

सूचना (निरीक्षा) विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश, लखनऊ

Indian Express, Delhi, dated 16-9-70

# Charan Singh retorts Tripathi out to wreck coalition

LUCKNOW, Sept 15  
(UNI).

The four-month-old Bharatiya Kranti Dal-New Congress coalition in Uttar Pradesh appeared tonight to stand on the verge of collapse with the Chief Minister, Mr Charan Singh, bluntly telling the New Congress leader, Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, that there was no point in replying to his letters as he (Mr Tripathi) had virtually decided to wreck the coalition Ministry.

The statement of the Chief Minister came in a letter prepared by the State Executive of the BKD and the executive of its Legislature Party which held a nine-hour joint marathon session to consider the letter from Mr Tripathi demanding an early session of the Assembly. Mr Charan Singh alleged that the New Congress leader wanted to pull down the Government on the floor of the House.

The statement of the Chief Minister came closely after a meeting of the New Congress Ministers presided over by Mr Tripathi. The meeting asserted that there was "not the least shift in the New Congress stand" and that it was "well-nigh impossible" to continue to support the BKD-led coalition Government.

The reply by the Chief Minister to Mr Tripathi's two letters of August 30 and September 8 is considered in political circles here as a clear sign for a virtual parting of ways between the coalition partners.

Tonight's developments have assumed greater significance in view of a crucial State Cabinet meeting fixed for tomorrow.

Briefing newsmen after the crucial meeting, the Secretary of the BKD, Mr Raj Bahadur Dwivedi, said the meeting discussed the two letters of Mr Tripathi for about nine hours and finally decided to send a reply to him.

He said it was up to the New Congress to decide whether it was really interested in running the coalition Government in the State or not. A majority of members at the meeting were in favour of continuing the coalition Government, he added.

Some of the members are reported to have urged Mr Charan Singh to accept the New Congress demand for a co-ordination committee in the best interests of the State.

Most of them, however, are reported to have suggested to Mr Charan Singh that no

hasty action should be taken. They wanted him to send a letter to Mr Tripathi asking for his clarifications.

They also suggested that the Cabinet meeting fixed for tomorrow should be postponed to some other date to cool down the atmosphere.

Some of the members wanted an immediate break with the New Congress as the conditions put by them were not acceptable to the BKD. They urged the Chief Minister to initiate moves for a new coalition with the Old Congress, the Jana Sangh and the SSP to avoid a possible mid-term poll in the State.

A section of the speakers is also reported to have condemned the attitude of party General Secretary, Mr Prakash Vir Shastri, towards the Central Government.

The Chief Minister is reported to have made angry remarks when some members urged him to concede the New Congress demand for a co-ordination committee.

A New Congress spokesman told newsmen after a meeting of its Ministers with Mr Tripathi that the "ball was now in Chief Minister Charan Singh's court." Therefore, there was no question of any new steps being taken by the New Congress, he added.

Referring to reports that the State leadership of the party had taken certain hasty steps without the High Command's approval, the spokesman said Mr Tripathi's letter to Mr Charan Singh was fully approved by the New Congress President, Mr Jagjivan Ram, himself.

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## Charan's offer to step down

(From Page 1, Col. 4)

Mr Charan Singh today reportedly offered to step down from the Chief Ministership if his exit would insure smooth functioning of the coalition, ENS reports.

Mr Charan Singh is said to have made this remark at the meeting when some members suggested that he should find a way out to start a dialogue with the New Congress leadership for thrashing out the issues which threatened to break the eight-month-old coalition.

All members, however, opposed the idea. They said that his (Mr Charan Singh's) stepping aside would be no solution to the problems and that he would have to lead the coalition.

In future the New Congress Ministers will meet together with their party leader, Mr Tripathi, before every Cabinet meeting and discuss what stand they should take.

The New Congress has already taken a definite stand, as contained in the letter sent by Mr Tripathi to Mr Charan Singh.



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