**No Trust Motion against Shaukat Aziz**

**23 Aug 2006**

The National Assembly denied the mutual parliamentary opposition’s no-trust motion against Shaukat Aziz who was the Prime Minister at that time due to which he survived the confidence motion.

Chaudhary Amir Hussein, the speaker at National Assembly declared the result after a one-day long debate on the motion and said that out of 342 member house, the resolution could only secure 136 votes in favor.

**Result**

The ruling member party members begin to thump the desks and congratulated the Prime Minister as the speaker said that the motion has not been passed. According to Shaukat Aziz, his decision was always in favor for the larger national interests and he never got involved in any corruption as the champions of negative politics and previous Prime Ministers like Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhuto who stole the national wealth to get settled in abroad. For the combined opposition, there were total 137 members including the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD), MMA, the six-part Islamic opposition alliance and other nationalist parties that were present in the house who took the motion. The motion was to the National Assembly secretariat on 23rd Aug which was signed by 141 opposition members. The no-confidence motion was 500 pages charge sheet against the Prime Minister’s government.

A resolution for a no-confidence vote against any Prime Minister must be supported by at least 20% members of the house, and it should be voted at least after 3 days minimum and maximum 7 days according to Pakistan’s constitution. The Prime Minister would be terminated from the office if the resolution that was passed had majority of the members of the house in support.

201 members of the house out of the 342 seats in the National Assembly supported the ruling alliance and 141 members were opposed of the government and supported the no-trust motion, it was difficult to change the present government which had full support from the powerful military establishment.

**Charges on the government**

Earlier, while starting the debate, the leader of opposition Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman assumed that there is no democracy in the country. According to him the ruling party failed to protect the constitution that provided equal rights to all the provinces. He also blamed the government for a non-transparent denationalization policy. Chief of MMA Qazi Hussain Ahmad disapproved the operations in Baluchistan and tribal areas which were held due to war on terror and hold government responsible for obligating gross irregularities in denationalization of the state-owned units and for incorporating the corruption in the country. Chief of ARD Makhdom Amin Fahim thought that if they were succeeded in no-trust motion then it was actually a victory for democracy. He asked the government to resign and give free and fair chance to parliamentary elections.

**Shaukat Aziz’s reaction to charges**

Shaukat Aziz claimed that this motion is just the result of their frustration, disappointment and it has nothing to do with the democratic institutions.

He also mentioned that opposition is trying to block and disrupt the current socio-economic developments that begin in the previous 7 years by the government. Shaukat Aziz said that the opposition should work with him instead to unite democratic institutions in the country. The no-confidence motion was already changed into confidence motion

**Condition after Nawab Akbar Bugti murder**

. Gradually, the debate on no-trust motion began to the setting of unstable condition in the south western Baluchistan where the an aggressive protest was going on for consecutive 3 days after the murder of the Baluchi nationalist leader Nawab Akbar Bugti during the military operation. The opposition was reproachful and called this murder, created a very unpleasant environment in the national Assembly when the opposition was not given chance to speak.

The speaker ignored the opposition and asked to turn off the lights. The house was also adjourned but they remain shouting against the ruling alliance and called the President Musharaf as the killer general. Thousands of people attended the funeral of late Bugti in Quetta in absentia.

The protestors became very aggressive and burnt two banks and many shops after attending the funeral. Mutinying police had to fire the tear gas to disperse the crowd who were blocking the roads and creating the havoc in the city. Two police officers had to sustain the injuries as they were hit by the protestors, the protest was held at different parts in Karachi. They were not stopping even after the tear gas was fired intensely.