

So, I request the Central Government to take immediate steps to remove these difficulties and develop Kanyakumari into a place of national and international tourist attraction by the implementation of a master plan.

11.32 hrs.

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Sir, I beg to move :

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

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

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

The time allotted for this debate is seven hours.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the way to run the House ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue relates to corruption. You should not try to suppress it... (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : You can ask me what I want to say. I would like to raise here certain points... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Look here, please. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have receive 59 notices for Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you not listen to me first?

[Translation]

Please listen to me first.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I wish I could have been able to accommodate all of you I have gone through the notices. Many of the matters relate to the happenings in the respective constituencies of the Members of

Parliament. I understand the feelings of the Members of Parliament. I am also a Member of Parliament, I have a constituency like you. Therefore, I do understand that. Whatever matters have been referred to, I assure you..

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I am not on a constituency matter, I am on a national matter ... (Interruptions) I have not moved any motion. I am on a national matter... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : You should not stand when Mr. Speaker is on his legs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is not that Mr. George. I am not saying that all matters relate to the respective constituencies of the Members of Parliament. There are other matters which can be discussed in the debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : It is a national matter with international ramifications where the Interpol is concerned. We want the House to discuss this. This House will adjourn tomorrow. When will we discuss this?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. George, you are not supposed to stand up when I am standing. You know that much very well.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I apologise.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. What I am saying is that other matters can be brought in during the debate on the Confidence Motion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : There are certain matters which should be clarified before the debate takes place.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we wish that proceedings of the House should go smoothly and peacefully. It is a different thing if there are some heated arguments during discussion.

Today the whole country and the world is looking at this debate. therefore, the House... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue does not pertain to Rule 377. You have allowed some Members but the remaining Members could not get permission. I am aware of your difficulty that all the Members cannot be given permission. This session has been summoned for a specific purpose and we have to perform that work. But the developments taking place outside are not under our control. The issue of urea scandal is likely to be raised in today's debate in details. I would not like to go into its detail because as you would say that it is yet to be discussed. But

I would like to say that it would not get justice if it is raised during debate. Past five years were full of such scandals. Rs. 130 crores have been embezzled. Where that huge amount had gone? CBI is conducting inquiry into it. The House should be taken into confidence regarding the progress of inquiry into this matter. It has happened earlier also. Now hon'ble Prime Minister is rising for making his speech. He should give us assurance that all the facts regarding it would be placed before the House by today evening so that this matter could be raised tomorrow. This matter would not be allowed to be suppressed in the name of Confidence - Motion. Here the decision is to be taken in accordance with the number of Members. But I think that corruption is not a matter to be decided on the basis of numbers. The Members sitting that side may have interest in it. It is a big scandal. Who is responsible for it? I demand that hon'ble Prime Minister should make a statement on it and the facts should be revealed to the House by today evening. Hon'ble Prime Minister is himself a farmer and urea scandal, which is related to the farmers, has been unearthed as soon as he took the charge of the Government. We want an assurance from the hon'ble Prime Minister that this amount of Rs. 133 crores would be recovered and guilty persons would not be spared, however powerful the person may be. We want that money back as it is the hard earned money of the country. No one can be allowed to loot the money and deposit it in foreign banks in such a way.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise only one point.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The leader of the Opposition has said that he wants to say. It is enough

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make some clarifications on the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No please.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I would like to know from the hon'ble Prime Minister about the demand raised by the leader of the opposition ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know that in this urea import...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are not on a debate on this issue. It is enough. No. I will not allow a debate on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Please tell us what facts have been revealed. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Prime Minister is ready to hear me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is enough. I cannot allow a debate on this issue. Enough is enough. Mr. Prime Minister to speak please.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, before I express my views on the Vote of Confidence Motion, the Leader of the Opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and the other senior leader Shri George Fernandes raised the fertilizer issue wherein a sum worth about Rs. 133 crores is involved. He has also made a point that the Government should come out with a categorical reply by today evening. I would like to assure this House that there is no question of hiding any facts...*(Interruptions)* I am equally interested to unearth...*(Interruptions)* I am equally interested to know the real culprits and I am equally interested to know who are responsible ...*(Interruptions)*. Kindly bear with me for a moment. Let us not draw conclusions before the inquiry is completed. The inquiry is going on.

Sir, our respected Leader of the Opposition, who was the Prime Minister, who was sitting in the very same chair for about 15 days, has also gone through this particular case and he has instructed the concerned authorities to speed up the investigation, if I am correct. I am not meddling with the investigation. I have not called any officers and till now, I am only going through the papers. The Papers have highlighted some of the facts. I want to know whether they are true, based on realities. I do not want to go by the press versions. Unless the CBI Director gives me the full information, I cannot come before the House without proper materials ...*(Interruptions)* Tomorrow I am going to answer on the Vote of No-Confidence Motion...*(Interruptions)* sorry, on the Vote of Confidence Motion. On this particular issue, I would like to place all materials before the House and all, relevant factors before the House. I do not want to suppress any issue relating to this urea scandal...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Mr. Prime Minister, what is the difficulty in coming to the House with facts by this evening? This is the simple point. The Leader of the Opposition has requested you to come out with facts by this evening ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : As I told you, the investigation is still going on. So, the officers are in Hyderabad. They have to come back and give all, full particulars. Unless I have the full materials, I

cannot answer it. I would not mislead the House. That is why I am telling this. I am clear in my mind. I want to give all the materials...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will you place the facts before the House tomorrow? .. *(Interruptions)* I would request the hon. Prime Minister to come before the House with facts, not as part of the reply to the debate. We want the facts to be placed separately before the House. The Prime Minister has made his statement just now. The facts in the possession of the Government on this issue should be placed before the House in the manner of a statement by the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Home Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. former Home Minister, I think it is not a reasonable demand. While the matter is under investigation, you cannot expect all the facts to be placed before the House which will prejudice the investigation. I think you are asking for too much. Whatever is available, I think, the Prime Minister has already said that he is coming with his ultimate reply. But I do not think, at this stage, you can ask for full facts which will prejudice the investigation.

(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : If the hon. Prime Minister is ready to state facts in his reply, what is the difficulty in placing those very facts in terms of his statements?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let us hear him.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : He is the Home Minister also. He is the Prime Minister also. He knows all these things. So, a full-fledged statement can be placed before the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Joshi, it is enough.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. You cannot do like that. Do not make wild allegations like that. I am not allowing you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Oh, what are you talking?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Respected Speaker, Sir, I today rise to seek the confidence of this august House as the hon. Rashtrapatiiji has called me to take the responsibility of the Prime Ministership. He

has also asked me to go before the House, before the 12th of this month and seek the Vote of Confidence.

Sir, I would like to say only a few words at this stage. The composition of the Eleventh Lok Sabha is a unique one for the first time in our Indian history. The composition of the House is consisting of nearly 32 national parties as well as the regional parties.

Sir, I know, there are many more senior leaders, more matured leaders, more experienced leaders in parliamentary life. In this critical juncture the responsibility of taking over the administration as the Prime Minister was thrown upon me because all secular parties including the Congress have asked me to...

[Translation]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER : Congress is not secular.

[English]

SHRI. H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please wait. Please wait for some time. You have got ample opportunity to say whatever you want to say - I am not going to disturb. I will sit throughout the discussion, I will not go out of the House. I will hear every hon. Member's views and then I will try to reply to all the points, what is going to be raised today during the discussion.

Sir, how the situation arose? Before election to the Eleventh Lok Sabha so many political *pandits*, so many columnists had expressed their views that in the Eleventh Lok Sabha the results would be a 'Hung Parliament'. For the last one year, the debate both in public and in private though media is going on in this country that no political party can get clear majority to form the Government at the Centre. This is the opinion which was prevailing before the election to the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

Sir, after the Eleventh Lok Sabha's elections were over, what is the mandate of the people? The mandate of the people is not to any one political party to run this country. Yes, our hon. Leader of the Opposition, who is the former Prime Minister, was asked to take the responsibility of the Prime Ministership and run the country as per the appointment order issued by the Rashtrapatiiji. Because the Rashtrapatiiji in his wisdom thought that this party is a larger party, he gave it an opportunity and asked Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to prove his majority before 31st May 1996. I do not want now to go in detail about what happened on 27th and 28th May, about the deliberations in the House. On 28th May, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee tendered his resignation. On the same day Rashtrapatiiji called me and gave me the appointment order to form the Government. All the secular parties had met on 15th May and elected me as the leader of the secular front.

Sir, I am not a Member of this House. Even then all the United Front friendly parties took a decision and expressed their confidence in me though I am not so experienced, though I am not so matured a politician in so far as the parliamentary functioning is concerned. They all expressed their confidence in me and asked me to take up this responsibility. At the same time the Congress Working Committee on 12th May had passed a resolution saying that they are not going to form the Government; also they are not going to support the BJP at any cost and if any secular party is going to take up the responsibility they are going to extend their support unconditionally. That is the resolution of the Congress Working Committee. In this background Rashtrapatiji called me on 28th May at about 8 o'clock and asked me to take up this new assignment.

I am too small a man. In this very chair, if we go back to the history, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who was one of the tallest men in our Indian history functioned as the Prime Minister, up to the last one, that is Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji - whether he was there for ten or fifteen days, I have got my own respect and regard for the experience and the maturity he has got in the parliamentary life. I am now succeeding him on the condition of the Rashtrapatiji to prove the majority in the very same House. The deadline is 12th June. That is why I am coming before this august House to seek its final views on this Motion of Confidence.

Let us analyse the present situation. Why was BJP with the allied parties not able to prove the majority? It had been given 15 days time. I am not going to attribute any motive. They had not adopted any foul method to see that the majority is secured from other parties. According to our senior leaders, he had expressed here in this very same House that they did not want to stoop to any type of manoeuvring and they wanted to see that their Government was allowed to continue because they have got a majority in number. That was the argument advanced by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji. If the numerical strength is going to be taken into consideration, if 160 plus the strength of the allied parties comes to about 194 in a House of 542, could it be possible to say that they have got the mandate of the people? I would like to pose this question for your consideration.

Sir, today, I would like to again reiterate that the mandate of the people is for a coalition Government. It is crystal clear. No political party in the Eleventh Lok Sabha was able to muster strength on its own. The Congress got the second place and all other parties put together, I would like to say, barring one or two parties, were able to have 192 Members in the United Front.

Sir, we have got a common programme. The common programme was also palced before the

nation. In that common programme, we have spell out what are the priorities, and all these things* that have already been placed before the nation. And the hon. Members of the House can express their views about the common programme.

Sir, I would like to request all the Members of this House, at this critical juncture, when the political atmosphere is so confused, when the political atmosphere is so fluid that we should function with necessary cooperation. I only request them to extend their full cocperation where the Government is going on a right path. In case, if they find that the Government is not going on the right path, then, they are free to expose this Government. I have no reservation. I am making this point very clear. If this Government, or if this Ministry, is at fault on any matter, they can expose it. This House has got every right to say about the misdeeds of this Government. I am answerable to this House. I am answerable to 90 crore population of this country. I will assure you this much.

A new chapter has begun. A coalition era has begun. Sir, this was told by the former President of India, Shri Venkatraman, about two years back. The era of coalition Government has begun. This is what he expressed about two years back. It has come true. Today, there is some sort of a doubt in the minds of some friends that Mr. Deve Gowda is going to compromise on all matters. I would like to make myself clear that - let me be very clear, let me make myself clear to this august House - Congress, while extending its support has not put any condition. Not only that, up till now on any matter they have not interfered. They have not interfered in any matter about taking any decision. But I myself took a decision not to take any important decision unless the House gives its concrete support, unless the Vote of Confidence is going to be carried through in the House. I issued instructions to all my Ministers not to take any major decisions till the Twelfth of this month, till knowing the result tomorrow. I do not want to doubt about the present coalition Government's tenure of Office. I would like to make myself clear. The mandate of the people is for a coalition Government and this Government is going to survive for five years. We are going to prove that.

Sir, it is not a question of self-praising. I was the Chief Minister for one-and-a-half years in Karnataka. I have never allowed a single scandal in Karnataka in the last one-and-a-half years. I might tell you, I may be an inexperienced politician compared to other senior leaders, but one word I am going to tell this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am not permitting you.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, as the Chief Minister, what I have done, the days will prove. What is going to be the action of this Government about the minorities, about the backward classes, about the farming communities; what is going to be the action of this Government, that is mentioned in our programme.

12.00 hrs.

Wait for sometime I am not going to run away from the House...*(Interruptions)* Please wait. Let us see. I know full well about the composition of the House and about the seniority of the so many leaders in this very House. There are three former Prime Ministers and there are senior most comrades like Indrajit Guptaji and Somnath Chatterjee. I do not want to name them. I was sitting in the back bench, in the corner three years back. I observed the proceedings as a back bencher. When all these senior leaders used to speak, I was very much attentive - let me learn and I want to learn at least something from the senior leaders. That is my characteristic in my political career. I may tell you very frankly that I am not going to say that I am such a learned man. I am not an economist and I am not a scientist. But I would like to say that I know the problems of the people of this country. I would tell you only one word...*(Interruptions)* Sir, In this very Chair so many stalwarts have functioned as Prime Ministers for 17 years or 18 years. And today if I am here for five years or five months it is not a criterion for me. What I am going to do as Prime Minister of this country, that is important. I am going to spend every minute, every hour, every time for the sake of the nation and I am going to prove what I am for the poorer sections of the society, for the downtrodden people and the minorities of this country. That is what I am going to do. That is my concern. That is how I work. That is how I worked and I am going to say this with all sincerity at my command. I am going to give a word of promise. If I commit any mistake, I am subject to scrutiny of this House. I have subjected myself to the scrutiny of this House. I would like to tell you only one thing. Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House because there are so many speakers. So many senior leaders are going to participate in this debate and I think our former Prime Minister Shri Vajpayeeji is going to speak today. I only assure you that on all the points that are going to be raised, I am going to reply tomorrow in detail and I am not going to avoid any information whatever that is required by this House.

With these words, I would request all the hon. Members of this House humbly and with all humility to see that this Confidence Motion is carried through.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : I would like to know what is the schedule of this debate. You have said seven hours. Now, Vajpayeeji is not

speaking. Somebody told me that he would be speaking tomorrow. Initial understanding was that all these speakers will speak within these seven hours today...*(Interruptions)* Whatever decision you take we will accept it. But kindly let us know what is your decision because yesterday in the meeting we authorised you and you said that you would inform us. We have not been informed. If I am not unduly indulging in your kingdom of decision, kindly let us know your decision so that we can also put up our speakers accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER : I have announced that the time allotted is seven hours. Each political party including the smaller parties have been given time and it is accordingly divided and distributed. I think after a few minutes, we will give it to you. If you are able to stick to the time allotted to you, we should be able to conclude the debate today without lunch hour.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : So far as lunch hour is concerned and so far as time is concerned, we have made very clear to you yesterday. I am saying this because the discussion in the Committee has been brought here. Yesterday, we had made it very clear that we would like the debate to continue till tomorrow. We had also made it clear that hon. Shri Vajpayee will speak tomorrow; Shri Jaswant Singh will initiate the discussion from our side. All these things had been made very clear. That is why we would like this debate to continue till tomorrow; and that is what we had said yesterday. We are bringing it to your notice and to the notice of this House, since the discussion in the Committee has been brought here by the hon. Member ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What difference does it make? What is important is, the debate has to be concluded within seven hours.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : The important thing is the discussion...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have to discuss it within seven hours; that is the important thing. Discussing it 'today' or 'tomorrow' is not important.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : They are interested in doing it tomorrow only, for some astrological reasons. They are not interested in the number of hours of discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House wish that there should be detailed discussion on the Confidence Motion and all the views of Members be expressed in the House ...*(Interruptions)* Now, if you say that debate should last today itself...*(Interruptions)*