PROFILE

RAMMURTI

MR RAMMURTI who has come into the news in connection with the recent election of the Bareilly Municipal Board President, joined the UP Ministry during the last phase of Pandit Pant's Chief Ministership when real power had already passed into the hands of Mr C. B. Gupta. Indeed, Mr Rammurti owes his rise to the level of a State leader entirely to Mr Gupta's factional fight against the then established leadership of the late Mr Rafi Ahmad Kidwai. A large number of Congressmen who rallied round Mr Gupta belonged to a particular caste which occupies commanding positions in commerce and business. Mr Rammurti was one of them. With the election of his elder brother as President of the Bareilly Municipal Board as a Jana Sangh nominee his family has also acquired a big say in the civic affairs of the city.

Mr Rammurti joined the national movement in the early thirties. He was not known as an able organizer or as a good speaker; but in his youth he was associated with a band of

young patriots who made the Congress in UP one of the most radical units of the national organization. He was also associated with the Congress Socialist Party which in later days became Mr Gupta's instrument in his fight against Mr Kidwai. This helped Mr Rammurti to get the Congress ticket to the UP Assembly. He looked after the interests of his leader well and did not allow even a single MLA from his district to join the anti-Gupta faction. In the State Ministry, he was a loyal supporter of Mr Gupta and remained so even after the latter's defeat at the polls. His activities as a member of Mr Gupta's faction inside the Ministry led Chief Minister Dr Sampurnanand to ask him as well as other members of the group to declare that in their official capacity they owed allegiance to no one except the head of the Government. Rather than accept the Chief Minister's mandate Mr Rammurti and his friends preferred to walk out of the Government to work through the party organization to throw out Dr Sampuranand and bring Mr Gupta back to power. Mr Rammurti returned to the Government when Mr Gupta became Chief Minister.