

CONGRESS CAPTURES POWER IN TEN STATES

MARXISTS PUT UP POOR SHOW IN W. BENGAL

Absolute Majority Unlikely For Any Party In Manipur

NEW DELHI, March 13. (UNI).—The "Indira wave", which gave the Congress control of 10 of the 16 States where new Assemblies were elected, swept West Bengal today, submerging the Marxist stronghold.

With 106 of the 280 seats in the West Bengal Assembly filled by 11 p.m., the Congress had a massive tally of 86 of its own and even more massive 98 with its partners in the Progressive Democratic Alliance.

The party's spectacular showing—its captured eight out of every 10 seats declared, equalling if not exceeding its performance in most other parts of the country—was achieved at the cost of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), which had earlier levelled charges of poll irregularities.

The Marxist vote at that stage was a bare three.

While the Congress felled many Opposition stalwarts like Socialist Unity Centre founder Subodh Banerjee, Mayor Shyamunder Gupta (Forward Bloc) and labour leader Jatin Chakravarty (Revolutionary Socialist Party) and snatched seat

after seat from the Marxists, the RSP took one seat from it to open its account.

Former Chief Minister Ajoy Mukherjee and former Deputy Chief Minister Bijoy Singh Nahar were among the prominent Congress winners.

The CPI, a PDA partner, was ahead of the CPI (M) with an individual score of 10. Mr. Somnath Lahiri was among its successful candidates.

For the Congress, the promise of West Bengal came after a quick run of victories had given it absolute control over the State of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana in addition to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Mysore.

Continued on page 8 col. 8

Rly. Budget Today

NEW DELHI, March 13 (UNI, PTI).—The Railway Budget for 1972-73 will be presented to Parliament tomorrow.

Railway Minister K. Hanumanthaiya today had a meeting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in connection with the Budget.

In the Budget, Mr. Hanumanthaiya is expected to outline the ways and means of meeting the big deficit in the revenue earnings of the Railways.

Today Mr. Hanumanthaiya presented in the Lok Sabha a supplementary Budget for additional expenditure of Rs. 51.23 crores during 1971-72.

The additional expenditure is due to the payment of interim relief, restoration of cyclone and flood damage and repairs to breaches, increase in prices of raw materials and larger payments in satisfaction of court decrees.

3 Policemen, Boy Killed In Balcony Collapse

CHANDIGARH, March 13 (PTI).—Three police constables and a boy died when a balcony collapsed in Malerkotla yesterday under the weight of people who had gathered to hear the result of counting of votes which was in progress in a nearby school building.

The balcony fell on several policemen on duty, killing one of them on the spot and injuring 14 other policemen. A boy was also killed on the spot. Ten others were injured.

Two constables died in hospital today, it was officially stated here late tonight.

PROMINENT WINNERS

NEW DELHI, March 13 (UNI).—The following are the prominent winners today.

Mr. Sarat Chandra Sinha, Asst. Chief Minister, Assam.

Mr. Standford Marak, Meghalaya Education Minister.

Mr. Radhon Singh Lyngdoh, Meghalaya Speaker.

Mr. Ram Dhar Gaur, Haryana Irrigation and Power Minister.

Mr. Banarsi Das, Haryana Congress General Secretary.

Mr. Sarup Singh, Haryana Planning Minister.

Mrs. Vijaya Raj Scindia (Rajmata of Gwalior).

Mr. Karpooji Thakur, Socialist Party Chairman.

Mr. Anuraj Mazumdar, West Bengal Speaker.

Mr. Ram Saran Chand Mittal, Haryana Congress chief.

Mr. Bhola Paswan Shastri, former Bihar Chief Minister.

Mr. Parkash Singh Badal, former Punjab Chief Minister.

Giani Zail Singh, Punjab Congress chief.

Mr. A. G. Goni, Kashmir Health Minister.

Mr. Ajoy Mukherjee, former West Bengal Chief Minister.

Mr. Bijoy Singh Nahar, former West Bengal Deputy Chief Minister.

Mr. Satya Pal Dang, Punjab CPI leader.

Mr. Gauri Shankar Bhattacharyya (Ind) Assam, Leader of Opposition.

LOSERS

The following are the important losers:

Mr. Gopal Appa Kamat, Goa Speaker.

Mr. M. N. Kaul, Kashmir Revenue Minister.

Mr. Noor Mohammed, Kashmir Education Minister.

Mr. G. D. Khadewal, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly.

Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, Rajasthan Jan Sangh leader.

Mr. Atma Singh, Mr. Balwant Singh, Mr. Narinder Singh and Mr. Ravi Singh, all former Akali Ministers.

Mr. Jaswant Singh Chauhan, Haryana Minister.

Mr. L. Solomann, former Manipur Finance Minister.

Mr. Vasant Pradhan (JS) former SVD Finance Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Subodh Banerjee, former West Bengal Minister and founder leader of the Socialist Unity Centre.

Mr. Anthony D'Souza, former Goa Minister.

Mr. Tejo Mascarenhas, veteran freedom-fighter.

Two Kashmir Ministers Unseated

SRINAGAR, March 13 (UNI, PTI).—The Congress was today short of only two seats to obtain an absolute majority in the 76-member Jammu and Kashmir Assembly with 24 results still to be declared.

In the Jammu province, it retained all the 19 seats. The seats from Jammu South, Jammu North and Bani were to the Jan Sangh.

In Kashmir Valley the party lost control of nine seats while two independents kept their hold on two seats of Tral and Shopian.

Two Ministers, one of them of Cabinet rank, have failed to make the State Assembly from the Kashmir Valley.

They are Mr. M. N. Kaul, Revenue Minister who lost to an Independent, and Mr. Noor Mohammed, Minister of State for Education, who conceded defeat to a Jamiat-Islami nominee.

All the three Ministers from the Jammu region, Mr. G. L. Dogra (Finance), Mr. Abdul Gani Goni (Health), and Mr. Trilochan Datt (Agriculture) retained their seats.

The CPI, the Congress Party's ally, failed to win from Shopian, the lone seat it contested in the State.

The Congress wrested the Rajpora, Baramulla, Gulmarg and Patal seat from the Opposition while conceding nine seats, Habbakadal, Khanyar Tankpora Devisar, Kulgam,

Nandi, Karnah, Sopore and Uri to Independents and the Jamiat-Islami.

The Jamiat making its debut in the Assembly poll, captured five seats: Nandi, Khanyar, Sopore, Kulgam and Tankpora.

The People's Party of Mr. Shamim Ahmed Shamim, MP, failed to make a seat.

Mrs. Om Prabha Jain Defeated

From Our Special Correspondent

CHANDIGARH, March 13.—The Haryana Finance Minister, Mrs. Om Prabha Jain, was today defeated by Mr. Charan Dass, President, Municipal Committee, Kaithal, who secured 3422 votes more than she did.

Mrs. Jain was a prominent dissident and had apprehended her defeat. She had expressed her fears to the High Command but was assured full support by the Chief Minister, Mr. Bansi Lal. He visited her constituency, but was unable to undo the damage he had done to her for a whole year.

Her defeat removes a possible contender for power. For a long time she was number two in the Cabinet being the senior most Minister.

Congress Gains In Haryana Below Expectations

From Our Special Correspondent

CHANDIGARH, March 13.—The Congress won a majority of seats in Haryana today and was certain of remaining in power for the next five years. It secured 51 seats out of 80 seats for which the results were declared by this evening. The Congress (O) emerged as the main Opposition when it improved its old position of five seats to 12 in the 81-member Assembly.

The Congress won numerically but suffered politically. The number of seats won was far below expectation and five Minister of Cabinet rank were defeated.

Soon after announcing Congress tickets the Union Health Minister, Mr. U. N. Dixit, had hoped that the Congress would win about 70 of the 81 seats. A few days later, Mr. Bansi Lal was more realistic and was reported to have claimed that his party would win about 65 seats. He was probably basing his claim on the fact that the Congress had won in 60 Assembly constituencies in the last year's mid-term poll to the Lok Sabha. But

none of these expectations came true. The Congress Legislature Party had 55 members when the Assembly was dissolved.

The Congress, however, has the satisfaction that it has done better than before. In 1967, the Congress won 48 seats. It again won the same number of seats when the Assembly was dissolved and a mid-term poll held in 1968.

Important Congress leaders who won today included the Pradesh Congress President, Mr. Ram Saran Chaudhary, the General Secretary, Mr. Banarsi Das Gupta and Mr. Ram Dhari Gaur, Irrigation and Power Minister. Another important Congressman who won today was Mr. Chiranjee Lal, a veteran legislator.

The notables amongst Opposition stalwarts returned today were Mr. Chand Ram, former Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Dal Singh, leader of the Congress (O) Legislature Party and Mr. Rizk Ram, former Irrigation and Power Minister and Mr.

Hardwar Lal, former Education Minister.

The Opposition also suffered heavily. The electorate mercilessly rejected many stalwarts. The Vishal Haryana Party had won 16 seats last time. This time the number shrank to a mere three. Rao Birendra Singh did not contest nor did successor Mr. Pratap Singh Daulatpur, who had been elected leader of the Assembly on his election to Parliament last year.

The Rao's party put up his brother and sister. Both lost. This is the first time that Rajkumari Sumitra Devi failed to return to the Assembly of which she had been a member for more than a decade.

The Jan Sangh has so far secured only two seats as compared to seven in 1968.

The Arva Sabha obtained one seat. One of the Independent candidates supported by it also won.

Continued on page 8 col. 4

Continued on page 8 col. 4

Continued on page 8 col. 4

CONG. GETS ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN PUNJAB

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH, March 13.—As the counting of votes continued in Punjab for the second consecutive day today, the Congress Party maintained its race towards complete supremacy and by late tonight with

all results declared it had claimed an absolute majority of 68 in the 104-member Vidhan Sabha.

The Sant Akali Dal, which had won 43 seats in the mid-term poll of 1968, was trailing behind with 24

Congress nominee, Mr. Mohinder Singh, in Gilderbaha by a margin of 9311 votes.

The other Congress stalwarts elected today included Mr. Brij Bhan, Capt. Ratan Singh and Mr. Surjit Singh Atwal, former Deputy Leaders of the Assembly Party. Mr. Hans Raj Sharma, General Secretary of the Punjab Congress, Mr. Prem Singh "Prem" and Mr. Yash Pal, former Punjab Ministers; Mr. Harchand Singh, former Minister of State in PPSU, Mr. Sohan Singh Jalulman and Mr. Gurbaksh Singh Sibia.

Senior Akali leaders who were elected today included Mr. Dhanna Singh Gulshan, former MP; Mr. Jagdev Singh Talwandi, former Minister of State; Mr. Karnail Singh Marhari, former Minister in the Gill Government; Mrs. Kulwant Kaur, daughter of the late Mr. Lachman Singh Gill; and Mr. Basant Singh Khalsa, former Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Satya Pal Dang, leader of the CPI group in the dissolved Assembly; Mr. Shamsher Singh Joshi, the Kisan Sabha leader; and Mr. Jagjit

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The President, Mr. V. V. Giri, being received by the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and the Speaker as he arrives to open the Budget session of Parliament in New Delhi on Monday.

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Continued on page 8 col. 6

Continued on page 8 col. 6

ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT

India Not To Stand Domination By Any Country, Says Giri

From Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 13.—The President, Mr. V. V. Giri, told Parliament today that the new plan of action of the Government would be "to

enlarge our programmes of social justice and equality; to forge ahead in our quest for self-reliance, and to pursue even more actively our basic policy of response to

friendship, resistance to pressure and dedication to national interest and world peace."

He was inaugurating the Budget session of Parliament at a joint meeting of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha in the Central Hall.

Mr. Giri, in his 45-minute speech, reviewed the skill, unity and resolution with which India successfully met the challenges, both political and economic, caused by Pakistan's unprovoked war on this country and the international pressure.

He welcomed the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign secular Government and at the same time extended a hand of friendship to the people and Government of Pakistan.

Reiterating that India had no territorial designs on Pakistan or any other country, he referred to India's offer of direct talks between India and Pakistan without any pre-conditions and said: "We hope that Pakistan will accept the changed situation on the sub-continent and respond to our initiative in a spirit of goodwill."

Referring to the rapidly changing configuration of world forces, the President explained India's stand against any attempt to carve out spheres of influence by the application of the doctrine of balance of power in this region or to dictate to countries, big or small, regarding their relationships with other countries.

"India does not seek leadership or domination. Nor will it tolerate domination by any country," he said.

The President was loudly cheered by the Congress members.

UNI adds: The President said India's decision for a unilateral cease-fire in the West after the surrender of Pakistani forces in the East was a clear proof that it had no designs on Pakistan.

The President's laudatory reference to the valour of the Armed Forces in the recent war was received with a loud applause.

At the outset, four Socialist members

Continued on page 5 col. 4

Continued on page 5 col. 4

Continued on page 5 col. 4

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