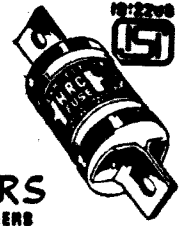


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BANARAS SAREES AT

# Congress (I) Nearing Two-thirds Majority

## Big Gains in UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh

From G. K. Reddy

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.

The Congress (I), in its swing towards a spectacular victory, was all set to get closer or cross the two-thirds majority mark tonight, having already secured 334 of the 477 seats for which results have been declared, with the counting still to be completed for the remaining 65 seats in the 525 constituencies covered by the present Lok Sabha election.

After the party had reached an absolute majority this morning making a clean sweep in several States, the President, Mr. Sanjiv Reddy wrote a letter to Mrs. Gandhi congratulating her for the remarkable performance, but left the other formalities to be completed later before calling on her to form the next Government.

The caretaker Cabinet is meeting tomorrow to perform the last rite of thanking the President before relinquishing its charge. The Law Ministry has been asked to draft the letter which the Prime Minister, Mr. Charan Singh, will be addressing to the President.

The Election Commission will be issuing the necessary notification on Thursday, January 10, constituting the next Lok Sabha under Section 73 of the Representation of the People Act. The newly-elected members of the Congress (I) will meet the next day, January 11, in the Central Hall of Parliament to go through the formality of unanimously electing Mrs. Gandhi as leader of the party before the President invites her to form the next Government.

Mrs. Gandhi is expected to be sworn in the same afternoon along with a few of her colleagues. A reassuring feature of this extraordinary election has been that the leaders of the defeated parties have accepted the verdict with good grace. The Janata leader, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, set the pace for this healthy tradition by congratulating Mrs. Gandhi, recognising the fact that she has performed the near miracle of staging

of the Lok Dal that left the country for the last one year with virtually no Government worth the name.

Harjiana, Muslims, the wage-earners and other poorer sections who had been severely hit by the price rise and the apparent inability or reluctance of the Janata or Lok Dal-run Central and State Governments to deal firmly with the traders, compelled the people to support Mrs. Gandhi in the belief that she alone is capable of giving the country a strong Government.

During the election campaign, too, the Janata and the Lok Dal failed deplorably to focus attention on the more basic issues and left the field entirely to Mrs. Gandhi to hold out the promise of better performance. Top Janata leaders like Mr. Morari Bhaal and Mr. Chandra Shekhar continued to indulge in the frivolity of threatening to impeach the President or compelling him to resign, little realising that the electorate was poised to impeach them instead for failing to keep their promises to the people. The Lok Dal leaders did not make matters any better with the advocacy of their outdated economic theories and blind reliance on their self-importance.

It is not going to be roses all the way for Mrs. Gandhi either, with all the backlog of baffling problems inherited by her from the two previous Governments. Apart from tackling the problems of law and order, rising prices, growing labour unrest, industrial stagnation and the general atmosphere of indiscipline, she will have to come to grips immediately with serious foreign policy issues affecting the country's security environment in the light of the recent events in Afghanistan. She will have to harden up to deal with the experienced men within her party to shoulder these wide-ranging responsibilities.

The Election Commission expects the results of the poll in all the 525 constituencies including the 23 in Andhra Pradesh, 47 of the 28 in Karnataka, 39 of the 23 in Maharashtra, 23 of the 26 in Gujarat, 12 of the 13 in Punjab, 19 of the 20 in Orissa, 18 of the 22 in Madhya Pradesh and six of the 17 in Bihar. The Congress (I) in alliance with the DMK and the Muslim League, has bagged all but two of the 39 seats in Tamil Nadu, while the party managed to secure as many as 50 of 82 in Uttar Pradesh, besides maintaining an impressive lead in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and elsewhere.

There is still no rational explanation for the massive Congress (I) victory other than the fact that the people had become increasingly disillusioned with the Janata party's squabbles and the antics

Total Seats: 525  
Seats declared 477  
Congress(I) 334  
Janata 28  
Lok Dal 39  
Congress(U) 10  
CPI 9  
CPI(M) 21

### Winners

The following are among the winners:  
Jagjivan Ram (Janata)  
Charan Singh (Janata-S)  
Dhanik Lal Mandal (Janata-S)  
Kamlaapati Tripathi (Cong-I)  
H. N. Bahuguna (Cong-I)  
Jyotirmoy Bose  
Ram Kinkar  
Mrs. Gayatri Devi, wife of Mr. Charan Singh  
Bhagwat Jha Azad, former Minister  
Mrs. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, Congress-I  
Chandragit Yadav, former Minister  
Madhavrao Scindia, Congress-I  
George Fernandes, (Janata-S)  
Ashoke Sen, (Cong-I)

DMK 16  
AIADMK 2  
Kerala Congress (Mani) 1  
Muslim League 3  
Akali Dal 1  
National Conf. 1  
Independents 3  
Others 9

### Losers

Among the prominent losers:  
Madhu Limaye (Janata-S)  
Fazlur Rehman  
Raj Narain (Janata-S)  
Nar Singh  
Raj Mohan Gandhi  
P. C. Sen  
Mrs. Vijaya Raje Scindia, Janata  
Mahamaya Prasad Sinha, former Bihar Chief Minister  
Jagdambhi Prasad Yadav, former Minister  
Zulfiqarulla, former Minister  
A. K. M. Ishaque, former Union Minister  
Kushabhau Thakre, M.P. Janata chief  
Pawan Diwan, former M.P. Minister  
Prof. Sher Singh, former Minister

## Cong-I Firmly Entrenched in UP

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW, Jan. 8.  
Maintaining its overnight lead, the Congress (I) bagged 50 seats out of 82 for which the results were declared. The Lok Dal which played an effective role to arrest the onrush of the Congress (I) in U.P. got 29 followed by two by the Janata Party and one by the CPI which had an electoral alliance with the Lok Dal.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Charan Singh, polled the highest number of votes (over three lakhs) against his Congress (I) rival Ramchandra Vikal, who got 1,67,956 votes. In 1977, Charan Singh had secured 2,86,301 votes.

However, Mrs. Indira Gandhi won with the biggest margin of 1,73,654 votes in Rae Bareilly in U.P. over her nearest Janata rival, Mr. Scindia, who secured only 50,249 votes. His Congress (I) ally, Mr. Manilal Sashtri, got 48,353 votes. The remaining results would decide the electoral fate of the

Janata president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, among others.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar was leading by 10,000 votes over his nearest Congress (I) rival, Mr. Jagannath Das, who was leading in the last elections won all the 85 seats gave a very dismal performance this time. So far, it has been able to secure only two seats.

The Lok Dal on the other hand, has fared better, claiming 23 seats. Among the party leaders who have won are the Prime Minister, Mr. Charan Singh, his wife, Mrs. Gayatri Devi, Mr. Ram Kinkar, Union Minister for Works and Housing and Mr. Chandrajit Yadav.

But, the Lok Dal Working president, Mr. Raj Narain, suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Mr. Kamlaapati Tripathi of the Congress (I) in Varanasi. Among the successful Congress (I) candidates are Mr. H. N. Bahuguna, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, and Mrs. Sheila Kaul.

The only key constituency which has gone to the Janata is Chandauli which returned its stalwart, Mr. Nihar Singh, defeating the Union Minister of State for Communications, Mr. Nar Singh.

The lone CPI winner is Mr. Har Hanve Raj in Goshwari. Mr. H. N. Bahuguna defeated his nearest Janata rival Mr. Pralal Singh Pushpan by a margin of 1,25,440 votes.

Former Chief Minister, Mr. N. D. Tiwari (Congress-I) won from Nainital defeating his nearest Janata rival, Mr. Bharat Bhushan, by 1,06,322 votes.

In Ballia the constituency of Mr. Chandra Shekhar the counting started after clearance from the Chief Election Commissioner, who rejected the allegations of booth-capturing and intimidation of voters in the constituency.

The announcement of the result of the Rae Bareilly constituency from where Mrs. Indira Gandhi is contesting was held up for some technical reasons.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Banarasi Das, attributed the Congress (I) success in U.P. to the division of the Janata Party. Speaking to the newsmen, Mr. Das said that the details of the votes polled showed that the Congress (I) would not have secured more than five seats in U.P. had the Janata remained united. The myth of Mr. Jagjivan Ram's hold over the Haryana had been exposed. Had he any such influence, the Janata Party would not have fared so badly.

In reply to a question the Chief Minister denied that he was resigning from the Lok Dal, though he appeared unhappy about leaders who had brought about this split in the party.

## Mrs. Gandhi Calls for Cooperation

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi today sought co-operation to pull the country out of the mess created by the Janata Party and the Lok Dal. Speaking to a cross section of people who had gathered at the lawn of her 12, Willington Crescent residence she said the situation in which the country had been left by the two parties was grave.

If the people cooperated with her as they had done during the election, she would take positive steps to improve the situation, Mrs. Gandhi said. She also thanked the people for helping her to achieve victory in the election.

Mrs. Gandhi's residence continued a scene of wild jubilation with a stream of people thronging its spacious lawns since morning carrying red roses and garlands and bouquets.

Sikhs of Delhi Gurudwara Prabhakar Samiti (Master Tara Singh group) came sporting blue turbans and carrying swords. As Mrs. Gandhi came out of her room they greeted the slogan, "Jo bole so Nihal, Sat Sri Akal."

Mrs. Gandhi received garlands from the Sikhs and addressed them from an improvised platform as a battery of cameramen clicked.

Among Mrs. Gandhi's callers were a number of foreigners including Americans converted to Sikhism from California.

**-WELCOME TO SANJAY**  
A hero's welcome was accorded to Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, who re-

turned this evening from Lucknow.

Three newly-elected members of Parliament from the capital, Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat, Mr. Dharam Das Shastri, and Mr. Jagdish Tytler and hundreds of Congress (I) supporters, welcomed Mr. Gandhi at the airport.

Mr. Bhagat and others garlanded Mr. Gandhi as he alighted from the plane. He was accompanied by Mr. Sanjay Singh, president of the Youth Congress-I (Uttar Pradesh) and Mr. A. P. Sharma, former Minister.

As he reached the arrival lounge, garlands, bouquets and rose petals were showered on Mr. Gandhi.

From the arrival lounge up to the exit gate of the Delhi airport building, Mr. Gandhi was followed by a huge slogan shouting crowd. Hundreds of people waiting in open jeeps and trucks, decorated with flowers and flags, greeted Mr. Gandhi when he came out of the building.

Mr. Gandhi's car was preceded by a number of motorcycle outriders and a band upto the outer gate of Delhi airport.

People in open trucks and other vehicles followed Mr. Gandhi up to No. 12 Willington Crescent.

At their residence, at the request of scores of cameramen, Mrs. Gandhi and Sanjay posed for photographs, arms round each other's neck—PTI.

**RUSSIAN ACTION IN KABUL DANGER TO INDIA**

AFP reports from Paris: Mrs. Indira Gandhi has criticised the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan as "a danger for India" but accused the United States of being responsible for destabilisation of the region.

In an interview with France's Europe-1 Radio station, Mrs. Gandhi said although she blamed the United States for destabilisation of the region "that did not excuse the Soviets". Even so the past should not be forgotten she added.

Asked about the risks of a new world war, Mrs. Gandhi said "that depends a great deal on America."

India, she said, was part of the "Indian bloc" and a member of the movement of non-aligned countries.

**NO GOVT. POST FOR SANJAY**

Mrs. Gandhi also said that she would give no Government post to her son.

She added that the new Government would be "changing everything" in India's economic, social and foreign policies.

## Party MPs Meet on Friday

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.

The new parliamentary party of the Congress (I) will meet on Friday morning to formally elect Mrs. Gandhi as its leader. That will mark the beginning of a series of steps necessary for the transition from the present Lok Dal-Congress set-up to the Congress (I) rule.

By then the new Lok Sabha would have been formally constituted and the Prime Minister, Mr. Charan Singh, would have submitted the resignations of his Government. The Congress (I) camp noted that the Prime Minister had not done it so far though the electoral verdict was clear.

The Janata leader, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, had been rejected in the Lok Sabha poll. This issue figures only in informal discussions at lower levels.

Invitations for the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party meeting were issued today by the Secretary, Mr. Yogendra Makwana, MP. Welcoming the new members, he said: "We are entering in a new era of light and prosperity after a period of darkness during the Janata rule. The nation has reposed its confidence in us and in the leadership of Mrs. Gandhi. Our responsibility is great in the new context and I hope we shall endeavour our very best to work upto that in order to realise the cherished dreams of the Father of the Nation."

The Janata Party, not yet recovered from the shock of the poll debacle, has called the meetings of its Parliamentary Board and the National Executive to-

tomorrow. The discussions will be devoted to an analysis of the factors, that led to the defeat, and the strategy to be adopted in the changed context. They may consider the desirability of forming a united front of non-Congress (I) parties in the Lok Sabha, since in the present fragmented form they would be too weak, individually, to make their presence felt.

The Janata Party counts on the Congress for a positive response though even the combined strength of the two parties would, it appears, enable them to claim the status of the official opposition (the minimum number for that has to be 54-10 per cent of the total strength of the House). The Lok Dal Parliamentary Board has been called to meet on Thursday at the house of Mr. Charan Singh.

On behalf of the Congress, its General Secretary, Mrs. Tarakeshwar Sinha, ascribed the pro-Congress (I) swing to the people's rejection of the "politics of adjustments and alliances" and the "massive display of money." She pleaded for the unity of left and democratic forces.

## Civic Poll in State in April

MADRAS, Jan. 8.  
The Tamil Nadu Government today ordered the holding of civic elections in the State in April, despite the serious setback suffered by the ruling AIADMK party in the just concluded Lok Sabha poll.

The Chief Minister, Mr. M. G. Ramachandran, had announced in the State Assembly in November that elections to the local bodies would be held soon after the Lok Sabha poll and the Government has been quick in announcing the election programme.

This, according to AIADMK circles, has been done with a view to enabling the ruling party to vindicate its stand that its reverses in the parliamentary elections are not a verdict against its rule and that the party still enjoyed the support of the masses.

For the purpose of the elections, the panchayat panchayat unions and municipalities in the State will be grouped into four batches, and the poll will be held on four different days, April 21, 23, 25 and 28. The elections to the Madras Corporation are also to be held along with other local bodies on April 28.

The last panchayat elections in the State were held in 1970, the municipal elections in 1968 and elections to the Madras Corporation 1968.

## Gujarat Cabinet Divided on Resigning

GANDHINAGAR, Jan. 8.  
The Gujarat Chief Minister, Mr. Babubhai Patel, said today that whether or not he should tender resignation of his Janata Government in view of the crushing defeat of the party at the hands of the Congress (I) in the Lok Sabha election would be decided in Delhi tomorrow.

The decision would be taken in consultation with the Working Committee of the Janata Party. He told newsmen after a prolonged cabinet meeting here.

Opinion in the cabinet was divided on the issue of resignation. While a section of the Cabinet wanted that the Chief Minister should resign forthwith, some other Cabinet Ministers preferred to seek a fresh mandate of the people by demanding early elections for the State Assembly, the source said.—PTI and UNI.

## Bengal Front 20 of 23

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CALCUTTA, Jan. 8.  
The CPI (M)-led front in West Bengal had won 20 of the 22 Lok Sabha seats decided till midnight and its candidates were marching to victory in all other constituencies.

The CPI (M) had won 13 seats, CPI 2, RSP 3 and Forward Bloc 2. Three seats went to the Congress-I.

Among the important personalities to have lost were: Mr. Saugata Roy (Cong-U), the only Union Minister from the State, Priya Ranjan Das Munshi (Cong-U), Miss. Abha Maiti (Janata), former Deputy Minister, Mr. Arun Maitra, former PCC president, and Mr. Samar Guha (Janata).

Among the left-front stalwarts, Mr. Jyotirmoy Bose of the Congress-I won for the fourth time from the Diamond Harbour constituency by 1,45,000 votes defeating his nearest rival of the Congress-I,

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Mr. A. K. M. Ishaque, former Union Deputy Minister.

The CPI (M) suffered a jolt in Asansol when its sitting member, Mr. Robin Sen, was unseated by the Congress-I's nominee and debutant, Mr. Anand Gopal Mukherjee, who won by 1,31,101 votes.

In Malda the Congress-I State President, Mr. A. B. A. Ghani Khan Chowdhury, defeated his only rival Mr. Dinesh Jorjard of the CPI (M).

In Calcutta North-West, Mr. Ashok Sen of the Congress-I scored a convincing victory over Mr. Shivam Sundar Gupta of the Forward Bloc.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee of the Congress-I was trailing behind Mr. Saradish Roy of the CPI(M) in Bolpur and Mr. Samar Guha of the Janata was well behind the CPI(M) in Contal.

The front backed CPI candidate, Mr. Narayan Choudhury, claimed the Midnapore seat defeating Mr. Sudhir Kumar Ghoshal (Cong-I) by over 1,24,000 votes.

Mr. Pradip (FB) retained the seat beating his nearest Congress-I rival, Mr. Ambika Charan Roy by 1,18,146 votes.

Mr. Rupchand Pal (CPI-M) was elected from Hooghly. He defeated his nearest rival Mr. Santi Mohan Roy (Cong-I) by 78,393 votes.

In Barckepore, Mr. Mohammed Ismail (CPI-M) defeated Mr. D. Ghosal (Cong-I) by 86,846 votes.

Mr. Sushil Kumar Bhattacharya was elected from Burdwan defeating his nearest rival Mr. Narayan Chowdhury (Congress-I) by a margin of over one lakh votes.

Mr. Pelas Burman (RSP) was elected from Balurghat (SC) and Mr. Mukunda Ram Mandal (CPI-M) was elected from Mathurapur (SC).

Mrs. Gita Mukherjee CPI was elected from Panskura defeating her nearest rival Mr. Rajani Kant Dola (Congress-I) by a margin of over 98,000 votes. Last time Miss Abha Maiti, former Union Minister had defeated the former Congress Minister Mr. Phulrenu Guha.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Halder (CPI-M) was elected from Durgam (SC) defeating his Congress-I rival Mr. Surya Kumar Roy.

Mr. Sudhir Kumar Giri (CPI-M) was elected from Contal defeating his nearest rival Mr. Pradip Sarkar (Congress-I) by a margin of more than 89,000 votes in a six-cornered contest.

Mr. Satya Gopal Misra (CPI-M) was elected from Tamluk defeating his nearest rival Mr. Syamadas Bhattacharya (Cong-I) by a margin of 1,83,051 votes in an eight-cornered contest.

Mr. Hunnan Mullah (CPI-M) was elected from Uluberla defeating Mr. Ardhendu Hazra (Cong-I) by a margin of 1,41,078 votes in a seven-cornered contest.

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## Touching Scene at Urs' Chamber

BANGALORE, Jan. 8.

It was a moving scene today in the Vidhana Soudha.

With tearful eyes and a choked voice, the Chief Minister, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, consoled a big crowd of admirers who literally mobbed him near his chambers—some among them broke down and wept expressing sorrow over his decision to step down from office in the wake of the defeat his party suffered in the Lok Sabha elections.

Some tried to hug him, hold his hand, and touch his feet, and a visibly moved Chief Minister, with moist eyes, patted a few asking them to take everything in good stride.

As Mr. Urs went down the lift to the ground floor, a large number of supporters who had collected at the western entrance to the Vidhana Soudha shouted "Devaraj Urs ki jai".

Even amidst this scene surcharged with emotion, some presented petitions to Mr. Urs seeking his good offices for redress of grievances.

## Gundu Rao Invited

FROM OUR STAFF REPORTER

BANGALORE, Jan. 8.  
The Karnataka Governor, Mr. Govind Narain, today formally invited the leader of the Congress-I Legislature Party and Opposition leader in the 225-member State Assembly, to explore the possibility of forming an alternative "stable" government. The Congress-U Government of Mr. D. Devaraj Urs resigned yesterday, in the wake of the Lok Sabha election results.

The Governor gave a letter to Mr. Gundu Rao to this effect when the latter called on him this morning. Mr. Gundu Rao has been given time until January 12 to complete the process.

Mr. Gundu Rao told reporters later that he had an open mind on the issue of whether or not his party should form an alternative Government. He would discuss the issues with the Party President, Mrs. Gandhi, the Central Parliamentary Board, and other party leaders and abide by their decision, which he expected by

January 11. He left for Delhi today.

The Congress-I which has a strength of only 47 in the State Assembly cannot in the normal course form the Government without the required number of the erstwhile Congress-I MLAs in the Devaraj Urs camp crossing over to it. It is considered possible that such an "exodus" could take place, now that the Congress-I leadership has welcomed it.

According to party quarters, the prospects of the Congress-I opting for ministry formation were hazy in view of the conflicting views within the party. While one section sees no harm in ministry formation with the Urs camp sections switching allegiance, the other section is averse to ministry formation with the support of "opportunists", considering that they had refused to come out of the Urs camp last September when the party had made a bid at forming a government.

This section favoured a fresh Assembly poll.

Mr. Gundu Rao said the party views would be conveyed to the High Command. The High Command's line could be conveyed to