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Statement by way of personal explanation
made by Mr. M.R. Masani in the Lok
Sabha on the 29th March, 1967.

Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I am sorry to learn that yesterday, after I and other Members of the Opposition had left the House during the election of the Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister chose in our absence to say certain things which are at variance with the truth. Since she has misquoted what I had said to her when I saw her at 11 A.M. on 27th March, with a view to creating prejudice against me, I wish to state the correct facts by way of personal explanation.

The Prime Minister has quoted me as saying that "he admitted to me that there were three groups, large groups with large numbers involved, within the Opposition who did not support their nomination. But he said you should not bother about these people." I am sorry to have to say that I did not say anything of the kind. When I saw the Prime Minister at 11 A.M. on the 27th, I went specifically to plead with her not to make any nomination from among the Congress Party. I told her that I was authorised to negotiate this matter on behalf of all seven Opposition groups. When she mentioned that several people had been to her to say that they did not accept Mr. Kunte, I asked her to tell me who these people were. She said she was not at liberty to mention their names as they did not wish their names to be mentioned. I told her that this was very strange and requested her not to take any notice of such unauthorised persons. I assured her that Opposition unity was there and would, in any event, be re-established completely by the time we met her at 5 P.M. that afternoon.

I am distressed that the Prime Minister should have told the House that "the position last night was not at all clear" even after all of us including Mr. Gopalan, and Mr. Anandan Nambiar of the Left Communist Party, had specifically told her at a meeting with her at 5 P.M., that afternoon at her own invitation that the Opposition was completely united behind Mr. Kunte.

Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I was sorry to learn that yesterday, after I and other members of the Opposition had left the House during the election of the Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister chose in our absence to say certain things which are at variance with the truth. Since she has misquoted what I had said to her when I saw her at 11 A.M. on ~~the~~ 27th March, with a view to creating prejudice against me, I wish to state the correct facts by way of personal explanation.

The Prime Minister has quoted me as saying that "he admitted to me that there were three groups, large groups with large ^{numbers} ~~the~~ ^{involved} within the Opposition who did not support the ir nomination. But he said you should not bother about these people". I am sorry to have to say *I did not say anything of the kind.* that ~~there is a split in the Opposition on this statement.~~ When I saw the Prime Minister at 11 A.M. on ^{the} 27th, I went specifically to plead with her not to make any nomination from among the Congress Party. I told her that I was authorised to negotiate this matter on behalf of all seven Opposition groups. When she mentioned that several people had been to her to say that they did not accept Mr. Kunte, I asked her to tell me who these people were. She said she was not at liberty to mention their names as they did not wish their names to be mentioned. I told her that this was very strange and requested her not to take any notice of such unauthorised persons. I assured her that Opposition unity was there and would, in any event, be re-established completely by the time we met her at 5 P.M. that afternoon.

I am ~~happy~~ that
the Prime Minister ^{should} have told the House that "the position last night was not at all clear" ^{even} after all of us including Mr. Gopalan and Mr. Anandji Desai of the Left Communist Party, had specifically told her at a meeting with her ^{that} ~~on~~ invitation that the Opposition was completely united behind Mr. Kunte ~~and that~~ ^{that} ~~the~~ ^{the} Hon'ble Prime Minister in ~~an~~ excitement has allowed herself to depart from the ~~truth.~~

Mr. Speaker,

Sir, I was sorry to learn that yesterday, after I and other Members of the Opposition had left the House during the election of the Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister chose in our absence to say certain things which are at variance with the truth. Since she has misquoted what I had said to her when I saw her at 11 A.M. on ~~the~~ 27th March, with a view to creating prejudice against me, I wish to state the correct facts by way of personal explanation.

The Prime Minister has quoted me as saying that "he admitted to me that there were three groups, large groups with large ^{numbers} ~~Members~~ involved, within the Opposition who did not support their nomination. But he said you should not bother about these people". I am sorry to have to say that ~~there is not a iota of truth in this statement.~~ ^{I did not say anything of the kind} When I saw the Prime Minister at 11 A.M. on ^{the} 27th, I went specifically to plead with her not to make any nomination from among the Congress Party. I told her that I was authorised to negotiate this matter on behalf of all seven Opposition groups. When she mentioned that several people had been to her to say that they did not accept Mr. Kunte, I asked her to tell me who these people were. She said she was not at liberty to mention their names as they did not wish their names to be mentioned. I told her that this was very strange and requested her not to take any notice of such unauthorised persons. I assured her that Opposition unity was there and would, in any event, be re-established completely by the time we met her at 5 P.M. that afternoon.

^{I am distressed that}
~~For the Prime Minister to have told the House that "the position last night was not at all clear" after all of us, including Mr. Gopalan, and Mr. Anandan Nambiar of the Left Communist Party, had specifically told her at a meeting with her at her own invitation that the Opposition was completely united behind Mr. Kunte shows to what lengths the Hon'ble Prime Minister in her excitement ~~has~~ allowed herself to depart from the truth.~~