

## **Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials**

**Programme: T.Y.B.A.**

**Subject: Political Science**

**Paper Code: POC 110**

**Paper Title: Government and Politics of Goa (Post Statehood)**

**Unit: 01**

**Module Name: Churchill Alemao Ministry**

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### **Notes**

The Churchill Alemao Ministry is known as Progressive Democratic Front Coalition government. The coalition of rebel MLAs from Congress and Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) toppled the Pratapsingh Rane led Congress government. Alemao who was first timer in the electoral politics was instrumental in creating a faction within congress, later on termed itself as Goan People Party (GPP) under the leadership of Dr. Luis Proto Barbosa. After the formation of Rane Ministry on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1990 which included Dr. Wilfred de Souza, Francisco Sardinha, Subhash Shirodkar, Carmo Pegado and Luizinho Faleiro. Rane assured that the Rane cabinet would be expanded after the budget session. Delay in the cabinet expansion and differences over Rane as CM within Congress, the rebel submitted their resignation to Governor Khurshid Alam Khan when Rane was 300 kms away in Kolhapur. When governor recognised the stake claimed by the congress rebels and MGP, they agreed to demonstrate their majority on the floor. When Rane refused to resign as CM, Barbosa remained as speaker to avoid future difficulties in forming the government because Simon D'Souza was deputy speaker of the assembly who was in favour Rane's leadership. Barbosa agreed to remain the speaker to ensure the formation of PDF government. Though Rane tried to adjourn the house through deputy speaker Simon D'Souza,

Speaker Barbosa reluctantly ignored the move of deputy speaker and asked MGP leader Ramakant Khalap to move No Confidence Motion. The no confidence was passed in the house. Due to the crucial need of Barboasa as speaker, Churchill was made the Chief Minister of Goa interim period. Once the PDF government is formed, it was agreed that Barboasa would resign as speaker and would be made the CM of Goa. It was also possible due to non-congress V.P. Singh government at the centre. Central leaders like John Fernandes played very important role in the formation of coalition government. Meanwhile the coalition voted out the deputy speaker Simon D'Souza and Prakash Velip agreed to become deputy CM. Eighteen MGP MLAs with the support seven rebel MLAs from Congress formed the PDF government. Churchill Alemao was finally sworn in as Goa's first interim and Catholic chief minister on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1990 along with nine member cabinet. Ramakant Khalap was sworn in as Deputy CM in the interim government. Ravi Naik, Dr. Kashinath Jalmi, Ratnakar Chopadekar, John Baptist Gonsalves, Ashok Naik Salgaonkar, Mauvin Godinho, Somanath Zuwarkar and Luis Alex Cardozo were included in the cabinet. Though the Congress faction had few MLAs, the portfolios between MGP and the congress faction were almost assigned equally. The main portfolios were held by MGP and especially by the deputy CM Ramakant Khalap. It was quite visible that Khalap was more vocal spokesperson of the coalition than the CM Alemao, the leader of the cabinet. Important portfolios such as finance were kept by Khalap. The Interim government tried to project itself as a first secular government that came to spread harmony between Hindus and Catholics. After swearing in ceremony they visited Mhalsa temple and Bom Jesus Basilica Church at Old Goa. The government also wanted to pacify the anger of the people due to their defection from Congress; they tried to portray development as their agenda and rushed to resume incomplete projects. They try to include resumption of Bombay-Goa Steam service, Water supply from Selaulim Dam to South Goa, especially Margao, policy statement on employment, setting up of power generation plant, review of grants to private primary schools and the completion of long pending Siolim-Chopdem Bridge on priority basis.

Churchill emerged as the kingmaker in Goa's politics. He had shown bargaining and tactical manoeuvring power. This interim ministry has also witnessed conflicts between CM Churchill and Deputy CM Khalap.