

to modern man in certain respects. They were taller and less robust in their skeletons with certain more modern features in the skull. Their culture was a form of the Mousterian called the Levallois-Mousterian. In fact the skulls and skeletons seem to be just very robust examples of modern man, Homo sapiens. The Neanderthal people appeared during the coldest stages of the ice ages, and to survive in such severe conditions they lived in caves and made use of fire. Later on the research showed that the bodies of the Neanderthal people were completely human,

fully erect, and very muscular. Their brains were as large as those of modern man. One theory suggests that the first modern men actually evolved from the Neanderthals in many places including Europe.

Thus from the above brief discussion we see that to obtain the modern stage, man had to go through many stages of evolution. And from the evidence of fossil records it is clear that once the ape-like creatures although may not be our direct ancestors, were our fore fathers' relatives.

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# On The Results Of The Last 9th Lok-Sabha Poll In India.

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The year 1989 is very significant in the political history of India. It witnessed the battle for the 9th Lok-Sabha poll in India and the matured verdict of the Indian electorates.

Not a single party secured majority in the house and thereby the people's verdict gave rise to a hung parliament. A minority Government with a majority support was formed to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the Indian masses.

The verdict of the Indian electorates in the past shows that they have, by and large, voted for the party to form majority Government in the house. The con-

gress has played a dominant role ever since the period of Nehru till the present days in forming a majority Government. Of course an exceptional situation took place when the Morarji Government came to power defeating the congress (I) stalwart Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The non-congress Government i. e. the Janata Govt. was installed in the centre under the clarion call of Late. Jay Prakash Narayan. The call of Mr. Narayan to the Nation then was 'Total Revolution'. This call attracted the people and they voted for the Janata party. The majority Government was formed to fulfil its promises, made to the people.

But most unfortunately the Janata Government failed to complete its first five years' term owing to reason best known to all. As such a majority non-congress Government betrayed the hopes and aspirations of the people.

The political situation took a different turn after the assassination of Late Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. People voted for the congress party once again. This time people had a firm faith in the young and dynamic leadership of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. It is not true to believe that Mr Rajiv Gandhi got an emotional support from the people on the ground of his mother's assassination. People had seen in Rajiv an urge of change and he was voted to power for bringing a socio-political and economic transformation in India. However the Government completed its five years' term amidst many stormy situations but failed to reach to the expectations of the people.

If the majority Governments could not succeed to achieve what

it could have achieved, it was its inherent inner conflict due mainly to the equal ambition of the senior set of leaders to occupy the prime post.

The former prime Minister Mr. Charan Singh had openly confessed that after becoming the prime Minister he felt that his life's ambition had been fulfilled. This tendency to fulfil the life's cherished ambition created dissidents among the party members. As such the very functioning of the Government suffered to a large extent.

Under the Prime Ministership of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi the congress party had to witness several dissidents. Perhaps the most capable, old and experienced political leaders did not wish Rajiv to occupy that coveted post. But either by chance or accident the same was made possible.

In spite of completing its full five years' terms through various odds and obstacles the Rajiv Government failed to grasp and

handle several complicated national issues. The Bofors scandal which perhaps rang the death-knell of the Rajiv Government may well be termed as a seminal point of the downfall of the congress party.

In each and every session of the parliament this issue was tabled but it could hardly provide any satisfactory answers.

The ' Accord Diplomacy ' of the ' Rajiv Raj ' is another notable feature. All the Accords signed in the country like Punjab Accord, Assam Accord, and Mizoram Accord etc. could seldom deliver any fruitful result. Without studying deeply the implementing aspect of these Accords the

Rajiv Government simply signed the same. The far-reaching consequence of it must have to be borne by the present Government.

There are many fundamental areas where the Rajiv Government and the congress party have shown inept handling of the situation.

Against this back-ground if the verdict of the people is assessed in the

9th Lok-Sabha poll, then it must undoubtedly be admitted that the people have exercised their franchise in the most matured way. Well, the people have certainly desired a change in the political scenario, but in this process of change they have not elected a majority Government in the parliament. The only reason is that the Indian electorates are completely dis-illusioned in the performances of their elected representatives of the concerned party.

It is interesting to note the position of Mr. V. P. Singh Government against all these past backgrounds. The Government so formed under his Prime-Ministership is a watershed in Indian politics.

It is a peculiar mixture of heterogeneous ideologies. Despite that, it has taken a challenge in forming the Government with a noble intention to provide clean administration for the people. But then the fulfilment of this noble intention seems to be an uphill-task. The V. P. Singh Government is out and out dependant on the B. J. P. at the

dependant on the B. J. P. at the extreme right and the C. P. M. at the extreme left. Mr. V. P. Singh could form his Government as these two major non-congress parties extended their unconditional support. But their parties have also their promises made to their voters, which they must try to keep.

Let us now have a cursory look at the B. J. P. manifesto to the people in their Election-campaign. The manifesto clearly laid-down ground-rules for a uniform civil code, ban on cow slaughter and abrogation of the Article 370 of the constitution, which guarantees special status to the only Muslim majority state Jamu and Kashmir of the Union. The B. J. P. manifesto also includes the abolition of the Minorities commission to be replaced by a broad-based Human Rights commission. Broadly speaking if any part of the B. J. P. manifesto is implemented by the National Front Government under any pressure it would simply dilute the secular frame of the country.

Now against this situation one must obviously raise a question how long these two parties (i. e. the B. J. P. and the CPM) having diametrically opposite ideologies would continue to lend their unfailing support to the Government. It seems that the ball is still in the court of the congress (I). Though the congress has failed to solve many baffing issues of the day, it has demonstrated the best example of sustaining a stable Government. But the non-congress (I) Government has failed to do that so far. But the stability of the present Government is certainly at stake since it has to maintain appropriate balance between the Right and the Left.

However, this is a novel experiment in the history of Indian politics. Prior to the election for the 9th Lok-Sabha the Janata Dal could not come in terms with the BJP as they were reluctant to cooperate with their policies and programmes. But the slogan of Rajiv Hatao, Bharat Bacho

( i. e. Defeat Rajiv and save India ) drew them together. Now their desire is fulfilled. But it is not a total fulfilment of their desires. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is not yet out of the political scene. He is there in the house as the leader of the opposition party. Before laying-down the office of the Prime-minister he has accepted the verdict of the people with humility. And now the Indian electorates are carefully watching his role as the leader of the opposition party.

The Bofors scandal which tarnished the image of the congress ( I ) party and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi must sufficiently be debated in the house. The congress ( I ) parliamentarians would never hesitate to demand the proofs of accusations against Mr. Gandhi from the Government during the course of this debate. Some of the congress ( I ) heavy-weights have in the meantime commented " Once our leader is proved clean, we shall romp back to power ".

Thus the present political situation is really, very grave. The minority Government in a hung parliament should try to understand the gravity of this situation. There are many sensitive issues like Ram Janam Bhumi, Babar Masjid, Panjab tangle and Bodo Agitation in Assam, while dealing with these most sensitive issues, the Government should not only be careful but also be cautious. They would, by and large, determine the stable position of the present Government.

The people have reserved their final verdict. They will exercise the same in the most appropriate time examining the demands of the situation. The address of the Prime Minister Mr V. P. Singh to the nation. " After a long and dark night the day has dawned but it is still a misty dawn is worth remembering. Let us hope the mist will disappear and the dawn will be clear.

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