

Lucknow,  
February 11, 1970.

My dear Gupta Ji,

When Dr. Ram Subrah Singh and Shri Laksh Raman Acharya saw me in the evening of February 10, I had made it clear to them that there will be no Coordination Committee presiding over the State Government or laying down policies for it. Also, that while I may consult you in regard to the choice of members of government from your party, the decision will rest in my hands. Further, when I saw you at about 10.15 P.M. the same evening, on your broaching the question, I had told you that it will be difficult for me to agree to relinquishment of any of the financial resources the State Exchequer draws today, particularly, in view of the fact that Uttar Pradesh is almost the poorest as also the lowest-taxed State in the country.

Whereas the "National Herald" of today carries a story that according to an agreement arrived at between the BJD and the Congress (O) you will be the Chairman of the Coordination Committee. Also, that 'G.B. Gupta, the Jan Sangh and the BJP leaders, in a joint statement tonight accepted Mr. Charan Singh as their new leader to "implement the decision of abolition of land revenue on holdings of six and a quarter acres, issue of pass-books to cultivators and abolition of Profession Tax".

I would have conveyed my reactions to the above press report earlier, but for the fact that I have not had a minute's respite today till this moment.

I have had an unhappy experience of Jan Sangh and BJP leadership in 1967-68. The talks that a Jan Sangh leader had with me this evening barely an hour ago (that is, about 10.00 P.M.) and the attitude of BJP have convinced me that my experience of the last BJD ministry was going to be repeated.

This is just to inform you that, in the circumstances, it will not be possible for me to head a government that may be formed with the help of, or, in association with the Jan Sangh, the BJP and your party viz. the Congress (O). BJD's or my aim is not Chief Ministership but service of the people — such service that will, roughly speaking, ensure to them a clean and efficient administration, increase their incomes through increase of production and tend to raise the social, economic and educational levels of those sections of our people who have been relegated to the backyards and out-houses for centuries. I am afraid, with the government that is going to emerge under the limitations mentioned above, BJD's aim — which, I presume, is also the aim of everyone of us — will be frustrated.

I have, therefore, decided not to accept any invitation that I may receive from the Governor for forming the Government.

With regards,

Shri G.B. Gupta,  
Acting Chief Minister,  
LUCKNOW

I am,  
Yours sincerely,  
sd/- (Charan Singh)

P.S.: I may add that I have not shared the contents of this letter even with my colleagues yet.

sd/- (Charan Singh)  
11.2.1970.



चन्द्रमणु गुप्त

Confidential

सेवा केंद्र  
पानदरी गा,  
लखनऊ ।

February 12, 1970.

My dear Charan Singh Ji,

I am thankful to you for your confidential letter dated 11.2.1970.

I am in entire agreement with you that there should be no Coordination Committee, presiding over the State Government for laying down policies to bind the Government. It is a different matter that a coalition Government itself might find a consultative coordination committee of the different parties constituting or supporting the Government, useful for discussing policy matters of mutual interest. For my self, I might make it clear, that I have not the slightest intention to be on any such committee. I would, at the same time, assure you that my advice in any matter, whenever it is sought by you, would be ungrudgingly available to you.

I am also in agreement with you that the present total financial resources of the State should not be reduced, but be augmented as far as possible for the development of the State. I have no doubt that the Government is in a position to find ways and means to achieve this, while adhering to its policy of giving relief to the poor and underprivileged section of society. When the Government had decided to give relief to small farmers from taxation in accordance with the new concepts of social justice, in the same way as persons with small income are given exemption from income tax, the Government was fully alive to the question of adequate financial resources and was confident that it would be able to maintain them by adopting various measures.

As I have stated in my letter of resignation, all of us have come together to serve a very important national cause, namely to strengthen democracy and to ward off the dangers of totalitarianism and communism and I have no doubt that the Government that is going to be formed under your leadership, will succeed in achieving this goal and the required support of all the parties who have pledged it to you and who are wedded to a democratic way of life, will continue to be received by you in this task.

Unfortunately, on account of my illness, I could not be present when some of my friends discussed certain matters with you, but I have no doubt that you would appreciate the spirit in which we have taken the historic decision to come together and no cause for any misunderstanding would arise.

I have dictated this letter from my bed.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-(C.B.Gupta)

Sri Charan Singh,  
Leader of the Opposition,  
Mall Avenue,  
Lucknow.



# BKD May Form Govt. With Congress Support

N.H. 13 2 117°

## Late-night Developments In U.P. Politics

LUCKNOW, Thursday.

THE political situation in Uttar Pradesh took a dramatic turn late tonight brightening the possibility of BKD chairman Charan Singh forming a government with Congress support. The change followed day-long parleys between the Congress and BKD leaders.

Mr. Charan Singh, who had agreed to form a government with the support of the Congress (O), the Jan Sangh and the SSP after Mr. C. B. Gupta resigned on February 10, had to rethink the developments that followed during the past two days.

Mr. Charan Singh's past experience of a multi-party coalition and the pressure from Congress (O) leaders to agree to the 11-point programme, particularly his opposition to abolition of land revenue from holdings up to six and a quarter acres and the huzga used by SSP leader Raj Narain, forced Mr. Singh for rethinking on the whole situation.

The prolonged talks between Mr. Charan Singh and former MP Chief Minister DP Misra last night and following by an hour-long talks with Foreign Trade Minister Baharam Bhagat, paved the way for an accord between the BKD and the Congress.

Letters between the two parties exchanged till late night. It was expected that a final accord would reach between them by tomorrow.

Mr. Bhagat who had detailed discussions with the state Congress legislature party leader, Mr. Karnalapati Tripathi, before meeting the BKD leader, said: "I have brought no offer. Nor have I met Mr. Charan Singh on behalf of anybody."

Asked if he had any hope of bringing about any change in the state's political situation favourable to his party, Mr. Bhagat said: "This is my effort. Every hour, the situation is changing. I am hopeful."

Later, when Mr. Charan Singh was asked whether Mr. Bhagat had made any offer to support his party, the BKD leader said: "You should better address this question to Mr. Bhagat."

Many factors weighed heavily on the BKD to reconsider the formation of a Government with the support of the Jan Sangh and the Samyukt Socialist Party as Mr. Charan Singh had a "serid" experience of these parties as partners in the ten-month old Samyukt Vidhaya Dal Government before the mid-term poll last year.

Some prominent Congress (O) leaders held a prolonged talk with

Mr. Charan Singh today in a bid to make him agreeable to their programme which included abolition of land revenue on land-holdings upto six and quarter acres.

Mr. Singh had talks with Mr. Shanti Prapanna Sharma, Mr. Lakshmi Kamesh Acharya and Mr. Krishnasund Rai (ministers in the caretaker Government) and Mr. Banarsi Das, general secretary of the Congress (O) in the morning.

Later, the BKD leader went to Utrais, about fifteen miles from here. Informed circles, however, said that he met there some leaders of other parties for talks on the future set-up of the Government.

It is understood that Mr. Singh has declared that he would not take any member of the upper house as a cabinet colleague if he forms the Government. This and some other factors, like the possible points of conflict with the SSP and Jan Sangh, might create tough hurdles in ministry making.

Sources close to the BKD said that Mr. Charan Singh had not been able to make up his mind on the set-up he would have if the Governor invited him. His polite refusal to meet the press and withholding of comments even on two questions sent to him by newsmen in writing lent weight to the speculation that he was perhaps not fully committed to the proposals of the Gupta group. It is also understood that Mr. Gupta had given him full freedom on choice of ministers and their number from his group when he decided to step down in favour of the BKD leader.

The Samyukt Socialist Legislature Party, which met here today, passed a resolution extending support to Mr. Charan Singh Government on the basis of their thirteen-point programme.

The BKD Legislature Party also met today and reposed full confidence in stewardship of their leader, Mr. Charan Singh.

### S.M. Joshi's Stand

NEW DELHI, Feb. 12—Mr. S.M. Joshi, SSP leader, said here today that if Mr. Anantaram Jaiswal, leader of the SSP group in UP legislature, has assured Mr. Charan Singh of the party's support in forming a SVD Government, "he (Mr. Jaiswal) has not done the proper thing."

Mr. Joshi, a former chairman of the SSP, said it was not known yet whether Mr. Charan Singh was agreeable to the 11-point programme decided by the SSP at its recent, Sonapur convention as the pre-condition for its joining any coalition.

Even if Mr. Singh had accepted the SSP's time-bound programme, there should be an assurance that he would not at a later date claim that his approval was obtained "under duress". Mr. Joshi said this was necessary because he (Mr. Singh) had taken this position when the first United Front Government in UP, headed by him, began to run into difficulties.

It was also necessary to know, Mr. Joshi added, whether Mr. Singh would implement or scrap the decision of the out-going Government: abolishing land revenue on small holdings. Mr. Singh was known to have made some statement criticising that decision.

Lastly, Mr. Joshi said, Mr. Singh had reportedly said that he did not want to have any truck with the SSP. If this was his attitude, the party must take note of it.—PTI



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