

PREFACE

Parliamentary government entails two integrated concepts: the supremacy of Parliament and the prerogative of the executive to have the initiative in formulating policies and implementing decisions so long it commands majority in Parliament. In a Parliamentary form of government, whether it is foreign policy or domestic policy, the influence of Parliament and the initiative run parallel.

For a long time, foreign policy was not considered to be the concern of Parliament as diplomacy was conceived as being "The province of Princes, not of commoners". Contemporary history has, however, demonstrated the folly, if not the danger, of this view. The survival of the human race today depends upon the proper conduct of foreign relations. Hence, in democracies foreign affairs have come under the watchful eyes of the representatives of the masses.

An effort has been made in this dissertation to investigate to what extent Parliament has been successful in determining the basics and the contours of Indian Foreign Policy, or in other words to what extent our representatives discharged this role and with what success.

To keep it within the bounds of manageability our inquiry has been confined to the Lok Sabha Debates during the period 1967-84.

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