

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fifty Minutes past Eleven of the clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about Ayodhya issue. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khurana, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down all of you. Now I call Madhuji to speak. I appeal all the hon. Members to help in conducting the business of the House. I know that hon. Members are concerned.

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Assistance will be there, provided you give every body an equal chance. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I am saying, please listen me first. Madhuji, you please sit down, I want to say something.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me first I appeal to all the hon. Members.

[*English*]

I will appeal to you, and beseech you to help me to proceed with the business of the House.

[*Translation*]

We are meeting after so many days. The hon. Members are also concerned and

want to raise their questions. That is why I am now calling Madhu Dandavateji to speak. He will make his submission and after listening to him, if leaders of other parties also want to make their submission I would allow them to speak.

Please assist me to proceed with the business of the House. Now Mr. Dandavate.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): Sir, kindly also request the hon. Members not to leave their seats and come between you and me. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They should not have done it; what else can I say?

11.52 hrs.

RE. MOTION FOR SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR UNDER RULE 388; VALIDITY OF FORMATION OF THE GOVERNMENT; AND STATUS OF CONGRESS (I) PARTY IN THE HOUSE

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Before expressing your views, Sir, I would only request you kindly to listen to our submission in detail, because it is a very basic issue. I have this with me: firstly, I have given notice under rule 388 saying that rule 32 regarding the Question Hour be suspended, and we should proceed on to discussing the very question of the validity of the formation of the Government. I have with me the November, 9, 1990 Press Communique of the Rashtrapathi Bhavan. Regarding the formation of the Government, the Rashtrapathi Bhavan communique said that firstly, they consulted Congress (i), whether they are prepared to form the government; then they requested the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders whether they can form the Government they requested also the Left Front, whether they could form the Govern-

ment. Then they requested the Chandra Shekhar group whether they could form the Government. And there, it is said—I will read it out for you:

"The President enquired from Shri Chandra Shekhar if he were in a position to form a viable Government ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Is the Question Hour being suspended?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kamal Nath, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Under what rule are you allowing him, Sir? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Mr. Dandavate.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): I have given notice, for suspension of Question Hour. (Interruptions) You hear me, Sir. (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, have you suspended the Question Hour?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Shri Chandra Shekhar responded to the offer and produced evidence of support to his group from the Congress (I), AIADMK, Bahujan Samaj Party, etc. The President is satisfied *prima facie* that the group headed by Shri Chandra Shekhar with the support of other parties as mentioned above has the strength to form a viable Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I am on a point of order. (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: No question of point of order. (Interruptions) No point of order during the Question Hour. (Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Under what

rule is he speaking? (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: There is no point of order during Question Hour only notices under Rule 388. (Interruptions) Only when the President was informed by Congress (I) and others that "we will support the Government", in other words when they were the allies of the Government, though not the participants, the Government was allowed to be formed. Today's Press carries a Press interview by the Secretary of the Congress (I), AICC, Shri V.N. Gadgil, and that says that it has appeared in the Press that the Congress had declared that "we will function as an Opposition party." Mr. Gadgil has announced that that the Congress (I) is neither an ally nor a participant in the Government. If this Congress (I) consisting of 195 members is not an ally of this Government, not talk of being a participant, in that case the very *raison detre* of the President inviting Shri Chandra Shekhar to form the Government falls flat. We want to discuss this and therefore the Question Hour has to be suspended and we should proceed to discuss the legality of the Government.

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the noise I would not quite follow that my friend Professor Dandavate was trying to say. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar): Now clarify. Why are you sitting quiet now?

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you provoking them?

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Shall I explain?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: From what I could understand his complaint was that if we are pleased to extend support to this

Government, how can we be an opposition party? Now, the hon member having had experience of a minority Government, should have known that he was supported by two parties which regarded themselves also as opposition parties (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Mr Acharia, you should give him a patient hearing

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE Shall I explain?

MR SPEAKER I will come to you

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) He should speak the truth

MR SPEAKER I have permitted Shri Dinesh Singh

SHRI DINESH SINGH If they wish to bask in the glory of having been party of a government, I have no objection. But there is no provision in the Lok Sabha for a supporting party (*Interruptions*) There is no provision for a supporting party. There is a ruling party and the rest are opposition parties (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR SPEAKER Mr Chandra, is it necessary to say yes or no? It is not necessary

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER Mr Soz, what has happened to you?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH SINGH My difficulty is that the hon members have not read the rules. If they point out from the rules that there is a provision for a supporting party, I shall withdraw. But, the submission that I wish to make with your permission is that Prof Kurien had written a letter to you, in which he had explained that we, the Congress (I) remain an opposition party (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER The Question Hour is over

12.37 hrs.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Visit of King of Bhutan

*1 SHRI R M BHOYE Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the King of Bhutan visited India during the month of November, 1990,

(b) if so, the details of the talks held by him with Indian leaders,

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries as a result of the talks, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The King of Bhutan paid a four day visit to India during November 23-26, 1990

(b) During his visit, the King of Bhutan called on the President Shri R Venkataraman. He also met the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister. The discussions centred round bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual concern.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Bhutan on the 25th of November 1990, to prepare the Detailed Project Report on the Tala Hydroelectric