

RE-ELECTION RESULTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

[English]

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will take only one minute. I think, the whole House should congratulate Shri Nelson Mandela for his victory and for the victory of democracy of the South African people. India was in the forefront of this movement because firstly Mahatma Gandhi and after him, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi have fought like anything for the democracy of the South African people.

Today, the victory of Shri Nelson Mandela is not only the victory of Shri Nelson Mandela, but it is the victory of democracy. I think, this is the proper time that this House should unanimously congratulate Shri Nelson Mandela and the people of South Africa. Today, we are thrilled because we have seen their movement; we have seen their fight; and I think, this is our moral duty to congratulate them.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : I am supporting Kumari Mamata Banerjee's suggestion.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not the feeling of any particular Member, instead it is the feeling of the entire House. In fact a new chapter in the History has begun. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the elections in South Africa mark the victory of Democracy there and I feel that it is going to strengthen

our mutual relations. With this, the apartheid has come to an end which is a remarkable achievement. It will be better if we pass a resolution unanimously, passing the event.

[English]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg) : Sir, only one thing I want to add to what Kumari Mamataji said. What I have to say is that Mahatma Gandhi's dream for the independence of South Africa where he had spent a lot of time and where from he had started his *satyagraha*, has been fulfilled. I do not know what to suggest. I think, from the Chair, let it be moved that all the Members of Parliament congratulate them and send a message like that.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, we have to do it. The House should convey this message to the South African people. We are thrilled. This is a new history. They have created a new history.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a new chapter of history has been written and the people all over the World are also expressing their happiness.

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi had visited South Africa, much before the start of freedom struggle in India and the spark which he had kindled, there has been shape of fire today and

under the leadership of Shri Mandela, democracy has won over the White Government there. Therefore, it is a historic moment and being the largest democracy of the world, we should unanimously pass a resolution here and send our greetings to Shri Nelson Mandela and the people of South Africa.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, may I say one thing? Of course, we all share the same sentiments in this House, on the occasion of the celebrations taking place in South Africa on the victory of the African National Congress. I think, it would be befitting, if the Government of India invited the representatives of the Indian political parties, at least those which are represented in this House, to go in a delegation to attend those Celebrations. This is the least we can do. At the time when Namibia was celebrating its independence, the then Government which was here, of which Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh was the Prime Minister, sent a delegation including Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Congress party, the CPI, the CPM, we were all invited to accompany the Prime Minister and to take part in those Celebrations. I am really surprised that no such initiative has come so far from the Prime Minister; and I hope that he will look into this matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, we are happy to note that democracy dawns on South Africa. By this, the political power transfers from White minority to Black majority. With great struggle and sacrifice, the repressive policy of Apartheid has come to an end. It is a happy occasion and

the entire House must congratulate them on this historic event.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I on behalf of my party, want to congratulate the people of South Africa for their great democratic victory after a long stint of struggle. Today, A South African scholar has accepted that Mahatma Gandhi had started the struggle for democracy there. This way Mahatma Gandhi becomes the hero of two democracies, which is a matter of pride for all of us. The people of South Africa have achieved it after a long struggle. Our party wants to share their happiness. I have come to know through newspapers that a delegation is being sent there by the Government of India. But this delegation does not have members from all the parties. I would like to request you that our policies are being recognised in the country as well as all over the world and while sending such a delegation, the Government of India should ensure that the same has a national from and persons having all type of ideology should be included in it.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no doubt, this is a great historic moment for the entire humanity of the world. A new chapter is added to the history of democracy of the world. The struggle that was going on for quite a long time, almost from the time of the Mahatma, has ultimately ended. Now, the people of South Africa will have the real taste of democracy and that way this is indeed a historic moment. On this historic occasion, we greet the heroic people of South

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

Africa, who without caring for the consequences, sacrificed a lot and carried on their struggle to its logical conclusion. We the representatives of the people of India send our greetings to the people of South Africa and to Nelson Mandela who is the leader of this great movement. In a way, he symbolises the entire movement and he is going to head the government in South Africa which is going to be formed very shortly. I request you Sir that this message of our greetings be sent to Nelson Mandela and the people of South Africa on this historic occasion. Thank you Sir.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ (Pudukkottai) : I endorse all the views expressed by hon. Members. I would like to mention here when Mahatma Gandhi was fighting against the apartheid in South Africa, a woman belonging to the Scheduled Caste, by name Thillaivadi Valliammai fought against the apartheid along with the Mahatma. I request the Government through you Sir, to name one of the streets in Delhi after Thillaivadi Valliammai who worked as the lieutenant of the Mahatma in the struggle against the apartheid in South Africa.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the views being expressed in the House and want to submit that this is a unique incident in the history of mankind. The people of South Africa had been oppressed and exploited for hundreds of years. Their dreams are taking shape today. The House should send its greetings to the wouldbe President of South Africa, Shri Nelson Mandela and the people of that country. Mahatma Gandhi

had laid the foundation of freedom struggle there besides doing a number of experiments. This way his dream has taken a concrete shape. Gandhiji, Indians and Blacks of South Africa were ill treated at that time. But at last this historic moment has arrived after a long stint of struggle. Today, the people of the world are bowing before Nelson Mandela and hailing his victory. What I feel is that a greeting message should be sent by the House on this occasion.

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore) : Sir, I am one with the House to convey our heartiest greetings to the people of South Africa. Mahatma Gandhi the father of the nation, started struggle in South Africa to abolish Varna Vaishmya. Einstein, a great scientist and a philosopher the world stated :

"Generations to come would scarcely believe that a man like

Gandhi could have trod on this earth in flesh and blood."

The same cause was carried on by Shri Nelson Mandela under whose leadership the people of South Africa fought and won independence. It is our proud privilege to convey our hearty greetings to the people of South Africa and I support this stand.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim) : Sir, on my behalf and on behalf of my party, Sikkim Sangram Parishad, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by our hon. colleagues on this happiest moment of recent times. The black people of South Africa have ended the apartheid. In this happiest moment, I would like to extend my congratulations to Shri Nelson

Mandela and the whole population of South Africa.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, on behalf of my party I would like to convey our congratulations and greetings to the great people of South Africa who have won, in a very long drawn battle, their democratic right and their independence from white domination.

Shri Nelson Mandela has visited India a few years ago. When he had come to Calcutta, he got the biggest reception - organised by our Left Front Government- anywhere outside the South Africa. The people in Calcutta were overwhelmed. We already knew that democratic rights are coming to the people of South Africa. The chapter has now closed, but, still we should be apprehensive. We should not think that everything has passed. In the continent of Africa, there are many other States and also in South Africa itself there are many States and remote places which have not seen for a long time the benefits of democracy.

Earlier, in this struggle of South Africa against the white domination, India had given a lead by opposing Apartheid in many respects and had got the entire world ultimately to support our policy. We should not give it up. We should still persist in the policy that there is no difference between man and man because of the colour of their skin, as we are also fighting here the difference between man and man on the grounds of caste, religion and birth.

So, I once again convey my congratulations to the people of South Africa.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : I am glad, Sir, that Kumari Mamata Banerjee has raised this point in the House and all sections of the House have joined her in conveying their congratulations to the people of South Africa on the occasion of their glorious victory. We would like to convey our greetings and felicitations to the people of South Africa. Shri Nelson Mandela has become the President of South Africa.

This is a very emotional issue for Indians because India was the first country in the world which raised this matter in the United Nations and other forums available to India.

Then, this fight against apartheid and discrimination on the basis of colour and race was led by India throughout. Ultimately, there emerged a world opinion against the apartheid and this last blot on the dignity of humanity has now been eradicated. So, this is a historical occasion for us. I would propose that an all Party Delegation from our House as well as from the other House should visit South Africa to greet the people there and be present on that historical occasion. So, we will, in consultation with the Hon. Speaker and hon. Chairman of the other House, compose a Delegation and send them to represent our Parliament to the Republic of South Africa so that the solidarity of Indian people with the people of South Africa is properly exhibited and we can start a bond of Parliamentary exchanges with the visit of this Delegation from our country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Fernandes, do you want to say anything?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES
(Muzaffarpur) : No.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI
: Sir, I hope, while constituting the Delegation, the hon. Minister would not forget the small Parties also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We, the people of India, feel extremely happy today that the white rule has ended in South Africa and South Africa has now become a democratic nation which is being headed by Mr. Nelson Mandela who underwent imprisonment for more than 27 years. We share the joys with the South African people. We wish them the best days ahead.

We are really very happy that the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has made a suggestion that a team of Parliamentarians shall have to visit South Africa at the time of sharing the responsibility by Mr. Nelson Mandela as the Head of the State.

14.23 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 1994-CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The time allotted for this discussion is nine hours. If we were to allot ten minutes each, then we will be able to cover 80 or 90 Members.

The hon. Members who will be speaking in the initial stages, if they take more time than the subsequent speakers will be very much hardpressed for time. That will lead to injustice.

Therefore, my request is that if all

of you stick to ten minutes each, then I think we will be able to do justice to each and everybody. Then everybody will feel extremely happy.

In the list which is given to me, in this list the names of 80 to 90 Members are there. Of course the time allotted to the respective Parties is very good—Congress (I) two hours and forty minutes, BJP one hour and fourteen minutes, Janata Dal twenty-four minutes, CPI(M) twenty-four minutes, CPI nine minutes, AIADMK eight minutes, Telugu Desam four minutes and so on.

No adjustment of time and cooperation are absolutely essential.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has announced some reliefs in the morning. He has also made some announcements before this but these have not brought any changes in the basic format of taxation proposals and the Finance Bill. He has announced excise exemption on Umbrellas. I congratulate him. He has given relaxation on hand made soap for which also I congratulate him. By doing so he has done something good. Of course, it took quite a time but it is better late than never. Had he given relaxation in the case of other items also, I would not have risen to criticise the Finance Bill and it would have been the first ever instance when the major opposition party would congratulate him for providing a right economic direction to the country. But I cannot do so because though he has reduced excise on umbrella, the umbrella of budget proposals has many big holes, in spite of Shri Manimohan