

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

THIS WITNESS STATEMENT IS PROVIDED ON THE STRICT UNDERSTANDING THAT ITS CONTENTS AND THE IDENTITY OF ITS MAKER ARE TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY AND THAT IT IS USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES STATED IN IT

Witness Statement of

VASUNDHARA RAJE

18 AUGUST 2011

FILE COPY

WITNESS STATEMENT

OF

VASUNDHARA RAJE

I, Vasundhara Raje, of 13 Civil Lines, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, will say as follows:

1. I make this statement in support of any immigration application that Lalit Modi makes, but do so on the strict condition that my assistance will not become known to the Indian authorities.
2. I am a national of India and am resident there. I was born on 8 March 1953 in Mumbai, India. I am currently the leader of the opposition in the Rajasthan State Assembly.

3. I am the daughter of the last Maharajah of Gwalior, George Jivajirao Scindia. My father ruled Gwalior state as monarch until India's independence in 1947. My mother, Vijayaraje Scindia, was a prominent Indian politician, having been elected to the Lok Sabha in 1962 as a member of the Indian National Congress ("Congress Party"). Five years later my mother left the Congress Party and joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh party, which was the predecessor to the current Bharatiya Janata Party ("BJP"). She was an MP for many years thereafter, winning seven consecutive parliamentary elections.
4. My mother was one of the founding members of the BJP when it was formed in 1980. She was appointed as one of the Vice Presidents of the party. She remained a Vice President of the party until 1998 when, due to health reasons, she stepped down and quit her political career. She died in 2001.
5. My older brother, the late Madhavrao Scindia, was also a prominent Indian politician. He was a member of the Lok Sabha for nine terms, having never lost an election from 1971 when he was first elected. He was initially an independent candidate who was elected with the support of Bharatiya Jana Sangh. Following the imposition of a national emergency resulting in the concentration of power into the hands of the ruling Congress Party, my brother along with his immediate family switched allegiances to the Congress Party, despite opposition from within our extended family. He was Minister of Railways in Rajiv Gandhi's government and then Minister of Civil Aviation and latterly Minister of Human Resources Development under the premiership of Narasimha Roa. My brother was also President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India ("BCCI") from 1990 to 1993. He died in a plane crash in 2001. After my brother's death, his son Jyotiraditya Scindia followed in his footsteps and was elected in 2002 as the Congress Party MP for the seat left vacant by his father's death. He was subsequently re-elected in 2004 and 2009 and he is currently Minister of State for Commerce and Industry within the central government.

6. My younger sister Yashodhara Raje Scindia is also a politician in India. From 1998 to 2007 she was a BJP member of the Madhya Pradesh State Assembly. In 2007 she was elected to the Lok Sabha as the BJP MP for Gwalior, and was re-elected in 2009.
7. My son Dushyant Singh, is the BJP MP for Jhalawar, and was elected to the Lok Sabha in 2004 and re-elected in 2009.
8. I graduated in Economics and Political Science from Sophia College, Mumbai University. My connection with Rajasthan came following my marriage in 1972 to the then incumbent ruler of Dholpur, Maharaja Hemant Singh.
9. My involvement in politics started with my induction into the National Working Committee of the BJP in 1984. I was the Vice President of the State BJP Youth Wing from 1984 to 1986. I then was elected as the member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for Dholpur in 1985 and served in this capacity until 1989. From 1987 to 1989 I was Vice President of the BJP in Rajasthan. In 1989 I was elected to the Lok Sabha as MP for Jhalawar (a city in Rajasthan). I was then re-elected for a further four successive terms in 1991, 1996, 1998, and 1999. In 1997 I was elected Joint Secretary of the BJP Parliamentary Party. In 1998 I was made Minister of State for External Affairs in the government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. In 1999 I was made Minister of State with independent charge of Small Industries and Agro & Rural Industries, Department of Personnel & Training, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, Department of Personnel & Public Grievances and Pension Ministry, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space.
10. In 2002, I stood down as Minister of State and was appointed President of the BJP in Rajasthan. In December 2003 I led the party to a record landslide victory in the Rajasthan state elections, defeating the Congress Party and ousting their incumbent Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot. On 8 December 2003, I was sworn in as the first female Chief Minister of Rajasthan.