

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, please give me only two minutes...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. It is not good. The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat. You can seek a clarification.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I want only two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : What is this? The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. I would not have asked for a chance but for the fact that this is a very important debate and I should make my party's view clear.

I have only two points to make. Literally, I will limit my speech only to two points. One, I oppose this Motion of Confidence on two aspects. Of course, there are many aspects. But I am limiting my speech only to two points for the sake of this debate. One, the major party leading the coalition cannot claim to be secular. What happened on December 6, 1992 has not been forgotten. The black spot which has blotted there on the fate of the BJP has not been taken away. So I just want to ask one question to the BJP and its allies. Can the BJP leave alone those who have voted for the mandate which was got on the basis of saying that *Mandir* would be constructed at the place where the mosque stood? Can the allies say that the BJP should go away from the mandate which has been given to them? Twenty-six per cent voters have voted in favour of the BJP mainly on the point that temple will be constructed at the same place where the mosque stood.

My second point is that the BJP Government has been good enough to give packages to many States. But what about Kerala? We also need a package. We are not ready to come and sit with you. We also need a package...(Interruptions) The farmers of Kerala, specially the rubber farmers of Kerala are in doldrums. The whole economy of the State has been ruined. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that some action should be taken on this. I am sorry to say that I am constrained to oppose this Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to speak as Mr. Prime Minister has been called. I want to make a submission. When you requested hon'ble Prime Minister to speak. Since then atleast 6-7 members have spoken in this House, and it was as if some uninvited guests join a marriage procession. All of them rushed to speak. Nobody tried to listen to another member and if someone was on his legs you gave buzzer within 15 seconds.

I would like to say one more thing. When you were elected I raised my full voice to support you...(Interruptions) I felt very bad when Mayavatiji and Akbar Saheb raised voice and all the more when Mukul Vasnik shouted against you...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN (Bahraich) : BJP is opposed and the speaker is welcomed...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : We never opposed this speaker...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : I would like to make just one submission. You are elected to the House for the second time and by the grace of God I have also come to this House for the second time. Last time Mr. Sangma was the Speaker. Who treated all the weaker sections equally and whether only one member represented the party and two members he gave the opportunity to all and believe it when we used to shout and he became angry then we could never realised that he is speaking while standing or while sitting. I request you that whenever discussion on President's Address will take place please try to accommodate us by all means. As today you have called the Prime Minister, I don't want to continue...(Interruptions)

19.00 hrs.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the motion moved by me is about to conclude. As I have made it clear at the outset, as per directions of the president, I have to prove my majority in the House.

I would like to thank all those members who have participated in the discussion on the motion. Those who have not participated in the discussion and were quietly listening to the discussion, also deserve to be thanked.

Before replying to some of the issues raised in the discussion. I would definitely like to state that we have to conduct the House in a little more seriously. At times excitement is possible and rational-irrational replies are part of the Parliament. There is ample scope for opposition and excitement. But those who see the proceedings of the House should not have the impression that their elected representatives don't behave in a decent and dignified manner. The whole world is watching this House and for this, cooperation of all is necessary. I don't know what is the correlation between conducting the proceedings of the House, conduct of members in this House and result of the elections. But this is certain that in this House of 543 members those members who were also the members of 11th member Lok Sabha are 251 and 288 are new members. Possibly after observing our behaviour or statements, the faith of the voters shatter to such an extent that they don't think us fit to sent to this House again.

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many issues have been raised in the discussion. The leader of the opposition and other hon'ble Members have levelled the charges that the ruling party has some hidden agenda. I don't know, what they want to say. Our agenda is open and clear. It is the national agenda and we are committed to it. We are not concerned with any other agenda.

Till this Government is in power. I would be the Prime Minister, I assure you that the Government will function according to this national agenda only. All the parties and the alliance parties of the ruling party contested election on their own manifestoes, this is not new, it is not an unusual thing. But this is also true that all contested election together jumped together into the electoral fray and sought their support, when our number rose to a particular level then we felt that we are in a position to form the Government, then we prepared a common programme. Didn't it happen during the time of United Front. At that time we didn't speak about any hidden agenda. In 1977 some hon'ble member mentioned about it. When many political parties came together just because they all wanted to get the democracy freed of emergency regime. All the major political parties dropped important parts of their programme. I don't want to go in detail as to which party dropped which programme. Since long we have been talking that India should make atom bombs for its defence. But when Janata Party was constituted and a coalition Government was formed in the country we came across the differences on the issue of making atom bomb, and we dropped that programme. Other parties also dropped some parts of their programmes. The Government didn't work, this is not because of some issues or its programmes. That Government didn't work due to certain other reasons. This time also the national agenda has been prepared. If this is criticised, comments on its various aspects are made, we wouldn't have any objection rather, we will welcome it. In fact this agenda is prepared with consent of all the parties. BJP even being the largest party has not imposed its opinion or programme on any political party. We don't take decision alone, we take decisions unanimously. Decisions are taken on approval of all. Nobody should have a doubt. I am surprised that my hon'ble friends sitting on the other side are raising the issues that have been forsaken by various parties. When we used to talk about Article 370 we were objected to but today when we are not touching those issues, we are jabbed at for that about it. Head I win tail you lose is your policy. Ours policy is not a dual policy. Criticising and targetting in all circumstances is a dual policy.

[Translation]

Now I don't find Shri Jogi's here...(Interruptions) He was reminiscing holy water of river Ganges, the

importance of sacred places as if he is jogi in true sense and not by name only...(Interruptions) Lack of faith should not be made a ground as it will not serve any purpose...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued a circular referring to the BJP agenda...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That officer also suffers from the same misconception to which you are...(Interruptions). This matter has been clarified...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : You are the Prime Minister of the country. What action are you going to take?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ahmed, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We have seen that circular. This is unnecessary objectionable and I have asked for the explanation and it is one of our point in our National Agenda. But the name of B.J.P. should not have figured in that circular. It is wrong if it's there but it has been deleted immediately and corrected then and there.

It has also been alleged that our Government is being run by the remote control...(Interruptions). I am not new to this House...(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : We did not say so, it is said by Baba Bal Thakre...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I took the decision on my own. Wherever I found it necessary, irrespective of antagonising our friends. Can anybody handle me through remote? The fact is that neither anybody is trying to run our Government nor I can be handled through remote control. But why do they use this remote control in our context only whereas it is being used from a number of places...(Interruptions). But their remote control is perfectly alright whereas ours is bad. Again the same old saying that 'heads I win, tails you lose.'

This House is supreme. We are the representatives of the people. It is true that we keep contact and take advice from the people who have elected us but whatever decision are taken, those are ours. Decisions never imposed nor do we welcome the imposition of any decision. Nobody should have any doubt in this regard. It has further been said that we have adopted

dual policy. Not only that it has been also said that there are two centres of powers. Have you seen two centres nearby. When Shri Advaniji was the national president of our party, Shri Joshi has mentioned this, he had announced my name for Prime Ministership even before party could discuss and decide the candidate for the post of Prime Minister. This incident happened in Mumbai...*(Interruptions)* Later the Party ratified it. Now you will say...

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Through remote control...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I do not have to say anything if you want to make fun of it. But you know it very well that it will be contrary to my personality and nature if anybody tries to take undue advantage of my image. Nothing as such is being endeavoured. But it's not that much easy to create differences between me and Shri Advaniji. No one will get success in it. Please remove all such things from your mind.

Our alliance is comprised of smaller parties. Shri Sangma ji is not present in the House. He has lightly said, each person has...

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS : He is in the House.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Excuse me. Shri Sangmaji has rightly said so many things. I had a good rapport with him. I do not agree with his contention that smaller parties are hindering smooth sailing of democracy. We had to witness this political scenario. But this is not a permanent feature of politics. But I did not find a way out of it. This is a place of transition where alliance and disintegration walk hand in hand. I believe with certainty that after some time the politics will regain its lost balance. But if we people, who are attached with a big party and who have played a long innings of politics in this country and have greater responsibility could being small parties on the mainstream through new equations instead of exploiting them, the political scenario of the country may change. As I said earlier that a feeling that no body is there to look after them, has erupted in many parts of the country because of one party's rule for a longer period. This is a multi-religions, multilingual and multi racial country. Small units also want to have their identity and age. Searching a place for themselves. Recently the Prime Minister of Mauritius visited our country. He visited Azamgarh also in search of his ancestors village. Tears rolled down from his eyes when he reached Azamgarh in searching birthplace of his ancestors. The ancestors of the President of Mauritius had settled in Mauritius long-long ago. But it was his desire to see the land and environment where his ancestors born and used to live. We must appreciate this feeling...*(Interruptions)* We sincerely wish that the exchange of visit should increase. I had simplified the process of issuing passport when

I got opportunity in 1977 as a Minister of External Affairs and made the foreign travel simple. Recently we visited the Gulf Countries with a delegation. Approximately 30 lakhs of Indians are working in the Gulf Countries which constitute mostly of the Muslim Countries. They are earning money and sending a few bucks to their home apart from contributing to the development of respective countries where they are working. I want that our relation should further improve. Our people to people relation should also improve further. Shri Gujral was endeavouring in this respect. Though we could not get the desired reply, we will keep our efforts on.

Sir, I once told a leader of Pakistan that one can contradict historical facts but geographical boundries will remain the same position now. We will always live as neighbours. The only thing we can do is to live in unison or as a adversary. Why should we live as adversary when we have option of living in unison. I do not want to go in details here. While referring the speech of Shri George Fernandes a Members asked as to whether our policy in regard to China and Tibet has changed. National interest do not change with the change of Government. There are some policies which the successive Government inherits. As a Foreign Minister I tried to take some steps to improve our relation with the China. At that time I was subjected to criticism and our neighbour also committed a mistake by antagonising vietnam due which I had to cut short my visit and returned back. But as per the agreement accorded at that time we are holding talks on our border issues and maintaining tranquility on our borders as well. Today also we are holding talks in regard to our borders with China. Talks are being held in a conducive atmosphere and efforts are on to make our relation cordial in other areas also. We had suggested Pakistan also. I told Pakistan, not in the capacity of Prime Minister, but as a leader of opposition, that you keep aside the issue of Kashmir for some days and open your gate in the fields of commerce and economic co-operation and other areas. We produce certain items which Pakistan needs and a few items are produced in Pakistan which we need. We can fulfil each others requirements be it electricity and foodgrains. We have not been able to create that atmosphere but I am confident it will happen when situation will be conducive. I have told this earlier also and like to repeat today also. International Relations do not change with the change of the Government. Shri Gujral always used to keep contact with the opposition as a Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The unity of the entire country on the matter of C.T.B.T. reflects the fact that we can pave one way successfully through contact and mutual discussions. It leaves its impact on the world community as well. This matter is not related to party therefore I sought co-operation when I sought consensus it is not because of any weakness or compulsion that we lack majority and

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concerned about the survival of our Government. We do not bother about the survival of the Government. We were not in power for the last forty years. We always emphasised on consensus even when we were in opposition. Today when we are in power we what to put our thinking of consensus in practice.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, can a big and ancient country like this comprising of huge population and diversity prosper in the absence of consensus? Perhaps it cannot. We differ on issues and go to the people. Elections are over and what are we supposed to do now? The debate is going on the issue of mandate. Day before yesterday, I had said that if anybody can claim that to have the mandate then we are in the forefront and only we can make such a claim. I did not say that we have the mandate and we do not require your help. Had we got clear majority or even two-third majority, I would have still held the opinion that the country should be governed on the basis of consensus. Those who were in power earlier had also run the Government with consensus. But, this process was hampered. I do not want to go into details when it was hampered but certainly it did. This process should carry on further and efforts should be made to solve the problems of the country in an atmosphere of Cooperation. I would like to assure you that I will make constant efforts in this direction.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some members have commented upon the issue of the Agenda. My friend, Shri Chidambaram said that Agenda is there but it contains no programme. I fail to understand the minute difference between the two. I would like to submit that the agenda includes programme also. It includes our priorities and the laws that would enacted. He cited an example about river water. He quoted it and I also quote it.

[English]

"We will adopt a national water policy which provides for effective and prompt settlement of disputes and their time-bound implementation."

[Translation]

The Hon. Member had said that it is a very general statement that there will be a national water policy. But what are we going to do has not been mentioned in the agenda. We have said that there should be a mechanism for prompt settlement of disputes. Perhaps he wanted us to air our views about the on going Cauvery river water dispute immediately after assuming power in the centre. What would have been its result? Why did the previous Governments not opened their cards for years together. I am sure the previous Governments must be facing some difficulty. Such issues are policy matters,

we will have to sit together to formulate a policy in this regard. Because Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are the affected states, there is a need to evolve a solution. The award has been formulated but it has not been implemented. I cannot immediately after assuming the office announce that my Government will implement the award. Even water can catch fire. The issue of water is going to be more complicated. Water problem is not limited to India only. It has become a universal problem. It is quite possible that instead of petrol, scarcity of water may be the next tension for world. Water pollution is increasing. Quantity of water is declining. The ground water table is going down. We experience all these things in our Constituencies. We feel agrieved when we see people suffering. Sangma ji, we have not committed that we will do every thing in five years. But for water, our Government is committed to provide potable water in each and every part of the country within five years. As regards other matters, we have indicated the direction which we will follow.

A suggestion has been given in our National Agenda that a Commission should be set up to review the Constitution. Our friends sitting in the opposition have strongly criticised it. We are not the first to come out with such a suggestion. Deep thinking has been going on in this regard for years. Intellectuals are deliberating and have been expressing their views. These intellectuals are not associated with any political party nor motivated by any politically party. Dr. Karan Singh, Dr. L.M. Singhvi, Shri Soli Sorabji, Prof. Rashiuddin Khan, Shri B.K. Nehru, Shri S.L. Shakdhar, Prof. Madhu Dandevate, Justice V.P. Krishna Ayyar, Justice Khanna and General K.V. Krishna Rao have endorsed the idea. 50 years have elapsed since our Constitution came into being. There is need to review it. There is no question of drafting the new Constitution. But at the same time should we satisfied that amendments in the Constitution take place as usual. Yesterday it was mentioned that there is a difference between review and amendment. Amendment is to be enforced whereas it is open for us to implement or not to implement the report submitted after review of the Constitution. However, there are certain issues which need reconsideration.

We have adopted a particular system of elections. Is that system working properly? Suggestions are pouring and the Members of Parliament may also be in favour of it that an elected body Lok Sabha must complete its tenure of five years irrespective of the Governments coming into or going out of power. Such a practice is there in many countries...*(interruptions)* Advaniji is saying and perhaps Sangmaji have said that present election system is quite strange. At times vote bank increases and seats decreases and at times seats increases and vote bank decreases and thus things are going on. It has also been suggested that the candidate

securing less than 50% votes should not be considered as elected.

If he has secured 15 percent votes in the real sense he can't claim himself to be a representative of the people. You may say that even you have got less votes, if a change is brought in the system that will be equally applicable to us also.

There are countries, who are of the opinion that if the required number is not secured in the first ballot then one should go in for the second ballot. The institution should be more representative in nature and it should be elected institution but this process involves a lot of expenditure. There are certain other points also, but I don't want to dwell-upon them. If a committee of experts and impartial people is constituted, which may include Former President Shri Venkataraman, Nana Palkiwala and Dr. Farooq Abdullah. I am not mentioning the names of all, because they are of the opinion, that there should be a commission, to look into the amendments that are required to be made in the Constitution. There is no need to draw such inferences at this juncture that we are going to discard the Constitution and going to write it afresh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sangma had raised a point regarding education. He said that six percent of GDP should be spent on education, whereas a decision in this regard was taken long ago. It has been asked why word 'gradually' is being added to it. No doubt this decision was taken long ago but it was not implemented. Today, whatever is spent on education is not more than 3 percent, we would like to raise it. Increasing it from three to six percent would pose difficulty that is why we have added word 'gradually', but it does not mean that we want to hang it in fire, we have to achieve the target of six percent at the earliest. The hon. Member has raised the issue of tribals also, this is related to Delhi. When Congress was in power in Delhi, at that time also no list of Scheduled Tribes was prepared. There may be persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes residing in Delhi but list of Scheduled Tribes has yet to be prepared, that list has not been prepared so far, but efforts should be made in this direction, and the Scheduled Tribes or tribal people living in Delhi should not be deprived of the job opportunities and I assure you that I will talk to Delhi Government in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all our Governments have paid special attention to north-east. The condition of north-east has improved to some extent. But a lot more is still required.

19.38 hrs.

(SHRI P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*)

Packages are announced but are not implemented. Committees are constituted for example Luxmi Chand

Jain Committee was constituted and then Shukla Committee was also constituted, but none of their recommendations were ever implemented. Earlier the Governor used to be the Chairman of North-east council but in the present set up Vice-Chairman of Planning Commission would be its Chairman. I am entrusting him this particular-responsibility that he should ensure that all the announcements made for providing assistance to north-east are honoured at the earliest. If they are facing resources crunch let them bring it into the notice of Central Government. We will try to mobilise resources for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we take a lot of interest in the factual discussion as to whether we should get the foreign assistance or not and if so under what conditions but the point is that when we get foreign assistance or loan at a low rate of interest, we fail to make its full use. The biggest problem being faced by this country is at the implementation stage. There is no dearth of good ideas. We have a number of attractive schemes only on paper. There are such experienced officers engaged in the Government machinery, who seem to be knowledgeable person in that field, and to some extent, they are but their ideas are not practicable. Why this country is not transforming the lot of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes and minorities? Paucity of the funds may be one of the reasons. I have come across many such cases, though during the past three four days, I have not got much time to see more. I have realised that funds worth crores of rupees were released by the centre for poverty alleviation programme.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Thousands of crores.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Joshi is saying thousands of crores of rupees. He had been the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee. But what has been the outcome? Such is the situation we have to change this situation, we will have to lay more emphasis on the implementation part. Now the concerned individual will be made responsible for the project. There will be proper monitoring and whosoever will fail to accomplish his task will be brought to the right track. Nobody will be allowed to misuse the resources of this country. Being a member of parliament we get an amount of Rs. one crore...(interruptions) It is not a big amount. I feel that if this amount is spent properly-there should be someone to oversee the spending. These funds should not be pocketed by the contractors of officials, then with the help of non-Governmental organizations, one can take up projects in one's Constituency. I am unable to understand as to why the basic problems of the country could not be solved with thousands of crores of rupees when I, myself get so much work done in Lucknow with one crore rupees. A small instance was brought to my notice. In 1994-95. a national pilot project was launched to control T.B. Work on this project started

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in 1997. This project was aimed at T.B. eradication and World Bank had proposed to provide a loan of Rs. 750 crore for it. This project was delayed and due to red-tapism this project could not be implemented and now T.B. cases are increasing in the country. World Bank proposed to provide Rs. 750 crore for this project but we could not implement it, how such a situation could be tolerated by the Government or society. The information regarding allocation of funds to Zila Parishad should not be confined to officials or elected representatives only but the whole village or all the concerned persons should know about it. All should be alert and keep a vigil as to how funds are spent. Now-a-days, a culture of loot has developed in our society which should be changed. Not only at high levels but honestly should be inculcated at every stage of administration and the society. The relief projects formulated for the public welfare like housing scheme, employment schemes are good. Millions of small houses can be constructed, funds can be sought for such projects. Land mafias are grabbing Government land illegally in big cities. They are selling this land to the people for constructing flats and are earning huge premium. The Government officials are also involved in it and poor people are compelled to live in jhuggi jhonpris. This system should be changed. We will make amendments in the existing laws and new laws can also be enacted if required. The Government land is public land and land-maifa will not be allowed to encroach upon it simply to earn profits.

How this could be stopped? It is a very difficult problem. But I would like to assure you that all these problems can be solved through cooperation.

I seek your support to fulfill the promises made by me. While concluding I appeal you to vote in support of the Confidence Motion moved by me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the hon. Members that as the Division Numbers have not so far been allotted to hon. Members, it is not possible to hold the Division by the Automatic Vote Recording Machine. Division will now take place under Rule 367AA by distribution of slips.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, no Member has demanded division. I therefore, request you to decide it by a voice vote.

MR. SPEAKER : First, I have to make an announcement in this regard and then we will act upon the advise of hon. Members.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Hon. Members will be supplied, at their seats, with 'Aye'/'No' printed slips for recording their votes. 'Aye' slips are printed on one side in green, both in English and Hindi and 'No' in red on its reverse. On the slips, hon. Members may kindly record votes of their choice by signing and writing legibly their names, Identity Card numbers (given in either the Temporary or Permanent Identity Cards supplied to hon. Members), constituency and State/Union Territory and date at the place specified on the slip. Hon. Members who desire to record 'Abstention' may ask for the 'Abstention' (Yellow colour) slip. Immediately after recording his vote, each hon. Member should pass on his slip to the Division Clerk who will come to his seat to collect the same for handing over to the officers at the Table. Hon. Members are requested to fill in only one slip for Division.

Hon. Members are also requested not to leave their seats till the slips are collected by the Division Clerks.

Now, I shall put the Motion of Confidence to the vote of the House.

The question is :

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

Those in favour may say 'Aye'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'Aye'.

MR. SPEAKER : Those against may say 'No'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the 'Ayes' have it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : We want a Division.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are some hon. Members who have not received Identity Cards yet. That is why, they will not be...(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is another announcement.

Some hon. Members who have taken oath but may not have collected their Identity Cards can vote without the entry of Identity Card number. They could make other entries in the voting slips, since voting would be valid.

19.54 hrs.

Let the lobbies be cleared —

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is :

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

The Lok Sabha divided :