

1696

28.3.67/Chaitra 7, 1889(Saka)
Uncorrected - Not for Publication

ps
W3

1344

Mr. Speaker: The 'Ayes' have it; the 'Ayes' have it. The
The motion was adopted.
motion is carried...

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy

(Shrimati Indira Gandhi): They have participated in the voting.

Mr. Speaker: I declare Shri R K Khadilkar elected as the
Deputy-Speaker.

May I request the Deputy-Speaker to come and occupy
his seat?

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker then occupied his seat)

Shrimati Indira Gandhi: I wish to say something in reply to
what Shri Masani said to clarify the situation.

It is true that we had said that if the Opposition
was united, we would not put up any candidate. However,
till just before 12 noon yesterday, which was the limit for
giving names, the Opposition was not united. Even afterwards,
it seems they had a meeting, and they came and told me they
were united; but our information even after that meeting was
that they were not united on this issue. It was possible
also that if we had withdrawn our candidate, their names
might have remained. Therefore, the position till last
late last night was not at all clear.

I had said very clearly to Shri Masani that if before
12 noon yesterday, which was the time-limit for nominations,
they did not give us a clear indication, we would put up a

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W4

23.3.67/Chaitra 7, 1859(Saka)
Uncorrected - Not for Publication

1697

Shrimati Indira Gandhi -cd

candidate. I just wanted to clarify that point.

Shri Masani said that he knew - he admitted to me -
that there were three groups, large groups with large
numbers involved, within the Opposition who did not
support their nomination.

cd. by X