

MR. SPEAKER : Yesterday's sitting went up to six o' clock of today morning.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaubey, please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. You are all senior Members. Please understand.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Senior Members should not behave like this.

Now, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

*[Translation]*

**PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, day before yesterday, while initiating the discussion on the confidence motion, I had said that before speaking, I would like to hear. Now today it is my turn. So I too should be heard uninterruptedly. The opposition has complained that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, mike is not working well. Please have it repaired.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Prime Minister, could you please use the second mike also?

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Members that they want to hear me.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We do want to hear you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I was saying that the opposition has a complaint and they have alleged that I did not observe canons of political morality. Parliament is in session. Hon'ble Members and the opposition were going to get opportunities to vote against the Government almost daily.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : First of all congratulate Shri Chandra Shekhar on his birthday...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : When the Leader of the House is speaking, do not disturb him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Will you not allow even felicitations?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I, in the House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Today is the birthday of Chandrasekharji.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Whose birthday is today?

MR. SPEAKER : Today is the birthday of Chandrashekhar Saheb.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Many happy returns of the day!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been associated with the Parliament for about 40 years. I have seen many minority Governments. There was minority Government run by Smt. Indira Gandhi. Nobody then accused her of unprincipled politics. Shri Narasimha Rao also continued to head the minority Government.

I do not want to go into what was done to convert that minority Government into a majority one but if the opposition wanted to know whether I enjoyed majority or not, it could bring forward a motion in this regard. Why the opposition instead of knocking at the door of the Hon'ble President of India, did not bring forward a Motion against me? When the Hon'ble President desired that we should seek the vote of confidence, we at once agreed to it. The debate has continued for two days. It is going to be over soon. It could still be better in quality and standard. We claim to be the greatest democracy of the world. We indeed are. But, judging us from the goings-on in our Parliament, what the countries which have recently joined the mainstream of democracy, must be feeling about us, can easily be gauged. When shall our social life break loose from the trammels of allegations and counter-allegations? When we hurt allegations, we feel called upon to corroborate them. We can just repeat what has appeared in the press or the media in corroboration. But that is not a very foolproof or effective way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Government was formed just 13 months back. We are being subjected to a trial of strength. I never claimed to be seasoned statesman. But I do submit that I have never aspired for anything

than to serve the country. When I was in the Opposition, nobody ever charged me with doing anything detrimental to the interests of the country. Then, have I changed my character after coming to power? Does power change a man to such an extent? If it is true, what to say of people who remained in power for 40 long years. We all know the conditions in which the elections were held. On the basis of the results of the elections, it was only the coalition Government that could be forward. Even at the very last moment, we had submitted to the Hon'ble President that since democracy is a game of numbers, we didn't have with us the adequate number of M.Ps., and that if someone also was in a position to form the Government, he should better invite him for the purpose and we would prefer to sit in opposition for some days more. But nobody was prepared to form the Government. But now, surprisingly enough, after 13 months, they are ready to form the Government. It is a good thing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main opposition said that theirs would be the constructive opposition and that they would neither support anybody, nor get support from anybody and would wait for the day when they will get clear cut majority. Pachmarhi seems to have been left far behind. New alliances are being formed. Our alliance has come in for comments. But they are entering into new alliances. We had contested elections together with most of the parties who became our allies later. Soon after taking over the views of the Government, we presented before the country a National Agenda for Governance. But now in their negative approach and sinister design to oust us, such parties are coming together as are ideologically poles apart. We have been maintaining right from the very beginning that the Indian politics is taking a new turn in which the regional parties too have to play an important role. Emergence of regional parties is reflective of our diversity. It also goes to prove that the parties carrying the label of All India parties have failed to represent the hopes and aspirations of the States in real terms. We have been running the Government for the last 13 months. Many regional parties are with us. Those who deserted us later also did not behave in a manner that militated against the unity and solidarity of the country. We had our differences but their faith in the unity of the country remained unshakeable. It is a welcome offer. But the manner in which the Congress Party criticised the regional parties in its election manifesto of 1998 does not speak of a healthy attitude. I quote :

[English]

"By their very nature, regional parties lack a national perspective and can never rise above local ethnic considerations. They adopt populist platforms for coming to power. They incite narrow linguistic or ethnic sentiments. Very soon these

agendas become a recipe for economic disaster and social turmoil."

[Translation]

If this is your assessment of the regional parties, then how and on what basis will you enter into an alliance with them? I also quote below for the benefit of our friends belonging to the leftist parties a relevant comment of the Congress Party about the regional parties :-

[English]

"As for the Left Parties, even after seven decades, the CPI and the CPM, have not been able to integrate themselves into the national mainstream".

[Translation]

It is a very serious charge. It is part of the Congress manifesto. It is a declaration. Now an alliance is perhaps being entered into in an attempt to integrate the Left Parties into the national mainstream.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : We do not need their certificate either way.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The Janata Dal was in a fix. We do not know what decision it has taken. I refresh the memory of my friends belonging to the Janata Dal by quoting below. The very language used by the Congress Party to describe the Janata Dal :-

[English]

"The Janata Dal was born in a convulsive fit of anti-congressism in 1989. It is a collection of disparate groups and embittered individuals driven by egos. It can hardly be called a serious political formation. Like an amoeba, it lives on splitting itself into smaller and smaller groups. Its platform of social justice is hollow and is just a misleading cover for the practice of a divisive caste politics."

[Translation]

If this is going to be the basis for their coming together, then their protestations of stability have no meaning. An attempt was made to destabilise my Government. Besides, my Government was charged with being run by parties suffering from inner contradictions. Does the formation you contemplate

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

to foster and it is not likely to materialise—owe its origin to any single ideology? Do you have any programme or one leadership? The other day Shri Lalu Prasad ji said, "You step down and not in five minutes but in one minute, we will come forward with an alternative." If it is so, should not the House be taken into confidence about that alternative. Does not the nation have a right to know that when you are asking a government formed on the basis of a mandate from the people to step down ...*(Interruptions)* People had given mandate to us, not to you...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Ten parties have got 25 per cent and our party alone has got 21 per cent votes.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, during these 13 months, we have tried to implement our programme...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, this running commentary should be stopped immediately otherwise we will interrupt.

MR. SPEAKER : There should be no running commentary please. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have tried to move ahead on the basis of the national agenda. National agenda is a programme of five years and we intend to accomplish it within that stipulated period. There is no denying the fact that there is perceptible improvement in every field in our country since we took over. Whether it is a question of national security, or of economy or of diplomatic relations with other countries, we can right fully claim that we have tried to make rapid strides in every sphere and achieved success in our efforts.

Surprisingly enough, even the nuclear tests conducted by us came in for criticism. We were asked as to what danger was lurking in before the country. In 1974, I was in the House when the nuclear test was conducted under the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi. We had welcomed it, despite being in the Opposition because that test had been conducted for the defence of the country. What was the danger at that time before the country? Should we prepare for self defence only when some danger stares us in the face? If we prepare ourselves in advance, the danger that is imminent would be warded off without

taking any practical shape and that was precisely the reason for our deciding to conduct nuclear tests. The nuclear tests were part of our programme. These have found mention in it. There was no secret, no mystery about it.

About the nuclear test, Shri Chandrashekharji has given vent to some of his views. I am afraid, I cannot subscribe to his views. He has his own peculiar way of thinking. But what our own experience of 50 years tells us. Should we not become self-reliant in the matter of defence? We don't have only one neighbour. We have several neighbours. What is at present happening in Europe should serve as a warning to us. Pokharan-II test was not conducted for the satisfaction of any ego. Nor was it meant to show off any bravado. It has been our policy, may the policy of the country, to have the minimum deterrent. That should also be credible. Hence the decision for the test. We knew before hand that some difficulties were bound to come in but we had a firm belief that the nation would surmount them and that was exactly what happened.

Economic sanctions couldn't deter us from moving forward. Nor could they prevent us from taking vital decisions about own defence. But besides the test, we also announced that there would be 'no first use' of nuclear weapons by us. We also declared that we would not use nuclear weapons against those who do not have them. We also pronounced a ban on nuclear tests. In fact, we could conduct one more test in Pokharan but we refrained from it when we realised, that the scientists had completed their work for readying the nuclear deterrent. Nuclear weapons can be used for defence purposes. These have been used even for avoiding wars. There was peace in Europe all these years. There was no war in the world divided into two camps. It was basically due to the fact that there was balance of power and so they desisted from creating any trouble for each other. That is the concept behind the deterrent. The need of the hour is that the entire House should ponder over it.

Even Agni-II has been subjected to criticism. The other day we were in for a big shock to read in the newspapers that one of our old friends accused us of having succumbed to pressure to shelve Agni-II test. But by then the test had been conducted and Agni-II was heading towards its destination with full speed. If we had not conducted the test that day, her statement could give rise to a good deal of confusion, not only in India but in other countries also.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, during our 13 months in office we never took any decision under international pressure. Nor shall we do so in future. I do not think there shall ever be a Government in India which would work under pressure. But I know that such a Government had been there in our country. Prior to



our conducting the nuclear test, successive governments, particularly the Congress Party Government, wanted to move in this direction. Former President, Venkataramanji, who was then Defence Minister, to which office Shri Mulayam Singh was elevated later, unfolded, the mystery that all preparations for the nuclear test had been made, the entire paraphernalia for being taken to Pokharan for the purpose was ready. I was also to be present at the time of the test but the Government could not conduct the test because international pressure was there. Shall we work under international pressure, shall we not take our own decisions in the matter of security? Pressure is being mounted on us as well. But we have accorded topmost priority to the security of the nation. A burnt child dreads the fire. So is our case. We have to be on our guard all the time. Independence and sovereignty of the country must be protected at all costs. We can proceed to establish social service only when our country is well protected. If our borders are intact and free from any danger of attack, we will be in a position to guard our people to undertake constructive work and strain their every nerve for the defence and overall prosperity of the nation.

We have suffered three aggressions such a situation should not recur. We do not equip ourselves with the intention of launching an attack on any country. We have no such intentions. I have been asked to explain as to how Pokharan-II and Lahore bus journey are related to each other. They are the two sides of the same coin. We must first have the needed strength to defend ourselves. Then we should extend the hand of friendship. But we must be honest in our offer of friendship. We must also be equally honest in preparing ourselves for self-defence. As stated by my friend, Shri George Fernandes yesterday, in 1977-78 when the Janata Government was formed under the prime-ministership of Shri Morarji Bhai, I was entrusted with the portfolio of External Affairs. At that time also, I had endeavoured to establish friendly relations with our neighbours including Pakistan. Now, not only with Pakistan but with other neighbouring countries also, our relations have improved. What national interest does it serve to say that relations have not improved in the face of the fact that our relation with these countries have actually improved? What will be the reactions of those countries to such statements? What will be its repercussions in the world outside? We have entered into a major trade agreement with Srilanka. We signed a transit treaty with Nepal. A bus is proposed to ply between Calcutta and Dhaka. It is at present under trial. Elections are being held in Nepal these days. It is for the first time that India is not an issue in elections there and no allegations and counter allegations over India are being exchanged there. Political parties there are also satisfied with the

policies being pursued by India. We do not want to interfere in the internal affairs of any neighbouring country but at the same time we brook no interference from any country in our affairs. When I went to Lahore recently killings had taken place in Rajouri about the same time. I immediately took up this matter with the Pakistani Prime Minister. We told him categorically that if such killings continued to take place, atmosphere of goodwill and harmony would not be created, in the absence of which no cooperation between the two countries would be possible.

The situation in Jammu & Kashmir has changed now. Sporadic incidents are, of course, taking place. But these too have to be stopped. It is the duty of the neighbouring country to contribute its mite in this respect but credit for this change in Jammu & Kashmir situation goes to the people there. They want to live peacefully there. Now they cannot be made seapegoats. Attempts to provoke them to indulge in unlawful activities by inciting their sentiments would prove futile in future. Jammu & Kashmir is not in the news now-a-days. If at all it is in the news, it is only to know as to how many tourists are going there, how many persons visited that state, which film companies are shooting films there etc, etc. It is indicative of the improved situation there. We have also succeeded to some extent to improve the situation in the North-East. Efforts are afoot in this direction. Concrete steps have been taken and are proposed to be taken for the economic development of that area. Actually speaking, these are not the party issues. These are the national issues.

Yesterday, it was stated here that we did not take the opposition into confidence. The allegation that in our national agenda, we talked of evolving a consensus but did not followed it up in practice, is not tenable. We have had discussion wherever it was called for. We have taken the opposition into confidence wherever it was necessary. Government alone cannot take such a vast country with diversities galore along with it. It is the responsibility of all the parties involved. Did we not fulfill our responsibility in this behalf when we were in the opposition. Had Smt. Indira Gandhi informed us, the opposition beforehand about the first nuclear test conducted in Pokharan? No, she had not done so. Such an information is never passed on before hand. But we never made it an issue of complaint. Such questions, however, continued to crop up. our endeavour is to move ahead after consulting all concerned and to resolve our disputes with the cooperation of all parties. In this, the opposition too will have to fulfill its responsibility.

Opportunities for exchange of views can be further expanded. Yesterday, we were made the target for criticism even on the question of representation

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

of women. We have held talks with different parties. We are prepared to bring forward a bill tomorrow and have it passed if we are assured that it would not be opposed and there would be no scramble, but last time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Has anybody seen tomorrow?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What is he saying? Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a consensus that the Bill be passed in its present form and if representation is to be given to different groups, it may be considered later but the Congress Party did not accept it. Now allegations are being levelled against us. The whole world knows that we are not in majority in Rajya Sabha. Many important Bills have been passed there thanks to the cooperation of the opposition. The Opposition considered them important and they were essential also in the interest of the nation. But because of differences in the opposition, certain Bills remained pending. Blaming us for that state of affairs would indeed be doing injustice to us. We shall try to bring forward those Bills again. When we had taken over the economic condition of the country was in a very bad shape. Can anybody deny the fact that the economic condition of the country has registered an improvement? No one can do it. Even if we choose to criticise by adopting a narrow approach, we would have to accept the fact that the situation has improved during the last six months - GDP is 5.8 percent, reserve is 32 billion and inflation is 4.6 percent - This can be managed. Then, an atmosphere of political uncertainty is created which has an adverse effect on our economy. This we are witnessing these days. Will this game plan continue every year? If your Government comes into being, that would also be a coalition government and you too would have to face all the odds. We have more support than the opposition. Is their exercise limited only to bringing us down? Will the country be kept in the dark? Will it be called morality or principled politics? Whatever it is, it should be done in the open. But this is not being done. We have made the country strong from the point of view of security, have improved the economic situation, and have created an atmosphere of peace and cooperation in the country. Ours is a vast country. Some accidents here and there cannot be helped. But efforts have been made to check them without losing time. My friend who preceded has thrown light on this. Shri Yashwant Sinha dwelt at length on the economic situation and apprised the House of the changes that have taken place in the economic front. There has been a record food production this year. Storage facilities are falling short. Credit for this goes to the farmers. We claim no credit for this. The policy being followed for years

is showing good results. But if there are floods and cyclones causing destruction to the crops, then there is need for all of us to face the situation unitedly. But that gives rise to the desire to derive political mileage out of such a situation. This tendency must change, our farmers deserve kudos for the record food production. We are aware of their problems. Last year a decision was taken to increase the price of urea. But now a demand has been made on behalf of the farmers and their organisations to lighten their burden. We assure them that allout efforts would be made to alleviate their sufferings.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very necessary to reduce the prices of inputs. There is need to protect the farmers from natural calamities.

Crop Insurance Scheme is on the anvil, Agriculture policy is being finalised. We are being charged that though we have completed one year in office, we are unable to give an agriculture policy to the nation. You couldn't do it even after 50 years. Agriculture policy is being given final shape. The process of consultations with others is in its last stage. The matter concerns the interests of the farmers. Therefore, cooperation of all of us is necessary.

In the last session, there was a lot of excitement over the memorandums concerning the reservation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The period of reservation is coming to an end. The Government has decided to bring forward a Bill in the House to extend the period of reservation for another ten years. Two of the memorandums brought out in 1997 are pending before the courts. Our endeavour is to get the verdict of the courts thereon as early as possible. The Bill on one of the subjects is ready and the same will be introduced in this very session. The need of the hour is to find a way out to fill the backlog of SC/ST and backward classes in the services. The present arrangement in this regard is not satisfactory. If this continues, it will not be possible to liquidate the backlog for years; on the contrary it will increase further. It is imperative to avoid this situation. We need co-operation of all in this connection. We appreciate the sentiments of people of SC/ST and other backward classes on this issue. Some delay has definitely taken place. But we will not accelerate the process. The ambitions and expectations of the Members and people of these classes will be taken due care of.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : We had requested that all concerned be called and a consensus evolved.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We will do that.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Had that request been acceded to, the matter would have been resolved in

the House itself...*(Interruptions)* He is our Prime Minister also. Why are you so possessive. Can't we say anything to him?...*(Interruptions)* You have not done that, otherwise this problem would have been solved...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a point referred to in the discussion relates to the dismissal of an officer of the Navy.

12.00 hrs.

My friend, the Defence Minister has expressed some views in the House in this regard. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Members to go through the document brought out by the Defence Ministry in this connection. That document is not meant for publicity. It is a statement of facts. Decision should be hammered out on the basis of facts and not on the basis of allegations and counter-allegations. If after perusing that document, House reaches the conclusion that something more is needed to be done in the matter, Government's cooperation would be forthcoming. A suggestion has been made. Shri Indrajit Gupta raised a question, "Cannot we discuss the matter?" The discussion should not be held in a vacuum. It should not take place in an atmosphere of allegations and counter-allegations. There should be a solid base for it and that solid base is there. Discussion can take place on the basis of the document. That has been published. A committee of some prominent Members of the House can also be constituted. Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Gujaral, Mulayam Singh Yadav ji, and Chandrashekhar ji would not be allowed to excuse themselves. Shivraj Patil ji and others can also be included in it. They may examine the facts and if they are of the opinion that besides discussing the matter in the House, there should also be a parliamentary Committee, then I assure the House that there would be no objection from Government's side. But if allegations are made on the basis of the material appearing in the media, then someone should take responsibility for it. Persons who level allegations should atleast realise that they would also be asked to prove them. The document published by the Defence Minister and the statements made by him in this regard are in accordance with the decision taken by the All-party committee which had met in your chamber. He did not reveal any mystery. He did not try to mislead the House or the country but if nonsensical allegations are hurled on the Defence Minister, it causes a jolt to the entire machinery as also to him. A way-out can be found of this imbroglio. Problems can be sorted out. In fact, we should give up the habit of perceiving everything with coloured lenses.

Whenever any public matter comes up, our first reaction is to see something wrong in it. If there is anything wrong, that should be looked into.

We have been fighting against the corruption for the last 40 years. There is no question of our compromising with it. If we had compromised yesterday, the need for seeking this vote of confidence would not have arisen. We have tried to run the coalition Government along smooth lines.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani) : But it did not run.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is running and will pick up further speed today evening. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a question of running or not running the government. The question is whether this country will run or not and the mandate of the people will be honoured or not. By condemning a coalition government if another coalition government is formed, will the latter survive the odds for which the former was held guilty. A coalition government, has its own limitations...*(Interruptions)* We have yet to come to terms with these limitations and act accordingly. I can understand the hesitation and the reluctance of the congress party. They are between two minds. They have an ardent desire to oust us and to share power and to take a decision to go ahead on their own. There are difficulties in it. But I am confident, that a democratic way would be found out to overcome these difficulties. It is good that discussion continued for two days. There was more heat than necessary in the discussion. We should exercise some restraint and this applies to all parties. Democracy is our most potent weapon which we have accepted as a way of life. It guarantees equality of opportunity to all citizens. It is essential to strengthen democracy with a view to unifying the country.

Sangamaji talked of the institution. Later Chandrasekhar ji also laid stress on it. Institutions should be safeguarded and certain principles should be observed. About me, it has been said that I of course, follow certain principles but I have been so besieged and beleaguered that I have been rendered helpless and hamstrung. I am not so weak a person. We have taken decisions which are in the interest of the nation with all the force and determination at our command. I fail to understand as to how it occurred to my friends in the opposition and particularly Shri Mulayam Singh ji, who at times assumes belligerent postures, that there are differences between me and Advani ji...*(Interruptions)* Just think over it.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : I never doubted your wisdom and knowledge. My only regret is that you have been labelled a mask.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Do not worry about the mask. The mask can be thrown away.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If you throw away this mask, we will be with you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Very good, then be prepared to join us.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : The day you throw away this mask, we shall stop opposing you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we can understand that there can be differences between, the Leader of the opposition, Shri Sharad Pawar and Shri Shiv Shankar ji. But why are we being put in the dock. Between Advaniji and me, it is not plain political companionship but a life long association. He has been assisting me ever since I got elected to the Lok Sabha. He has discharged his duties as Home Minister of India quite efficiently. There can be difference of opinion on various questions. Are you all of one opinion? Mulayam Singh ji do you and Beni Prasad ji never differ on any matter?...*(Interruptions)* I know.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Never.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appeal to the House to take the decision as the time for it has come. During our span of 13 months, which people gave us to serve them, we have indicated that if we are allowed to have our full term, we will bring about radical changes in the country. After all elections are held for 5 years. 13 months time is not a very long time. But the footprints that we have left on the sand of time during these 13 months are ineffacable and unchangeable. By criticising us, facts cannot be covered up. By giving vent to your anger and bitterness and by personal insinuations, our achievements cannot be undone. You may not accept opinion polls. But are they not indications enough that people wanted us to serve longer and our government to continue for its full term. I am sure, this House will take a decision in our favour.

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your respective seats.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of Orissa is here. He has come here. He may be a Member but he wants to be the Chief Minister. At the same time, will he vote here? Will it be ethical also? I would like to know about it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am appealing to you to take your seats first.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*(Translation)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, please take your seat.

*(English)*

Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat...*(Interruptions)*

*(Translation)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Venugopalachary, please take your seat.

*(English)*

Hon. Members, please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*(Translation)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam has requested that Shrimati Vijaya Raje Scindia and Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who are seriously ill and have been brought into the Lobby by wheel chairs, may be permitted to cast their votes in the Inner Lobby. If the House agrees, they may be permitted to cast their votes in the Inner Lobby.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. SPEAKER : A doctor may also be kept there for attending to her.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have written a letter to you regarding the normal method which is adopted. I wonder what the Leader of Opposition feels about it. There is a precedent, there are rulings. I would request you to kindly rule whether that is permitted or not permitted with regard to the voting by the Chief Minister of Orissa.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is a regular Member of this House. He has not resigned from his membership and he is not a Member of any other House. So, as an elected Member of this House, he has got every right to cast his vote in the House on this particular occasion.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let him go to Orissa and do his job there.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, he receives emoluments from the State Government of Orissa,