

related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Action Taken by the Departments of Biotechnology, Electronics and Ocean Development on Committee's Thirty-fourth, Thirty-second and Thirty-fifth Reports on Demands for Grants (1996-97) respectively.

11.08 hrs.

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move :

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

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I am putting forth this point before the House, I am well aware that the term of my Government is beginning today, therefore it would be better to talk of days to come since it would be suiting the occasion and praiseworthy too. But whenever we talk about policies and days to come in India, it becomes necessary to glance at the past and it is easy too, specially in the year when India is celebrating fiftieth anniversary of its independence, a number of people like me and Chandra Shekharji are present in the House who have participated in the freedom struggle of India. That was Uinque moment.

Only yesterday, I visited Gandhi Memorial. Where Shri Bommaiiji had made arrangements for bringing some papers related to Gandhiji which have been made public today. While talking about Gandhi, I started recalling some fond memories of my life. I would like to reiterate which I have already said that I had the first glimpse of Gandhiji at the age of 11 years. The session of congress was going on in Lahore where Gandhiji had come and I heard him as a child he was uttering that India must get freedom this time. This occasion cast an impression on my thought. I had said one more thing about Gandhiji. When Gandhiji said about starting Dandi March, my parents were already attached to him. The day on which satyagrah was to be started, some friends came to met my father that evening. My father was an advocate, and they were good friends of my father. I always remember what one of his friends uttered to him, "you are an educated person, that old fellow has gone mad because he thinks that this strong Government will fall down by making a pinch of salt. Now, I remember those utterances as to how the pinch of salt had changed the history of India because the pinch of salt had given a new turn to our traditions. It had taken a pledge from the countrymen that we will

remain faithful to the religion propounded by Gandhiji i.e. Satyagraha, non-violence and friendship.

Some newspapers had written about me that I have nostalgia of Lahore. I accept that it is true. My first nostalgia is that I had seen the session of Congress and whenever I go to Lahore, I remember three places very much. One of them being Central Jail where my father was prisoned, Secondly women's Jail where my mother was prisoned and the third children's jail where I was kept. Whenever I visit these places, I remember all the fond memories and traditions and think as to how many promises we have been able to fulfil and how many are still to be fulfilled.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had uttered a very important thing from this seat which he termed 'tryst with destiny. Talking about Jawaharlal Nehru is like lighting the course of the Sun. Now, I can claim that our policies have been formulated on the promises which were made by Jawaharlal Nehru and to which he always sticked and again the policies likely to be formulated by this Government will find inspiration from 'trust with destiny' made by Jawaharlal Nehru. Those promises are promises made by the country and not the promises made by congress party, neither by a tradition nor by any particular community. Atalji, Jaswantji, Chandra Shekharji and a number of names are covered by the same promise.

Today, I am on my legs to say only one thing that when I ask for your vote, I ask it in the name of confidence, to fulfil those promises which are witness to all the past and traditions having roots of secunlarism.

I remember one more thing. The session of congress party was going on. Since my father was in congress men, he took me also with him; then I was a child. For the first time Congress passed a resolution that since this country is a country of diversities, its unity will remain in diversity. The people have different religions, different langwages and wear different dresses, still we are one. The promise made during the Congress session to maintain that unity still exists. That time congress or Parliamentary congress was a platform, a movement which was leading the country towards the freedom. They were named as secularism afterwards. We started saying that there is unity in diversity irrespective of religion, place of residence and language. I make another promise in the name of this unity and that is — this Government will uphold all the traditions of secularism. But the secularism has not take help of revivalism. If we look back, we find that we have strong roots, we have own culture about which we are proud but with that we have to look forward. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru used to say that we should think scientifically. We should not wonder on the lighting of a bulb but we should explain a child as to how the bulb lits up. It is not a matter of surprise, it is scientific temper. Much before Gandhiji, Buddha was born in the country. I always remember a thing said by lord Buddha

[English]

"Do not believe me because I say so. Do not believe it because in such and such a book it is so written. Always question" That questioning mind is what is called scientific temper.

[Translation]

And for that purpose, my third promise is that we have to had the country towards scientific temper.

I promise you one thing more. This country is of poor and down trodden people, who have been deprived of justice for the ages. To be untouched was considered their fault. Not to talk of touching them, even their shadow was considered unholy. We have been trying to remove it for the last fifty years and have succeeded in it, but not to that extent. Untouchability has not been removed from the country. It now would not be fine to say that scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes people have got their rights. Therefore, it would be the endeavour of my Government to provide justice these backward people who have been dinoted justice for the ages, whether it is called social justice or socialism or any other name, our country cannot progress until all of us unit no matter to which caste or religion, history we belongs.

One thing should also be kept in mind that we people think that we are kind to some are if are gets his right. We cannot be kind to any body. This country belongs to all. This House represents this democratic country. This House represents those traditions which India wants to cherish and would continue to cherish and I also want to contribute in it. So, I want to make one more promise for the progress of the country that we have established new traditions in this country. We make national casually on the fundamental issues. We talk of national consensus even in foreign policy. We should try to make national consensus in respect of economic policy also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, basically in democracy we cannot see profit in respect of everything. In democracy we argue on common things. We may have same opinion or divergent opinion on some issues. But we are not enemy of each other. We may have different opinions, but we don't oppose each other. The same relation should continue and this is the way of running the democracy. I would try that this tradition may be maintained. The country would progress if this tradition is maintained. Today the country was entered the age of coalition. There is coalition everywhere. It was there in the Government of Atalji and also in other Governments.

It is easy to form coalition Government, but it takes time to learn the culture of coalition Government. Today when the Government are formed and fall I see it with positive attitude that at last we have decided politically to make coalition Government but we have to learn how to behave with each other, how to fulfilled promises, how to co-operate with one another and not to do any-

thing for which we have to feel sorry. Many a times I feel disappointed, but we should not give up hope. We have to find a way out of this state of despair.

There are many problems before us which require consensus, my friend Mr. Soz is here who represents Kashmir. Kashmir has taken a new turn today. Election has been conducted there, Government have been formed and members are representing the people. It does not mean that the tribulations have ended. They are still there. When I address my brothers, they also include my sister. When I am talking about Sushmaji, I want talk about women. Women have not received their due in this country. It is a reality. We may say that it is written in our religion, but women have not received their due in politics. It would be my endeavour that women receive their due. Gandhiji had also said it many a times. When Governments were formed for the first time in the year 1937...*(Interruptions)* Why are you talking ...*(Interruptions)*.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Women are expressing their happiness on your point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I am saying one more thing. When the Government were formed in the year 1937 for the first time during the British rule, Gandhiji had insisted on two things. One thing, he had said that there would not be any Government in which there was no woman Minister. Second thing, he had said that there would not be any such Government in which there was no Minister belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. We have to fulfil what Gandhi had demanded for. I am saying these things basically...*(Interruptions)* I am promising you one thing more that we should not forget that the population of the country has been increasing rapidly. There is no clock in my room so far but early when I used to go to the room of the Prime Minister, there was a population clock there. When I used to see the current date of population, I would not sleep the whole night. Today, our population is more than 95 crores. We have talked much that we would do this and that. We have achieved success to same extent, but not to the required extent. One thing should be kept in mind that family planning would succeed only when women would get their right. The illiteracy among women would not end until we create an atmosphere in the society for sending women to schools and colleges. I also promise you and I would try to go to that side...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : When the Prime Minister speaks, you should listen carefully.

[Translation]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : One more thing should also be kept in mind. Once there was a Conference in Sweden and the issue of environment was raised in that. At that time I was the Housing Minister. I also had the opportunity of accompanying Indiraji. One thing has

[Shri I.K. Gujral]

emerged there that pollution and poverty are the two sides of the same coin and our environment cannot be improved until we remove poverty. So, as long as poverty would be there we cannot remove illiteracy. Someone had said :

[English]

"Tell me one country which has literacy and is backward, and tell me another country which has illiteracy and is advanced."

[Translation]

We would also have to promise that we would pay particular need towards literacy. I would not speak in details but briefly.

I was associated with the earlier Government that Government had formulated a foreign policy. You all are supporting me in regard to that foreign policy. One same foreign policy would continue, we would go ahead with the same foreign policy. New relations would be established with the help of it. When I sat in my office for five minutes today, I received messages and telephone from our neighbouring countries. It is part of the changed atmosphere which we admire. It has not been done by me.

It has been done with your consensus and it would be the basic policy of this country to maintain consensus. We have made that consensus on our policies and also to go ahead with them. Consensus has taken the place above social justice in our country.

Fortunately, there is no such party, which does not agree with it we have to take more steps in this regard. I want to make one or two more promises.

One promise is this that till I remain Prime Minister in this Government, it would be transparent. It would try to be accountable. Whenever you would like to know anything. I would not mind that. Whenever you would say that we have committed mistake - many mistakes are committed honestly, I would ask for your indulgence for that and you can criticise us for the mistakes committed with bad intentions and for that I would take the responsibility of each of my colleague I would not protect any of my colleague for that. At the same time I would not allow witch hunting in this country. That atmosphere would not be created.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the need of saying that witch hunting will not be allowed. Has there been any witch hunting? It has happened so far? You want to hush up those pending cases by saying that witch hunting would not be allowed.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Atalji, I have been in power just for the last 24 hours. I have not seen the files ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai - North East) : You have repeated it twice...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : I have not yet seen the files.

If you had asked me about the file related to Bangladesh or C.T.B.T. I would have explained. But, let me see the relevant papers to enable me to report to your queries. That is why I am making a promise that after looking into the papers, whatever you ask me. I shall report and for that I shall be accountable to you.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Whenever the Congress Party has supported this Government, it has never asked and will never ask them to do anything in any case which the court will decide. We want to say that we have not decided it. These people were unnecessarily saying that.

[Translation]

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev could not understand my utterances in Hindi. I have never said that some body has recommended it to me.

I have never said that I have raised my finger towards anyone. I don't know what he understands ...*(Interruptions)* I am speaking in Hindi or Urdu. Today, we speak in a different language. I can neither call it Hindi...*(Interruptions)*. The language in which I am interacting with you is the language of communication and I am using the same one.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt like that.

[Translation]

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : I must make one thing very clear that the farming community is the very basis and pride of this nation. As long as this Government keeps its close rapport with the farmers of India, safeguard their interests and makes earnest efforts for their welfare, it would be stable and become more strong. I solemnly assure the farmers and mill workers who toil throughout the day to earn their livelihood that the Government would pay more attention to their grievance than before.

I would not speak at length now. In the evening, when all brothers would have expressed their views, I would speak.

[English]

I hope, Sir, you will give me another charge in the evening and I then will be able to meet these points.

[Translation]

At the moment, I would only like to say that our nation faced a challenge today i.e. the challenge of

internal as well as external stability. Internal stability could be achieved through social justice, secularism and communal harmony and external stability through mutual discussion and consensus. Before concluding, I would like to touch upon one basic point. This government will function as far as it is possible and perhaps little longer than possible. This would be possible only when we have consensus on the major issues. My friend Shri Chidambaram is sitting beside me and I would like to mention his name before I conclude.

[English]

And I hope, my message is reaching him through translation, otherwise I will speak in English.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : We will send him there.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Then I will speak in English. And I am speaking in English to appeal to him to please come back and take charge...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : He spoke from here last time when he was there. Now, he is sitting next to me...(Interruptions) He will be sent there...(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : He is welcome here.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Idukki) : Shri Somnath Chatterjee is the only obstruction for him to cross over to that side...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Secondly, I would like to appeal Shri Moopnar in this House. He may bear grudge against some people, who might have offended him. I had gone to see him, earlier, I again visited him in the morning also. I had quoted a Saying in Punjabi to him. In Punjabi, there is a saying, "Khare Dadhi Wala, Dakada Jaye Mooneltoon wala". It means to dark up the wrong tree. Why are you after me? What have I done?...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir, it is just opposite here, "Kiya Moonahlon Wale Ne Hai, Aur Pakada Dadhi Wala Gaya Hai"...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : I sincerely hope that my appeal will be reported to and I am very grateful and again repeat that the views put forth before you by me will be supported by the entire House. Thanks.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

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

At the outset, may I appeal to all the hon. Members who are participating in this debate to be very very brief? I think, it is the content of the speech and not the

length of the speech which the people are looking for. So, please be very brief.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of my party rise to oppose the confidence motion moved by the new Prime Minister of India, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral for discussion in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was viewing your interview on Doordarshan the day before yesterday in which you said that the 11th Lok Sabha of which you have got the privilege to become the Speaker, would be talked about for having taken up in maximum number of confidence motions...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sir, This is absolutely correct. Out of the nine confidence motions taken up so far four or five confidence motions have been taken up in this Lok Sabha only.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are absolutely correct. Infact, it is first time that a former Information and Broadcasting Minister has been elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Therefore, this Government has decided to make a serial on the confidence motion and we are here seeing the third episode of this serial...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving the confidence motion, the Prime Minister said in the very first sentence of his speech that it would be better if he spoke on some issues which may confront us in future. We heard these points but it would have been better if he had spoken on some past events. We all will see what this Government does in the future but he had better spoken about the events which led to the formation of this Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the events of past 10 days on the political front of this country are utterly shameful. The history of last 10 days is that of disloyalty. Those minister who are sitting on this side today...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, When I was entering the House on the day the confidence motion was to be moved, one journalist asked me as to what would happen that day, I had replied that either the Government would fall or loose its honour but, I had never imagined that the Government would fall one day and loose its honour the next day.

The same Government which fall on 11th April, after loosing its honour and indulged in open calamy of the largest democracy of the world, has resurrected again. Those minister who were swearing to swim and sink with Shri H.D. Devegowda in this very House, are today again sitting. On that side under the leadership of Shri Inder Kumar Gujral. It was not you and I alone who viewed the proceedings of that day, but millions of Indians also viewed it as it was telecast live on Doordarshan, Shri Ramvilas Paswan had vehemently opposed the demand of the congressmen to change the leader and questioned if it was a matter of fun to change the leader. I have with me the copy of his speech. I would like to read it out sentence by sentence.

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

On 11th April at 4.12 p.m. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan had said, "The Prime Minister of country is not like a hand-picked thing who can be changed at will. Shri Deve Gowda is the Prime Minister and the leader of the United Front. Can any leader level a charge against him. If still some people insist on change of the leader, I do not understand the reason." He had addressed this question to the congress members. I would like him to react on these utterances because such things cannot be said in a casual manner on the floor of the House. Today, the entire House want to know that when your train was running smoothly with Shri Deve Gowda you travelled alongwith him but when Shri Kesari stopped the train by pulling the chain, you spend no time in changing over to Gujral train. Can he cite the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN) : Sushmaji, what do you want to say. If tomorrow Shri Murli Manohar Joshi or Advaniji come in place of Shri Atalji, would you leave the party...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : It would not be so in this House as you have made fun with the country...(Interruptions) Not only Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Indrajit Gupta who is sitting on the front bench and was then the Home Minister I don't know what his portfolio will be in this Government — desired to be shifted from the Home Minister. His name may be 'Gupt', but he can not ride his sentiments and feelings. He speaks out what he feels inside. That day, he was ahead of all to cause the congress. I have got a copy of his speech with me. He started his speech at 9.18 p.m. here, his speech has been written verbatim.

[English]

"This Government is going now. That Ministry has been killed by the senseless, irresponsible action of the Congress Party. Its leadership has killed this Ministry, killed this experiment. So the blood of the United Front Ministry is on their head. They will have to pay for it."

[Translation]

I would like to ask Shri Indrajit Gupta whether he has colluded with those very pillers?

[English]

Have you colluded with the pillers?

[Translation]

He has not switched over the sides today. We had got an inkling on of his manoeuvrings the day his statement appeared in the news papers that Shri Deve Gowda and not the Congress Party, who responsible for the crisis. He had said in that statement that how the

Government could be run by ignoring 140 members party. Seeing him in this chair again our doubt has, today, changed into the truth. Not to talk of the ministers one by one; the Prime Minister Shri Inder Kumar Gujral himself is present here in this House. In his last speech, when Shri Deve Gowda had realised that those people who were supporting him in the House would stab him in the back the moment he left this House, he had sought a commitment on the floor of the House, and had given a piece of advice. A copy of Shri Deve Gowda's reply is here with me. His speech at 10.30 p.m. was nearing conclusion and he was saying :

[English]

"A Prime Minister of this country, whoever it may be, when once the honour and dignity of that Office goes, should not continue as a Prime Minister under the mercy of anybody. What is that we have to discuss again? With what courage do you want to go outside, Shri Gujral? Somebody wants to name you. You are the senior most leader. I accept it but not under this circumstance."

[Translation]

Shri Gujral had not given his concurrence just by nodding his head, instead he had said

[English]

"I fully agree with you"

[Translation]

I would like to ask Shri Gujral whether he still agrees with him. Has he not again become the Prime Minister at the mercy of those very people who had humiliated his leader Shri Deve Gowda one week before. In fact, the story of the formation of this Government is the story of the cheap human relations and the fact that has disturbed me most is that the characters of this story are not imaginary.

No fiction writer has written this novel. The Characters playing on the stage in this novel are none else but those great leaders of this country who claim themselves to be the helmsmen and custodians of the nation's bright future. Such a novel has been written in these 10 days, whereis every character is cheating another.

[English]

"Where every body was cheating every body"

[Translation]

A Kalyugi Ramayana has been written here with a pen of treachery and disloyalty in which Laxman grabed the kingdom of Rama.

When I used to come across these reports in the newspapers, I only used to murmer the following lines.

If Shri Deve Gowda could understand Hindi, he could have uttered that :

"Doston Ne Dosti Mein Is Kadar Ki Dushmani,
Dushmanon kei Dushmani ka Sab Gila Jata Raha"

Gujralji, the question which confronts me is what good this Government will do to the nation with such a background. As far as your personal credentials are concerned you are a nice person and also a personal friend of mine. Lalooji may claim hundreds of times that you are a resident of Patna but I am really proud that you a permanent resident of my Parliamentary constituency. My Parliamentary constituency has produced a Prime Minister for the country, but I feel less happy and more concerned on your assuming the office of the Prime Minister because you are a Prime Minister put into shackles. The United Front of which you are the leader, is not a cohesive unit instead, it is like a *Chakravyuh* (an impregnable battle array) wherein not one or two but as many as 14 parties are there in the front array, followed by two more fronts — Federal Front and Left Front and above all is a coordination committee to interest with the Congress Party. Your predicament is like that of a bridegroom in a joint family who had got a dozen parents in lane who keep squabbling with each other but the bridegroom has to keep all of them happy to prove herself nice. Gujral Sahib, I feel pity for you for your accepting this role. How would you be able to perform this role? You know that you are a confused Prime Minister on the political front entangled between the prosecution and the defence. One of your partners wants to entrap you, while the other wants to save themselves. Both of them have chosen you with their expectations. You have to live up to their expectations. But how would you be able to do that? On one hand you will be asked to expedite inquiry into Bofors scandal while on the other hand, you will be cautioned to protect 10-Janpath from coming under the cloud. Like wise you have to be beware of the threat from Shri Deve Gowda not to withdraw the cases against the Congressmen. On the other hand, you have to keep Shri Kesari and Shri Narasimha Rao in good humour. On one hand you have to honour the pressure from Shri Chaturanan Mishra while on the other, you have to protect the prestige of your president and kingmaker Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav.

How would you be able to do it? Therefore, I would like to ask you that on the economic front too...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, he would be placed in the same dilemma on the economic front too. They claim to give thrust to the economic reforms, but he will have to take along Shri Somnath and Dr. Manmohan Singh while deciding on the economic policy. He has to take into account West Bengal and the World Bank. How would he be able to bring about a reconciliation in these contradictory prepositions. Perhaps you are under the impression that the Congress Party has just committed the mistake of withdrawing support and it

would not repeat the same and therefore, his tenure will be enlarged. These goes a saying in English :

[English]

A wiseman learns from the experience of others.

[Translation]

Perhaps, in this House, everybody has vowed not to learn from the experiences of other. Everyone who took the support from the congress party was under the impression that it would not withdraw the support from him.

Shri Chandrashekhar did not learn from the experience of Sh. Charan Singh and Shri H.D. Deve Gowda did not take any lesson from the experience of Shri Chandrashekhar and you too did not take any pain to learn from the fresh experience of Shri Deve Gowdaji. Perhaps you do not know that the Congress support is like the story of Baital. The Baital mounts on the back...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might here heard the Baital story. He is carried on the back. Reaching halfway, he narrates a story and after completion of the story he asks a difficult question with a warning that if the king did not respond to his query, his head would be split into pieces and the moment the king starts to speak out, Baital flies away and sit on the tree. Thus, several times, Baital was carried on to the back and many a times he travelled halfway and asked irrelevant questions but the moment the king opened his mouth, Baital fled away from the back and sat on the tree. Therefore, I am wondering why you are under such an impression. It does not seem that they are at all worried about their credibility. Those who care for credibility take the decision after giving serious thought to its repercussions and the decisions of the congress are always motivated by pure self interest. Today Shri Rajesh is not present here in this House. That day he was speaking at a very high pitch that we criticise the Congress Party for being power hungry. He had added that the Congress Party was not power hungry and it was the Congress Party Government which finalised Punjab, Assam and Mizoram accords and handed over its Government to other political parties. Had Shri Rajesh Pilot been present here. I would have asked him as to why did he disclose half truth. This is not the first time, infact, he has repeated it so many times. But he should also tell that they finalised Kashmir accord but who toppled Farooq Abdullah Government? They signed Punjab accord but who topped Barnala Government? Assam accord was also signed by them but who toppled Prafula Mahanta Government? They also signed Mizoram accord but who dethroned Shri Laldenga? You talk of lust for power. You have become habitual of being in power for the last 40 years and you can not remain outside the power.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this time they missed the target. The decision of withdrawal of support was not taken for any other reason but with the intention...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order please.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this decision also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandani Chowk-Delhi) : They would teach politics to the Congress Party...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No Agarwal ji, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Have some patience. You must listen to others' point of view also.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this time. The decision was taken with the purpose that they would be able to grab to power after toppling this Government. However, the arrow did not strike the target and therefore, they changed their stand day after day. They said something in the morning and just opposite in the evening. One day, they said that they withdraw the support to the U.F. Government for their communal policies as they had not been able to contain communalism in the country. On the second day, they said that the U.F. was not communal. If your earlier stand was correct then why did you change it? Then they stated that Shri Devegowda was communal and not the U.F. The third day, they declared that he was moved by Shri V.P. Singh's request and what they said on the fourth day about Shri Devegowdaji, I do not want to repeat those utterances because of their being unparliamentary and indecent. The fifth day, they again changed their version and stated that they may continue to lend support to the United Front Government. The sixth day, they stated that they would withdraw the letter only after the U.F. changed - its leader. This was only after the President demanded categorically to explain their stand, otherwise there was no way out except to dissolve the House. Then, they had to give in writing. However, in between, they continued to make strategical moves to strike at an opportune moment and sit on the treasury benches. Sometimes they thought to join the U.F. Government, if they were not able to form their own Government. It is because of Shri Somnath Chatterjee's and Shri Naidu's rigid stance that they are sitting outside, otherwise they still want to jump on the treasury benches if it is possible at all. This story of fraud and treachery was not without basis. Shri Kesriji had spoken to Shri Laloo ji and Shri Moopnar. The story of fraud and treachery which I am referring to, is not without

basis. Shri Sitaram Kesri was cheating Shri Narasimha Rao and Shri Karunanidhi was doing the same with Shri Moopnar. Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav who declaring on the face of the camera to tell Chacha Kesari that the leader would not be changed and rather, the elections would be held. He had given a call to march towards the villages. On the other hand, he was collecting signatures for the change of the leader within his party. There was one bold leader who had refused to sign. Today he is out of the Cabinet. Shri Chandra Shekhar was terming it an international conspiracy. Had it been an international conspiracy, the most close foreign Minister of Russia would not have been made the Prime Minister. The lust for power and compulsion to get exonerated from the cases was the only reason for the withdrawal of support. One question was repeatedly asked on the 11th April by every leader of the opposition parties as to why the support was withdrawn but no reply came forth. But, today I again ask them as to why the support has been given this time. They should respond to this question. There was a four page charge sheet given at the time of withdraw of support.

At least tell us four clauses of the secret M.O.U. signed today. Mr. Speaker Sir, just now our hon. new Prime Minister was making a mention about stability. He was saying that it would be a stable Government. Gujral ji, before you start your vehicle Moopnar ji has punctured the front wheel, the vehicle has not yet started. The leader of Tamil Mahila Congress, Shri P. Chidambaram is present here. He is the most talked about, popular, the creator of the modern budget and the modern dream budget, Finance Minister. I would like to know from hon. Chidambaramji.

[English]

Was it your baby? You, always said, "It was my baby." Today, the baby is crying. Why is the father out of the house?

[Translation]

What sort of a Government it is? Just now the hon. Prime Minister was saying that it would run as far as possible. But how a vehicle having wheels of different sizes would move. I know the reply that not only it would move rather it would run. It would run to keep the B.J.P. out of power, to contain the communalism and to strengthen the secularism. These logics would be put forth and such replies would come. These logics are being given from 28th May, 1996 till 12th April, 1997. There is only one melody and one apprehension that the B.J.P. would come to power. There is the fear of elections. The supporter and the opponent each one had said on 11th April...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, I am not saying so, please tell them you too had heard the debate, please tell them. I was not saying so, on that day each and every speaker, be it from this side or that side was saying that why it has been done. Did not they think before doing so that only B.J.P. would be

benefited by it and next time B.J.P. would come to power. I did not say so, this fear was shown by you...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to urge upon him as to whether he would be able to stop the B.J.P. or whether they have been successful in stopping the B.J.P. or whether the B.J.P. has been stopped. At least face the reality, whether the B.J.P. could be stopped. Sir, on 28th May a new era of politics has started in this House. Only one point formula was given i.e. stop the B.J.P. and uproot the B.J.P. After 28th May, whenever any opportunity arose to go to the public for getting mandate, the public responded in favour of BJP with greater force than these parties applied to stop the B.J.P. coming to power. See one by one...*(Interruptions)* Three elections to the Lok Sabha seats were held...*(Interruptions)* i.e. for Gandhinagar, Bhubneshwar and Nandiyal, these different parties had vacated those seats...*(Interruptions)* The seat of Radhanpur had never been with the B.J.P. I would like to enumerate those which were with the B.J.P...*(Interruptions)* Please have patience. Listen patiently. I am telling the facts...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not have the patience to listen to the speech?

(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You can give the reply later on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Joshi ji, please.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker Sir, Gandhinagar seat was vacated by hon. Vajpayee ji, Bhubneshwar seat was vacated by Late Shri Biju Patnayak ji and the Nandiyal seat was vacated by the senior most leader of Congress and former Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao ji. We have not only retained the Gandhinagar seat but also have won the Bhubneshwar seat from them. Janta Dal has lost the Bhubneshwar seat and Congress has lost the Nandiyal Seat.

Later on the bye-elections of Nagore and Chhindwara were held. I would like to know if both of these were not the popular seats of Congress since the elections of 1977, these two seats were such in the entire North India which were not lost by Congress. Please ponder over as to why the Nagore seat has been won by the B.J.P. and why Shri Sunder Lal Patwa has been sitting on the front benches of Lok Sabha after winning the Chhindwara seat...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker Sir, after that came the bye-elections of Punjab Legislative Assembly. Somnath ji, please ask

from Comrade Surjeet, who is the so called Chanakya of the politics of the entire country, as to what happened in his home State. Giving defeat to Congress and the Communists, the Akali Dal and B.J.P. alliance has won 93 seats out of 117. Later on in the elections of Municipal Corporations, be it of Chandigarh, Delhi, or Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the elections of Delhi Cantonment Board, the B.J.P. continuously went on winning. Therefore, it would be impossible to stop B.J.P. by cursing in this way. It is not the time to curse the B.J.P. but it is the time to do introspection.

Time has come, when the Congressmen should ponder over as to why Congress, which had initiated the freedom movement, a party which was known not as a ruling party but a party of the public has confined merely to some States? You will have the reply, if you introspect. It is a subject of introspection for you...*(Interruptions)* If you ponder over, you will get the reply that the style of Shrimati Indira Gandhi to demolish the natural leadership of States and to give power in the hands of her party has been lost by Congress. You will get the reply that the adventurism of Shri Rajiv Gandhi has caused a loss to Congress. You will get the reply that the increasing corruption and political prosecution during the regime of Shri Narasimha Rao ji has sunk Congress. You will get the reply that the foolish decisions of Shri Sitaram Kesri has sunk Congress. On that day, Shri Devegowda ji was showing the London Times and was saying that—

[English]

The old man in a hurry. No, Mr. Kesri was not in a hurry. Mr. Kesri was in a worry.

[Translation]

He was worried, how to be acquitted from the cases...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : You are taking the names of departed leaders and the leaders, who are not present in the House...*(Interruptions)* It is improperly.

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Nothing should be said about the person who is not a member of this House. This is the tradition of the House. The hon. Member has been continuously mentioning the names of some persons...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : I have not said anything...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Are you concluding now?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : You have told me to be brief and I would be brief...*(Interruptions)* I would conclude within three minutes.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You can reply later on. Please take your seat.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The names have been mentioned here. Last time names were mentioned 50 times...*(Interruptions)*

You have pointed out. I would conclude within three minutes. I am going to the concluding part of my speech. Today, is the time when the United Front should also do introspection that they had come with the slogan of social justice, even then it has been loosing public support. It is the time to introspect why the Deve Gowda Government fell. I would like to urge upon Shri Deve Gowda ji, wherever he is listening me, since he is not a Member of this House but he might be watching on doordarshan that he should also ponder over the fall of the Government? Showing blows in the House and saying.

[English]

I will show you what Deve Gowda is. This arrogant style is responsible for this fall. At least he should ponder over once on his style of functioning - rebuke Hegde, threaten Menka, scold Laloo, tighten up Kesri and talk only with Narasimha Rao. This style was responsible for the fall of his Government. Please ponder over it as to why such a day had come.

Our colleagues from left parties are present here. They should also introspect today. Somnath ji, please ponder over, the communist thinking which is saying a good bye from the entire world why futile effort is being made to establish it here. The red flag which has been removed from the Red Square, you are dreaming to unfurl it at the Red Fort? How this dream would become true? Gone are the days of that thinking but the misery of our colleagues from left parties is that they do confess their mistake but when the time passes away. The mistake of 1940 was realised in 1947. The C.P.I. confessed the mistake of supporting Congress in emergency but it was realised only after the emergency. What not was said regarding Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, now the mistake has been realised at the time of garlanding him on his golden jubilee celebration. Somnath ji, you would realise that giving life to the Government formed with the support of the Congress, was a mistake on your part. Then there would be the meeting of the Polit Bureau and a resolution would be passed that comrades a mistake has been committed. By that time, much water would have flown. That's why, I would like to tell you that the time of Communist thinking has gone. Today, the time of Nationalist thinking has come in the country. Thereafter, whatever the policy

would be, say economic policy, foreign policy or national policy, the policy inspired by Nationalist thinking only will prevail in the country. Even if economic liberalisation take place in the country, it will have patriotic flavour. Without this, liberalisation will not take place. Now, the time of Pseudo-Secularism based policy has gone.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am astonished and also regret that though the United Front's constituents advocate sending of the army back into the barracks but when the innocent Kashmiri Pandits are killed, they won't shed even a drop of tear. I feel sorry that the Defence Minister of this Government justifies the infiltration from Bangladesh on a pretext of humanity but he is not able to see the drought condition prevailing in Bolangir and Kalahandi in the country. That's why I would like to say that now onwards the country will be ruled through the Nationalist forces. We have secured highest number of seats in the House, but by adopting unfair means we have been forced to sit in the opposition. But I want to predict that the next time, whenever the time for proving majority comes, then the Anti-BJP power will be wiped out from politics, and we will write a new political history without any interruption. With this warning, I oppose this motion.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, after listening to the speech of Sushmaji I could understand how much she was hurt after loosing 13 days old power. 10-11 months have passed but still she could not forget it. She is a person who has started her political career with Lohiaji's ideology, she has worked with us in Congress for a few days and now she is in Bhartiya Janata Party...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Sir, it is atrocious...*(Interruptions)* it is not correct.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If there is any fact in what he said then it is quite opposite. He was with me for 8 yrs...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : He was in Samajwadi Party for 10-15 yrs, then he joined there. He is telling right...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not yielding. Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE (Kopergaon) : He has no right...*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER : How many times did you left the Congress...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : I had never left Congress, I have always been with Congress ideologies. You don't know that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not complicate it further.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Today, I am on my legs to support the motion put before the House by the Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral. This support is not out of any relation. This support is to felicitate the principles, this support is to felicitate Common Minimum Programme and this support is to unite the forces to fight against non-secular forces of the country. This is what I want to put before the House at first.

During last 10-15 or 20 days a peculiar type of situation had arisen in the country...*(Interruptions)* I will tell everything. You please listen to me. But for this, I have to go into the elections. For the first time such situation had arisen in the country. No Political Party got a majority. We have never seen such a presence of various Political Parties at large scale and in such a situation there was no chance to form a Government. Shri Atalji has tried his best but the majority number of members of the House were alert and so he had to go to Rashtrapati Bhawan after 13 days to submit his resignation. We started thinking that since such a situation has arisen in the country so formation of a United Government should have to be accepted a way out. It is true that Congress had carried on the responsibility of the country for several years on the basis of its number and strength in the House, but the situation prevailing during the last Election was different. The country was in need of a stable Government which will lead the country forward in the direction of new economic policy of Congress leadership. There was a need to maintain and strengthen the unity of the country there was a need to form a Government of like minded people, who will join hands on a common minimum programme and on certain principles. That's what we have done.

We see that in countries like Japan, Israel, Finland, Malaysia, coalition Government all functioning successfully. There is similarity between the conditions prevailing in Malaysia and India. There also people of different religion live together. They have their parties and for the last several years 14 party Government is functioning properly under the leadership of Dr. Mahatir. He has given stability. The country is progressing. We have this instance before us...*(Interruptions)* In several states, we had direct fight with the constituents of United Front for several years but still we joined hands. The first and foremost reason for this is that no one has got a clear majority, secondly as said in this House by the Prime Minister that the country needs stability and particularly when internal stability is required then one has to strengthen Social Justice and Secularism and hence to strengthen and help the secular forces, we supported the Government. Thirdly, we need a common programme for the progress of the country for removing disparity and poverty and to maintain the unity of the country. We had supported the United Front on this

common minimum programme and we feel that until and unless we help the common programme and secular forces for establishing unity in the country, the country can't move away from poverty and towards prosperity.

Congress had extended supported without making any demand. We have noticed something in this ten months of our support. Some good things have happened. For the first time, Regional Political Parties have come to the national level and these parties have started thinking for the country from national point of view. I think this is a blessing for the country. I turely agree with Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said on that day. Alongwith this, we must realise that during the last ten months, we have tried to have one view and opinion on the foreign policy. This was started by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. It is still being followed. The consent of all parties was required for implementing the economic programme for the growth of the country. We have been successful in this. The most happiest thing for the Congress was that the United Front had agreed and affirmed to run the Government on the Economic Policies formed by the Congress to lead the nation towards prosperity. So, we all joined hands. There were only a few occassion when our views were not one and same. But we must accept one thing that in the last few months we had noticed that the United Front is lacking the Psyce and mentality needed to run a United Government.

12.21 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I am happy that the Home Minister has said in an interview and also may be in Rajya Sabha that they have lesser experience to run a United Front, that's why some problems have been arising. Lack of the type of Psyce required for running a united government had been an important cause of it.

The second important thing for us was that when a situation arises, when time comes for running a united Government then the leader of the United Front Government should have to march forward taking the supporting parties with him. Congress has extended support to this Government to strengthen the secular forces. But during the last ten months we have seen that communalism is being encouraged for which the people have to pay the cost later, if not now. It was the responsibility of the United Front to take prosper steps to check the communal in, but there have been some shortcomings. If such a situation prevails then the country will have to suffer. Congress had to withdraw the support.

The third point is that people in the Government should try to run the Government alongwith the administrative machinery. The Prime Minister of Indira gave a statement in the Rajya Sabha that bureaucracy of the country do not listen to him. Whatever he said, the Secretary did not put that into action. This is wrong

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to say so. Those who are in Government, have the responsibility to run the administration. They should get their finalised policies implemented taking along with the administrative machinery. If a rider is not in control, he cannot take the horse on the right direction. The same was the situation of leadership in the Government. Therefore, we had to take some steps. There is one more thing when it comes to run the Government, the Government has the responsibility to run the administration but in many States particularly which are under the Presidential rule, the situation has worsened, which Hon'ble Deputy Speaker had also accepted in his own ruling. Such type of situation was not good for the country. So, we had to think over. We people had to take a decision in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : What was therein?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Yes, it was, you had not gone through it. You did not read it at all. You do not know. It was mentioned therein. There was also a mention of further situation therein particular there was a mention about Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, we had to take steps to withdraw the support. When we think of keeping the country united its internal stability is to be maintained, we can never compromise on the issue of social justice and secularism. But the communal forces in the country after being thrown out of power after thirteen days are again trying to create disturbance in the country...*(Interruptions)* Last year, in the month of May when Atal Bihari Vajpayee became Prime Minister, the B.J.P. throw away its apparel of the Hindutav to garner support of other parties and had shown face of liberalisation. But soon after losing power, in June itself, in the Bhopal session of the party's national executive, they tried to revive the Ram temple issue at Ayodhya and expressed their commitment towards construction of the temple and a motion to this effect was passed...*(Interruptions)* Because of this temple issue innocent people in many States in India paid a heavy price for it. The State which I belong to, of which Mumbai is the capital, the situation which persisted there, many our colleagues saw that. Thousands of people were massacred there. Blood used to flow on roads...*(Interruptions)* You do not know...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No interruption, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : You do not know. Who is responsible for that?...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : You are responsible ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The fact is coming up before the nation through the Sri Krishna Commission

and I am sure whosoever is guilty for will be exposed before the nation. This was not limited to Mumbai only in Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and at many places, incidents of bloodshed took place. The same communal forces wants to ferment country's feelings by raising the same temple issue. We are perceiving this great danger looming large over the country...*(Interruptions)* These communal forces are the product of the changed situation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Umaji, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You carry on, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : When they want to rule the country their face and tone change. We saw this thing in this House itself. The Vishav Hindu Parishad tried to launch Mathura-Kashi movement and announced about mobilising crore of rupees for Krishna Janambhumi. At that time, the Bhartiya Janta Party was silent on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No interruptions, please.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I am a member of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and you will have to give me opportunity for asking questions about that. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are giving false statements in the House ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Vishwa Hindu Parishad had tried to start Mathura-Kashi agitation and for agriculture land...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him have his say.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I will appeal to you to tell them that they should not interfere ...*(Interruptions)* I will appeal to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee too. We have not disturbed Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. You must not disturb us....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when Sushmaji was speaking we had not interrupted her so much. If they will interrupt us, then we will not allow Vajpayee ji to speak whenever he starts speaking...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I will ask the members of my party in the House must listen to any Hon. Member, whether he is making any false statement and answer only when his/her turn comes ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You are the only sensible person in the party.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say, Vishwa Hindu Parishad had tried to start agitation and announced to collect crores of rupees in the name of Krishna Janambhoomi. "Hindu" had reported this matter on 4th February. It is right that Bharatiya Janta Party had opted to remain silent at that time...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : He is quoting from the newspaper. If such an interruption goes on, we will also intervene. He is quoting from the newspaper. He should be permitted to quote...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let him say a few words.

[Translation]

A small mutual repartee can be understood ?? running commentary is not good.

[English]

Let him conclude.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats why do you not listen?

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : In such circumstances Bharatiya Janata Party remained silent...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I am not allowing you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are not listening to your leader also. Please take your seat. This is not good.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him say. He has already said.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Let the Leader of the Opposition admit that he has no complete control over his Members. Let him stand up and say that he has no control...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Although Bhartiya Janata Party had said that Kashi and Mathura are not at their Agenda. The General-Secretary of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Achariya Giriraj Kishore had also said it. I am very much sure that Mathura and Kashi are not on BJs agenda, but whenever our agitation will become popular then BJP will certainly participate in it. When Vishwa Hindu Parishad started Ram Janam Bhoomi agitation, Bharatiya Janata Party remained silent spectator for many years. But before the General elections of 1991 the Bharatiya Janata Party had passed a resolution in Palampur for supporting the demand of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and started Rath Yatra. There were riots and bloodshed and whatever was to happen on 6th of December that happened. It is also ture that some leaders of Bharatiya Janata Party like Jaswant Singhji has took the responsibility of the incident at Ayodhya in December 1992...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, I have a point of order. Whether Shri Sharad Pawar is reading from any document or have came with prepared speech and is reading that. We want to know what he has in his hand...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I am ready to give it to you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He will give his reply...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Jaswant Singh ji had accepted the mistake but I remember that Shri L.K. Advani or who had committed the 6 December incident was not appropriate this sort of incident placed before the country. But after a few days in March 1993 in a festival he had said in Madras that Independence day and six December are important days in our national life...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : Sir, Advaniji is not present in the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Unity of India have been attacked. That day is an important day of the country...*(Interruptions)* It was said like that our support is because the communal force which is danger to the unity of the country, there was need to stand against these forces strongly. There was a need for the United

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

Front people to keep this responsibility with them but they had not paid much attention towards this. Out of these people many liked non-Congressism more than that is why they were satisfied to weaker congress more than this communal force. Many friends had attacked, Congress at many fronts by accepting non Congressism. Our friend had said that they consider Congress and B.J.P. as untouchables in politics...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You please fell the names ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I need not tell. You know very well...*(Interruptions)* We shall keep distance from BJP as well from its ideology. But we don't like this trend of untouchability in politics. Congress—Committed to secular views-can never agree the views of saying untouchable.

We had seen in the last month to which extent the non-Congressism gone. We have not bothered about The attack on Congress in the name of non-Congressism. But we are against the communal forces. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had said in Kota session that non-Congressism is not our principle, it is a strategy. Perhaps Mulayam Singhji had been there. But many colleagues of United Front were not ready to go deviate from that strategy even after change in their course of action. That is why such circumstances are there...*(Interruptions)* At the time of framing the United Front Government, Congress support was asked for strengthening the secular forces and the Congress had extended unconstitutional support. We had not demanded anything not any place. Sushmaji, we have been in power for the last so many years that is why Congress is not bothered from sitting outside. When you are so sad from 13 days then you need not worry about 40 years of Congress. We have not demanded any share, we had supported from outside. We had also given the responsibility of backseat driving to CPM. We had not done anything in this regard, we had not asked for share in the Government. I am happy that when Deve Gowda had replied here he had said that:

Congress has never interfered in Government's functioning.

[Translation]

Congress has never interfered in the functioning of the Government. This was said by the former Prime Minister Deve Gowda ji in this House. Therefore we wanted that the forces fighting against communal forces must be strong. But they had not remembered the mentality and atmosphere necessary for running the coalition Government and they have worked repeatedly for non-Congressism only...*(Interruptions)* Several leaders have asked many questions. This Government formed with the help of 142 Congress Members but their leaders started abusing Congress. One hon'ble member has said that If they withdraw support, public with beat them with shoes. Someone has said where

will the Congress go, giving support is their compulsion. This mentality is not of running a coalition Government. That is why Congress have passed a resolution in Congress executive on 16 February and informed after passing it. First we had passed the resolution on 4 November and we said on 4 November :

[English]

"In a critical juncture of our national history we extended our support to U.F. and still feel there is a need of continuing cooperation among the secular parties to fight jointly against communal forces. Congress is fully aware of its responsibility towards achieving this goal. But the U.F. which made promises of secular commitments should be responsive to the need of the hour. It should not take support of the Congress for granted or as a sign of weakness of the party or outcome of so-called compulsions. Congress has always fought against communal forces and would continue to do so in future. Congress calls upon the U.F. to change its attitude and instead of hurling abuses to the Congress take corrective steps and try to fulfil the commitments which they have made to the people of this country at the time of forming the Government at the Centre. C.W.C. will continue to review the situation as and when it develops."

[Translation]

Again a notice was given on 16 February and it was clearly said that.

[English]

"This meeting of the C.W.C. urges U.F. to introspect and critically review its performance. They should not forget the Congress support to U.F. is not in isolation or absolute but with the objective of consolidating the forces of secularism. Therefore, there cannot be any compromise on this issue. The C.W.C. resolves that Congress support to U.F. from henceforth will be based on issues and not unconditional. Congress President is authorised to talk to concerned leaders."

[Translation]

Question is that to apprise the House that we had not received notice agent this...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that on 16 this resolution was passed by the Congress executive and its copy reached the Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, 7 Race Course Road, New Delhi on 17th February, I have signature of his office. All the political parties with them also received this. It is not right to say that they have not received it. Congress have not decided at once to withdraw support on 30 March. Resolution was passed on 16 February

and the letter for withdrawal of support was sent on 30th March. Congress has given then one and half months time. We thought that they will try to find a wayout in one and half month but their thinking was wrong. They were of the view that they will continue to get the support of Congress. That is why we were forced to withdraw the support. There is no personal enmity with anyone but greater responsibility lies with the person leading the Government of United Front. This was their responsibility to set all things right. Shortcomings are noticed and they could not rectify them. So Congress have taken this step after giving prior intimation.

I am happy with one thing that whatsoever steps we have taken and the situation which emerged have been appreciated by the Home Minister of the country Shri Indrajit Gupta.

He said in a interview on 'Home' television :

[English]

This is published in *The Hindustan Times* dated 18th April, 1997. I quote :

"The Home Minister Shri Indrajit Gupta, has, in a television interview criticised the Prime Minister Shri H.D. Deve Gowda's handling of 'relations with Congress' while revealing that the United Front has already communicated plans for an institutionalised mechanism to improve future relations with that party. Mr. Gupta said : 'The Prime Minister carried primary responsibility for the poor handling of relations with the Congress' and agreed that Mr. Deve Gowda had failed to take the initiative to improve the matter. He said : 'Gowda did not have the requisite experience'.

In an interview to the Home TV, the first part of which will be broadcast on Friday, in a special edition of the programme 'In focus with Karan Thaper', Mr. Gupta said that although the Congress party had not expressed its feelings of neglect, we should have anticipated it. In the interview the Home Minister also accepted that he would personally have to be more polite and diplomatic in future whilst regretting his critical comments about the Congress party. He said the Congress party had been taken for granted and advised the next Prime Minister to consult 'more frequently and more thoroughly'".

Asked why proper machinery etc.

[Translation]

There are many things to be said but I do not want to say much. Therefore, whatever happened, it is alright.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Shri Indrajit Gupta always speaks the truth and he always speaks his mind very fearlessly.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, some of our colleagues asked as to why I did not speak on 11th. Our role was obvious that the U.F. Government should continue. The shortcomings of the leadership should be considered and accepted. After the change of leadership, we are extending full cooperation to them and there is no doubt that this cooperation would continue in future also. When the discussion in this regard was held in the House last time, we were put in a dock and attacked from both sides, even then we maintained calm so that the process of formation of new Government may not be hampered. The Communal forces want to exploit these things for their benefit but we are fully confident that the people of the country would not provide any opportunity to these communal forces. Though they say that they will try their best to seige the power but we are confident that they will not be able to do so...*(Interruptions)* At that time our role was to avoid bitterness in that House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please maintain decorum.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We needed good relations therefore, we showed restraint in the House. I am glad that when the present Prime Minister or Shri Chidambaram spoke on that day, they showed restraint. Some of my colleagues like Shri Paswan, Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Somnath Chatterjee had different opinions. I shall not blame them for the attitude adopted by them because the idea of fighting against communal forces and anti-congressism has been there in their mind from the childhood. I can understand this. I am glad that Shri Indrajit is changing and I welcome this change. In view of these circumstances, whatever happened was alright.

Sir, an intelligent persons like Shri Gujaral has come forward to hold the reigns of the country. I would like to thank my colleagues of U.F. who selected Shri Gujaral as a Prime Minister who is an experienced administrator. He is committed to secularism and democracy. He has been a Member of Parliament for years and has a deep knowledge of domestic as well as external politics. He is a humble person and we believe that the secular forces will be strengthened in his leadership.

Therefore, we will fully support him and hope that he will continue the fourvour with which he started today and the congress will support him till the full term of this Lok Sabha and cooperate him in future politics. With these words I support this motion and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if I start now my speech will be

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

interrupted. So, please adjourn the House for Lunch now and I will start my speech after the Lunch Break.

12.56 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Confidence moved by hon. Prime Minister. I convey to him and to his Government our best wishes and support so that this Government is able to fulfil its commitment to the people.

Sir, I do sincerely hope and believe that our friends in Tamil maanila Congress will join the Government, and I believe that Shri Chidambaram has chosen the right seat to go to his reserved place on the first row of the Treasury Benches.

I have nothing to hide. Whatever may have been the media perception or whatever may be the perception in the minds of my friends in the Tamil Maanila Congress, I can tell everybody and to the country that my leader, Comrade Jyoti Basu, has personally spoken to Shri Moopanar and requested him to join the Government. I myself have had the occasion to talk to Shri Chidambaram. Probably, I had spoken on too many occasions in the past two days. It is not a question of surrendering to anything, to anybody, because we want the cohesive forces to run the state of affairs, so far as the present Government is concerned. Therefore, I sincerely hope, once again, that there will be reconsideration and sooner than later Shri Chidambaram will also take over again the difficult mantle of the Finance Minister of this country, and will pilot the Finance Bill.

Sir I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister for his most illuminating speech on the floor of this House, this morning. When I was listening to him, I felt that it was a speech which we could consider as the testament of our faith and commitment, a testament of hope, to the people of this country.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has referred to so many important national issues and has expressed his Government's resolve to deal with the same. He has spoken to and I would like to specifically refer to the concept of social justice, of economic progress of this country. He has referred to the problems of women and

his resolve to help in the development of women. He has spoken of the need for spread of education. He has expressed his concern for environment. He has committed his resolve to continue with poverty alleviation programmes. He has expressed his concern for population growth, which is one of the problems facing this country. He has spoken about our foreign policy, which is based on consensus. He has given his commitment to transparency and accountability. He has given his commitment that nobody will be spared, whoever is guilty will be brought to book. He has given special emphasis for farmers and workers. He has emphasised on the need for stability, secularism and social justice in this country. And he has appealed for consensus in the governance.

Sir, I would like to know which part of it the BJP does not approve of. He had appealed for a consensus. My friends in the BJP have rejected that. The hand of cooperation that was extended to it has been expressly jettisoned because the BJP does not believe in cooperation. It only believes in confrontation. They feel that out of that, they may get some benefit.

Sir, I was closely listening, without any interruption as we are accustomed to get from that side, to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj's brilliant speech. Now, Sir, television telecast has egged upon many of us; histrionics has become a very important element of our performance in this House.

Some are more adepts and some are less adepts. Some one like me is a total miserable failure so far as histrionics is concerned. But I have not found a single word which she spoke where she contradicted any of the commitments that the Prime Minister made, or any of the issues that he had mentioned. She did not say a single word about them. She did not say with which part of the policy expressed by the hon. Prime Minister the BJP did not agree. No doubt, she has given us sermons. I shall come to some of them.

BJP talks these days of democratic national front and also nationalism as if that is their monopoly and as if their commitment to nationalism is their monopoly. We are also nationalists. But we talk of strong, progressive and secular India which the BJP does not talk.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Now they have realised it.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I can understand why they are upset. I had proposed and some of the friends here also proposed that this Motion of Vote of Confidence could have been passed without any discussion because we had a very thorough discussion the other day only, ten or eleven days back. But the BJP insisted on this and some of my friends on this side have to reconsider, I think, their opposition to that. However, we are having this discussion. But now I can understand why they are so virulent in their opposition. It is because they find once again that the secular