions) I would

like to repeat my appeal because there was a lot of noise. Just once shed the prejudices and test us and I not only hope but, have full confidence that while moving together all your misconceptions and apprehensions will be put at rest. There had been a lot of politics in India but there had not been any governance. The country which is tired since many years is waiting for Swaraj. If we set the hatred aside and keep the prejudices off.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : I want to know one thing from you, if you kindly yield. Shri Chidambaram, in his speech, quoted the decisions taken or statements made in a meeting of the RSS in Bangalore. They said that when time comes, they would take up the issue of building of the temple in Mathura, Varanasi etc. Is it also a method of conciliation?(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I should tell you that the BJP does not have any secret agenda. I am speaking as a Minister in the BJP Government and not as a Spokesperson of the RSS.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : I am talking of the RSS which controls the BJP.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It is your outlook. That is why I am saying that this is your outlook, I ask you to come along with us and all your misgivings will be wiped out. You are in the grip of misconceptions. At one time you used to term us as anti-Dalits, sometimes you term us as anti-women, sometimes you term as anti-minority. And now gradually the things have changed. Today, both Hinuds and Sikhs, between whom you created rift for years, are there in Government in Punjab. Those thoughts are over now. The people, today are running the government along with us. Ask them about their experience. How better they are running the government. That is why I say that once give us the opportunity, come along with us and shed your prejudices, you will see your prejudices are not only weakened but have gone. I would like to say this with full confidence and as I have said that we have, before us, a resolution to build the nation(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Do you mean to say that the RSS will not interfere?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Chairman, Sir I like four lines of a poem of Neeraj which are relevant to this moment. I would like to quote them here(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : Before quoting those four lines, speak on Article 370, what is your opinion about that(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Please see the National Agenda. All those issues which are before India are there. I would like to conclude after quoting those four lines. Neeraj said :

"Nirman ghrina se nahin pyar se hota hai,

Sukh shanti khadag par nahin prem par chalte hain,

Aadmi deh se nahin neh se jeta hai

Bamon se nahin bol se Vajra pighalte hain."

With these words, I would like to appeal the Hon. members to strengthen this government by voting in favour of the Motion of Confidence.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : First Hindu Mahasabha, then Jansangh, then Janata Party and then Bhartiya Janata Party. Why didn't they speak this language since last 70 years. They have changed their language today after 70 years.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : This language seems to be deceitful(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Confidence Motion moved by the Government which came to Power on the basis of false promises, against the mandate of 1998 Lok Sabha Election, and under the leadership of hon'ble Atalji which began its work by deceiving a tribal(Interruptions) BJP has its 15 years of political life from 1984 to 1998. Initially there were two BJP members in this parliament now they have crossed the figure of 160 members.

Chairman, Sir, the strength of BJP has increased by more than eight thousand percent in this House. The reason of this increase is that they aroused the sentiments of the people. They had said that they swear by the name of Lord Rama, to build the temple at the

same place. They had said, that they swear in the name of holy river Saryu, Ganga and Yamuna that we would build the temple at the same site. They swear by the name Lord Rama(Interruptions)

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA : You should have courage to listen to him, why you are making a noise in the name of Rama....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhuria please take your seat.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : There was a time, when the name of Lord Rama echoed in whole of north India. Where has it lost today? While reading the National Agenda of BJP I found that Jai Shri Ram has been replaced by "Jai Sukh Ram" I have heard speeches of Atalji, on a number of occasions and today I brought his old speeches from the library. In all these speeches, Vajpayeeji has always said that Kashmir is our crown. Kashmir is the pride of the Nation. There should not be two laws for Kashmir and rest of the India and article 370 should not be a part of the constitution. Hon'ble Atalji, I have studied your national agenda carefully but Kashmir is no longer a crown nor a pride of the country(Interruptions) I think for you there is no value of Kashmir today. Now too winning members of Parliament of National Conference are more important for you. You have compromised to the extent of ignoring the very founding principles of your party just to come to power in Delhi and hold the office of the Prime Minister. You have forgotten Kashmir, the crown of India, you have forgotten the pledge made in the name of holy rivers Saryu, Ganga, Yamuna. You have forgotten the pledge made in the name of Lord Rama, you have compromised with your principles. Just to come to power in Delhi.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee has always said that Indian society is one, then how can there be a separate civil code. The Government you have formed says nothing about uniform civil code or any other code. It appears that you have put these issues aside about which you used to express your concern. I have also studied you manifesto for the year 1996 and 1998 wherein you have mentioned that you will free this country from insecurity, hunger and corruption. Whatever you have said about corruption, I will not repeat it because all the members have expressed their views.....(Interruptions)

SHRI LARANG SAI (Sarguja) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a doubt. Therefore, I would like to get it cleared. Shri Digvijay Singh, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has said about him that he is a Satnami, a tribal I would like to know whether he is the same Ajit Jogi?

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Larang Sai Sahab, I will tell you every thing listen to me. How did you compromise with corruption about which you have said a lot and had a high moral ground. You did not allow the House to function for thirteen days on the issue of Pt. Sukh Ram, I have brought up that record also. Whatever Hon'ble Atalji, Jawant Singh, Promod Mahajan and other leaders had said about Pt. Sukh Ram, is there in the record but due to paucity of time I wouldn't be able to read it. But it is very much in the record. Now the same Sukh Ramji is in your company and he is member of your cabinet. You made this compromise to come to power in Delhi. But I am sorry to say that you made such a big compromise for coming to power in Shimla also.

Regarding criminalisation, you were saying that you would eradicate the criminalisation of politics. In the President's Address at Sl. No. 38, it is written that we want to bring such an order in this country which may keep away the criminals from the politics. I talk about my State of Madhya Pradesh. In whole of the crementry, it happened at only one place that Returning Officer rejected the candidature of a candidate due to his being a criminal. It happened at only one place in whole of India. It was the candidature of Shri Darbar Chhatra Singh ji at Dhar Lok Sabha constituency in Madhya Pradesh(Interruptions) who was your candidate. Returning Officer had to cancel his nomination as he was sentenced in a murder case(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : The Collector cancelled his nomination due to pressure of the Chief Minister. But your election would be cancelled from the court. You talk about the tribals but you are a tribal(Interruptions) The Court will decide against you.(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : You do not like the truth. I only say that you have made National Agenda by setting aside issues of Bhagwan Ram Temple, Uniform Civil Code, Criminalisation, Corruption, Article 370 etc. You talk of scriptures. Respected Ms. Uma Bharati ji is sitting here, she talks of scriptures. Therefore, by making reference of scriptures I would like to say that there are two types of sins in the world which are not pardoned. It has been written in th scriptures that :

Setubandh Rameshwaram Gangasagar
sangamam,

Muchyate Sarvapapkramam,

Na Muchyate Tu,

Mitradroham Yati cha Rajasya Kritagnata.

These four sacred places have been described as most pious, most dignified, most powerful and most spiritualistic places. By taking a dip into Setubandh, Rameshwaram, Gangasagar and into the Sangam of Prayag and by worshipping them, all the sins committed would be pardoned. But there are two types of sins which cannot be pardoned by Setubandh, Rameshwaram, Gangasagar and Prayag Sangam. All these four sacred places cannot pardon these two sins. It is written in our scriptures.

Respected Atal ji, I say this to your party and your Government by making reference to scriptures(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Chandni Chowk) : Are you going to extend the time of this House? If so, take a decision because it is already 8.00 p.m.(Interruptions) Fix the time the House again.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I propose that time of the House be extended by two hours as there are many speakers from both the sides(Interruptions)

20.00 hrs

Simultaneously, I am announcing one thing more. There is arrangement of dinner in Room No. 70 for MPs and Press and in Room No. 73 for Staff. You can go for dinner in between. The time of the House may be extended for one hour....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are still sufficient number of Members to speak.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : All the hon'ble Members want to speak. In this situation, there was a proposal to extend the time of the House for two hours but Khuranaji has himself asked to extend it for one hur. I, therefore, would like to know the views of the House whether the time of House be extended one hour.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : Mr. Chariman, Sir, I request you to give some preference to the small parties because they may not get a chance tomorrow. The major parties can be somehow accommodated but the smaller parties especially will have to be given time today.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is just extended for one hour.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR
BVISWAMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, so much valuable time is being lost in talks. But will all of us grief-stricken people from Bodoland be given time to speak or not(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. When your name is called, then you can speak.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : My submission is that the names of the speakers should be announced.

MR. CHAIRMAN : O.K.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I again come to my point. My colleagues in Bharatiya Janata Party generally talk about scriptures. So I was saying by making reference to scriptures in which it is written :

Setubandh Rameshwaram Gangasagar
Sangamam Muchyate Sarvapapam

Na Muchyate Tu Mitradroham Yati cha Rajasya
Kritghanata

....(Interruptions)

You have quoted the scriptures in whole of the country. You misled the whole of the country on the basis of scriptures. So we want to tell you that what is Hindutva in the real sense. There are two types of such sins--to betray the friends and not to fulfil the assurances given to people by the king. These two types of sins cannot be pardoned. After becoming king, you promised to the people for construction of Ram Temple, scrapping of Article 370, implementation of uniform civil code and to remove corruption. But you went back on your word.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : All of them have taken my time.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : What is the stand of your party? You tell your points(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Regarding Ram Temple we have told many a times that they should accept the decision of the court of law(Interruptions)

I was saying that all the four sacred places cannot wash out these sins....(Interruptions). It is such a heinous crime....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I did not get the time to speak.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over now.

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. I am going to call Shri V. Sathiamoorthy to speak next.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Bhuria ji, please sit down. Why are you taking time.

[English]

Now you are disturbing.

[Translation]

Jogi ji himself is capable. He will speak . Please sit down.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : No I will obey you and conclude my speech. I wanted to tell so many things but I will say only this that Respected Atal Ji, your image played an important role with regard to the mandate which you have got. People voted you with this view that respected Atal ji will become Prime Minister and the atmosphere of the country will change. I agree with the feelings of the people for which they voted you. But by seeing the formation of your government and breach of promises and also the size of your cabinet which happened for the first time, you belied all the hopes of the people. There are 10 crore tribals in the country but you could not give one of them the status of cabinet minister. Your beginning was like this as you promised for a tribal speaker but you did not appoint him. Thus it was a big atrocity against the tribals.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : What about the matter relating to Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh....(Interruptions) The Congressmen have been raising hue and cry over it for the last so many years.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Hon'ble Atalji, we had lot of expectations from you. All our hopes have been belied. I would only like to say a few words about the expectations which we had from you.

Panchi samanjhthe the ke chaman badla hai,
Tare samanjhthe the ki gagan badla hai,
Par Atal ji halat yeh batate hain ki
lash vahi hai, kewal kafan badla hai,
nothing has changed....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Who is responsible for reducing it to a corpse? Who has been in power for the last fifty years? Who ruled this country for fifty years. We or you....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : The hon. Minister is not letting me speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jogi, you please sit down.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : I am concluding....(Interruptions)

You would not like my views. Why are you not honouring your commitments(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sit down please.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Lastly, I would like to submit that the people of this country are looking forward to Congress, they have their hopes on the Congress because it is the only the Congress party which believes in a philosophy of taking everybody along, be that person a Hindu or Muslim, Sikh or Christian, rich or poor or from backward class or high class. The same philosophy is inscribed on the main door of the central hall which is taken from Rigveda. It says :

*Ayam nij'parovaiti, ganna laghuchetsham,
Udaaar Charitaanaam tu, vasudhev kutumbkam"

Those who believe in this is mine and that is yours and those who discriminate between Hindu, Muslim, sikh and christian can't rule this country. Only those who believe in "Udaar charitaanaam tu, vasudhev kutumbkam" i.e. who treat the entire earth as a family can govern this country. We, only the Congressmen, the Congress party believe in this philosophy.

MR CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Only under the leadership or Congress party(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jogi, please conclude.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you did not let me speak(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Jogi, please conclude now.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : When you get an opportunity to govern this country, do it if you can....(Interruptions)

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister is interrupting, he himself couldn't become the Chief Minister and now he is interrupting me. You wanted to become the Chief Minister but Atalji did not make you but we will definitely have a tribal as Chief Minister in our state. Before concluding, I would like to recite couplet :

Sharminda kabhi na ruhe mehnat hogi,
Himmat hai to har gaon me nusrat hogi
Vakt chahey Congress se gurejaan ho to ho
Kal vakt ko khud Congress ki Zarurat hogi.

With these words, I oppose this Confidence Motion and request that it should be negated.

[English]

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY (Ramanathapuram) : Before addressing this august House, I express my gratitude towards my eminent leader, AIADMK General Secretary, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi and the people of my constituency, Ramanathapuram, who have voted for me.

Our hon. Prime Minister has moved the Motion of Confidence. I am of the opinion that the motion had already been placed before the public in the past

election. The public has given their consent for the motion. They have voted for a stable and able Government of India. They do not want general elections every year. There was a triangular contest and in the triangular contest, the mandate given was very clear. There is no doubt that the public has called Shri Vajpayee to run the Government by the BJP and its allied parties. The other two fronts the Congress and the so-called United Front -- I will say, it is not a united front but a universally failure Front. The people have totally neglected it. Is anybody bold enough to say that the Congress is approved by the public to run the Government? No one can say it from the Congress side. In the same way, can anyone from the UF say that it is approved by the public or that it has got the mandate of the people in the past elections to run the Government? No one is bold enough to say it but you are opposing the confidence motion. Why are you opposing it? Are you standing together, in a united manner? Have you got any leader to lead the House on behalf of the United Front? There is no leader and there is not unity among you. Then, why are you opposing it? The Indians do not want any more elections in the next five years. Responsible leaders are coming to the House and opposing the verdict of the people. This is the House of the People. The people have decided to put the BJP in the chair of Central Govt. No one can decide against the decision of the people. No one can take any decision in this House against the verdict of the public. If that verdict is negated, then the people of India will never forgive the parties concerned.

At the time of the election, our eminent leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi placed the demand before the public that they should vote for an able and stable Government at the Centre. In the meantime, she put forward some more demands.

In the morning, Shri Somanth Chatterjee levelled some charges against our eminent leader. He showed some newspaper. According to that newspaper, he said that there were so many cases against Puratchi Thalaivi Dr. Jayalalitha and her colleagues. I want to say that all those cases have been foisted against her. I want to make it clear and to attribute that the complainant of all these cases are only the Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi. The investigation is by the Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi. The charge sheet has been filed by the Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi. The Special Court has been formed by the Chief Minister. The Judges of the Special Court are selected by the Chief Minister, Shri Karunanidhi.

At this juncture, I would like to make it clear to the House that Shri Karunanidhi cannot appeared and

dispose as prosecution witness in the witness box. He cannot be summoned to give evidence against our eminent leader. The original sighted witnesses will be called to give evidence. At that time, the truth will come to the light. The House would realise it. After knowing about the truth, Shri Sornath Chatterjee will realise it.

Our eminent leader asked the voters that they should vote to condemn the State Government also ...*

Hundreds of persons were killed in Coimbatore. In the past two years, there have been so many bomb blasts in Tamil Nadu. In those unwarranted incidents, hundreds of people were killed. I want to bring it to your notice that Shri L.K. Advani proposed to attend an election meeting at Coimbatore. His life was aimed at by the extremists. Fortunately, the flight was delayed by one hour. But the people of Tamil Nadu would not forget that unfortunate black day of Tamil Nadu. In those horrible bomb blasts, hundreds of persons were killed and more than two hundred persons were wounded seriously. There were 27 bomb blasts on that day. I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Chairman that this horrible occurrence is itself an evidence.* All these incidents were placed before the voters in the recent elections.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had sown disparities amongst the different religious people and also amongst the various castes. There is no law and order in the State. After having realised all these things, the people of Tamil Nadu came to the conclusion that the Government headed by Shri Karunanidhi was unable to maintain law and order and was also unable to stop encouragement of the extremist forces; and also unable to stop the recurrence of the bomb blasts. That is why the people have voted in favour of the AIADMK and sent 30 Members of Parliament from the AIADMK and its allies to this august House. At this juncture I would like to submit that the Government headed by Shri Vajpayee would certainly continue for five years with our support and with the support of the people of India. There is no doubt about it.

In the meantime, I would like to ask our hon. Prime Minister to send a Central machinery for taking action against the Tamil Nadu Government and for taking steps to prevent the Government of Tamil Nadu from committing atrocities. I would also like to ask the Central Government to punish the Tamil Nadu Government for the crimes that have been committed by it so far.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri V. Sathiamoorthy]

I would like to make clear one more thing. Some doubts have been created by what Shri Somnath Chatterjee had said about the AIADMK and the BJP alliance. He has attributed certain motives, for the delay in giving supporting letter to the President.

I would like to say that our Party leader is political fighter. She would fight out the cases foisted against her in the courts of law. She would not send any request or stand before any political leader or before any Government for personal help. She would fight for her rights and for the rights of the people of Tamil Nadu. I would like to make this point clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI V. SATHIAMOORTHY : The mandate of the 1996 General Elections suggested that the people wanted to put BJP in power. But it was prevented from being done by some selfish opportunist leaders. The Motion of Confidence was negated. It should not have been done the verdict of the 1996 General Elections suggested that the BJP ought to have been given a chance to rule this country.

After step down of the Gujarat Govt. our hon. President would certainly have made Shri Vajpayee as Prime Minister and would allowed him to govern this country till the year 2001 unless otherwise prohibited by Constitution. If the Constitution had not been the obstacle then the President would certainly have asked the BJP to continue in office and thus mid-term elections would not have been held. If the hon. President had done so, the people would certainly have welcomed it and would have accepted it with pleasure. So, I would again like to submit before the august House not to take any decision against the willingness of the people.

In the last two years the United Front Government has decreased the dignity and prestige of India in the International level. Our economy is in crisis. People all over the world are under an impression that the BJP Government headed by Shri Vajpayee can alone regain the prestige lost in the last govt. and strengthen the economy. That is why our eminent leader has promised an un-conditional support to this Government. In that line, on behalf of my Party AIADMK and on behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, I confirm my support and welcome the confidence motion moved by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Vajpayee.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am not going to speak for long. The hon. Member who has spoken just now, has made some reference(Interruptions)

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : Since the hon. Member has referred to my constituency, I must be given at least five minutes' time. This is my request.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I should at least be given five minutes to speak(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling your name.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I am on a point of order. I did not want to interrupt the hon. Member who has just spoken. He has made a reference to a matter which is *sub judice*.

SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL (Nanded) : Under which Rule he is raising the point of order?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The hon. Member from the Treasury Benches should know how to behave(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Hon. Chairman and the learned Members of this House, I am thankful to you(Interruptions) for giving me this opportunity to speak on our burning Bodoland question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not allowed you.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the point of order? Please quote the Rule that has been violated.

....(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South) : The matter is *sub judice*. It should first be enquired into.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI VAIKO : It is not *sub judice*. He has made his point. There is nothing wrong in it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

.....(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI. VAIKO : There was a bomb blast in Coimbatore(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. I am on my legs.

.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order. Quote the rule.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, I come from Bodoland which is far away from Delhi(*Interruptions*)..At least you should try to understand the genuine and aggrieved sentiments of the Bodos living in the North-Eastern India(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Please hear me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak when your name comes.

.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is in the list.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : I would only like to raise a point of order. The matter raised by the hon. Member who has just finished his speech is *sub judice*. I request you to please go through the record and expunge the relevant portion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will examine the record.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Thank you, Sir.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Hon. Chairman and the learned Members of the august House, today I rise before you all to table on the floor of the House our genuine demands relating to (1) creation of separate State of

Bodoland on the northern bank of the river Brahmaputra, (2) creation of two Autonomous Districts named Nilachal and Lalung under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution on the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra and (3) inclusion of the Bodo-Kacharis living in Karbi Anglong Autonomous District in Assam in the Scheduled Tribes (Hills) List. These are the burning and genuine political demand of the indigenous Bodos.

I appeal to the present Government of India to bring a Constitutional Amendment Bill on the floor of this august House to create the long-awaited separate State of Bodoland on the northern bank of river Brahmaputra in order to ensure survival and peaceful existence of the Bodos, their safety and security, their all-round growth and development, and to safeguard the distinct ethnic self-identity of the Bodos. Despite being the sons of the soil being the most aboriginal people and the aboriginal autochthones of Assam, we people have been neglected, discriminated, oppressed, suppressed and misruled ever since Independence. Until and unless this demand for creation of a separate State of Bodoland is considered by the Government, whether it is a Government led by BJP or any other party, any attempt to restore peace and to bring all-round development to Bodoland area in Assam or to the entire North-Eastern region will be an absurd idea. That is why, I would like to appeal to the Government of India, particularly to the hon. Prime Minister, to amend paragraph No. 28 of the address made by the hon. President on 25th March, 1998 at the joint sitting of Parliament wherein only the three demands relating to creation of Vananchal in Jharkhand area in Bihar, Uttaranchal in Uttar Pradesh and Chattisgarh in Madhya Pradesh are agreed to and the genuine demand of the Bodos is excluded. I would like to appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to amend this paragraph and to include our genuine and most legitimate demand too for creation of a separate State of Bodoland.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India to include the Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. I felt very sad when I was not allowed to take oath as a Member of parliament on the 23rd March, 1998 on the floor of this august House in my mother tongue. I requested the hon. Speaker to allow me to take oath in my mother tongue, Bodo.

But, because of certain constitutional constraints, I was not allowed to take my oath in Bodo language. Therefore, I would humbly like to appeal to the present Government of India to include our Bodo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution so as to give it

* Not recorded.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

and also to the indigenous Bodo people living in India a due impetus, importance, honour, equal status and dignity.

I could not find any precise language to ascribe about all sorts of manifold tragedies and sufferings that are being faced by the Bodo people ever since Independence. The total population of the Bodos in India will be around one crore. We have 45 tribal belts and blocks. But, interestingly, and also unfortunately, what has happened in Assam is that each and every tribal belt and block is now on the verge of being extinguished. So, under such a crucial situation, creation of a separate State of Bodoland has been a must and this is the only and lasting political solution.

All these tribal belts and blocks were created under special provisions, and protective measures were taken up for the protection of tribal lands and areas, but all these seem to have gone in vain now.

A few years ago, an assurance was given that our language would be given the status of associate State official language but that assurance was not implemented as yet. This status was given only for two areas, namely, Kokrajar district and Udalguri Sub-division. This also has not yet been implemented.

On 20th February, 1993 we had signed a Bodo Accord. That was also not yet implemented. All sorts of assurances and commitments given by then Congress Government at the Centre headed by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao were not at all implemented. They backed out of their own words.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India, particularly, the present Prime Minister of India and the learned Members of this august House to extend their helping hand and cooperation towards a political solution of the Bodo land problem through peaceful political negotiations without any further delay.

In this connection, I would also like to urge upon the Prime Minister and the Government of India to introduce a Constitution Amendment Bill on the floor of the House in this current Session itself.

[*Translation*]

As long as due attention is not paid towards our problems, we cannot believe that you love us. Once our genuine demand of creation of a separate state of Bodoland is accepted then the people of Bodoland will also feel that the people of other states of India love

them and have regard for them. Mere sweetness is not enough. You are Indian and we are also Indian. Only verbal sympathy will not serve any purpose.

[*English*]

We want to live in India as dignified Indian citizens, with equal status and justice.

I have requested the Prime Minister of India and the Government of India to consider our genuine demand for the creation of a separate State of Bodoland. By giving mere crores of rupees as economic package, you cannot bring permanent peace and stability in the Bodoland area in particular and the North-Eastern Region in general. That is why, I strongly urge upon the Union Government of India for immediate creation of separate State of Bodoland which has been a must. This is my earnest appeal to the Union Government of India as well as to all the hon. Members of this august House.

[*Translation*]

Nobody cares for us. Whichever party may now form the government, be it BJP or some other party it will have to fulfil our demand.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir,

"Anguli katne se shahid nahi hua karte

Uske liye sir katwane padte hain

Raj ko chalane wale Atal Bihari Bajpayee ji

Raj ko chalana hai to chalo magar secularism ko apano

Bhasan kaise kama hai yeh Atalji se poochcho
Raj kaise chalana hai yeh Sharad Pawar ji se poochcho

Holi kaise khelini hai ye h laloo se poochcho

Babri Masjid ko kaise bachana hai yeh Mulayam Singh se poochcho

Bhajpa se nata kaise todna hai yeh Mayawati se poochcho

Bhajpa se nata kaise jorna hai yeh Chanderbabu se poochcho

Bhajpa ka support kab nikalana hai yeh Jayalalitha se poochcho

CPM ka Samna kaisa karna hai yeh Mamta se poochcho."

Mr. Chairman Sir, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee have moved the motion of Confidence in this House. As per Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, in a democratic st up opportunity is provided to all to form the government. We have no jealousy, no confusion in our hearts. But the point is what is the ideology of this Government which is going to be installed and do the BJP and their Government believe in secularism of Indian constitution and if they believe in secularism which is enshrined in our Indian constitution then they shoul not raise the slogan of Hindutva.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are not against the Hindu religion, Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar himself was a Hindu and Dalit Community was also Hindu but they were made victim of injustice, attempts were made to crush the dalits outside villages. Therefore, Baba Saheb Ambedkar conveyed this message a number of times to the Hindus that we are also Hindus, we are also human beings and we too deserve human rights. But this Hindu community did not give those rights to Baba Saheb and the members of his community and this led Baba Saheb Ambedkar to embrace Buddhist religion.

We are not against any religion. I am not talking about governace. It is well known that no efforts were made to ensure human rights to dalits and therefore they resorted to conversion. We do want that religion should be protected, you should protect the Hindu religion. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had not drafted the constitution to commit atrocities on the Hindus. Baba Saheb Ambedkar drafted the constitution and made provisions for equal rights to Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs and Christians in the Constitution. The point is that could we provide the right to equality as envisaged in the Constitution of India. Who is responsible for this? Whether only people in power or all of us are responsible for this. What is Government of BJP going to do to bring unity in society? I do not know how far this government is going to last. We also made the effort to form the government but some people defected to other side. The Government has been formed, now it is to be seen who shifts on this side or that side, we have such right in the democracy. I am not talking politically here. I was pointing out that Atalji's Government will last till he enjoys the majority. We cannot stop them. But in the absence of majority neither you nor your government will remain in power then we will rule, I just want to say that it happens turn by turn.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a slogan during election - Ab ki bari Atal Bihari. I want to ask how long your inning will last. What percentage did you get in mandate? What was the percentage of mandate with which the Congress and United Front formed their government. My suggestion is that we should also adopt two party system. Baba Saheb Ambedkar also wanted two party system which is prevalent in America, England and some other countries. You have also supported the same. My submission is that Mamataji and George Fernandes should not have joined hands with BJP. We will take the remaining members with us. We should think about having two party system in the country. This is the need of the hour. Otherwise we will have to face the same situation again.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Athawaleji, please conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am elected for the first time and I am delivering my maiden speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since, it is your maiden speech. We have given you so much time.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please give me some more time. I was saying that presently you are in majority therefore, Atalji we are not going to disturb you. But who have faith in democracy, should consider about two party system in the country. By keeping secularism aside you cannot run the government. Regarding promises made by you for the construction of Ram Mandir, I would like to say that Babri Masjid should be constructed on its original site and Ram Mandir should be constructed on the side adjacent to the mosque and if Buddhist monastery is also constructed there it will set a good example of national integration. We are not against the temple. But the Constitution of India does not confer any right to demilish a temple or a mosque.

So, Vajpayee Saheb we want an assurance in this House from you that the Babri Masjid will be constructed on the same site where it existed. We respect you. You are a good poet and a scholar. But why you shifted to the other side. Anyhow we are not concerned about it we take you as a nice person. I do not want to comment on R.S.S. RSS is doing good job for the country and Hindu religion. But you never know when would they betray you. If we would have a person like Atalji in our party, we would have made him the Prime Minister for a period of five years.

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not know how long the government of Atalji will last. Therefore, I request you to kindly protect the dalits. You should strictly curb the atrocities being committed on dalits as long as you remain in power. Therefore, I request that maximum funds should be allocated for construction of national memorial of Baba Saheb Ambedkar at 26, Alipur Road. There is an urgent need to protect the interests of the dalits...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Athawaleji, please conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may be given some more time. I would like to say that those 11 people could not get justice whose murder was attempted to at RamabaiGhatkoper in Mumbai. I want that a discussion should be held in the House on the report of Shri Krishna Commission. Strict action should be taken against those who are held responsible by Shri Krishna Commission for the riots. Our rights should be protected. We should be assured of that.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri N.K. Premchandran.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, the time may be extended. Otherwise, tomorrow I may be called.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record then.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are speaking so that it may go on record and you are saying that nothing is going on record. My time may please be extended. We would not allow our country to be divided. We will not allow you to change the constitution of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you please conclude. When nothing is going on record. Why are you speaking.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : You should not try to change the Constitution ...*(Interruptions)**

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE. Jai Bhim Jai Bharat.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, only five minute' time is left. I may be allowed to speak a few minutes more.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on my legs on behalf of my party, the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) to oppose the Motion of Confidence moved by hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The reason for opposing the Motion of Confidence has already been submitted and substantiated by most of the leaders of this Front.

Sir, the election to the Twelfth Lok Sabha which was conclude recently, has again given us a fractured mandate, not giving majority to any single party or a political front. So, the first question to be considered is: Whether the BJP and its allies do they have the majority or do have the mandate of the people to form a Government at the Centre? Sir, according to me, the mandate of the people means the simple majority in the House of the People to form a Government. Whether the BJP and its allies have a simple majority to form a Government is the question to be considered as the first point.

Since the mandate of the people is not with the BJP, I would like to highlight the Constitutional provision also under Article 75(3) of the Constitution which envisages that the Council of Ministers which is appointed by the President of India shall have the collective responsibility to the House of the People. It indicates that the Council of Ministers should command a simple majority in the House of the People.

Sir, immediately after the election, the hon. Prime Minister and the BJP have been invited by hon. Rashtrapatiiji.

They have been asked to give the number of Members who are supporting the B.J.P. They have been allowed to form a Government only on the receipt of the letter from the Telugu Desam Party that they will remain neutral during the Motion of Confidence. That itself goes to show that Rashtrapatiiji has allowed the B.J.P. to form the Government only on the neutral stand taken by the Telugu Desam Party and not because of the majority which is attained in this House.

I would like to say that the mandate of the people is not in favour of the B.J.P. and its allies. Hence, it is lacking in majority. That is why, I oppose this Motion of Confidence.

The second point to be considered is : what was the main slogan of the B.J.P. in the last election? 'You please vote for a Stable Government and an Able Prime Minister'. So, the second question to be considered is whether the B.J.P. and its allies are able to provide a stable Government at the Centre. I would like to submit that the answer is 'no'. It is because that this is a combination of unnatural, unreal and unholy combination of various political parties.

What are the political philosophy and social views of the AIADMK? Are they similar or identical with that of the B.J.P.? There is no political programme or policy. There is no unanimity. First of all, I would like to say that the AIADMK has joined hands with the BJP because the Congress has failed to join hands with the AIADMK. It is not based on any programme or policy. It is due to compulsion that they have joined hands with the BJP.

I am coming to the second constituent, namely, Trinamul Congress led by Kumari Mamata Banerjee. Even Kumari Mamata Banerjee had unequivocally spoken out in the Press Conference that she waited for Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's call for seven days. However, no response had come from Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. Hence, she was joining with the B.J.P. Is it on the basis of a political programme?...*(Interruptions)*. It has come out in the Press. It is on record.*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding to you ...*(Interruptions)*.

The alliance of Trinamul Congress with the BJP is a revengeful reaction to the Congress Party and a revengeful reaction to the Left Front in West Bengal. That is also not on the basis of a programme or policy.

In Haryana, the Haryana Vikas Party and the Haryana Lok Dal are fighting each other. However, in Delhi they are supporting the B.J.P. The stability of this Government could be tested from the first instance itself because the AIADMK supremo had come to Delhi, had discussion with the B.J.P. leaders and even accused Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, who is the Minister in the Cabinet and who is an ally of the B.J.P. ...*(Interruptions)*. What is the meaning of it? The B.J.P. is ready to surrender all the political values and whenever the AIADMK demands something, they are ready to surrender everything. ...*(Interruptions)*. It is learnt from the Press that they have demanded the portfolio of the

Ministry of Law. It is given to them. They have demanded the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance. They have been given again a fractured Finance portfolio. There are some other demands. They have demanded for reservation, etc. ...*(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI R. MUTHIAH) : What is the proof for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. K. PREMCHANDRAN : It has come out in the Press ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : In the Press so many things might come. Is it necessary to bring everything here to say that we were bargaining?...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : There are two important issues which are concerned with Kerala also. The Government should disclose the assurances and commitments given to AIADMK regarding these two disputes, i.e. Mullaperiar Dam and Cauvery Water Dispute....*(Interruptions)*

21.00 hrs.

About Mullaperiyar Dam, it has come out in the newspapers that its height has to be increased. Like that, the Cauvery water dispute is also there. I would appeal to the hon. Prime Minister.....*(Interruptions)* You are a Minister, please be seated ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, Shri Janarthanan.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, through you, I would appeal to the hon. Prime Minister.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Premchandran, your time is over now. Only four minutes were allotted to your party. Please conclude now.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : No Sir, half of the time has been taken away by way of interruptions.*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I propose to extend the time of the house by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The house was extended till 21.00 hrs. but the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is now proposing to further extend the time of the House by one hour. Do the House agree for extension of time by one hour?

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : No, No.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS : Yes, we agree.

[English]

AN . HON. MEMBER : He can continue tomorrow, Sir.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : I shall continue tomorrow, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House is further extended by one hour.

[English]

Now please continue; Shri Premchandran and finish within two-three minutes.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister what are the commitments and assurances given regarding this cauvey dispute and also about this Mullaperiyar Dam. To that extent, I am forced to say that AIADMK asked BJP to kneel but BJP has crawled before them.

Another ally of BJP is Shri Subramanian Swamy. He has accused even Shri Ramkrishna Hegde for some commission in the HDW submarine case also. So these things are being done by the allies of the BJP front.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MALTI DEVI (Nawada) : Sir, you are extending the time hour by hour again and again, why don't you extend it by four hours at one go.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is being done with the consent of the hon'ble Members. You please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, BJP has always been criticising the unnatural combination and intra-contradictions of the United Front Government. What type of alliance is going on now?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai) : Will this House be conducted in a manner you wish or with the consent

of the hon. Members(Interruptions). It was you who asked to extend the time till 9.00 P.M.(Interruptions) Don't do like this. The debate will continue tomorrow also.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This side of the House too demanded the extension of time.

.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, the fourteen-party United Front is having a common cause. The common cause of the United Front was to keep the communal forces out of power. I would like to know what is the common cause in uniting BJP and all its allies which I have already enunciated.

Coming to the manifesto and the national agenda for governance, in the manifesto, it has already been illustrated here that there were three main planks of the election campaigning. Number one, scrapping of article 370; number two, construction of temple at Ramjanambhoomi at Ayodhya; and number three, uniform civil code. What has happened to these three planks in the election campaigning immediately after the national agenda? So, that has become the hidden agenda. I am damn sure that these three agendas will come up. Now, it is being kept under the carpet and it will come out after getting the Confidence Vote. So, I would like to enlighten the partners of the BJP allies that if the national agenda for governance is silent in respect of all these three issues, these will emerge as the three main important issues in the coming days.

So, they will be forced to repel at that time. I would like to say something regarding *Hindutva*. The BJP always sails on *Hindutva*. What is meant by *Hindutva*? Sir, *Hindutva* is a glorious tradition which is an electric and cosmopolitan tradition of our country. Sir, I feel it is. Since the BJP is following that *Hindutva* tradition, I would say that "Sarvadharmā Sambhav" is the hallmark of the tradition. "Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam" which has already been mentioned means that the whole world is one family. The *Hindutva* is always identified with liberalism and tolerance. We are witness to December 6, 1992 incident.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri N.K. Premchandran, kindly conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Sir, I am concluding. Does BJP follow the principal of *Hindutva*? I would like to say, Sir, 'No'. They are always

misinterpreting the principles of *Hindutva* for political advantages. That is what is happening in the country. In their election campaign, all these measures have been used for getting votes. Immediately after getting the votes and getting the majority here, that is, getting more seats in Parliament, they have combined their front. A national agenda has been formed. It is a hidden agenda and it will again come up which is clear from the Sangh Parivar leader's statement about which it has already been said.

Sir, I conclude with the words of the hon. Prime Minister. We all respect him. There is no doubt about it. The disrespect is done by the senior General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party by saying that he is a mask. We never say about him in such a way. So, I would like to conclude with the words of the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Shri Vajpayee in his speech on the first Confidence Motion in the Eleventh Lok Sabha said and I quote "Democracy rests on moral ethics. Basically, that is a morality based system."

I oppose this Motion only because this BJP led front is lacking moral ethics and moral principles. It is lacking majority also. Hence, I once again strongly oppose the Motion of Confidence. It is being laid before this House by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonipat): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the Confidence Motion moved by the hon'ble Prime Minister.

Not only on my behalf, but on behalf of my party also(Interruptions)

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Which Party? What are your conditions?

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Haryana Lok Dal Rashtriya Party, the party of Chaudhury Devi Lal is supporting the hon'ble Prime Minister Vajpayeeji from outside. I greet him and congratulate him whole heartedly on behalf of our hon'ble Leader, freedom fighter, former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhury Devi Lalji. From the present political scenario and the way the Lok Sabha is constituted, it is evident that today the Nation has given much importance to the regional parties. Our Party, Haryana Lok Dal Rashtriya Party too is a regional party. In the elections we have contested against the two fronts of Haryana that are today present in the Lok Sabha. Here, we are supporting the Government of Bharatiya Janata Party and in Haryana Bharatiya Janata Party has an alliance with Haryana

Vikas Party. Their coalition Government is working in Haryana, politically we are on the opposite sides of the square there, we have difference of opinions and the people of Haryana have voted in the favour of Chaudhury Devi Lal's Party, the party of Chautala Saheb, and have given mandate against that Government. Owing to which today, our four fellowmen are sitting amidst all of you. Despite of differences of opinions and clashes keeping the National interest in view, we have given unconditional support to the Bhartiya Janata Party.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : This is what it seems to be, but what is lying under the carpet?

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : You better know what is under the carpet. My friend Mulayam Singhji and Congress leaders are suspicious of it, but I want to submit that this agreement is unconditional. This is Chaudhury Devi Lal's Party. He is honest to his words. He believes from the core of his heart that today there is no leader like Vajpayeeji and that he should become the Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, his words and deeds are not like that of our Congress fellowmen. Roots of our Party are not new. Many times we agreed with them and supported them and many times we broke off but we never compromised with Congress and we are determined not to do the same in future. We are supporting the Bharatiya Janata Party only in the interest of the Nation and expect nothing in return. We are not doing it rapaciously.

The phase through which the whole Nation passing is truly a matter of deep concern for Vajpayeeji. Because of poverty, unemployment, corruption and political instability, the Nation today is passing through the hard times in every sphere. Sir, through you I want to make a humble submission that some problems are such that can be solved by negotiation. Our Haryana region too has some problems of its own. 32 years ago in 1966 Haryana became a separate state and it was the outcome of Chaudhury Devi Lalji's efforts. Today, even after 32 years, the matters regarding territory, water, capital and border disputes are still pending. Sir, through you, I want to tell the Congress brethren and the countrymen that many other states too have the regional problems related to the water and borderlines, but it has been the history of Congress till date that it at first creates problems then make them complicated and then keeps them pending. Today all the problems that are pending are but a gift from Congress. As George Fernandes ji have said that of the 50 years of

[Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan]

freedom atleast for 45 years the Congress has ruled the Nation. Therefore, all these problems are created by the Congress.

The matters regarding capital of Haryana, regional disputes and the matter of water dispute are still unresolved and pending. I have full faith in Atal Behari Vajpayeeji, who has the ability and understanding, he will definitely solve these problems of Haryana state, pending for the last 32 years. The main problem of our region is regarding water. Today, the people of Haryana are longing for a drop of water. But the most tormenting thing is that other regions can have disputes with one another but our share of water for which we are having the dispute, is going to Pakistan but Haryana is not being given its due share.

Our share of water is going to Pakistan. Punjab province is like our elder brother. We consider it as our elder brother but every man fight for his own rights. If that water be diverted to Haryana instead of Pakistan, then it will quench the thirst of craving land of Haryana and the peasants will prosper. These are some burning questions. These very old problems of our country are pending. I have full faith in the Government of Atal Behari Vajpayee ji that it will address itself to these problems and provide water and electricity to the peasants and the poor people of Haryana. Besides today eighty per cent of the population is(Interruptions)

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Just now you were saying it was an unconditional support(Interruptions)

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : This is not a condition.....(Interruptions) Putting forward one's own problems is not a condition(Interruptions) I am putting forward the problems faced by the people of Haryana(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Sir, you have assigned two minutes time for me. There are a lot of problems.....(Interruptions)

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : What about Bansilalji, what had he done(Interruptions)

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Bansilalji will perish under his own weight(Interruptions) We do not have any condition. Bansilalji's misdeeds will itself cause his fall. We need not to say anything to him.....(Interruptions) I was saying that eighty percent

of population depends on agriculture. Today peasant's condition is very bad. Government of Punjab have enacted a good paragon. The peasant there get free water and electricity and in our manifesto, we too promised to give free water and electricity to the peasants, if we could get a chance to form our government in Haryana. There is a reference to Agricultural policy in the National Agenda. Although nothing has been written in detail in the Agenda but I have full faith that many new schemes will be made for agriculture and the peasants.

It has appeared in the press today that there is a proposal to fix the procurement price of what at Rs. 455 per quintal. Whereas the scientists of Haryana Agricultural University after conducting a survey have suggested that the procurement price should be fixed at Rs. 675 per quintal.

I, therefore, request Shri Vajpayeeji to enhance the procurement price of wheat to 700 rupees per quintal for the benefit of peasants of Haryana as well as of the country. It has also become necessary in view of the hefty increase in the prices of agricultural inputs such as diesel, fertilizers and pesticides. Apart from this there is acute shortage of water and electricity also. Hence peasants should be given remunerative price for their produce.

No section of this country can prosper unless peasants prosper. So, the peasants should be provided electricity and water and remunerative prices for their produce. This is my submission to you.

There are a lot of other problems, related to flood and excessive moisture in soil etc. The Rail Budget was presented yesterday and because of the paucity of time, we could not get time to air our views but in this context I would like to draw your attention to a problem of Haryana region. I feel that the Department of Railways has no map of Haryana. There is not mention of Haryana in the map of the Railways. The Department of Railways has not undertaken any project or laid new railway lines in Haryana since independence. Delhi is our capital and it is encircled on three sides by Haryana. At least ten lakhs of people come to Delhi from Haryana everyday. They come for jobs, business and some bring milk and vegetables. They are forced to travel in inhuman conditions. They all are decent and literate. So, I request you to solve their problems. I am not going to make a high flying demand. I only request you to kindly attach an additional compartment or introduce an additional train in order to solve their problem as ten lakh people will be benefited by that.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to dispel the impression which some of our colleagues have that we are giving support from outside only. I give an assurance in this House that we are ready to sit in opposition than to back out Shri Vajpayeeji.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, I call Shri R.K. Hedge. He is absent; then, Shri Banatwalla - absent; Dr. Jayanta Rongpi-absent; Shri Hannan Mollah - absent; Shri Sultan Owaisi- absent ; Shri Anand Mohan - absent. Shri M.A. Naqvi

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, thinking that the House will sit only up to nine o'clock and their turn will come tomorrow, they have all left.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of the Motion. In this election people of every religion, every caste and every community have given their mandate to BJP and its allies for forming the government at the Centre. Last time during debate on confidence Motion of Atalji's Government, I remember, the so called secular minded people had expressed their concern as to how many persons of North East, South and Muslims and minorities are attached with BJP. I am listening to this debate from morning itself. Secular minded senior leaders have participated in this debate. Today, the BJP and its allies have got a good success in North East as well as in South. I am a muslim myself and got elected from muslim dominated area of Rampur on BJP's ticket.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : Apart from you how many have got elected
.....(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : How many are there in the Congress(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are disturbing every time. There is limit to everything.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA (Etawah) : Not a single member of congress party got elected from U.P.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members are requested not to disturb like this. This is not good.

SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI : A leader of a so called secular party has given a statement in a Paper that if a single muslim wins election on BJP ticket he will support them in forming the Government at the Centre. Judging by the landmark success of BJP and its allies in North East, the way it has got support of every religion, Caste and community of this country, the way it has won the confidence of minorities, I hoped that the members of opposition, the so called secular elements, would welcome this gesture of the electorate. Last time they had expressed their concern but this time I am sorry to say that even when the BJP has got massive support in the entire country and when it has won the Confidence of the people of all castes and religions, it is deplorable that they failed to accept this mandate. The reality is that the so called secular people sitting in the opposition have ruled the country for fifty years. They have created a phobia of BJP and phobia of communalism among the minorities. I feel that in order to exploit any sect or anybody, fear psychosis is created in their mind which they did by creating phobia of BJP among the muslims and minorities. Because it is a natural phenomena that fear makes a man weak which compound to his exploitation. They have created this fear among muslims and made them weak and ultimately politically exploited them till date. They are mainly concerned that their business of political exploitation is in the verge of collapse. Today the BJP has formed a government at the Centre. Since it is a stable government they cannot say that if BJP forms a Government at the Centre, it will adversely affect the Muslims.

Sir, I belong to the Muslim community and I do have faith in my religion but I feel elated with pride in saying that I am the son of this soil and nationalist to the core of my heart. I say it with pride that those who call themselves son of the soil are a true Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Christian. But this is the misfortune of our so called secular people, who, in the name of secularism have ruled over this country so far. Those political parties, who in the name of secularism have been gaining political mileage out of that have created such a situation for the minorities that they feel hesitated to call themselves a nationalist. They have created such a feeling in the mind of Muslims that they hesitate in calling themselves sons of Mother India. Today the Muslims are confronted with the problems of unemployment, education, honour and equality. The Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his allies will solve the problems of minorities expeditiously and

[Shri Mukhtar Naqvi]

with top priority to which you couldn't do during the last 50 years. You have exploited them. You have exploited the muslims vote for your political purposes. But BJP did not believe in such things. I believe that in this hour of crisis it is clear that the mandate is in favour of BJP and its allies. My submission is :

"De raha hai aadmi ka dard jab awaz dar dar,
Chup rahe tum to,
Kaho sara Zamana kya kahega,
Jab baharon ko khada nilaam
Patjhad kar raha,
Tum rahe Khamosh to
Yah aashiyana kya kahega."

Hon'ble Sir, in this hour of crisis when their so called views on secularism are dismantling the fabric of nationalism of this country, please do not remain silent spectatre, strengthen this wave and the fabric and nationalism of the country.

It will pave the way for the welfare of Muslims, Hindus and the country also.

I have been elected from Rampur Parliamentary Constituency. 50% of the population there is Muslim. Bharatiya Janata Party never had a stronghold there. It has contested the elections there with great difficulties. While I was contesting from this constituency, these so called secular people from Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajvadi Party, who pretend to be friends of Muslims, supported the Congress candidate by withdrawing the name of their own candidate. I am unable to recall the name of any Parliamentary constituency other than Rampur where the security deposit of both Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajvadi Party has been forfeited. They tried their best that the BJP's muslim candidate should not win because in case BJP's muslim candidate wins, they won't be able to challenge that Bharatiya Janata Party is not having the Muslim candidate and candidates from South, West and North East are also not there in BJP. But their strategy has failed miserably and Bharatiya Janata Party started their winning spree from Muslim majority area. Today we have won one seat and I would like to assure my countrymen that after evaluating performance of Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies for just six months,

all the apprehensins about BJP in Muslim minds would be belied and a large number of Muslims candidates would represent Bharatiya Janata Party in this House.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, when the discussion on the Motion of Confidence is going on, they are questioning the credibility of the Government. They want the Government to prove its majority. But no opposition leader is there. Please see this side. We are all sitting. Please also see that side which is totally vacant.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Kurien, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

.....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI : We have had enough discussion on Communalism and secularism in this House. The way these issues have been portrayed in the country is a matter of concern for all of us. Bharatiya Janata Party has been accused of being communal while they have promoted themselves as secular. They have just misled the people to get the votes. I would like to tell that this politics of secularism promoted against Bharatiya Janata Party is to secure the votes only.

In 1977 when Shri Vajpayee was appointed as Foreign Minister, at that time also these so called secular forces expressed their concern over his links with Jan Sangh saying that it will create problems for Muslims and deteriorate our relations with Islamic countries. But you might remember that the Islamic People, even Pakistan accept that our relations with them were at best during the tenure of Atalji as External Affairs Minister. Islamic countries realise it even today. I conclude while supporting the Confidence Motion.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna) : The people have given the mandate in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Out of a total of forty M.P.s from Madhya Pradesh, thirty belong to the BJP. Shri Ajit Jogi from Madhya Pradesh has expressed his views just now. I would like to say that members of the party which has won majority in Madhya Pradesh should also be given a chance to express their views in this House. I, Ramanand Singh from Madhya Pradesh want to express my views in this House. Please allow me to speak just for five minutes.....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the electorate of this country have given their mandate in recent Lok Sabha elections and clearly it is in favour of formation of Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. This is the reason why the allies of BJP had given letters in support of the BJP to the hon. President. It is really very sad that the whole opposition is absent at the time when this Motion of Confidence is being discussed. They do not want to listen to anybody. There are still some members to speak. Prominent members are leaving the House after making their speeches.....(Interruptions) It is my maiden speech, please listen to me. Overall, the mandate given by the public is that a national political party with the support of regional parties should form the government i.e. the national leaders and regional leaders should collectively run the government. An efficient Government constituted under the able leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, should be given a chance.

Sir, today the whole country is looking towards the Parliament. Public is well aware of the development made by the earlier Governments which ruled here for the last 50 years. Voters had not given mandate in favour of the Congress party during the last two Lok Sabha elections. Their calculative moves might have helped them in managing the numbers in their favour but the whole country had been a witness to their plight. I did not want to say so but I would like to tell those people, who are opposing this motion of Confidence that during the Janata Party regime, people got sugar for Rs. 2.25 per Kg and now salt is being sold for Rs. 5.50 per Kg. I do not know on what grounds are they opposing this Motion of Confidence.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has made his intentions clear before the country through the National Agenda and the President's Address, that he is trying to run the Government with consensus of all the political parties. But the whole country is witnessing the role being played by the opposition for the last two-three days. On what grounds are they criticising us? They are a bundle of contradictions. I was surprised to listen to the speech of Mulayam Singh Yadav ji. Laluji has already left. They are opposing this Government. I seek a clarification from them as to whether they can support the Congress party openly? Mandate is in favour of BJP and its allies. Have they got the mandate for formation of the Government? Do they want another mid-term poll? Are they ready for it? Are they interested in allowing a Government to function in this country or not?

Sir, our Government will work as per the national agenda presented here. What has been said in the

manifesto of the BJP is a separate thing, the National Agenda before the country is an authentic document. On what points are they opposing this national agenda, I would like to know from some leader from the opposition party. They may have apprehensions on BJP's viewpoints on secularism which has been mentioned in the National Agenda. I would like to know as to what objections do they have if the Prime Minister has made a mention of secularism in this document. Hon. Prime Minister has stated that secularism has been an inseparable part of our culture and civilization and this process and system will continue in future also.

A mention has been made in the National Agenda that assistance would be provided to the deprived and weaker sections. During the rule of previous Governments, rich became more rich and poor persons did not get any assistance. What is their objection in the point of providing assistance to the deprived and the weaker sections. There is rampant corruption in the Public Distribution System. What is their objection if a mention has been made to improve this system. What is the objection in increasing the opportunities of employment. A mention has been made to increase investment in infrastructural sector and more people are proposed to be provided housing facilities. What is their objection in increasing expenditure on education or in providing free education to women upto the level of graduation. Let them clarify their objections to it.

An announcement has been made to provide drinking water. Congress Government had stated in the document of the Third Five Year Plan that drinking water will be provided in every village of the country but that promise could not be fulfilled during the last Eight plans. Now the whole country is confident that if Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government remains in power for five years, it would provide drinking water in all the villages. The country has full faith in the hon. Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what was the fate of the National Population Policy which was formulated and implemented during emergency? What is objectionable in it if the Government wants to formulate a population policy. Even after 50 years of independence, the children are selling lottery tickets and groundnut. What schemes have been formulated for them so far. Why do you object to it if a visionary like Atal Bihari Vajpayee has proposed to formulate a national policy for the poor children. You had also been talking about providing 33 per cent reservation to women in local bodies, legislative assemblies and Lok Sabha for a long time. What is the problem in

[Shri Ramanand Singh]

passing it. Now the hon. Prime Minister has given assurance to get this Bill passed. Let us get this Bill passed so that women could be given their due right. Much is being said about 'Daughter of India' and 'Daughter-in-law of India. The daughter of India, Mamata Banerjee, who was expelled by Congress party is also with us and supporting the BJP Government. She fought for welfare of poor for a long time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government has proposed to increase gross domestic product by eight percent and remove unemployment. What is the harm in it? The Government has proposed to spend 60 per cent of total plan expenditure on agriculture. The country is on verge of starvation. Farmers have been betrayed. How these people responsible for killing 29 farmers are opposing Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Sarkaria Commission was constituted to check misuse of the office of Governor and the present Government has proposed to implement its recommendations. Just now hon. Prime Minister has stated that no state government will be dismissed with any malintention. Some state Governments are not functioning properly and those should be dismissed immediately. But he is the first hon. Prime Minister who has not tried to dismiss the governments formed by regional parties in various states. There is a proposal to constitute a commission for backward areas. The demands for creation of separate Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhatisgarh states is being raised due to regional imbalances(Interruptions) I would like to make a suggestion to the Prime Minister that another commission for reorganisation of states should be constituted to deal with this problem. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. I rise to support the motion of Confidence which was moved by the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji in the House. I fully support this motion on my behalf and on behalf of my party, Shiv Sena. I got the opportunity of becoming member of this House for 18 months in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Now, I again got the opportunity of becoming member of the House. I remember discussion which was held on the Motion of Confidence in the previous Lok Sabha with regard to which the Prime Minister has also made a mention in his speech while moving his Motion of Confidence. When he put forward this proposal before the House as Prime Minister in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, the present Information and Broadcasting Minister, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj laid one healthy tradition of directly telecasting proceedings

of Lok Sabha on Doordarshan. I remember that moment when Prime Minister rose to reply the motion of Confidence, there was pindrop silence in the House. Crores of people in the country glued to their T.V. sets were watching discussion. They were listening to the speech of Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayeeji as if they were witnessing one day cricket match. At that time every citizen was listening to the viewpoint of Shri Atalji on T.V with riveted attention. At that time I was present here as a member of the House. I felt that Atalji would say that he would prove his majority here. But he said that he was unable to prove majority and therefore was going to tender his resignation to the President. The eyes of those millions of people who were listening his speech became moist(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Tears were not shed.

SHRI RAM NAIK : You are making fun over this issue. When any non-Hindi speaking person speaks in Hindi language you should encourage him. Why are you making fun of him. There should be some courtesy. It seems as if you have shed all the courtesy.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on that day feeling of crores of people of this country were hurt. You are taking this issue here lightly but it is a fact that feelings of crores of people were hurt. Even the poorest person, an auto rickshaw driver wants that Shri Vajpayee ji should be the Prime Minister and today the time has come when Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has become Prime Minister and he will be Prime Minister of this country for five years.

You will come to know this.....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down. It is not good to interfere during discussion. If you want to say something then you should say properly. You should not interfere when some other member is speaking.

.....(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, tomorrow there will be voting on Confidence Motion but today itself it seems as if he has got Confidence vote because those leaders of opposition who have expressed their opinion on Confidence vote earlier, are not present here. They know that Atalji is going to win confidence vote. Though it would be confirmed tomorrow but coming events are casting their shadow.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the leader of opposition Shri Sharad Pawar was speaking, he made a mention about riots in Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai. He

also made a mention of Babri Masjid and Shri Krishna Commission report. When he was speaking, we tried to interrupt him and asked that when riots took place, who was in power in Maharashtra and who was the Chief Minister there? I would like to tell that Congress was in power in Maharashtra and Shri Sharad Pawar himself was the Chief Minister at that time. What his government has done? At the time of riots in Mumbai, the Government did not take any measures to control the situation(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Let Shri Krishna Commission report come. People will come to know the truth.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : The report of Shri Krishna Commission would definitely come but the people of Mumbai know this fact if anybody has saved Mumbai, he is Shiv Sena Chief Bala Saheb Thackeray. When there were riots in Maharashtra, Government was not doing anything to control the situation. Shiv Sena Chief Bala Saheb Thackeray saved Mumbai. The Shiv Sena workers went throughout Maharashtra and brought the situation under control. This message was rightly received by the people of Mumbai. In such a difficult situation when Mumbai was burning, nobody had the courage to go there. 12 bombs were exploded at different places in one day. Thousands of people were injured and hundreds died. Property worth crores of rupees was destroyed. But the then Chief Minister, who is now Leader of the Opposition did not respond to the situation. Truth will come to light when the report of Shri Krishna Commission will be presented and discussed in the Legislative Assembly. We are not worried about this report.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are worried that when Vajpayeeji is going to win the confidence vote in 12th Lok Sabha, our members from Maharashtra are less in number in comparison to the number of our members in the 11th Lok Sabha. Not only we, but the 10 crore people of Maharashtra are feeling distressed that they could not support the Vajpayee Government by sending the number of Members which should be there from Maharashtra. I do agree with the proposition of the Leader of Opposition that they have gained substantially in Maharashtra in Lok Sabha elections. But I would like to forward him that only Lok Sabha elections have been held in Maharashtra and after two years when Assembly elections would be held, Congress would be routed out completely there. I would not like to go into the details as to what happened and how it happened during the Lok Sabha election but people are grieved on this outcome. Common men and voters there are

worried. Unfortunately we are less in number. It is said that Maharashtra did not support this time. Had Maharashtra supported fully, there would not have been any need to seek a confidence vote. Entire Maharashtra is concerned about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, allegations are levelled here. I would like to ask my colleagues in the opposition who are opposing the confidence vote that if BJP and its allies would not form the Government, then who else will form it. Will the Congress or United Front form the Government? Who will form the Government? The President took right decision to invite Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to form the Government. The Government which is formed today will definitely win the confidence vote tomorrow. Today it is being opposed and charges are being levelled against it but it will certainly remain in power. United Front Government was an alliance of 14 parties but we have 18 parties with us. Four of our friends are supporting us from outside. It is a Government of 18 parties. I would like to tell my colleagues in opposition that the alliance of these 18 parties is concoction of 18 herbs and will complete its full term of 5 years. You don't worry about it. I would like to assure the House that the present Government will run for 5 years and will be re-elected next time also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot can be said but there is a time limit. I have two-three more minutes to speak.....(*Interruptions*) I support because....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Your time is going to be over.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I still have three minutes to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude soon.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Leader of the Opposition has given speech here. Kumari Mamata Banerjee and Shri George have rightly replied to them. They just make allegations and nothing else. Three Governments came into power in 18 months. Deve Gowda Government and Gujral Government were formed with the support of the Congress. Congress should be answerable as to why these two governments collapsed. People want to know as to why the support to Deve Gowda and Gujral governments was withdrawn. Surprisingly, the Leader of the Opposition has not mentioned about Jain Commission in his speech over the report of which Lok Sabha was dissolved.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am controlling myself.....(*Interruptions*) but when Congress leaders go out for election campaign and get defeated in elections.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Your time is over.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I will obey your orders. Since long the leaders of Congress Party

have tried to mislead the public and that is what they are going to do even today. I thank you for allowing me to speak and I support the Government led by Shri Vajpayee. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to support this Motion of Confidence.

22.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of
the Clock on Saturday, March 28, 1998/
Chaitra 7, 1920 (Saka)*
