

decide whether they want to take away the case from the state or allow them to investigate.

Sir, you have played an integral role in the Right to Information Act. What is the main purpose of this act?

It's not like this act was not present in the country; it was present in 9 states. This Act made it compulsory for all states to follow it. The main purpose of this act is to improve the delivery of the governance and the efficiency of the government by making them much more transparent and open to the public.

Sir, can you point out your 2 major achievements with respect to your constituency over the years?

I can't remember my major achievements but the one major achievement was that we setup the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission which will give much more central funds to cities like Mumbai. It won't be like taking an empty cheque and doing whatever you want with it. It will be based on reforms. Thus if the government does this, Mumbai will get more money, if we improve these laws, we will get more money. Thus it is the right way to approach it rather than saying here is the money and do whatever you want with it. This is because there is transfer of money from the central to the state government. As a result there is a large amount of money that has come into the city like the entire water drainage network of the B.M.C has been totally renewed. Rail links, Housing facilities, Metro Projects are getting funds from the centre. This is an important scheme as it improves the accountability.

Sir, your father holds an important berth in the Union Cabinet. Do you think that this was a disadvantage

to your prospects of being inducted to the Council Of Ministers?

I have heard from people that the reason I couldn't become a young minister even though I was eligible to was because my father was there. I became an M.P. at the age of 27; at this age people don't even dream to become Municipal Corporators. My father for example; he was 40 years old when he became a corporator, 45 when he became mayor of Mumbai and around 50 when he became a M.P. I am lucky to have been elected at such a young age. This is a full time and challenging job for me and I have no aspirations to become a Minister. If the Prime Minister feels that I can contribute by being at a higher post then I will take on the job, but I am not someone who really seeks a greater role.

Sir, the opposition insists that the MNS is nothing but a creature of the Congress. What is your take on this?

MNS is a party which is a threat to all mainstream parties. It is a threat to the Congress and the NCP and most of the votes which they have taken were traditionally Congress votes. So for someone to say that it is a creature of the Congress created by us is wrong. There are many things that split up the votes. Would it be fair for me to say that Meera Sanyal is a creature of Shiv Sena? Would Shiv Sena be happy with Meera Sanyal because she cannot win, but help me lose? Maybe. So would I be happy that the opposition is being independent? Why not. It's all politics and in politics your aim is to weaken your opposition and not to make them strong. However we are not going out and doing that. We as a party definitely believe that MNS is a threat; they are a party that has managed to take a lot of traditional Congress votes apart from the Marathi Manos votes.



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