

12.00 hrs.

## RESIGNATIONS BY MEMBERS

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:  
(Jadavpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: One Minute. I just have to make an announcement. I have received letters of resignation from the following Members:-

1. Shri K.P. Unnikrishnan,
2. Shri Somnath Chatterjee,
3. Shri B.B. Ramaiah,
4. Shri C Madhav Reddi,
5. Prof. Madhu Dandavate,
6. Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo,
7. Shri Dinesh Goswami,
8. Shri Indrajit Gupta,
9. Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh,
10. Shri N V.N. Somu,
11. Shri Arun Nehru,
12. Shri C. Sambu,
13. Shri Arif Mohammad Khan,
14. Shri Raj Kumar Rai,
15. Shri Suresh Kurup,
16. Shri Manvendra Singh,
17. Shri Bezawada Papi Reddy,
18. Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary,
19. Shri Amal Datta,
20. Shri Basudeb Acharia,
21. Shri M. Raghuma Reddy,
22. Shri Manik Reddy,
23. Shri Amar Roypradhan,
24. Shri A.J.V.B. Maheswara Rao,
25. Shri Srihari Rao
26. Shri Ajit Kumar Saha,
27. Shri Purna Chandra Malik,
28. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee,
29. Shri Ajoy Biswas,
30. Shri V. Tulsı Ram,
31. Shri Hannan Mollah,
32. Shri H.A Dora,
33. Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy,
34. Shri S Jaipal Reddy,
35. Shri M Subha Reddy,
36. Shri Anil Basu,
37. Shri Gopal Krishna Thota,
38. Dr. G. Vijaya Rama Rao,
39. Shri Baju Ban Riyan,
40. Shri Vijaya Kumar Raju,

41. Shri Zainal Abedin,
42. Shri Ataur Rahman,
43. Shri Satyagopal Misra,
44. Shri Chandra Mohan Singh Negi,
45. Shri D.B. Patil,
46. Shri Piyus Tiraky,
47. Dr. Sudhir Roy,
48. Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy,
49. Shri R.P. Das,
50. Shri Manik Sanyal,
51. Shri Ram Pujan Patel,
52. Shri Palas Barman,
53. Shri D.N. Reddy,
54. Shri D. Narayana Swamy,
55. Shri Muhi Ram Saikia,
56. Shri Chitta Mahata,
57. Shri Syed Masudal Hossain,
58. Dr. A.K. Patel,
59. Shri Mohd. Mahfooz Ali Khan,
60. Shrimati Bibha Ghosh Goswami,
61. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal,
62. Shri Het Ram,
63. Shri Khurshid Ahmed Choudhry,
64. Dr. (Mrs.) T. Kalpana Devi,
65. Shrimati N.P. Jhansi Lakshmi,
66. Dr. A. Kalanidhi,
67. Shri Vijay Kumar Mishra, and
68. Shri B.N. Reddy,
- I accept the...
- (Interruptions)
- SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):  
Sir, please listen to us before you announce that.
- MR. SPEAKER: That I cannot do. I have to do my job, you may do your own. accept the same with immediate effect.
- (Interruptions)
- MR. SPEAKER: There are no arguments, Sir, at this stage.
- [Translation]
- SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir some members were forced to tender their resignations. Raj Kumar Rai was just saying outside the House that he was compelled to submit his resignation.
- MR. SPEAKER: May be.
- (Interruptions)
- SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We are worried that as these members have resigned from the House, these members may also run away from contesting the elections.
- [English]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): What is the total number of resignations, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: Sixty-eight...

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to say a few words. Our friends in the opposition are trying to pass off as martyrs by putting artificial blood stain mark on one of their fingers. All of us know that Lok Sabha elections are not very far off. It is the last session of the Lok Sabha and only 12-15 days are left. I would like to tell them that Shri Rajiv Gandhi will again become our Prime Minister.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI (Sitapur): Shri Bhagat has become a poet consequent upon the resignations by the members of the opposition, thanks to the opposition.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They should be thanked for making. Shri Bhagat a poet.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the senior most parliamentarian in this house and as the oldest Member who has come back to this House at this age after fighting a bitter election, I have been witness this morning to the most unfortunate and unparliamentary scene of so many of the Opposition Members offering in a theatrical manner their flight from and refusal to exercise their sworn duties as Parliamentarians to espouse the cause, feelings and thoughts in or democracy on behalf of their electors by resigning from the House in this manner. They know that the President has charged them, charged all of us as M.Ps. to consider and pass so many pieces of legislation, especially the parliamentary

Panchayati Raj Bill and the Municipal Raj Bill and thus broadbase our democracy and fulfil the Directive Principles which were enshrined in our Constitution. They have so far failed to assure the public and Parliament of their wholehearted agreement with the basic principles of the Panchayati Raj Bill and by their action today of running away from this Parliament Session specially convened for this purpose, they have refused to help Parliament to consider and pass these Bills and thus extend the right and privilege of active and assured participation in our democracy to the broad masses and their elected leaders at the grass roots level.

It is sad that these elected M.Ps. run away from their duties and privileges to espouse the cause of people even while in large parts of the world, especially in Communist Europe, the Eurasian Soviet Russia and Peoples' China, efforts are being made to emerge from out of the darkness and dumbness of dictatorship into parliamentary democracy.

Sir, while we are extending our franchise to the younger people, crores of them in this country, is this the message that these friends want to give to them, that they have come here to this Parliament in order to run away from the discharge of their elementary duties as Parliamentarians?

It is tragic that these friends have given this tragic message, of support to regimes of dictatorship to crores of our younger voters.

I have had experience, Sir, of such boycotts in the past. But we were protesting at that time against imperialism against a foreign country. And even then we have had reason to realise the limited use of the boycott and so we marched back again even into that Legislature with limited powers, and that was so long ago. For the past 40 years we have had this free democratic Parliament based on very wide franchise and now we

have also the promise and prospect of basing our democracy on much larger and wider base of voters of 18 years and above. Under such fully democratic auspices, today's drama enacted in this manner under the leadership of the arch-dramatist is a reactionary move. It is an inauspicious welcome to the crores of our new young voters.

The whole world is welcoming the advent of Nobel laureate, Mr. Sakharov the great scientist on to the Russian Parliament and the Leader of the Solidarity to the Polish Parliament. Under these circumstances and conditions of Perestroika, these friends are enacting nazi methods, fascist methods and methods of dictatorship. I deplore this behaviour on the part of our colleagues and I am so unhappy that during this regime of yours of 9 1/2 years of splendid Speakership of our House and my own 55 years of Parliamentary career that this thing should have happened. I am sorry for them.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, these resignations represent cheap and hollow election stunt. This stunt is fully exposed by the twin facts, namely that the elections are already round the corner and that the Members of these parties do not resign from the other House. This cheap and hollow election stunt is a patent insult to the intelligence of our electorate. They have treated the intelligence of the electorate with contempt and I am sure this will cost them very dearly. We deplore this act of theirs and really consider that these resignations represent the dereliction of duty by them at this particular critical hour, both on the external and internal front. Sir, a request I make to you, let the Prime Minister be advised to prepone the elections to Parliament, which are already round the corner. Let the by-elections to all these constituencies be held immediately so that the electorate does not get delayed in declaring their

verdict upon this particular insult that has been thrown at them. Let the by-elections be held immediately without any delay.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, actually the resignation drama is a poll gimmick. Just like.....\*\*.....the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister is acting in films, these Opposition people also are acting here in Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't mention any name.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: They have to discharge their duties that have been entrusted by the people. But they have anti-people policies and they are anti-democratic. That is why they have come forward with this move at the time when they have to face the election. Actually this is a poll gimmick.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have listened to the speeches of all the members right from Shri Bhagat to Shri P. Kolandaivelu. I would like to sum up the matter through the following couplet for the benefit of my friends.

"Rooth kar Mahfil se Jalim Is Taraha Jate Nahin,

Jo Is Taraha Jate Hain, Wapis Lot Kar Ate Nahin"

[English]

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated Anglo-Indians): Mr. Speaker, I feel I have a special right to speak in this matter. I have been a Member of the Central Legislature since 1942 and an elected Member of the Constituent Assembly. More than that, I was a Member of the Steering Committee which in a way formulated the design, the unitary

character, of our Constitution. After that, I have been a Member of Parliament throughout except for two years.

I have always been the strongest protagonist of an ultra-strong Centre. I had the good fortune of being very friendly with Sardar Patel, although he was about 25 or 30 years my senior. He was regarded as the architect of India's unity and brought over 500 princes into the unity framework of India. More than that, he told me more than once that unless we have an ultra-strong Centre for 50 to 70 years, fragmentation which is just below the surface, will resurrect. The founders of the Constitution gave deliberately a unitary bias to our Constitution with all the residuary powers at the Centre and as the Minister said the other day, we have Article 368. I know I speak as a nominated Member. But I am nominated not because of anybody's charity. I am nominated because I have the privilege of being the elected leader of the only national body that represents a small but highly respected community.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi at our centenary celebration in October, 1976 said:-

"Two communities, the Anglo-Indians and the Parsees have made contributions out of all proportion to their size to the strength and progress of the country."

It was Sardar Patel who helped me to get special guarantees in the Constitution for my community, granted to no other community. We have more than vindicated that. Some of you will remember the Kashmir campaign. The tribals were a few miles away from Srinagar. They were driven away decisively by the Indian Air Force. More than half the awards for gallantry were given to Anglo-Indian fighter pilots. In 1965, scores of Anglo-Indians were given gallantry awards. The first pilot to shoot down the so-called invin-

cible Spit fire, flying a Gnat, was an Anglo-Indian.

Alone in Parliament, I had opposed the redistribution of the States on a linguistic basis. I foretold that if we do that, we will be resurrecting the regional chauvinisms which lie just below the surface. My forebodings and warnings have unfortunately come true. What has happened? Wherever you have an Opposition party running a State, in spite of verbal professions of democracy and secularism, in fact, their basic impulse is regional chauvinism. What has happened in Assam? Assam drove away three States and is in the process of driving away a fourth State. In Karnataka, in their impulse of regional chauvinism to impose the supremacy of their language, they had riots with the Telugus and the Muslims.

Sir, I would like to say that I had the privilege of defending Mrs. Indira Gandhi. In spite of every effort made by the then Janata Government to destroy her politically and legally, she was able to shoot that down. She bounced back to power and she was able to restore the unity that was being destroyed in the country. Today we see attempts to fragment the country by a motley, which is an indescribable irreconcilable motley, disparate elements without any communality of ideology or policies. This hopeless minority now demands the resignation of a Government with an absolute majority!

Sir, may I say this? I have seen the scroll of Parliamentary history unfurl before my eyes at the Centre. Sometimes I have played not a negligible part. But never have I seen such a disgraceful blot on the scroll of Parliamentary history as what happened last week. They made Parliament an object of ridicule. Parliament was held to ransom. Even the hon. Speaker was held to ransom. In a mood of desperation, people who are utterly irreconcilable as regards their symbols, as regards their names, they seized desperately

on some Report. I am not going to deal with the financial niceties of that Report. There was a Finance Minister at that time. I think he is the alleged leader from time to time of this motley. But he apparently approved of all the financial niceties. But there is one vulnerable, ultra vulnerable aspect of the C&AG's report in spite of its alleged sanctity and that is the arrogation by an Accountant-General seeking to give an opinion on the quality of a gun, about which the Chief of the Army Staff had categorically that this is the finest gun that the Indian Army has so far acquired.

Sir, what happened in the last two days is the most shameful exhibition. Somebody has referred to the staying away of 106 Members. Somebody asked me before that happened: "What do you think of it?", I said, I was very friendly with Shri Mavalankar. He was one of our greatest Speakers. With all due respect to the Chair, may I say that had he been in the House, he would have suspended the whole 106. But you have been saved that unpleasant task by their suspending or removing themselves.

Sir, I have never been a Member of the Congress Party. But, thank God, today at least we have got one national party. With all its shortcomings, it is the only party to which the minorities can look for protection. I, in my capacity as a not negligible senior lawyer, have argued successfully case after case on behalf of the minorities. Over and over again, they have had to come to the Congress for their ultimate protection. Some minorities may be large enough to return their own people. But in the final analysis, when you want your basic fundamental rights to be protected, you have to come to a powerful Central Government. Fortunately, we have a Central Government which has been conditioned by no less a person than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This is what I have to say to the minorities today.

Until the recent judgement of two Judges,

the Supreme Court has always given meaning and content to Article 30. That is a precious fundamental right for us to establish and administer educational institutions of our choice. These two Judges have tried to efface Article 30 (1). I say this with great respect. But thank God, because there were two other petitions which were pending and because the Centre was the first Respondent and it was helping us, the then Chief Justice Shri Pathak referred the matter to a five judges' Bench so that the two judges' judgement may no longer be valid. May I end on this note? Sir, it is recognised that India is the dominant nation in South Asia and Mr. Gorbachev, Leader of the Soviet Union said that other day that under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, India is one the way to becoming a Great Power in the world.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a few words deviating from the current topic under discussion. I would not have liked but I am compelled by the force of the circumstances to mention here that my constituency, the city of Hyderabad, experienced rainfall this time, which is unprecedented during the span of last one hundred years. Thousands of Houses have collapsed. I will discuss it in detail later on. In the first instance I would appeal to the Central Government to rush relief assistance as the State Government is not providing any assistance. Thousands of people have been starving at present. Thousands of houses have collapsed and the entire area is waterlogged hindering the movement of the people. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to extend assistance immediately so as to provide relief to the people of the city.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also welcome the views expressed by Shri Banatwala in the House. Shri Bairagi has expressed his views.

Today Shri Bhagat also prefaced his views with poetry. I am reminded of the following lines written by a poet:

“Wah veer nahin, wah kayar hai hai, jo dar kar ran se hat jaye,

Wah mard nahin, namard hai, jo kah kar bat palat jaye,

Age badh kar peechhe hatna, veeron ka dastoor nahin,

Mar jana hai manzoor, magar peechhe hatna manzoor nahin.”

When I came here in this House as a newly elected member, I thought that I will learn something from the senior members of the House and we will deliberate on the issues confronting our constituencies. But I was surprised to see that yesterday when I came back from my tour, I was also approached by some of the members to resign. I posed a question to them that in case elections were held in future and Shri Rajiv Gandhi was again returned to power as the Prime Minister, will they again tender their resignations from the House?

You may or may not agree with me but I was also a member of the Congress Party in the Bihar Vidhan Sabha for a few days, and fell a victim to the conspiracy of some people to be thrown out of the Congress Party. However, I am not like those members i.e. Shri Madhu Dandavate and Jaipal Reddy who have demanded discussion in the House under Rule 193. When you had given permission for discussion, it should have been discussed. If there was a discussion on it, we would have considered the report of the controller and Auditor General, but it is only an act of cowardice on their part. Whether you agree with me or not but I am sure that whenever elections are held in this country, Shri Rajiv Gandhi will come back as the Prime Minister. I would also like to say one more thing in this House that neither I have any self interest or I am prompted by any selfish motive. Elections were held in 1977 in

accordance with the fundamental right guaranteed in a democracy and each representative was elected to this House by the people to serve for a period of five years but events took such a turn that not even two and a half years elapsed that the people of India again voted Smt. Indira Gandhi back to power with a thumping majority.

The resignation of the members of opposition is only a farce. Today everybody is praising Shri Rajiv Gandhi for his Jawahar Rozgar Yojana because 75 per cent population comprising the poor people living in villages could not even highlight their demands and appeal to any leader for funds. Mr. Speaker, Sir, today no one can stop them from praising him. Let opposition members enact this drama not once but thousand times which they have been doing from the very beginning but the people of India have realised after the event of 1977 that these parties can unite only for capturing power. In fact the people of India are not so stupid as to be easily swayed by them. Our Prime Minister wants that condition of the poor people should be ameliorated and middlemen should not be allowed to swindle away the money meant for the advancement of the poor. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has won laurels to Shri Rajiv Gandhi in each and every village and in all the panchayats of the country. That is why the members of the opposition being scared of it, have tendered their resignations. I would go to the extent of saying that whenever the next elections are held, Shri Rajiv Gandhi will be returned as the Prime Minister.

With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit only one thing that the action of the opposition today is going to stand out as very unfortunate for the Parliamentary democracy in the history of Indian Parliament. Our leaders of opposition did not take any initia-

tive for the solution of any other problem of the country. However, if at all, they dared to take an initiative, it was for damaging the great polity of this country which was the creation of our great and devoted leaders. Even if the members of the opposition are not here, we will do our work. Just now our hon'ble colleagues have stated and one of them made a suggestion to postpone elections for sometime so as to teach a lesson to those leaders who have resigned from the House on the presumption that the elections would to be held in a month or so. In case elections are postponed for a period of 6 months they will find it hard to pass the time. I would like to take it very seriously. We believe in democracy and the congress has always led the people of India. Today Congress Party is in majority under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. If the Congress Party has done any objectionable work, we would like to know about it from them. If free discussion is not allowed in the democracy, how the democracy can function? I would like to read out a couplet by an Urdu poet:-

"Jo Tum Hi Na Hoge To Kya Range  
Mahfil,  
Kise Dekh Kar Aap Sharmayeega."

If you have to hang your head in shame for your deeds, before whom will you do it. Had you been present here to hear our arguments, you would have come face to face with reality.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALA (Ponnani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to clarify one thing. He has submitted that one member has made a suggestion that elections should be postponed. In case he is referring to me, I would like to tell him that I have only said as follows.

[English]

"General Elections be pre-poned, not

postponed, any by-elections should be held immediately. That was what I said."

[Translation]

SHRI U.H. PATEL (Bulsar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the 'Ramayana' that

"Raghukul Reeti sada chali aayee,  
Pran jayen par vachan na jae."

Similarly, whatever difficulties he may have to face, hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi shall fulfill the promises he has made to the people. And even in future the people of this country will elect him once again as the Prime Minister.

[English]

DR. G. S. DHILLON (Ferozepur): Mr. Speaker, this exist by the Opposition was not unexpected. From the very beginning of this session they kept us guessing as to what their move is about. But that has saddened me today. As an old Member of this House and having been the Presiding Officer of Punjab for a number of years and then twice as the Speaker of the two Lok Sabha, I feel that I should inform the House of the technical side of these resignations; procedural side, you may take it like that.

During my parliamentary career and particularly as the Presiding Officer of the House I had never seen a C & AG Report being made the basis of the demand for the resignation of the Government, the Prime Minister or any other Minister. The C&AG reports have normally been discussing this department, that department and criticising the administrative performance. Normally after that, namely, presentation in the House, they go to the Public Accounts Committee. (Interruptions)

They are discussed threadbare in the



Public Accounts Committee. Every observation of the C&AG report is seldom accepted by the Public Account Committee. It is surprising that this C&AG report—have been laid on the table of the House—was not allowed to go the Public Accounts Committee. They could easily send those particular items to the Public Accounts Committee and then have a discussion here. In the intermediate stage, discussion is not tenable. Having no criticism about the past performance of the Government, the policies of the Government or anything that goes against it, they all combined on the issue of C&AG. That is against the practice followed in so many years. That is much more surprising. My only fear is that this may not be treated as a precedent for future C&AG reports, future opposition and the future Government. This is a parliamentary democratic system of Government, where Governments may come and Governments may go; but to demand the resignation only in a point of C&AG report is something which is unheard of. They could have picked up some questions of policy or some mistakes of blunders of the Government and then brought it to the House. But doing away with all the stages is very surprising. I hope that this shall not be treated as a precedent in future.

AN HON. MEMBER: Some lay Members want to speak.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: One good this has come about from what they have done today. That is, you will have peaceful time now. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Won't we get bored?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH (Padrauna): Sometimes, I feel I am in the opposition!

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I may go back to

my times. In those days, there were stalwarts in the opposition. Acharya Kripalani, Shri Masani, Dr. Lohia and many others were there, when I was a Speaker. *(Interruptions)* All of them had gone to some extent, but they had not gone to this extreme of resigning.

SOME HON. MEMBERS; Never, never.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Mr. Speaker, I could sympathise with you and the Deputy Speaker, when he was presiding. But I did not force my opinion and my rulings, always fearing that those people way not filing my own ruling at me, sometimes.

So, what has happened is something which is painful and saddening. Governments may come and Governments may go. I hold no brief for Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But what alternative do they offer? Our people namely, the Government have also committed a blunder. It should have been presented in the last budget session. The impact would have died down.

Now, when the elections are coming, they have come with it. What a lack of foresights. What will these people lose? Only two or three months' salary and nothing else. I pity them. Sir, you did not allow some time to them. You should have declared your acceptance of their resignations at the end of the day or at the end of the week. Many of them would have had second thoughts. But now your announcement has left them with no alternative.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: They are weeping outside.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I appreciate that. I have thought over this as to why have you done it immediately. At least one more day's headache will be avoided.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

**MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT):** Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned that the CAG's report should have been placed on the Table of the House during the last budget session. I would like to categorically state here that nothing was done by the Government to stop the CAG's report from being placed on the Table of the House last time. It was just that the CAG's report had been received and it had not gone through the normal procedure which a CAG's report goes through before it is placed on the Table of the House, that is, signature by the President of India before it comes back and comes to the House. The moment the signatures of the President were appended on it, it was placed on the Table of the House. There was no attempt by the Government to stop the CAG's report from being placed on the table of the House.

**SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I cannot match the number of years Prof. Ranga has in the House and so also Mr. Anthony, since 1950—provisional Parliament—I have been serving this hon. House, fought all the elections almost from the same constituency. It is almost a record anywhere. So, almost for nearly four decades, I have been serving as a Member of this House and had the privilege like Dr. Dhillon—not for so many years that he has put in—also as the presiding officer and Speaker in this House. With all this background, I am saying this because, you know, I can claim that right from my adulthood, I have grown through the high traditions of parliamentary conventions and various traditions of this House. There were times in the 50's and in the 60's, when earlier the precedents were of the Mother of Parliaments, that is, the House of Commons. But in the conferences after conferences, in Commonwealth parliamentary conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, it was recognised that the high traditions set up by this

House have become a model for all the Parliaments of the world. It is a sad day because some Members from the Opposition have chosen to resign their seats and have dealt a big blow to the high traditions of democracy in this Parliament. The people all over, the parliamentarians all over will recognise that this is a wrong step which they have taken. More so, they have run away from the oath of office that they had taken. Every Member, when he comes here, takes an oath that he would abide by the Constitution and he will strengthen the Parliamentary traditions and the unity and integrity of this country. He takes the solemn oath. By running away like this, they have done a big blow.

Secondly, this is apart from the high drama that has been introduced because some of the Opposition Leaders are very familiar with the films and theaters. They have introduced that high drama here. Yesterday, I was in my constituency. I come to this House straight from there. A massive rally has broken the record I was there yesterday when the rally was organised. We know the feelings of the people. They will be turned away by the electorate saying that this is an opportunistic action. It is opportunistic. They want to run away from the basic issues that the country is facing. This session was convened to pass very important Bills like the Panchayati Raj Bill, the Local Bodies Bill, etc. Some people are confused about this. Another revolution is going to take place. Federalism is unique. We have the two-tier system. As a result of the new measures, we are going to have the third tier, that is, at the grassroot level of districts and panchayats. People will be directly invested with the responsibility, of changing their own life. I have seen the people of my constituency. I am coming straight from the people. I have seen the enthusiasm in them regarding this system. Our friends have run away from their duty. I am quite sure that people will not like it and

they will face the music when the elections will take place. Election is round the corner. Mr. Dhillon has said that they have run away. CAG Report is the main issue on which they have chosen to resign. The CAG Report had a basic procedure. He has underlined it. Although I do not fully agree with him, I agree with Sheilaji that it was for procedural reason, this Report could not be placed in the last session. It had to go to the President. After the President signs, the Report, has to come to the House. The Government has stuck to this principle as it had promised in the last session that they will lay it on the first day and they laid it on the first day. Normally, this Report should go to the Public Accounts Committee. They did not agree to it. If the Report does not get to the Committee and once the Report belongs to a part of the proceedings of the House, then any Member can debate it. There is no difficulty about it. Actually, they tabled a motion but they were not having any policy or any programme. They had one programme, that is, demolition of this Government. This can be described as undemocratic or a stronger word, fascistic. In Parliament, the Opposition or the Ruling Party or those who are in charge of the administration of the country and the elected democratic Government, have equal responsibility in the conduct of administration because it deals with the fortunes of the people, unity, integrity and development. These people have not followed the procedure of sending it to the Public Accounts Committee. Every day, appeal was made to them to debate or discuss it. But they were not prepared for that. They know that CAG Report is a different kind of a Report. It goes into the financial inadequacies of the money spent. It does not deal with policies. It actually deals with how the money had been spent. They want to give an opinion as to what the JPC did earlier or what the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister said in their statement and things like that. There is no constitutional validity about it. There is no parliamentary tradition to bind it and they

know that they will be exposed. If it goes to the Public Accounts Committee or debated here, all these people would have been exposed. Therefore, they could not face this issue and they have run away. After moving the motion they want to go to the people to show that they are the champions of high traditions of Parliament. I think the people of this country are very mature and very wise. They have run this democracy which has become a pride for this country and which is respected everywhere. It is people who are behind this parliamentary democracy and they will see through this game and they will have to pay for it what they have done.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Speaker Sir, in the context of the mass resignation by the hon. Members of the Opposition, I would like to remind you of Iago, the greatest villain of the Shakespearean tragedy 'Othello'. On losing the race for constructive work to his competitor he used to remark:-

[English]

"He hath a daily beauty in life; that meakes mine ugly."

[Translation]

This tendency of escapism has been witnessed in a democracy in India only. As Iago can not be put down, similarly the role played by the hon. Members of the Opposition has sunk to a depth which will remain unsurpassed in the annals of democracy. The entire House knows it that the constructive measures taken by the Hon. Prime Minister for the upliftment of Harijans and Adivasis has not parallel. In this context I would like to complement the zeal of the hon. Prime Minister by quoting the following words of H.W. Long fellow:

[English]

“Sail on O ship of State,  
Sail on O Union strong and great.”

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with all humility, I would like to say a few words before this hon. House, I feel very small among these very distinguished and senior politicians who have spoken because I happen to be here only for the second term. But in the next Parliament, there will be people of a young age because people between 18-20 years, will also vote. Younger element will come and has come like me already; with certain ideals, certain thoughts that we would learn from our seniors. Unfortunately, the seniors who have resigned are mostly those leaders who can never stand from the same constituency twice.

If they represent the people of India, let them stand from the same constituency. Let them try and stick to the same party.

In 1975 when Mrs Gandhi was forced to imposed emergency, these very leaders opposed the emergency tooth and nail. Many very senior leaders said that they would take to the streets, The younger element of the Congress (I) like Shri Sanjay Gandhi took to the streets and the people of India sent us back in 1980 with a majority. What happened to that leader of this country, Mrs Indira Gandhi?—She was assassinated.

I call these leaders—so-called leaders, because a paragraph given in the CAG's report is supreme to them and not the people of India or this hon. House.

The CAG's report is by an ex-home Secretary of the Government of India, a report giving details about the weaponry of the Defence system. I have had the fortunate of being in the Ministry and have not opened my mouth as I am under an oath of secrecy.

Another leader was in the Defence Ministry for a shorter time than I was, but he speaks from every nook and corner about things that he should not have spoken. I have great pride in being a Member who has kept his mouth shut. I have great pride in belonging to a Party in which the Leader has kept his mouth shut because the people who were around him, who were totally advising and trying to run the Government, who were running the Home Ministry, today try to be leaders, those leaders when they go to the polls will know that the people of India, the youth of India are not foolish enough to be led astray by these dramatics.

[Translation]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker Sir, the conduct of the Opposition during the last week and today deserves to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. They have betrayed the confidence reposed in them by the people of this country. The entire drama has been enacted by them to hinder the hon. Prime Minister's efforts to bring in the democracy in the true sense of the term by giving powers to the rural and urban population through the introduction of the Panchayati Raj system. The masses of this country are quite conscious wise and well aware of the fact that it is only hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi who is capable of doing something for the welfare of the masses, unity and integrity of the country and making the nation prosperous. Hence sheer desperation, dejection and helplessness had led the Opposition to take this condemnable step. I would like to request you to give us maximum possible time to denounce this action of the Opposition. The public of this country is happy with the present Prime Minister's approach and performance. In the coming general elections, the Congress (I) will once again emerge victorious and hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi will again come back as Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep):  
Sir, when I came here in 1967 many senior leaders used to call me as the baby of the House because at that time I was just 25 years and a few months old. Now, I have been in this House for nearly 23 years and I have seen many Speaker, like Dr. Dhillon, Shri R.R. Bhagat, etc. but I have never seen such a drama that has been played by the Opposition today in this very House. At this juncture when externally as well as internally the unity of the country is in danger, the democratic institution, the august body ought to have strengthened the unity of the country the Opposition members have chosen to resign the Parliament on the pretext of Comptroller and Auditor General's Report. Dr. Dhillon has very aptly mentioned the procedure that they should have adopted.

13.00 hrs.

Even the Government had been very generous just to accommodate them. It ought to have gone to the Public Accounts Committee before it comes back. But they had given a notice. You in your wisdom admitted the notice. The Motion was admitted; for three continuous days, they have shown not only to this country but to the entire world, a very bad example i.e. how democracy should not function. Now, they have, on the pretext of Comptroller and Auditor General's Report sent in their resignations. In your wisdom, you have not given any opportunity to them to think about it further, and you have accepted them. It is very good that you have accepted them. In the report, it was said that 10-6 Members were to resign. Here, you have just now mentioned that 68 Members have resigned. They are only giving a pretext namely,

of Comptroller and Auditor General's Report. In fact, they were asked to initiate the discussion.

....\*\*...

MR. SPEAKER: No mention of the other House.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED:.....\*\*.....The Comptroller and Auditor General has gone on record in public. He has said that the Parliament of India and the people of India will decide about this Report. That speaks volumes. I do not want to go into that.

Now, we have got only a two-tier system. We are going to extend it further. The Government want to implement the DRDA scheme. Only 20 per cent of it used to go to the grassroots. The Panchayati Raj and the Nagar Palika Bills are to be enacted. By resigning, these Members have boycotted them. Political pandits have predicted as to what would be the results. In 1977, they had made a prediction, but the results had come contrary to it. In 1980, they had predicted one way and the result was different. In 1984 also, it was different. They are going before the people with the Comptroller and Auditor's Report in hand. I am sure our people, though they are uneducated, know whom to select and send to this august body. These Members will not come back the people will treat them with the contempt they deserve.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have also since received a letter of resignation from Shri Ram Narain Singh. I accept the same with immediate effect.