

The saga of Aaya Ram Gaya Ram

The phrase "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram" has long been used in Indian politics. It is primarily connected to leaders who frequently change sides. Some people also refer to political defections by this phrase. Through this article, we will look back in time to show how a Haryana MLA's three-party switches in one day led to the creation of the phrase "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram," which is generally used to refer to "party-switching" in English.

The story starts in 1966 when the state of Haryana was carved out from the existing state of Punjab. The state of Haryana became a separate state with 81 legislative seats and the first legislative assembly elections were held. The Congress party came out victorious with 48 seats and Bhagat Dayal Sharma became the first Chief Minister. But the 12 members of the party rebelled and joined the opposition.

Gaya Lal, an independent politician, won the race for MLA. After winning, Gaya Lal immediately joined the Indian National Congress. He resigned from Congress and joined the United Front alliance a short while afterwards, but things didn't stop there. Gaya Lal had re-joined the Congress Party by the evening. In a nutshell, he changed parties three times in nine hours.

After a week, when Rao Birendra Singh became the Chief Minister of Haryana, he brought Gaya Lal to face the press during his press conference in Chandigarh. Birender Singh told media, "Gaya Ram ab Aaya Ram hai."

The phrase "Gaya Ram Aaya Ram" was picked by the media after Rao Birender Singh's famous one-liner. To date, it is used in Indian politics for leaders who jump ship frequently. But that was not the only "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram" occasion in Haryana's politics.

To curb horse-trading of MLA which was very prevalent in those times, a new law was required. Hence, the tenth schedule was introduced in the Constitution through the fifty-second Constitutional Amendment Act in 1985.