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'Urgently needed alternative'

NEW DELHI, Jan 3 (PTI).

The following is the text of the announcement made at the end of today's talks between the Old Congress, the Jana Sangh and the SSP on the formation of an electoral front.

"Mr Nijalingappa, President, All-India Congress Committee; Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, President, Bhartiya Jana Sangh; Mr Ram Sevak Yadav, Chairman, Central Parliamentary Board, SSP; and Mr George Fernandes, General Secretary, SSP, have announced the decision of their parties to form a front to contest the elections to Lok Sabha with a view to defeating the present Government which is taking the country in an authoritarian and anti-democratic direction.

"In order to offer the country an alternative which it urgently needs, we have agreed to come together to fight the elections. We appeal to other parties, groups and individuals who share these objectives to join us.

"Our endeavour will be to put up one agreed candidate for each Lok Sabha constituency throughout the country who will be supported by all our parties.

"The allocation of constituencies and the nomination of candidates will be carried out by a co-ordinating committee of these and other co-operating parties."

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Inwards