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**POLITICIANS MAKE A FASHION STATEMENT**

One seems to be the days when Indian politicians wore crumpled saris and white kurtas clothes, to project the image of being one with the masses. These days, most of them are making fashion statements before a new generation of voters, says Meera Deswal, a fashion designer of Ballabgarh. She claims to be designing clothes for politicians, among others, S.S. Surjewala, BJP leader; Sushma Swaraj, Karnatka governor; Hans Raj Bhadorwaj and Haryana chief minister, Bhupinder Singh Hooda. She strongly believes that a leader should be impressively dressed as he/she represents a society; if they are dressed smartly, half the battle is won.

In terms of fabric, it is mostly silk, linen and synthetics, and in terms of clothes from the basic white starched Kurta-Pyjamas (Khadi/Silk/Khadi) that go well for most occasions. Reena Dhaka (of Gurugram), an associate of Shah Naz Hussain, says that the young breed of politicians is initiating a whole idea of looking smart. You have the example of among others, Hina Khar, the petite foreign minister of Pakistan. Designer Suhair Diwan supplies clothes to politicians like Omar Abdullah, Farooq Abdullah, Abhay Chautala and Ram Vilas Paswan. Most of them change the dress every day. Delhi chief minister, Sheila Dixit, though not so young, can be seen in ethnic Sari every day. The same goes for the Congress supremo, Sonia Gandhi’s impressive array of Paithani cotton saris and handloom silks. A former public health minister of Haryana, Parsani Devi is invariably impressively dressed in cotton saris, procured generally from the Khadi Udyog Bhawan of New Delhi.

**NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED**

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