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Ruling Congress Swept Back to Power

Victory

Jagjivan Ram (Cong-R, Bihar).
Swaran Singh (Cong-R, Punjab).
Dr. Karan Singh (Cong-R, Kashmir).
G. S. Dhillon (Cong-R, Punjab).
G. L. Nanda (Cong-R, Haryana).
A. K. Gopalan (CPM, Kerala).
V. K. Krishna Menon (Ind., Kerala).
Maharaja of Bikaner (Ind., Rajasthan).
P. V. G. Raju (Ind., A.P.).

Defeat

N. Sanjiva Reddi (Cong-O, A.P.).
N. G. Ranga (Swat., A.P.).
Mrs. Sushila Gopalan (CPM, Kerala).
Gen. K. M. Cariappa (Ind., Maharashtra).
Damodaran Potti (PSP, Kerala).
Ram Sevak Yadav (SSP, U.P.).
Balraj Madhok (Jan Sangh, Delhi).
T. Viswanathan (Ind., A.P.).

Latest Party Position

NEW DELHI, March 11.
The latest party position in the new Lok Sabha is as follows:

Total Elective Seats	518
Seats declared	381
Congress (R)	284
Congress (O)	15
Jan Sangh	21
S.S.P.	3
C.P.I.	13
Swatantra	5
C.P.M.	5
B.K.D.	1
P.S.P.	1
Other parties and Independents	33

Jubilant Mrs. Gandhi Promises Reforms

NEW DELHI, March 11.

As the Congress (R) swept the polls and secured an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha today, a jubilant and relaxed Prime Minister told Pressmen that the people's verdict was in support of her socio-economic programmes which could only be speeded up "with the involvement of the people."

Till 3 a.m., with 137 results outstanding the Congress(R) had secured 284 seats out of 518 with the four-party alliance trailing behind with 44 seats.

Thanking the people for their mandate to her, Mrs. Gandhi said: "One feels exceedingly humble when one sees the faith and trust of the people. This faith only increases our responsibilities. This kind of mandate all the more increases the urge to do something quickly."

Mrs. Gandhi told Pressmen that while her party accepted the right to property, the Constitution "may have to be amended" in the light of the Supreme Court judgment in the Golaknath case.

(In the Golaknath case the Supreme Court by a majority judgment of six to five said the fundamental rights in Chapter three of the Constitution cannot be modified by Parliament.)

Property Right

To a question whether the property clause of the Constitution was proposed to be amended in order to enable speedy socio-economic measures, Mrs. Gandhi said her party had clearly stated in its manifesto that it accepted the right to property and it had never been in any doubt.

A correspondent asked whether she proposed to change the position of the Supreme Court in view of its judgment on the privy purse issue. Mrs. Gandhi replied it was for the Supreme Court itself to take note of the outcome of the elections.

When a correspondent asked her to repeat the answer, Mrs. Gandhi said amidst laughter, "Honestly, I did not give an answer."

Question: You had stated earlier that there had been some

constitutional difficulty in implementing your programme in view of the Supreme Court judgment. In view of the fact that you have now got a two-third majority, do you propose to amend the Constitution?

Answer: So far as the Supreme Court is concerned, it is a serious question. We have to consider it.

Mrs. Gandhi promised to try her best to implement her programmes as fast as possible. But things could not change overnight. It was a long and slow process and if more people were involved in its implementation, they could go faster.

The Prime Minister answered a number of questions in good humour.

"How can I think of forming a government when the party has yet to meet to elect a leader," she asked in reply to a question.

Q. Are you in doubt about the leadership?

A: There is no question of doubt, I am only mentioning the procedure.

The Prime Minister also had a dig at Pressmen when a correspondent asked whether the massive victory of her party came as a surprise to her.

Mrs. Gandhi said she had never wasted her time trying to predict results. "How many of you have proved correct?" she asked.

The Prime Minister said the elections had proved how strong the roots of democracy were and how discerning the people were.

Mrs. Gandhi said that her priorities were to lessen disparities, checking rise in prices, implementing a crash programme to relieve unemployment and providing basic amenities to the people in the rural areas.

What did she feel about the massive vote in her favour, she was asked. "I can only say that I feel that this is a verdict in favour of our policies and programmes. It is also a verdict against the kind of tactics, abuse and the atmosphere of violence the Opposition was indulging in."

She said that compared to other parties, her party had little means but because of the people's help, her party candidates won.

Asked whether politics would become cleaner, Mrs. Gandhi said she "sincerely" hoped that the Opposition would realise that the kind of hate campaign they had indulged in against her had not been and would not be approved by the people. "They should now think of better ways of taking the country forward."

Left or Right?

A correspondent asked whether she still stood for "left-of-centre" policies as she once said or she would follow a centrist path. Mrs. Gandhi replied "Quite frankly what do we mean by left and right after all. It depends on where you are standing."

The Prime Minister parried questions on international problems. Asked whether India would leave the Commonwealth now that Britain has decided to sell arms to South Africa, Mrs. Gandhi said, "These matters will be looked into when the new Government is formed."

On the question of giving special protection to minorities, Mrs. Gandhi said no special steps were needed. "Our policy is very clear. It is true that certain parties and individuals were responsible for certain unfortunate trends. I hope this election has proved to them that, the Indian people do not approve of their tactics. This in itself will give a sense of security to the minorities."

Asked whether she was still receiving letters threatening her life, Mrs. Gandhi said: "The question is not of threatening letters. It is a question of trying to create an atmosphere by all these people that this person (Mrs. Gandhi) is dangerous to democracy of the country. This was a deliberate very conscious and countrywide hate campaign and denigration."

Answering a question, the Prime Minister ruled out any recasting of the Fourth Plan. The crash

elections had added upto 7.30 p.m. only one seat to yesterday's tally of one Congress-O, and 3 Jan Sangh.

A major reverse suffered by the Opposition in the State was the defeat of the Independent candidate, Mr. M. M. Shah, former Ruler of Tehri Garhwal, a constituency which he had represented in the Lok Sabha for over a decade. Mr. Shah had resigned from the Congress-R on the privy purses issue.

In Bihar, the Congress-R confronted all observers and critics alike, and exceeded even the expectations of its own leaders, with a winning score of 39 out of 53 it had contested.

In capturing these seats, it had cast into oblivion the Leader of Opposition in the dissolved Lok Sabha, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh,



Mrs. Gandhi

programme to create employment was part of the Plan.

Asked to specify the relationship her party would have with some of the Opposition parties with which electoral adjustments had been forged, Mrs. Gandhi replied: "This question has been asked thousands of times. The answer is no special relationships."

What inference should one draw from the rout of the Akali Dal and the Shiv Sena? It only showed that communal, sectarian or "Indira hatao" attitudes would not pay, the Prime Minister quipped.

D.M.K. Success

On the D.M.K.'s success in Tamil Nadu, Mrs. Gandhi remarked: "I think it was expected."

Elaborating on the reasons for her party's success, Mrs. Gandhi said that in the final analysis it was the policies of a party that counted.

A pressman observed that Mrs. Gandhi's son, Mr. Sanjay Gandhi, seemed to have made a political debut in the current poll. "I do not know, but he certainly worked very hard," said a smiling Mrs. Gandhi.

Finally she wished the dispersing Pressmen a happy "holi" tomorrow. The gay festival of colours to-morrow also marked the beginning of the spring, she said.

Future of U.P. & Mysore Govts.

"Do you think the U.P. and Mysore Governments should resign in view of the election results?" a correspondent asked.

Mrs. Gandhi said it was for the State Governments to decide. "I have never indulged in toppling on any occasion. I do not intend doing it."

and Mrs. Tarakeshwari Sinha, both Congress-O.

In Andhra Pradesh Mr. Sanjiva Reddi (Cong-O) was defeated. Mr. Reddi's nomination, as the undivided Congress Party's nominee for Presidency in 1969 against the wishes of the Prime Minister, had led to the break in the party.

In the two of the three State Assembly elections in which the party is taking part, it had secured by noon the largest number of seats in Orissa—33 out of 72.

Keeping with the trend all over the country the people of Kerala supported the Congress-R and elected its candidates in six constituencies. In preference to the C.P.M. In the dissolved Lok Sabha, the party had only one member.—PTI and UNI.

"Decisive Vote of Confidence"—Masani

BOMBAY, March 11.
The Swatantra Party President, Mr. M. R. Masani to-day said: "The electorate has given a decisive vote of confidence in the Prime Minister and her party and we, as democrats accept the verdict and its implications."

In a statement, Mr. Masani said the Swatantra Party had never accepted the slogan "Indira Hatao" which the electorate had now rejected.

He said the Central Parliamentary Board of the Party would meet in New Delhi on March 20 to consider the implications of this popular verdict and determine the attitude the party should, as an opposition party, adopt towards the new Government and other opposition parties.

"Personal Image of Mrs. Gandhi"

GWALIOR, March 11.
The Jan Sangh President, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, to-day said that though his party had not gained through the four-party alliance the process of a consolidation of democratic forces started by them would have to be completed.

The parties and groups which stood for nationalism, democracy and orderly progress would have to exert much more in future, Mr. Vajpayee, who has been returned to the Lok Sabha from Gwalior, told Pressmen here.

He attributed the Ruling Congress victory to "greater resources, solid Muslim support, and to some extent the personal image of Mrs. Gandhi."

Tamil Nadu C.M. Greets P.M.

MADRAS, March 11.
The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, has sent a telegram to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi congratulating her on the glorious landslide victory of the Ruling Congress.

Landslide Victory for D.M.K. In Election to Assembly

MADRAS, March 11.

The D.M.K. has been returned to power by the people of Tamil Nadu in a massive show of support to the ruling party in the elections to the Assembly.

The D.M.K. has won 168 out of the 210 seats in the 234-member House for which results were announced. And its poll allies (the C.P.I., Muslim League, Forward Bloc and P.S.P.) have together secured 22 seats so far.

The Congress (O) and its partner, Swatantra Party, have been routed with the former securing eleven and the latter six so far. A former ally of the D.M.K., the Marxists, who faced the elections alone this time have not won a seat so far.

The D.M.K. which went to the polls one year ahead of the Assembly's term along with the Lok Sabha elections has been on a winning spree right from the beginning of counting of votes which commenced yesterday.

In the dissolved Assembly the D.M.K. had 138 members, while the Congress (O) had 41. The D.M.K. set up 203 candidates, Congress (O) 201 and Swatantra 19.

Prominent among the D.M.K. candidates returned to the State Assembly are: The Chief Minister Mr. M. Karunanidhi and his six Cabinet colleagues, Messrs. V. R. Nedunchezian (Party General Secretary), S. Madhavan, S. J. Sadiq Pasha, Si. Pa. Aditanar, K. V. Subbiah and O. P. Raman.

Other leading figures elected are: Mr. K. Anbazhagan, leader of the D.M.K. group in the dissolved Lok Sabha, Mr. K. Rajaram, member of the dissolved Lok Sabha, Mr. K. Govindan, Speaker and Mr. Edmund, Deputy Speaker of the dissolved State Assembly, Mr. P. K. Mookiah Thevar, Acting Chairman of the All India Forward Bloc and Dr. H. V. Hande, Swatantra leader.

4 WOMEN ELECTED

Four women have been elected to the Assembly so far. They are: Mrs. Jothi Venkatachellum, a former Congress Minister, Mrs. Padmavati Ammal, widow of Mr. A. Govindaswami, a former D.M.K. Minister Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki (Cong-O) and Mrs. Palani Ammal, a DMK member of the dissolved Assembly.

Among the leading Congress members who lost the election are Mr. P. G. Karuthiraman, Leader of the Opposition in the dissolved Assembly, Mr. K. Ramamurthi and Mr. T. M. Nallaswami, members in the dissolved Assembly.

C.M. TO CONSULT NEDUNCHEZHIAN

A stream of visitors called on the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, at his residence in Gopalapuram to-day and congratulated him on the success of the D.M.K. in the mid-term poll in the State.

Mr. Karunanidhi, who is also the President of the party, told reporters that he would have consultations with the General Secretary, Mr. V. R. Nedunchezian, and announce to-morrow the programme for convening the new D.M.K. Legislature party meeting and for maturation of the new Government.

The Ruling Congress President, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, to-day congratulated the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on its "spectacular victory" in the Tamil Nadu Assembly election.

The Deputy leader of the D.M.K. group in the dissolved Lok Sabha, Mr. K. Manoharan who spoke to Mr. Jagjivan Ram over telephone this morning said the Cong (R) President had asked him to convey his "felicitations" to the Chief Minister on the D.M.K.'s success.

Cong-O Gains Two Seats in Madras

MADRAS, March 11.
The Congress (O) captured two of the six seats in the City for which results were announced to-day.

Mrs. T. N. Anandanayaki (Cong-O) defeated the Tamil Arasu Kazhagam leader Mr. M. P. Sivaganesan in a straight fight in Mylapore by a margin of about 8,000 votes. Mr. K. M. Subramaniam (Cong-O) won the Theagaraya-nagar seat, defeating his nearest rival Mr. D. V. Narayanaswami (DMK) by a narrow margin of 900 votes.

In the results announced yesterday, Park Town had gone to the Swatantra, an ally of the Congress (O). Dr. H. V. Hande defeated Mr. A. V. P. Asaitambi (DMK) in a straight fight here.

Of the remaining nine constituencies in the City eight have gone to the D.M.K. Three of them returned Ministers. The Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, won from Saidapet, Mr. V. R. Nedunchezian from Triplicane and Mrs. Sathyavani Muthu from Perambur.

In Thousand Lights, Mr. K. A. Mathialagan, a former D.M.K. Minister, defeated his Congress (O) rival, Mr. N. M. Mahi Varma, by a margin of over 11,000 votes.

The other constituencies won by the D.M.K. are: Egmore (Mr. Rama Aranganal), Purasawalkam (Mr. K. Anbazhagan), Basin Bridge



Mr. M. Karunanidhi

(Mr. M. R. Kannan) and Washer-manpet (Mr. M. Vedachalam).

Harbour, the twelfth seat, has gone to the Muslim League, the ruling party's ally. Here Mr. A. M. Mohideen defeated his Congress (O) rival Mr. G. Umapathi by a narrow margin of over 400 votes.

In the 1967 elections, the Congress did not win any seat in the City.

Tamil Nadu Assembly Results

Total Seats	234
Seats Declared	210
D.M.K.	168
Cong (O)	11
Swat.	6
Muslim League	5
CPI	6
C.P.I.-M.	
S.S.P.	
Jan Sangh	
PSP	4
Forward Bloc	7
Others	
Independent	3

Spectacular Gains in Delhi, Punjab

NEW DELHI, March 11.
The Ruling Congress won 284 seats by 3 a.m. in the 518 member Lok Sabha to record an absolute, single-party majority, and justify the raison d'etre for

Lok Sabha detailed results
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the snap poll, the fifth to Parliament.

In the outgoing Lok Sabha, the Congress-R had 228 members after the split in the Congress in November, 1969. In the 1967 general

elections, the undivided Congress won 285 seats.

Maintaining its winning spree from all parts of the country for the second day to-day, the party annexed all the seven seats from the Capital to equal the 1962 record of the undivided Congress when under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, it seized all the seats.

In Punjab, it had bagged all the seats, results of which were not officially known. Among the winning party nominees were, Mr. Swaran Singh, Minister for External Affairs, and Mr. G. S. Dhillon, Speaker of the dissolved Lok Sabha.

But even more astonishing was the prospect the party conjured up in Mysore where it was poised to win all the 27 seats the State has in the Lok Sabha.

In U.P., the home State of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the four-party al-



Mr. JAGJIVAN RAM

LOK SABHA RESULTS Upto 3-30 a.m. (March 12)

STATES	Total Seats	Seats Decl.	Cong-R	Cong-O	Swat	Jan Sangh	SSP	D.M.K.	C.P.I.	CPM	PSP	Other Parties*	Ind.
1. Andhra Pradesh	41	34	22						1	1		10	
2. Assam	14	14	13									1	
3. Bihar	53	53	39	3		2	2		5			2	
4. Gujarat	24	24	10	11		2							1
5. Haryana	9	9	7			1						1	
6. Himachal Pradesh	4												
7. Jammu & Kashmir	6	1	1										
8. Kerala	19	19	6						3	2		7	1
9. Madhya Pradesh	37	36	21			11	1						3
10. Maharashtra	45	43	42								1		
11. Mysore	27	8	8										
12. Nagaland	1	1										1	
13. Orissa	20												
14. Punjab	13	13	10						2			1	
15. Rajasthan	23	23	14			3	4						2
16. Tamil Nadu	39												
17. Uttar Pradesh	85	81	71	1		3			3			1	2
18. West Bengal	40												
Union Territories	18	16	13								2	1	
Total	518	375	277	15	5	21	3		14	5	1	25	9

* Telengana Praja Samithi (A.P.): 10; All-India Jharkhand (Bihar): 2; All-Party Hill Leaders' Conference (Assam): 1; R.S.P.: 2; Kerala Congress: 3 and Muslim League: 2 (Kerala); B.K.D.: 1 (U.P.); United Goans Party: 1 (Goa); Akali Dal 1 (Punjab); United Front of Nagaland 1 (Nagaland); Vishal Haryana Party 1.

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