

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Special Sitting to Commemorate the  
60th Anniversary of the First Sitting  
of the Parliament of India**



सत्यमेव जयते

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

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***Sunday, May 13, 2012/Vaisakha 23, 1934 (Saka)***

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### NATIONAL ANTHEM

*(National Anthem was played)*

**11.01 hrs.**

#### ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: I extend my heartiest congratulations to all of you and the people of India on the auspicious occasion of the Sixtieth anniversary of the First Sitting of Lok Sabha. The discussion on 'Sixty years of journey of Parliament of India' to be held on this Special Sitting organized to commemorate this event is going to add a new memorable chapter in the history of our Parliament.

The unflinching faith of the people of India in the cherished values of democracy forms the bedrock of our Parliamentary system. The common man and the neglected lot whose life is a saga of struggle for survival, toil day and night to make both ends meet and yet actively participate in the election process. It is the unwavering belief of such anonymous Indians that is the key to the survival, sustenance of our democracy. The Parliament epitomises the sovereign will of our citizens and is the supreme custodian of their fundamental rights and interests. I salute the people of this great nation for their conspicuous sense of national awareness. This journey of sixty years has been successful because of them. They decide the direction of our democracy. Our democracy eulogises them.

I would also like to pay homage to the founding fathers of our Constitution, who established a parliamentary form of Government to attain the noble ideals of justice, liberty and equality and human dignity. Since then, this august

House has stood the test of the time and has made determined efforts in articulating and addressing the varied demands of our vast population.

The first sitting of the Parliament on 13 May, 1952 marked the beginning of an epoch of a new era of democracy on the national horizon. It was an unparalleled development in the long history of our country when hitherto marginalized people had an equal voice in managing the affairs of the country. The rich and the poor, the powerful and the hapless – all were given the right to vote. The Parliament is a silent witness to the wave of revolution that changed things for good.

When I assumed the office of the Speaker, I found that there were a number of rules, practices, conventions and the directions and rulings given by the former Speakers from time to time that are the guiding force for conducting the House. Many of these were framed in the early days of Lok Sabha and then this process continued. The manner in which we have nurtured and strengthened the institution of Parliament has undoubtedly drawn the attention of the entire world. The Westminster model of Parliamentary system adopted long back has blossomed and established its own identity. It gives me a pleasant pride to note that not only such countries where democracy is in its infancy, but also those which have a deep rooted democratic system which to learn from our experiences. We acknowledge with profound gratitude the invaluable contributions of all my illustrious predecessors, Shri G.V. Mavalankar, Shri M.A. Ayyangar, Sardar Hukam Singh, Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy, Shri G.S. Dhillon, Shri Bali Ram Bhagat, Shri K.S. Hedge, Shri Bal Ram Jakhar, Shri Rabi Ray, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Shri P.A. Sangma, Shri G.M.C. Balyogi, Shri Manohar Joshi and Shri Somnath Chatterjee in evolving the rules and procedures for conducting the business of the house.

It is obligatory for the public representatives to follow the directions of their respective parties and to live up to the expectations of their voters which is the parameter of success of their political career. But we should keep in mind that we have been elected to the Parliament of India and the history will assess our performance in this capacity. Notwithstanding our ideological differences, national interest should always be paramount of us. The manner in which the House has shown solidarity in 1962, 1965 and 1971 was and the Kargil conflict and firmly rallied behind our armed forces is an exemplary aspect of our democracy.

This supreme deliberative institution has enacted many far reaching and revolutionary legislations for an egalitarian and progressive Indian society. It has kept pace with the changing times. To rise to the need of the hour it has enacted nearly 3400 legislations including the Hindu Marriage Act, the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act; the Commission of Sati (Prohibition) Act; the National Commission for Minorities Act; the Right to Information Act; the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act. To ensure inclusive development and empower the deprived, more than 500 legislations including Abolition of Untouchability (Offences) Act, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act have been enacted. It has also had three joint sittings of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to resolve issues relating to the Dowry Prohibition Bill, Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill and the Prevention of Terrorism Bill.

During its arduous journey our Parliament has amended the Constitution 97 times including the landmark 73rd and 74th amendments passed by 10th Lok Sabha which devolved power at the grassroots level and empowered women by providing 33% reservation for them in Panchayati Raj Institutions.

There is no denying to the fact that women have played an important role both in the freedom struggle and nation building. We have traversed a long way since the 1st Lok Sabha when we had 21 women Parliamentarians. Now, we have 60 women in the 15th Lok Sabha who every eloquently mirror the concerns of the country. It is our earnest desire that their number may further increase. Efforts are also being made that, all segments of our society with their diverse socio-economic identities, ethos and genius, differences of ideas, interests, approaches and objectives get representation in the Parliament. We recognize that our diversities that were once viewed as our weakness are today our source of strength.

Today, while we are celebrating the successful completion of sixty years of our Parliament, we also remember with a heavy the terrorist attack on this temple of democracy on 13 December, 2001. The manner in which the CRPF, Delhi Police, ITBP personnel and security staff of Parliament Watch and Ward Service thwarted the

terrorists' attempt by putting a have front reinforces our resolve and determination to fight the scourge of terrorism.

Sixty years is not a very long period in the history of a nation. But it is an occasion to recount our past experiences and visualize the challenges that lie ahead. It is a moment of introspection. It is time to foresee the future challenges. It is a matter of satisfaction that we are on the path of economic progress. We should strive to boost its momentum. At the same time there is need to maintain regional balance in all developmental works. What is more important is that delicate balance should be maintained between development and environment – otherwise the existence of planet earth would be in peril. The most important thing is that the benefits of development should reach to those whom Gandhi ji called “Daridra Narayan”.

It is an irrefutable fact that democracy and caste system can not go hand in hand since democracy is based on equality whereas the caste system is rooted in the gulf between the upper and lower strata of society. Our of these two systems one has to meet its extinction. Today when we are collectively glorifying the democracy with full zeal, we should also root out the caste system with all the might at our command. The journey so far has not been easy and smooth nor has it been a downward journey. We always opted the path which led as upward journey, howsoever difficult it might have been. Let us resolve that the way ahead takes us to the new heights and our nation becomes strong and prosperous.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, thank you very much. You have read your speech in Hindi. ...(*Interruptions*)

11.11 hrs.

#### OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

#### Allotment of time for political parties in the Special Sitting

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as we decided at the meeting of Leaders of all Parties convened by me, two Leaders each from Congress and BJP will speak for 10 minutes each and, Leaders of all other political parties as well as independent Members will speak for five minutes each.

Hon. Members will appreciate that we have time only up to 4.30 p.m. While it is my desire that every hon. Member should participate in the discussion, it is not practically possible. Hence, those who wish to lay their speeches on the Table of the House may do so.

On this historic occasion, hon. Members may also record their views in not more than sixty words in the Golden Books kept in the Lobbies.

**11.15 hrs.**

DISCUSSION ON SIXTY YEARS JOURNEY  
OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am delighted to have this opportunity of initiating a discussion which will take us 60 years back and provide us with an opportunity to reflect: from where we started, what we have achieved, where we are today, and what we ought to achieve.

Madam Speaker, when you talked of the timing, it reminds me of the very first ruling given by the Speaker of the First Lok Sabha, Shri Mavalankar. It was to indicate the time to the speakers, and you have reminded me of that first ruling which made me feel as if we are going back to 1952. I will try to confine my observations within ten minutes. Of course, I am notorious for exceeding the time limit and speaking long, but today I will try to confine myself to the time available to me.

To my mind, after 1950, 1952 was a milestone in our journey towards democracy. The story of Indian democracy is a unique one. We fought against one of the most powerful colonial power. But it is unique in the history, and perhaps there is no parallel, that we parted not with any hatred but with friendship. That is why it was not accidental that the last Governor General of colonial India was the first Governor General of Independent India, the same person, Lord Mountbatten.

When we adopted our Constitution, as Mahatma Gandhi pointed out that India's *Swaraj* will come not by an Act of British Parliament, but by the people of this great country. Actually, it happened when we inserted the word in the

Preamble, "We, the People of India", etc., etc. People of India have given this Constitution to themselves. Parliament was constituted under this Constitution. We have completed 60 long years. Though in the life of an institution, 60 years is not a very long period, yet, at the same time, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on how many hurdles we have overcome, how the transformation of this House and the transformation of this country have taken place. This is the time to reflect on that.

One of the greatest achievements of India was pointed out by a Bengali Gentleman who also came from the same District from where I come, Prof. A.K. Chandra, who was the Principal of Vishwa Bharati and a close associate of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. He represented Birbhum Constituency. While moving the Motion of Thanks, he pointed out that 'as a student of History, I can point out that there is hardly any parallel in the performance of this Government.' Of course, he said so on the Motion of Thanks while speaking on the policies of the Government at that point of time. He said: 'When the integration of the Princely States of more than 700 took place with the rest of India, which consolidated the States in India. We did not have to go to the gallows. There was no need of applying any guillotine, and there was no concentration camp. Through peaceful means, the measures of integration took place. Thereafter, this Parliament redrew the map of India, after passing the States Reorganization Act.' It is because for the last 90 or 100 years, map of India was badly disfigured, drawn and redrawn only to sub-serve the colonial interests and administrative convenience. Of course, the process is still continuing. Thereafter, more States were added; boundaries have been altered; but the point which I am trying to drive at from the very beginning is that this House started acting as a great shock absorber. Wherever there is a tension; wherever there is a dispute; and wherever there is dissensions, it has come to this House and within the portals of this great dome, we have been able most of the time to defuse that.

In the parliamentary democracy, it is not unusual that there would be confrontation. Yes, there have been confrontations. England has been described as Mother of Parliament. Lord Cromwell had to apply force to dissolve the Parliament, to tell the Members of the Parliament. "Enough you go, for God's sake, I say you go. The Parliament was broken". There has been confrontation in

the federal structures between the various organs of the Government, and it is between Judiciary, between Executive and Legislature. Therefore, it is not unusual but over the years, we have evolved the system in which we have been able to find out an amicable solution.

As I mentioned on earlier occasions, I would like to repeat it because to my mind, 24th Amendment of the Constitution is just not one of the amendments starting from 1951 and till this Session when we are likely to pass some constitutional amendments but the special significance of the 24th Amendment was that it was before the electorate of India. Mrs. Indira Gandhi after dissolving the 4th Lok Sabha when she went to the Indian electorate her message was clear and without any ambiguity. She said: "I want to have legislations, social legislations, legislations to transform society but I find as per the existing Constitution as it is being interpreted by the Judiciary, many of the important legislations are declared ultra vires including bank nationalisation, abolition of the privy purse, MRTP act and so on and so forth". Therefore, I need the mandate of the people special majority two-third majority so that I can amend the constitution and enact the social legislation to transform this society". For the first time, it was not even contemplated in the Constituent Assembly Debate because it was thought as obvious, that is why, from 1950 to 1968 till the Golaknath case, it was the interpretation that Indian Parliament is omnipotent; it has the power to make any law; and to amend any part of the Constitution as it desires. But Golaknath case clearly pointed out: "No, you cannot alter the Fundamental Rights". Thereafter, in that context, series of developments took place as I had mentioned I would not like to elaborate because my time is running out.

But for the first time, the constituent power of the Parliament was vested through the amendments in 24th Amendment by inserting clause 4 in article 13; and by elaborating article 368 which provides the procedure for the Constitution amendment. Even subsequently, in the other landmark judgement, in the Keshavanand Bharati Judgement, the Supreme Court asserted that they would like to define the basic structures. Basic structures cannot be altered but they could not deny that this Parliament has the constituent power and when in exercise of the constituent power of Parliament, when they enact a law, that law must be taken seriously by the Judiciary.

Madam Speaker, my last point is that I am not very old in Lok Sabha though my Parliamentary career spans over almost 5 decades but most of the time nearly 3 decades, I spent in Rajya Sabha. There are many senior Members to me in Lok Sabha. Sharad Yadav Ji is from 1974 if I remember correctly. He came in bye-election after the death of Seth Govind Das and won a seat which Congress never lost. For the first time in 1974, we lost that seat. Shri Basudeb Acharia is here who is continuously from 1980. But I would say one point with my limited experience that I am a devoted student of the Parliamentary Procedures and Practice. I have found out on many occasions, this House has been tumultuous; tempers ran high but disruption was the least which the House adopted because if we disrupt the House then it serves no purpose because we cannot hear; we cannot speak and only a handful of Members can completely throttle the desires of irate majority. I am not blaming anybody. I have done it; my party might have done it; many other parties have done it; but let us solemnly affirm that we will find out a mechanism through which disruption should not be needed. Debate, discussions and dissensions are always welcome but let us try to avoid disruptions.

Madam Speaker, I think I have exceeded a few minutes. I would like to be excused and forgiven for that.

Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LK. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam, really today is a very special day. I have learnt Hindi after the age of 20 years and therefore, whatever I have learnt, I speak bookish Hindi. I have seen that people across the country know this Hindi more and that is generally called simple Hindi. This is being understood well in Northern India but people all over the country do not understand it.

Madam, I am sorry as I have a bad throat today. I am suffering for the last 2-3 days. But when I go into the past I find that the beginning of my life and the important incidents of my life do not begin with the achievement of freedom. I have seen the rule of the English and in those early 20 years of my life there used to be a desire in my mind how and when we would get freedom from this imperialism? In those days when we used to listen about Mahatma

Gandhi and had opportunity to see him once or twice at Karachi and later on coming here it really appeared to me that such great personalities are rarely born in this world. Today when I think about India, it has now become independent. India has become a nuclear power also. There is also no doubt in the minds of the people that India will become a world power in the coming years. But having all these features, when today somebody asks me what is its most special feature? Which achievement you will consider the greatest after getting independence from the English, after getting freedom, after enacting Constitution of India and after passing 60 years of life in this Parliament today, then I will say that the reasons for which we are celebrating this day that India has become a great and successful democracy, I consider this achievement as the greatest achievement. If someone goes back to those days when India adopted democracy in the year 1950, the foreign intellectuals made several comments, whether this country will become a democratic country. I do not quote anyone but many great intellectuals also said how a country will become a democratic country, how this country will become a successful democracy where crores of people cannot write their names, where people put their thumb impression whenever they are required to sign a document? There were so many people who expressed their apprehensions and doubts. Today, this country which has belied all their apprehensions and doubts can say with proud that we have continued to maintain this country as a successful democracy for sixty years and to celebrate it today we are celebrating this special occasion on 13th May.

Madam, I remember when I was the President of the Party a Canadian Television Team visited New Delhi in the year 1989 or 1990. That team came to meet me in my office at Akbar Road. That team told me that you had got so much experience of Indian democracy i.e. since independence till now, we wanted to know from you that all the developing countries which adopted democracy after getting rid of imperialism, democracy in those had vanished in one way or the other. In some countries military regimes have taken over. In some other countries any other form of autocracy took over the regime. It is only your country where democracy is still alive. Even today it is successful and intends or resolute to decide its future on that basis. What is the reason? I said, in my opinion, the only big quality for the success of democracy which was needed is a sense of

tolerance towards opposite ideology. I am proud of the fact that in our country we not only have a sense of tolerance towards opposite ideology or view but also have a sense of respect for that. As an example, I would like to tell that the maximum sense of tolerance is found in the field of religion. In that field even scientists across the world were brought under inquisition that whatever you are saying is not in accordance with religious scriptures. Thus, you will be put to trial. Leave aside trials in India, there was a thinker, who said that you say that do good so that you could reap its benefit in the next birth. These Pandits (religious persons) talk meaningless. You do not care for them and eat in plenty, drink and enjoy.

[English]

Eat, drink and make merry.

[Translation]

There is a famous saying of Chaarvak-

“Yaavat Jeevet Sukham Jeevet, Rinam Kritva Ghratam Pibet”

“Rinam Kritva Ghratam Pibet”, i.e. take loan and drink ghee.

In western countries whenever I used to describe it then I used to tell them that [English] You are now talking of credit cards.

[Translation]

“Bhasmibhutasaya Dehasya Punaragamnam Kutah?”

That is, this body is going to be turned into ashes, then, it is useless to think that we will take next birth, nothing will come. Chaarvak who said it was not put to inquisition. He was called ‘Rishi Chaarvak’ i.e. It not only have tolerance but also a sense of respect. When in the field of religion a man of opposite ideology is respected and is called as ‘Rishi’ and if in the field of economy, social and political field a person says that all these should come under the purview of the State and another person says that all these should come under the domain of public. How will there be intolerance on differences in this matter? I think that the main reason for the success of democracy in India is a sense of respect for opposite ideology. The Parliament is a very big example of it.



My senior colleague is three-four months senior to me in Parliament. We both earlier came to Rajya Sabha and whatever he just said, I fully endorse that and I say that if we will have respect for one another, have respect against opposite ideology then through debate and discussion solution of each and every problem will come out and the success of Parliament lies in it. I am very very grateful to you. I am sorry if I had violated the limit of ten minutes.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Raebareli): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this auspicious occasion.

Sixty-five years ago, at Independence, India awakened to life and freedom with a bold and ambitious vision — a vision to build a legislature on the basis of universal adult franchise. At one stroke, millions of our poor and illiterate, men and women, were given the power to change their destiny.

Let us not forget those troubled days and months, and the numerous challenges the country faced then. Millions of refugees were homeless. Communal tension was rife. Destitution was rampant. Borders were tense. Resources were scarce. The very idea of India, let alone the idea of a democratic India, was being ridiculed in many quarters. When far older democracies had achieved universal adult franchise in a gradual process and after long decades of struggle, how could it become a reality in a new nation beset with such problems? These questions were then asked.

To their eternal credit and our undying gratitude, our founding fathers persisted. The poor and illiterate masses of this country have turned out to be amazingly skilled and sophisticated. Again and again, they have voted with wisdom, they have voted with purpose, sometimes reaffirming their faith in those who govern them, sometimes voting them out. And if there is one thread running through these past six decades, it is that people's power is felt constantly at the highest levels of governance. The *aam aadmi* has become the heart and the soul of our democracy and has made it our greatest triumph. India's freedom struggle reinvented the idea of democracy. "My notion of democracy", said Gandhiji, the Father of our nation and the leader of our freedom struggle, "is that under it the weakest should have the same opportunity as the strongest."

It is this revolutionary idea that opened the doors of our legislatures to them and began to transform the Indian state and society. It has done so in a peaceful and evolutionary manner, founded on the time-tested principles of secularism and social justice.

Madam Speaker, we can say with pride that India's Parliament, elected by the largest electorate in the world and reflecting the aspirations of some 1.2 billion people, has grown into a great representative political institution.

Madam Speaker, I pay my deepest tribute to the Mahatma. He was no longer living when this House first met, yet he was the guiding light that made it all possible. Leading a life of spartan simplicity, he dedicated himself to the last and the least. He taught us the power of love and compassion.

I pay homage to Jawaharlal Nehru, to his comrades-in-arms, to his political colleagues — too numerous to mention — whose profound belief and single-minded determination gave spirit and substance to the idea, the functioning and the nurturing of our Parliament through its formative stages.

I pay tribute to the peerless giants, the legendary figures, who have graced our Parliament. They built great parliamentary traditions and endowed the nation with vision and direction. Their wit and wisdom reverberate to us through the ages. As long as we keep their words and their example in mind, while facing new challenges, we will remain true to our great heritage.

We take pride in the extraordinary range and content of the laws enacted by our Parliament over the last sixty years. They give force to the Constitutional vision of change in our society. They created new rights and remedies for all our citizens and have especially protected the excluded and the marginalized. Indian social legislation has today emerged as a global benchmark.

We also gratefully acknowledge the contribution of thousands of hard working staff in Parliament who have toiled tirelessly to keep the wheels of this great institution moving efficiently.

And, we pay humble tribute today to the memory of those courageous heroes who laid down their lives in 2001 when Parliament came under attack by forces that seek to undermine our Constitutional democracy.

Madam Speaker, the journey of our great Parliament has not always been smooth or without challenge. Nor did we expect it to be. An anniversary is also a moment for reflection, to consider our role and place in the rich fabric of our nation's life and history. The integrity and independence of Parliament must be preserved and protected at all cost, with no room for compromise. Our conduct must rise to the highest ethical standards that were followed and demanded by the founding fathers of our nation.

It should be our resolve in the years to come to make sure that this great institution embraces not only the triumphs and joys of this land, but rids our people of the sorrows and sufferings that still blight their lives. This great institution must be not only a source of law and power but also of justice and compassion.

Three simple words spoken by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru encapsulate the mighty mission of this great Republic — '*Swaraj for all*'. Therefore, let each one of us gear ourselves up for the tasks ahead, renew and redouble our commitment and our pledge to fulfil our historic duty.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Hon'ble Speaker, I thank you for taking an initiative on the occasion of golden jubilee of the Indian democracy. In our country democracy has been successful for the last 60 years. We are happy that the biggest democratic country of the world is India. Some people of the world used to consider our people as illiterate and poor but the poor and illiterate people of this country has played a very difficult role in making our democracy a success. They succeeded and they also struggled.

Today, in this House, remember the struggle and sacrifices of Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Jaiprakash Narayan, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and S.K. Patil and several other great leaders and it is that struggle only that we are today celebrating 60th year of democracy of our country.

Today, we remember our people of army and congratulate them on this occasion. They defended the country from time to time whenever adverse conditions demanded it. Today our soldiers on our borders are being

sacrificed and in spite of that they are defending the country. This has kept our democracy survive. We have got ideals of our old people before us. Their ideal was communalism and equality. By defeating communalism we will bring about equality and socialism in the whole country. We all of us today accept this responsibility. When we are celebrating here 60 years then we should also pass some resolution. We should have an intention that the values for which India got freedom, the promises that we made in the leadership of Gandhiji, how far we have fulfilled those promises, how far we could not fulfil those promises and how we have to fulfil those promises, this is the main resolution of today which have to be taken up here today.

There are so many people whom we want to remember at this occasion. There is not only a single name, there are so many farmers and the poor from small villages and rural areas who sacrificed their lives. They faced problems for freedom and sacrificed their lives to give us this freedom. The people like Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Jaiprakash Narayan and Acharya Narendra Dev fought the last battle of 1942 in the democratic system and these three were successful in that. The youth and the students collectively started the revolt of 1942. As a result of that the English left the area without fight. Today, we salute them and remember them. We can take so many names among them including Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Baba Saheb Ambedkar and others. I can quote all of them. There is a long list of names. I have these names with me in writing but I won't mention them right now. But, I salute to those who struggled for freedom and did every possible thing leaving their families. We are today celebrating 60 years of Lok Sabha here and we should also remember something, we should take pledge how can we give freedom and rights to the farmers and the poor labourers which they ought to have got. Today we see hunger and suicides are being committed due to hunger and poverty. This is a big challenge for our country today. We should accept this challenge. What we can do for those poor, labourer and helpless people who do not have clothes to save themselves from cold and homes for heat waves and the pertinent question today, when we are celebrating this anniversary today, is how can we eliminate poverty? I am pleased that we are celebrating this anniversary.

Advaniji, you are right that democracy survives due to debate and those who are large hearted people who face

and bear the maximum criticism. We accept criticism if it is in the right spirit otherwise ignore it. The democracy in our country has succeeded on this basis. We should take a pledge and determination today that the democracy in our country should get success not only for 60 years but for hundreds of years and the youth sitting here and the leadership of the country should fulfil the dream of the House, i.e. spirit of unity, feeling of love, desire to move ahead and take the country ahead.

There are a lot of problems in the country including poverty, unemployment, lack of potable water and the helpless people are losing their lives because they do not get medicines on time. There are several such questions in front of us today and they should be pondered over and we should take unanimous resolution by sitting together that how can we bring prosperity and upliftment for those poor and helpless people who do not have clothes to wear in cold and roof on their heads to save from heat and even today they do not have their own home. What is the percentage of such people? Your Government and this August House clearly know that there are people in large number who do not have their own home. It was expected and Gandhiji said, India would be such a country where there would be no difference between the rich and the poor, there would be no hungry and naked, there would be no atrocity on anybody and all the leaders fighting for independence including Gandhiji had seen such dreams. We should contemplate how to fulfil that resolution?

I conclude with this.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam Speaker, we are today celebrating 60th anniversary of the world's largest parliamentary democracy and we are discussing the journey of Parliament and its events through this special session.

I think the whole country is listening today and there are so many great personalities who got a chance to come to Parliament since 1952 and till date and so many of them are not among us today. The people who fought for the independence and constitution of this country. Especially when we are discussing it in the Parliament of the country then we should contemplate what was the responsibility of the Parliament, what was its purpose and what was the thinking and aim of all of our legends including Gandhiji, Lohiaji, Jaiprakash, Patel and Baba Sahab, Bheemrao

Ambedkar. The discussion of the Constitution definitely becomes relevant whenever we discuss the Parliament. All the makers of the Constitution specially Baba Saheb Bheemrao Ambedkar contributed a lot in making the Constitution of India and Dr. Ambedkar handed over the Constitution in a time-bound manner despite his ill health. What was the intention of that Constitution through which we run the Parliament? The aim of the Constitution was to bring equality for all the helpless people who were victim of social and economic disparity. When Baba Saheb handed over the Constitution, he said that we were entering in an era of contradiction in the country. The whole House has to fight for social and economic disparity even though we have got political freedom otherwise the purpose of the Constitution would remain unfulfilled.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say that the former member of this August House Hon. Kanshiram Saheb, who fought for social and economic equality throughout his life, is not among us today. Because of this social disparity all the societies and communities who have nothing right did not get a chance to get elected for this House. The people like us are in the Parliament of the country today and got a chance to get elected for this House where laws are passed, because of the struggle of our such legends.

Madam Speaker, it has been the sense of the Parliament. Our Constitution makers thought that we have to make a society based on equality, freedom and fraternity eradicating the social and economic disparity but there are so many farmers living in this country who are helpless. They are in a pitiable condition and we perhaps rarely discuss the issue of their suicides, the issue of natural calamity and floods and their destruction but the Government and the concerned Minister becomes restless at the slightest up and down in share market and they become eager to issue a statement but the purpose of our Parliament can be fulfilled only when we show the same type of restlessness for the 60-70 per cent population who are farmers of the country who are helpless and in a very pitiable condition.

Today we talk about loan waiving of farmers in press, media and Parliament but what about the package given to industry and what was the aim of the Parliament? We are celebrating its 60th anniversary, its aim was to empower all the helpless and downtrodden persons of the country. I was listening to Speaker Madam, there are several people

whose condition is like those little trees who are losing their lives under a big banyan tree, we should strengthen them. Now, everyone should be represented.

Madam Speaker, it is true that the function of the Parliament to formulate law and the Supreme Court has right to interpret that law but sometimes I find a conflict between the Parliament and the Supreme Court, I think it should be removed. What is the reason of conflict between the Parliament and the Supreme Court? We saw and everyone knows the issue of Indira Pahariya Mandal Commission. Now, take the case of SC,ST in the Supreme Court regarding Uttar Pradesh. So, I demand the Parliament to establish such a system that everything moves on smoothly. It is not my suggestion but my thinking that the conflict and bitterness between the Parliament and the Supreme Court should be resolved. Only then we can serve the purpose of the Parliament.

Madam Speaker, I would like to specially remind that we passed some resolution in 1997 when we were celebrating Golden Jubilee of Independence.

#### **12.00 hrs.**

Even today I feel that we would fulfil some resolutions after this debate. Madam Sonia Gandhi demanded that the poor communities of the society should have their representation. I want to say that there are several people of different societies who haven't seen the Parliament even today. They haven't got a chance to see the Vidhan Sabha of Uttar Pradesh and any other State. It was the aim and thinking of the Constitution and Parliament makers that all the helpless and deprived persons should get a chance to come here on the basis of it. It can be possible only when we fulfil the resolution passed in 1957 regarding unemployment, illiteracy and election reforms. I want to say that the election reforms is the urgent need today. If we can't reform it to curb criminalization and bring election reforms then as per my view the people of the poor community won't reach in the Parliament as dreamt by our legends and Constitution makers particularly Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Madam Speaker, I urge you to pass this resolution as we did wayback in 1957 but it should not be put in a cold storage but we have to honestly pass resolution regarding population control, crimes, election reforms, illiteracy and unemployment and act upon it sincerely, only then we can

fulfil the uncherished dream of our Constitution maker Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

With this I conclude my speech within time.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam Speaker, my colleagues, Pranab Dada, Advaniji, Mulayam Singh ji and Dara Singhji have said clearly shows that it has its achievement whatever Advaniji said and Pranab Babu endorsed the fact it is democracy. We can have pride and feel glory over the fact that we have reached here through democracy and people's representation. I don't think 60 years period is less in any way. Sixty years period is considerable in the life span of any country and society. When you were speaking, I wanted to say a lot of things but I urge you that your one point is absolutely significant that all the problems and achievements of this country have been discussed in this House but the same have never been implemented. You also mentioned one philosophical point that caste and democracy together cannot build the nation. I see your point in larger perspective. Democracy may not survive. But election and caste together cannot bring a big change. We see statues all over the country. This is an ancient country. It has so many good things and the person who symbolises these goodness is Mahatma Gandhi but two questions are connected with it—the issues of economic disparity and social disparity. There was Mahatmaji. We have so many flams in our traditions in India. There are so many things but it is neither relevant nor proper time to mention them. I won't like to mention any such thing on this occasion of happiness today. But it is also important that I won't fulfil my duty without mentioning truth. All the speakers before me put up its bright side. I thank them with my heart. But the dark side does not belong to one, two, three or sixty years but it is aged long.

Whatever has been said about democracy but I can say with surety that everything has its two sides. Different societies and social roots etc. have good as well as bad sides. But one thing is sure that the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha are the mirrors of the common man in the country and there is no other mirror, institution in the country which can reflect the image of common man. I respect the judiciary. I respect all the institutions and democracy cannot survive without these institutions. But those who have been running this country for thousands of years, they are still running the country for the last sixty years except this House. There might be all not well in Vidhan Sabha and even in his

House but one thing is sure only we can remove those mistakes and the outsiders come later. It were we who expelled our 30 to 32 colleagues and sent them to jail. Which other institution has done the same? The collective unity in diversity of the country is visible only here and none other.

I would like to say that today you highlighted one-good point and it has hidden something. Whenever we raise the issue of society, it rises everyone's eyebrows. We raise this issue. Several other speakers earlier to me have spoken on this. Mahatma Phoolke, Baba Saheb, Lohia ji and Babu ji all have been the member of this House. Pranab Babu was highlighting all this. I am lucky that big personalities like Madhu Limaye ji, Somnath Dada and Inderjeet Gupta ji used to stand here and I was backbencher then. There were several personalities in the House but some of them were marvelous speaker as Atal ji. When Dr. Lohia came to the House, the country was confronting several new questions. I remember Babu Jagjeevan Ram ji. I interrupted him when I came here as a new member in 1974. I can say several persons have chided me from here to there. Whenever he used to speak, his speech directly reached to the mind silently as 'rang' comes down on the earth silently. His language was so powerful.

I don't feel any grief while criticizing the error of this House. We can see all this after 2 PM in the House. But our culture and country is marvelous. We praise those who have left the world and we should but we can make the world a beautiful place through the living beings. They might be bad as well as good. We abuse those who are bad but we don't say even a single line for those who are good or the bright side and the sense that goes in the country is that there is no goodness in the country. I am talking of Parliament or Vidhan Sabha and not about Gram Panchayat whom people are praising so much. I shall come on it when it would be discussed. Democracy has three institutions and the big personalities are sitting here. They are here as well as above.

We should expose the dark side of this House. Who shall expose that from outside as we have done? We have also exposed it as the outsiders are doing. But you were mentioning those names who have committed no crime and sin they were live epitome of honesty. Even today they exist among those who are alive. There are several such persons. Would you shut your eyes from them like this?

You have created several statues throughout the country. The big personalities of India were not statues. They stood up with one or the other goodness. They are like 'man changa aur kathauti me ganga'. If our home is fine and good then definitely we can exist well. The big names of the country, as we have mentioned, were those who uplifted themselves from the petty things. I urge you to look at the present scenario?

After 1952, we have completed 60 years and we should think as to Where we stand today. Shri Advaniji and Soniaji talked about Mahatma Gandhiji. He was the tallest personality of this country. So many big personalities were there in freedom struggle but none of them was greater than him. He had many thoughts for upliftment of this country. Had we followed even a single thought for this country, be it our Government or Government of that side, we would not have reached this condition. Who believes in his thoughts? Why have we put up his statue? I have not seen a nation of dead people where thoughts are killed by putting statue, a human being is killed by making him God. Rajneesh and I lived together for so many days. He belongs to Jabalpur. He used to say to me do not talk nonsense, here dead person will be worshipped and living person will never be worshipped. In big countries great persons are recognised during their life time.

Madam Speaker, I have taken more time. I would like to say as to what our condition is today. We have completed 21 years of open market. What are the results of this open market? We had inherent power. Baba Saheb advocated the removal of social disparities. Lohiaji advocated the removal of economic disparity. Gandhiji used to say that one who works hard and toils to make wealth, freedom is for him. You tell me what we are today. We are not able to count the number of poor. We have differences over it. Such a large number of competent people are sitting in House who can count the number of poor people but we do not use them. Vidhan Sabha Members are there, but we do not use them. We are measuring it with calories as we measure fever with thermometer. It is very strange. What is the condition of poor people today? Science has made development. First people get bicycle, then motorcycle and then cars but this development of science has made no change in the life of poor people who are the victims of social and economic disparities. This change reflects the entire picture of this country. We must think over it. But we

do not want to face truth. Our biggest problem is population but caste system is even a bigger menace.

I do not say to break it by force. No one want reservation but if you want to do away with reservation you have to talk about the caste system. You want caste system to continue and do not want to give facilities to them, how will that work? How 80 per cent people will remain silent after exploitation of their dignity and intelligence? They are silent and that is the only biggest force of this country. The country of hardworking people are divided into castes and that is why there is no big change in the society. 60 years have passed since independence. We have made Baba Saheb a constitution maker. Making constitution was not a big thing for him. The main issue that Mahatma Fule and Ambedkar was sayed that of social disparity. If English people left this country what will happen to these people, he demanded reply to that question. Same thing happened. Britishers have left now, see this your Council of Ministers, if I say something about it, it will rain the dream. What is its shape? What is the shape of those people sitting in front row? Some justice is done here but outside there is injustice at every step. 60 years have passed. Gandhiji, Sardar Patel. Jawahar Lalji, all had a dream but biggest dream was that of Gandhiji. He followed alter Baba Saheb and keenly listened to him because he knew that whatever he was saying was true. But after 60 years whatever we say they take it otherwise. If you do not address these problems, you cannot make the country strong. That is why this country is not strong. It may be strong in your book but not in mine. I have never gone abroad because I did not have the desire to go abroad. If 80 per cent people of this country remain in this condition, then I think democracy is there in this House but it has not yet reached the poor people. It should reach the poor people of this country. That is my request and humble submission to you.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): Madam, the number 13 is not always unlucky. If it is May 13 when we are celebrating the 60th year of First Sitting of Indian Parliament, we were also celebrating 13th May, 2011 when the results were under counting process in 2011. That was also on 13th May. Now, it is 13th May, 2012 when we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the First Sitting of Parliament of India. So, for the long, last one year we are celebrating it.

When the first Government of India was here in Parliament, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister. Shri G.V. Mavalankar was the first Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition was the CPI leader Shri A.K. Gopalan. Tradition is flowing. Before this Parliament started, our Constitution started functioning from 1950 which has been discussed here. We are functioning on a few principles that India should be run on the same principles of secularism, communal harmony, unity of the country. We sing still now the song of the same spirit: Hindu, Boudho, Sikh, Jain, Parsi, Muslim, Christian. We also sing in the same language: *[Translation]* Punjab Sindh Gujarat Maratha, Dravid utkal Banga. Vindhya Hmachal Yamuna Ganga, Uchchhal jaldhi tarang. *[English]* So, this is the spirit of the country and this Parliament should reflect this theme and the ideas all along while we start functioning.

Madam, we believe, our party — Trinamool Congress — believes that Parliament should be — firstly, a representative Parliament; secondly, an open and transparent Parliament; thirdly, an accessible Parliament; fourthly, an accountable Parliament; and fifthly, an effective Parliament. We still believe that in this Parliament, many issues have been discussed on different occasions. We have not been hesitant to take up any important issue. And Indian Parliament has shown the right path — be it poverty and hunger, be it global warming and climate change, be it agricultural crisis and the urgent need for providing food security; be it political unrest, growing incidents of terrorism, which have transcended geographical borders and that of sustaining peace and democracy.

Madam, we firmly believe that Indian democracy and this parliamentary system should stand for international solidarity and brotherhood throughout the world. We have protected our country from external threat, from terrorism, united standing on the floor of this House. But we have always been in favour of which hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee initiated that an uninterrupted Parliament can give us a new direction, which is the cry of the hour. We always believed that so many fabulous speakers are there in Parliament. If we follow the functioning of Parliament properly, if we remain dedicated to Parliament by delivering our speeches in a proper manner, I think, country can be benefited. This parliamentary democracy, and this Parliament positively stands for — of the people, by the people, and for the people. We would certainly take care in future and will try to take oath on the 60th year that we

would certainly remain respectful to each other. This Parliament has a long history. This Parliament could not have been 15th Lok Sabha, it could have been the 13th Lok Sabha. I have seen the fall of Governments of 13 days and 13 months also. So, this Parliament, which is elected for five years, we should all see, try to see, try to protect the tenure of Lok Sabha for five years, for which people elect us. By dissolution of Lok Sabha in 13 days, and sometimes in 13 months, we incur huge monetary loss of nation's property.

We firmly believe that this 60th year celebrations should give us new light, new directions, and from the Chair, which you have moved the Motion, it is totally transparent and very much positive. We should try to follow it up and should try to remain committed to the parliamentary functioning of this country.

[Translation]

\*SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): I congratulate all the Members sitting in this House, officers, employees and journalists on the occasion of sixty years of Indian Parliament because they all are witness to this historical moment.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate you for making inaugural address in Hindi and for completing 60 years of our Parliament in your tenure as a Speaker. I pray to god for Indian democracy to become the strongest democracy in the world. I think that I am a fortunate person to become Member of Lok Sabha during 12th and 14th Lok Sabha and also of the 15th Lok Sabha. Our party has third position in the House. Shri Mulayam Singh ji is its leader and I am the Chief whip of the party. I got good opportunity to learn from the deeds and experiences of Shri Mulayam Singh ji and entire party. I got opportunities to raise national and international issues in addition to the issues of my Constituency. I congratulate and convey my good wishes to the entire House on this historical occasion.

\*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): On this historical debates on sixty years of Indian Parliament in this special session of Lok Sabha I would like to lay the following suggestions on the Table of the House:—

1. Democracy has become strong in the country and everyone accepts that. The entire world,

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

especially the developing nations also appreciate our democracy. But what we have lost during these sixty years, it is our duty to discuss that today. In the beginning of our Parliament, a large number of lawyers, journalists and writers got elected to it but slowly their number has come down. In the beginning matriculate Members were more in the House but now graduate Members are more and as a result of that Parliament seems more educated. But as we have education devoid of values, we can see the decline of cultural values in our Parliament. In 1993, the live telecast of Parliamentary proceeding was started by the then Speaker of Lok Sabha and now people can directly watch the proceeding and other activities of their Members. Media has attracted the attention towards this new face and Character of Parliament but they are not going to the root cause of this new face and character. The coalition Governments have put a question mark on the role of Prime Minister and emerging regional parties are asking several questions from the Prime Minister. A new era of political system in National Polity has started. Regional problems seem to be overriding national issues. There are less discussions on international issues in Parliament. These are certain concerns on which we need to discuss, contemplate and deeply ponder on this occasion and with the outcome of such deep pondering we can make India count in the category of developed nations.

2. For many days there are wide discussions on print, electronic and social media about modal code of conduct for Members of Parliament. There are no two opinions that modal code of conduct should be there for Members of Parliament but along with legislature, there should also be provisions for modal code of conduct for Executive, judiciary and media persons. All parts of democracy should strictly follow the model code of conduct and in case of any breach, strict action should be taken by any all accepted Agency so that all pillars of democracy may enjoy respect among people and if dignity of all pillars get enhanced, the Parliament will automatically feel glorified.

3. The main feature of our Constitution is a separation-of power. Legislature, Executive and Judiciary all derive their powers from Constitution. The Constitution has drawn line among these three parts of the Government. The Parliament represents the people of the country and that is why it has been considered supreme. The power of interpretation of law has been given to Judiciary through judicial review. In addition to that, the policies formulated by the Parliament are entrusted to executive for implementation. Indirectly the developing undisclosed fourth pillar-media in Parliamentary traditions has the freedom of expressions and has the right to criticise. All the parts draw their powers from the Constitution. Therefore, it can harm democracy if any one part becomes over active. The Parliament should think over this serious situation and enact some effective law to make a balance.
4. During session period, the time for Question Hour is fixed. Through 20 starred questions of Members of Parliament, answers are sought from the Ministers and information regarding Government policies are made available to the people through communication means. But it is observed for the last several years that three minutes fixed for one question are not sufficient. Now it has become a practice that one question lasts for atleast fifteen minutes and in this way on an average four questions could be replied. New members do not get opportunity to ask supplementary question and only senior Members are given chance, that is right. But some improvement can be made in this regard. When twenty starred questions are listed, all the Ministers will be present in the House with supplementaries and the senior officers presented in lobbies with preparation of all supplementaries questions will also be there. It will increase the morale of Members whose questions have been listed in Starred question list. It is generally seen that Members do not ask pointed questions and the Ministers also do not give pointed reply and that is why it takes long time. For this BPST Lok Sabha can organise training of Members and Ministers from time to time to improve this situation. Through rotation, days can be fixed for main opposition party and other parties to ask supplementary questions. The main purpose for such suggestions is that all 20 starred question could be covered in Question Hour so that this Question Hour time may be fully utilised.
5. Zero Hour is an undefined Parliamentary system and it has become a strong practice to raise urgent matter of public importance during this time and it is very useful too. My suggestion regarding Zero Hour is that it should be taken up invariable between 1200 hrs. to 0100 hrs. If any important issue comes up for discussion in a particular day lunch hour may be suspended and zero hour may be continued for two hours. But it is not good to take zero hour after 6 p.m. On the one hand it has reduced its importance and on the other concerned officers do not sit here to note down the matters raised, the practice of replying to the members concerned has also declined. During evening time media persons are also not present here. Therefore, the importance that should have been given is not given to the matter raised during zero hours. Therefore, it is my suggestion that zero hour should be taken at zero hour only. A monitoring system should be developed for the matters raised during zero hour and immediately after the session, Members should be informed about the actual position of the matter by the Government and if anyone found guilty in investigation, action should be taken against him. Such practice should be developed so that the importance of zero hour may be maintained.
6. Generally, legislative business starts at 2.00 PM but the presence of the members after 2.00 PM is a matter of concern. After the live telecast of Parliamentary proceedings, it has become a common feeling among media and the people that the presence of members in the House after 2.00 PM is very less and sometimes there is no quorum in the House. Under such circumstances, all political parties should evolve a system in which there must be a quorum in the House and



if it is made compulsory to have a presence of atleast 100 Member that can also enhance the dignity of our Parliament. In addition to that, time is allotted for discussion and after that political parties decide about the priority order of their Members and there must be a mixture of senior and new Members. The Members who take extra time in spite of warning from Speaker/Chairman and the Members who have short attendance in the House, should be given less opportunity to speak in the House. It will increase the number of Members to give more time to the House and that will add a feather of the dignity of the House.

7. During legislative business, some Bills are passed during uproarious scene in the House without discussion due to impatience of Ruling Party. Such practice is not in consonance with the dignity of Parliament. Such practice should be used only under statutory compulsion otherwise practice of passing of Bill like this should be done away with. If we have more Bills and less time for discussion, we should reduce the time of discussion but passing any Bill without discussion is not in consonance with the Parliamentary system.
8. The incidents of uproarious scene in Lok Sabha has increased which is a matter of concern. With a view to reduce such incidents, on receipt of such notices by the Speaker, Lok Sabha from Members, a practice of regular meetings of Ruling Party and Opposition parties in Speaker's Chamber should be organised. It can reduce the incidents of uproar in the House. Secondly, it can also be done that such controversial issues are raised in Zero Hour only and as per the tradition of the House, close monitoring on the behaviour of undisciplined Members should be kept and Lok Sabha Speaker should call them to Chamber to make them understand and sometimes they should be reprimanded for their act. If such a system is developed it can reduce the incidents of uproariou's scene in the House.
9. The allegations about tainted Members are made from time to time. It is a matter relating to Election reforms.

This system can be corrected by undertaking the electoral reforms, even though as per the existing law calling an elected M.P., tainted is indirectly insult of the electorate. It is very easy to file a litigation against an elected M.P. of any political party. Many a time such litigations are filed which should not have been, but if it is filed, the concerned M.P. is treated as tainted. There should be a separate special court to dispose of such cases pending against the MPs. The truth can be brought before the public by disposing of such cases pending against MPs through summary trial. This will enhance the dignity of the House and the faith of people will increase in the Parliamentary system.

10. Due to pandemonium in Lok Sabha, sometimes, the House is adjourned for the day, although it is the prerogative of the Speaker, but if the House is adjourned for one hour at a time, there is possibility of running the House and more legislative business can be conducted on such days. In this connection, this suggestion can be more effective that on such days when business of the House is conducted smoothly, the sitting of the House should be extended till 10 pm on that day. In this way more Bills can be passed.
11. Every Member has been given right to introduce Private Member Bills. During the session of Lok Sabha, two and a half hours have been allocated for this purpose on every Friday. Discussions also take place on Private Members Bills and Resolutions but a tradition has developed that after the reply of the Government, the concerned Member takes back his PMB. In this regard, it is my suggestion that if such a Private Member Bill is moved which can prove a milestone in the field of social, economic, educational or constitutional or political change in future, a tradition should be developed to get such a Bill passed. With the development of such a tradition our democracy will strengthen and the respect of Parliamentary procedure will also enhance.
12. There has been a tradition of raising the issues of public importance by the Members under Rule 377 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of

business in Lok Sabha but it has been seen that this tradition has been reduced only to laying the concerned issues on the Table of the House. Members never get a chance to speak. In this regard, it is my submission that protecting the rights of members if they occasionally get a chance to speak on the matters under Rule 377, it will enhance the prestige of the House and the morale of the Members will also boost. Often it has been seen that with regard to the matters under Rule 377, the Members get a reply from the concerned Ministry but it is too late as the issues raised are of immediate public importance. Therefore, if a provision is made to reply the issues raised under Rule 377, within 15 days, it will prove a better reform of parliamentary system.

13. During the session on every Friday a member can get an important subject included for discussion in the list of business for the next week, but it is often seen that the subjects are laid by the member through submission, but the subjects of submission are not considered seriously in the Business Advisory Committee and the subjects thus raised are never included in the list of business of Lok Sabha and the discussion never takes place. In this regard it is my suggestion that by increasing one hour time during discussion on Private Members Bills, any important subject of submission can be discussed occasionally so that the importance of subjects raised through submissions could be upheld.
14. Calling attention notices are discussed under Rule 193 and 197 but it is often seen that only those subjects are selected by the Business Advisory Committee which are given by the senior Members. In this connection, it is my suggestion that some notices given by first timers may also be taken so that they may develop interest in Calling Attention and new ideas could contribute in making the Parliamentary system more strong.
15. Along with the development of Parliamentary system, the Standing Committees of Parliament have also contributed a lot and- in this series a separate Parliamentary Forum has been formed on subjects like Water Management and

Conservation, Children, Youth, population and Public Health and Climate change and Disaster Management and has proved useful. Therefore, I have a suggestion in this regard that if a Parliamentary Forum is constituted for SCs & STs and for backward classes, the suggestions received in the Parliamentary Forum from the Writers and thinkers belonging to their categories can help in making the laws and amending the existing laws for the upliftment of these people and will result in strengthening the Parliamentary system.

[English]

\*SHRI LALUBHAI BABUBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu) : I may be a Parliamentarian but am a novice and may not be competent to speak or write on this subject. However, being one among few I am privileged and would like to express myself and try to justify the faith imposed on me by my electorate.

I know that that this august institution's birth took place even before I was conceived by my biological mother, but would like to, nevertheless express what I have learnt and observed during my tenure as a Parliamentarian.

The very first time, quite early in the first session of the 15th Lok Sabha, I got an opportunity to speak in the House, during zero hour, was very intimidating, as even though I had the blood of a politician (my grand father was the first elected Member of the Assembly, from Daman, in the undivided Government of Goa, Daman & Diu) I was not bred to become one. I was not vocal at all. It was only the love of my people, the desire to do something for them and their insistence to enter the political arena that I am what I am today. The point here is not how I became a politician but the very fact that the first time I spoke instilled in me a confidence that I can speak too. I learnt to speak and then on I have been able to address large public gatherings.

Another thing I learnt was presenting myself. I had a love for personal attires but was lacking in presenting before my seniors and the bureaucrats. One would like to ask how did I do it? Well all work, be it political or personal, could be dealt with in the vernacular in my constituency. But hearing the learned and senior parliamentarians, in

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

this house, both in chaste Hindi and English, I took a liking for the National language and English. Now, I am very much at ease in Hindi and have more than a workable knowledge of English.

I am sure that in future I shall have a lot of opportunities to further develop myself in my continued tenure as a Parliamentarian and look forward to being a seasoned one at that.

In the end I thank God for being a part of the Parliament and being considered one of the lucky few to be part of this August institution.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this great occasion.

Madam, this House has seen many leaders right from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru until today's leaders. Our founder-leader of DMK Party, late Arignar Anna during his maiden speech in Rajya Sabha had spoken in length about the policies and ideologies of DMK, after which many leaders from the North had come to understand DMK and its principles and became friends with us. We had Mr. Murasoli Maran, our great political thinker, who was the Member from 1967, when the hon. Leader of the House, and the hon. L.K. Advani ji were also Members of Rajya Sabha. I too have a credit that my father, Shri T.K. Srinivasan was also a Member in Rajya Sabha when our hon. Leader of House and Shri L.K. Advaniji were also Members of the other House. This House has seen on many occasions. Such is the power of the House that when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister of this country, he had stated that an assurance by the Minister or the Prime Minister in this House is in itself a law.

When DMK got elected only 2 Members in the 542 Member House in the year 1957, the DMK demanded that Hindi should not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking States. At that time, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave an assurance that Hindi will not be imposed and until the non-Hindi speaking States prefer, English will also continue as a link language. When the DMK Member sought a legislation in this regard, Nehru firmly stated that an assurance given by the Prime Minister in this House is, in itself, a law. Nobody can deny that, nobody can change that. That is the strength of this House.

This House might have seen many ups and downs, many offensives, physical offensive, verbal offensive, and, occasionally, judicial offensive, but this House has withstood all these offensives with great strength. We have seen a strongly divided House. At the same time, we have also seen a solidly united House. That is the strength of this House. Many critics have made many comments on this House. But, so far, the strength of this Parliament lies in the fact that so far no intellectual, no political visionary, whatever his capacity is, could suggest an alternative for this Parliament. That is the strength of this Parliament. This will continue for years to come.

Madam, we have a leader, who is a Member of the State Legislative Assembly since 1957 and still continues to be a Member. When our great leaders like the hon. Leader of the BJP Shri L.K. Advani took oath as a Member of Parliament here, he took oath of office as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and that is none other than Dr. Kalaighnar M. Karunanidhi. He is directing us. The DMK will do everything to keep up the prestige of this House.

Finally, I want to tell one thing in a lighter sense. We took oath of office when we got elected to this House. On the occasion of 60th anniversary celebration, we must take another oath today. I will moot this oath that to commemorate the 60th year, to uphold the prestige of this House and to increase the level of proceedings of this House, my oath will be that I will speak only before a switched-on microphone and not before a switched-off microphone!

*[Translation]*

\*DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West): Today Indian Parliament has completed its sixty glorious years and the biggest democracy of the world has shown a new path to the world by taking the Parliamentary tradition and history to new heights under the strong democracy of the world.

India with its 121 crore population and despite having various diverse cultural heritage, many languages, different religions, castes and various disparities has given the whole world the message of democracy by strengthening the roots of democracy with its high Parliamentary traditions. I feel that despite having many issues, India has shown the world a new path by keeping its faith in democracy intact.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

I give the credit of all these achievements to the people of the country. Despite having many challenges, the people of the country have not let their faith shaken, but by associating themselves with the democratic process have given strength to this great country and have maintained the successful parliamentary democracy by shining it more and more.

The role of our Constitution has also been important in strengthening our democracy. Therefore, our country will always be indebted to our great Constitution makers especially the architect of our Constitution Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who have made this strong and great Constitution. It is all due to this Constitution that we have been able to find correct democratic process on many crucial occasions in the past and further strengthen our democracy.

On being elected for this biggest Panchayat of the great Indian democracy i.e. the fifteenth Lok Sabha, I am indebted to my Bhartiya Janta Party, our Chief Minister of Gujarat who did successful experiment of politics of development in the country and the voters of my Parliamentary Constituency Ahmedabad West. I also pay homage to my late father who taught me the lesson of politics, democracy in my childhood.

I salute our stalwarts like Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pandit Nehru, Atal Bihari Bajpayee, Shri Morarji Desai, Rajaji, Babu Jagjiwan Ram, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Advaniji and many more, who enhanced the prestige of Lok Sabha by further strengthening the Indian democracy.

Despite many new challenges of the past Indian democracy has come out more clean and strong. The democracy was highly attacked in the year 1977. But it has made our democracy more strong. I thank my free election procedures for my strong democracy.

In the fifteenth Lok Sabha all the three Constitutional posts that of Hon'ble President, speaker of Lok Sabha and Leader of Opposition are held by women. It has further strengthened our democracy to my mind. We had heard high quality discussions which were full of high knowledge. But I think we need to take our Parliamentary dignity and practices to more heights. Because the people of the country have faith in Parliament and it is our responsibility to stand the test.

[English]

\*SHRI TAPAS PAUL (Krishnanagar): 60 years ago our illustrious predecessors met at the first session of this august House. Today, we can proudly declare that Indian people as well as Indian Parliament crossed every hurdle together to make India the largest and greatest surviving democratic country on earth. Long ago Winston Churchill had forecast in the House of Commons that 'the hungry millions' of India were "being handed over into the hands of rascals...it will take a thousand years for them to enter the periphery of philosophy or politics." He further told, " today we hand over the reins of power to men of straw of whom no trace will be found after a few years."

But we proved this oracle of doom, a lie. Not only in abroad, here in our own country a political party in 1948 coined a slogan-yea azadi jhoota hai- (this independence is false). We the Indians unitedly proved this slogan also wrong. During the last 60 years many old states evaporated, many new states are born. India remains the same. Sovereignty of our Parliament ran supreme always. Today, we Indians are proudly carrying forward the legacy of our illustrious forefathers such as such as Bapuji-Netaji-Panditji and Babasaheb Ambedkar, Maulana Azad, Rabindranath, etc. with our head high towards eternity.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam Speaker, when we are observing the 60th year of our Parliament, we should remember those who laid down their lives, those who went to gallows. In 1855, the tribals of our country took up arms against the British imperialism and then from 1857 onwards, a number of revolts took place in our country and because of the sacrifices of those heroes of freedom struggle, we achieved Independence and we also adopted the best form of governance, that is, the parliamentary democracy.

Madam, you have correctly said, today is the day for introspection. I want to do introspection. I remember the first speech delivered to both Houses of Parliament by the First President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. He said:

"India, after a long period of subjection, gain her freedom and Independence. But freedom, by itself, is not enough, it must also bring a measure of happiness to our people and lessening of the burden they suffer from."

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

When the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was debated, the first speech delivered in this House was by Comrade A.K. Gopalan. The Address, as a whole, in my opinion, was declaration of war of the people of India. The Comrade described, during the five years' period from 1947 to 1952, the conditions of the people and the policy being pursued by the Government.

We will have to think seriously that after 60 years — 60 years is a long period, it is not a little time — whether the Pledge that we drafted to end the inequality, discrimination, poverty, exploitation, etc., whether during this period all these problems have exponentially increased or not; whether the intent of the founding fathers of the Constitution has been implemented in letter and spirit.

Madam, poverty has not been reduced; the happiness has not come to the people of our country. The burden of the people of our country has not lessened as stated by Shri Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India. The gap between the rich and the poor has increased. *[Translation]* The gap between the rich and the poor has cridered this time.

*[English]*

We will have to seriously ponder over what we are experiencing; whether the wealth of the nation, which belongs to the people of our country, is being looted and plundered by a few people. There has been amassing of wealth by a few people within a few years because of the policy being pursued by successive Governments — I am not talking about this Government or that Government — and because of that, discrimination has increased.

Madam, we will have to seriously think over where lakhs and lakhs of people are born under the sky and die under the sky. *[Translation]* The birth place under the sky and the death place under the sky. Even after 60 years this is the situation in our country and till to day it has not been resolved. *[English]* We have not provided shelter to 100 per cent of population of our country. If we cannot provide safe drinking water to the poor people, we will have to seriously think of it.

Madam, you have correctly stated in your Initial Remarks that when we are observing 60 years of Parliament then we will have to seriously think over it. We have to give the rights to these people who are residing in

far flung areas, the tribals. This Parliament has to give their rights to those people who are staying on that land for years together. Their rights will have to be given but still they are being deprived of those rights. We must seriously think of the Tribals and the Dalits whose conditions have not been improved. *[Translation]* We want to make the Parliamentary Democracy showing but whom do me represent? *[English]* Whom we are representing? Who are these people? They are the poor, the farmers, the peasants, the agricultural labourers, the tribals, and the dalits. Eighty per cent of the people who are poor, they belong to this section of the population of our country. If a farmer commits suicide after 64 years of Independence, what we will think about strengthening of our Parliamentary democracy? We want to strengthen Parliamentary democracy, but if the real problems of the people are not solved, if the action of this House helps a section of the population only, a few percentage of the population to corner profit, to earn huge profit, we will have to seriously think over it.

Another major problem which is corroding this Parliamentary democracy is the use of money power. *[Translation]* Sharadji was telling that till the time poor people do not enter here the nature of this House would not change, *[English]* the composition of this House. Real representation of the real people of our country is required. How the use of money power in the election is corroding our Parliamentary democracy? If voters are purchased and votes are purchased, what will happen to the Parliamentary democracy? We will have to seriously think over it. There is a need for electoral reforms.

Madam, once I tabled an amendment to the Finance Bill that the companies' donation to political parties should be legalised by amending Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. My suggestion was that let the companies contribute to a corpus fund which can be created. That corpus fund should be under the control of the Election Commission. At least two Committees on Electoral Reforms, one under the Chairmanship of Dinesh Goswami, another under the Chairmanship of Indrajit Gupta, both these Committees recommended State funding of elections. Unless there is a State funding of elections, we will not be able to curb the use of money power. The nexus between the businessman and the politics has to be broken. Otherwise, instead of expansion of democracy to reach out to the poor people, there will be contraction of democracy.

How the common people will be able to contest the election? I remember, Madam, when I first contested election in 1977 in the State Assembly, I spent only a few thousand rupees. Today, to get elected in a State Assembly seat, crores of rupees are being spent. Even in panchayat elections also, lakhs of rupees are being spent in most of the States. Something has to be done to cleanse the corrosion in the system. That can be done if there is curb on the use of money power and of black money. Black money is being utilised in the elections. Voters are being purchased. Votes are being purchased. How there will be the true representation? How we can get the true representation here in this House? *[Translation]* I have been listening for many days. I am in this House since 1980. *[English]* I have been elected since 1980. I have completed 32 years in this House. When I first entered into this House, I used to sit on the back benches; I used to hear the veterans like Babu Jagjivan Ram, he was also there in the 1980, Y.B. Chavan, Jyotirmoy Basu, Indrajit Gupta and Madhu Limaye.

Madam, we should seriously ponder over it. The problems of discrimination, exploitation, pauperisation of the people, starvation and illiteracy still exist in this country and unless we remove them, we cannot enjoy our success, what we call, the achievement of our Parliamentary Democracy.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

MADAM SPEAKER: I had initially said that the hon. Members, who are going to speak, should confine themselves to five minutes. I do not want to tell anybody to sit down or ring the bell. Today, I want the House to be self-regulating.

So, please see how that can be done.

\*SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI (Haveri): Our democracy is the biggest with the longest written Constitution and after 65 years of independence has been thoroughly successful. In all the way from Independence to this date, the country has gone in for several changes but still when it comes to vote, a rich, a poor, a learned, an illiterate are denoted with their individual vote, which they cast when elections are held in this country. On the verge of India becoming super power within coming two decades, the country has

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

sustained all onslaughts and also trying to become self sufficient in all sectors, we, in India, still need to look at things in proactive terms and positively.

Off late due to transparency, more awareness, governance in this country has become reactionary, but it should have been pro-active in nature. I hope the countrymen and also the people in governance and people in executive, judiciary and people in the media (fourth estate) should all behave responsibly and should lay a foundation in making this beautiful country a self sustainable and self reliant, self confident future leader in the world forum. I personally feel, Madam Speaker, our great leaders who fought for our Independence had a vision in making this cross-cultural, diversified country into one by making everyone in all cross section of this country across the geographical, cultural, social foundaries to come together in the name of freedom movement so that this country can march ahead in all the fields and in all sectors.

I am also honoured to be a Member of this 15th Lok Sabha and participating in this debate of 60th anniversary of first Parliamentary sitting. As all senior leaders have said this Temple of Democracy should be used as a plank for debates. The House may see many divergent views but they always agree to disagree. I also feel there should be less disruption of the House, with more meaningful discussions which can solve the problems of common people and show a positive result on them. We should all see that parliament should conduct at least 100 days a year. Each and every Member of this House should be allotted his time for speaking in the House and make the House to proceed in a more productive and proactive manner.

I once again thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this auspicious day.

*[Translation]*

\*DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (Paschim Champaran): The first Speaker of Lok Sabha; Late Shri Mavlankar ji had said: "For the true democracy a person should not limit himself upto the provisions of the Constitution or the Rule of Conduct of Business of the legislatures and regulations, but should develop a true sense of democracy in the members of legislatures."

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Today we are proud of it that where we devote 13 per cent of our time for making laws we devote 87 per cent on the citizens rights and problems of our areas. Till the people have tears in their eyes, till the minimum needs of their security, education and health are not fulfilled, the parliamentary democracy cannot be called success full. On the one hand we are proud that we have made efforts in this direction, on the other hand we are pained that we have not succeeded in it fully so far. India is a successful democracy and we need no certificate from anyone for it. Bit when someone talk about Lok Pal Bill or a Member of Parliament says the Parliament is Supreme and who are they to say what type of Bill we bring, we feel sorry. Today on the 60th anniversary of the Parliament it is to be remembered that the first four words of the Constitution of India. We the People of India”, being a Member of Parliament it is our duty that we should raise the voice of every true citizen of India in the Parliament. Baba Sahib Ambedkar and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee were not the member of Congress, even then they remain part of the cabinet and made a unique contribution in framing the Constitution. In this manner, inclusion of every voice of dissent in the discussion is the sign of tolerance.

[English]

\*SHRI K.P. DHANPALAN (Chalakudy): On this occasion of the celebration of the first sitting of the Parliament of India on 13th May, 1952, I wish to recollect some of the situations which led to the evolution of the Parliamentary form of Government to India and the belief of the people of India towards its unprecedented expedition to a developed nation. It is also to be notable that the democracy is in dangerous situation in many of the contemporarily independent nations in our neighbourhood.

An important question before the constitution makers was related to the form of government to be adopted for the country. Naturally the answer to the question was influenced by India's political background and the traditions and practices evolved during the British rule. Certain conventions of parliamentary democracy, like the powers of the executive and ministerial responsibility, even though in a limited sense, had been gradually introduced in India by the Government of India Acts of 1919 and 1935 and India had thus become increasingly familiar with the traditions of

parliamentary government. It was most remarkable that the leaders of the Indian revolution had, of their own free will and without any external influence, or interference, chosen for India the parliamentary form of government.

Even though the parliamentary form of government called for some highly sophisticated operational mechanics and relatively high standards of literacy and political education, it was a courageous decision and an act of faith to grant universal adult franchise to the vast majority of illiterate, backward and poor masses and to expect them to determine their future, elect the Union Parliament and state legislatures and form their governments.

In the years followed by the commencement of the first Parliament, the Union Parliament itself, under Nehru's leadership, performed a tremendous conflict resolitional and national integrational role, and the effectiveness of the institution of Parliament was convincingly justified on several occasions. One of the most memorable occasions was when Parliament asserted itself in 1955-56, with the problem of reorganizing the states was taken up in the light of the Report of the States Reorganisation Commission and was a sufficient proof to show that Parliament was no Rubber Stamp of either the executive or the party in power. In another instance, in the midst of some controversy and reported differences, an army general, Thimmayya submitted his resignation, and the Prime Minister Nehru firmly and categorically declared in Lok Sabha that in India, Civil authority is, and must, remain supreme. These were significant and memorable words, particularly in the context of what had happened to democracies in some of the neighbouring countries. In the 1962 tragedy, following the Chinese aggression, the Defence Minister V.K. Krishna Menon had to resign as a result of parliamentary pressure. It showed at once, the power of Parliament on the one hand the magnanimity and vision of Nehru and his commitment to the highest norms of parliamentary democracy on the other.

Before the Nehru phase in the history of India came to an end in May 1964, the firm foundations of parliamentary government had been laid. Now the Parliament is a body of earnest people with a full sense of their responsibility and the power to do and undo things. The parliamentary procedures adopted by India is not a just imitation of the British procedure. In many respects, we have departed from the practices in the House of Commons. The Indian

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Parliament was a legislature with a tradition of its own, even at its birth.

Parliamentary institutions and procedures had an organic growth on Indian soil itself, and with changing times, we kept experimenting and even adopting many ideas. Beyond the practice and procedures, legislators in a parliamentary system had to realize their responsibilities to the people who are their ultimate masters. They had to understand the countless and complex problems faced by the common man. It must be said to the credit of the Indian Parliament that, during its first decade and a half, it fully realized the great responsibility thrust upon it by the electorate.

\*SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): Any chronicle of political events and any narrative of public debate since independence would say something of consequence about our Parliamentary democracy. Embodied in the principle of universal adult suffrage and given effect through popularly elected representatives institution, parliamentary democracy was thus a revolutionary principle for a society marked by multiple hierarchies, and entailing modes of oppression entrenched over centuries. The emergence of Parliamentary democracy has to be seen as a phenomenon of evolution, as a part of civilization stream. At a time when a third of the world was colonized, enslaved and exploited the rest of the world, we witness a craving for freedom. It was, as a part of the new dawn, the craving, that India had emerged as a champion of freedom from colonialism and became the epicenter of a war without armed might and violence. At the end of a century of struggle, we emerged as a parliamentary democracy, and was described as the role-model of parliamentary democracy, the light of Asia. It is in this canvas, sixty years journey of Indian Parliament raises certain questions as to how we had continued the saga of freedom and discharged our responsibilities that accompanied freedom.

The Constitution clearly lays down the institutional foundation for a functioning democracy. It has established a structure of power relationships based on the system of distribution of powers between the Union and the States and of separation of powers between the three organs of the State.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

No doubt, it is Parliament that has contributed the most to the consolidation and strengthening of democracy in the country. Parliament is the fountain head of the people's desire and aspirations. Therefore, Parliament must not only be representative, transparent, accessible but should also function in a manner that will further cement people's faith and confidence in the great utility of the institution itself.

In spite of what has been favourably said outlining positive dimensions of our Parliamentary democracy, we need to make an honest self-introspection and identify its weaknesses and areas of concern which negatively affect the health and well-being of our Parliamentary democracy. Our Parliament today faces three major challenges. First, as an institution, Parliament appears to be on the decline. One can understand if Parliament loses reverence, but the general atmosphere of hate for the political class has made all the elected representatives its victim. Voters no more hold the elected in high esteem. The issue can be addressed if Parliament becomes more people oriented. The content of Parliamentary business and conduct needs massive reforms.

Passing of the Anti-Defection law in 1985, has made MPs less necessary to prepare for their work in Parliament because no matter what you think about an issue, you have to heed the party dictate or risk losing your seat in Parliament. There is little incentive for an MP to be present in the Parliament even when important pieces of legislation is being passed, because we don't record the votes as the practice is, we pass legislation by voice vote, unless division is demanded.

The introduction of Standing Committees since 1993 has enhanced the ability of Parliament to scrutinize legislation and to oversee the work of the Executive. There is a need to publish the minority view in the Public Accounts Committee Report. The PAC has traditionally been considered as an instrument of civil service accountability. It has undergone changes since its inception in 1922. More need to be done. Petition Committee is another which directly receives petition from public. It needs more teeth to redress people's grievances. Both these committees can make positive contribution towards improving the faith in Parliamentary democracy.

Our plural society is best served and sustained in a Parliamentary democratic set-up. I believe our democratic



processes will acquire the resilience and strength to tide over the social divisions and concentrate on issue that have direct bearing on the quality of living of our people. One can see the dynamics that are emerging in that direction.

Democracy itself by definition means pluralism, dynamism and a progression. Over the past two decades, we have witnessed several important changes that have occurred in India's polity and society. Coalition politics has become a reality. Presence of small parties represent the country's myriad voices. Regional aspirations which don't find reflection in the so-called national parties, have led to formation of regional parties who strive to protect and further the interest of their state.

At the end of six decades of parliamentary democratic life, one can look back and say that no other institution can claim to match the collective capacity of our Parliament to be sensitive to the cause of the common masses. Parliament has indeed worked as a vehicle of social engineering. Let us not forget that our Parliament which represent the collective will of the people of this nation, is the pivot of our political system and is strengthening democracy in the country.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Madam Speaker, I thank you that you have given me the chance to speak on this historic occasion.

At the outset, I must congratulate the people of this great country for witnessing a Special Session to mark the 60 years of Indian Parliament. I feel privileged to be amidst of you. Since this is my Seventh tenure in Lok Sabha, out of these 60 years, I have been part of this House for three decades.

I take this opportunity to salute great Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, Shri Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, who played a great role in the unification of this country, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who pioneered drafting of the Indian Constitution, and Shri Jay Prakash Narayan, who helped immensely in laying the foundation of democratic process.

As compared to many of the other contemporary democracies including some of our neighbouring countries, our country has sustained the fundamentals of democracy.

This democratic process has been taken down to the Village Panchayat Level which has been strengthened by insertion of Part IX and IX A of the Constitution through 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution in 1992.

Madam, through these Amendments, the Constitution has, inter alia, provided that State Legislature may endow powers to the Village Panchayats, Gram Sabhas, Municipalities and equivalent bodies on the areas listed in XI Schedule and XII Schedule to the Constitution.

Madam, you have rightly mentioned these aspects when you have initiated this Debate as the Speaker of the House. These areas, inter alia, include agriculture, land improvement, rural housing, drinking water, health and sanitation, public distribution, urban planning and planning for economic and social development.

Considering the need for involving people at the grass-root level for inclusive growth, I hope that there is a need to expedite the process of devolution of powers to the institutions of local self-Government to make the Panchayati Raj more effective and people centric.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad): Madam Speaker you have given me an opportunity to speak on such an important occasion, I thank you for the same. 13th May 1952 was the first day of first session of this Parliament. We are celebrating its 60th anniversary. So we are celebrating this day as a special ceremony. I am Member of Parliament since Eleventh Lok Sabha and I have got many opportunities to speak whether it was the fifty years of our democracy and I also got an opportunity to participate in Golden Jubilee Ceremony of the Republic of India. So, today I will confine myself on the subject sixty years of Parliamentary democracy. I will confine to this because this House is the supreme house of the country. Today whatever success we achieved or we are marching forward towards success this House has played an important role in it. So first of all it is our responsibility to maintain the dignity of this House and uphold the prestige of the House. Madam Speaker, when you started at that time you said two things and invited, the attention of the country and the House to it and in it first of all you thanked the people of this country who played an important role in making the republic a success. They maintained this democracy through voting in elections. I too on this occasion of 60th anniversary, first of

all would like to thank the farmers and workers of the country who have faith in democracy and due to their efforts their democracy is in existence for the last sixty years and I believe that the democracy in this country will remain in existence for the centuries to come.

We are required to pay attention on the achievements, achieved during the last sixty years. I think, after independence the identity of our country or nation was as an under-developed country. Our identity has changed during these sixty years, we have transformed from under-developed to developing nation. In these sixty years we have moved forward from under-developed nation to developing nation. The progress which we achieved in these sixty years, this parliament has played a key role in it. Today our identity of developing will in the coming years be changed as a developed nation, I believed so and India will be known and identified as developed nation in the world. Today the country is functioning through this Parliament. The Parliament is making law for the country. It is framing policies for the country and the country is functioning with the help of the laws framed by this Parliament. Our country is working on the basis of Policies made by this Parliament. The country is on the way of progress and that is why the Members of 15th Lok Sabha consider themselves fortunate as they have got the chance of witnessing the 60th Anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for one thing more as you have drawn the attention of this House and the country toward it that whenever the country was attacked, the crisis came, the security of the country was threatened at the time the Parliament unitedly faced that threat. So in the matter of unity in diversity our country is like a continent, like a block. Our country is divided in different castes, different religions and different languages, even then we are one and the reason thereof is our Parliamentary Democracy. It is our Parliamentary Democracy. We are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of that Parliament. I hope that the dignity, prestige of this Parliament which we have maintained, we will be able to enhance it further in future.

\*SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (Betul): Today the historical discussion is on the magnificent completion of 60 years of our Parliamentary system. In the history of today not only

the system to come but the great capabilities of democracy and its reliability will be written in golden letters in the history of the world. The democracy of an under developed country emerged with the constitutional provision of Legislative, Judiciary and Executive, this country has made an endeavour for making constant headway with dignity of the country and bringing about the reformations in the social and economic conditions of the country. It is the reason that during the period of 60 years today, it had not only enhanced dignity of the Parliament but had acquired its position of glory in the world. We will be happier when we are competent to bring in, more than equitable reforms in the social and economic conditions. There is no deficiency in the capabilities of India and the Parliament. We would like to strengthen our democracy more in the days to come. We will be able to bring India on sound footings, when we are further able to uplift the details, backwards and the tribals, only then we will be in a position to strengthen the democracy of India in a true sense.

Even today the backward poor, dalits, adivasis, and backward people are leading a life of pauper. Our Judiciary, Executive and Legislatures are far away even today from them. It is essential to bring these poor within the framework of their provisions, then only our democracy will not only be strengthened but will be recognised and identified as a strong democracy in the true sense.

Today we have to accomplish the work of achieving the goal of full justice and all the Rights to the entire population of the country. Through the identity of this Parliament we must achieve it. Through the prior list of Business we maintain the dignity of Parliament or the Parliament functions in a dignified manner. We all honour it. Our true tribute to those great souls, will be only then when we abide by it with all the humility.

\*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): On completing the 60 years of Indian Parliament, I first of all congratulate the Members of both the Houses of Parliament and my countrymen. I also remember all those great personalities whose sacrifices and ideology has made this day possible.

I am grateful to all the citizens of my Constituency and the leadership of my party, due to which I have been able to see this day in the Parliament. I am very happy that I got an opportunity to be present in the largest temple of

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

democracy on the occasion of 60th Anniversary of Parliament. Our country is unique and different from other countries from traditions and culture point of view. It has no comparison. The aims for which democracy was established and the Parliament was authorised to solve all those problems, that challenge is still looming before us. It is an appropriate time to evaluate as to where we have reached and where we had to go. It is a time of introspection as to why we have not been able to reach, where we had to and what are the reasons for it. Today we have reached here after much upheavals, but when we see the 80 per cent poor people living in villages, it seems that we have done nothing to improve their lot during the last 60 years. Even if we have done something for them, that also done halfheartedly.

There was a vision of inclusive development of the country but the economic and social disparity is still there. After all we will have to search solutions of these reasons. With the democracy, came the representation of all the sections in Parliament and Legislative Councils. Suggestions emerged in both these institutions to solve these problems but the people in Government did not make use of these suggestions and that is why the problems are as it is. Ideas crop up in the Parliament and the Legislative Councils for solving problems but the I.A.S. officers of the country do not accord importance to them. If it is not so, then what is the reason that problems are not solved even after suggestions are given by the people belonging to diverse thoughts. If it is said we will have to deeply ponder over it. Even today the country is dependant for basic needs.

“Someone is in dire need of light  
Someone continues to block the sun.”

This saying fits our situation. This is what is happening in this country. On the one hand the dogs of rich travel in A.C. car, eat ice cream and on the other the children of poor daily die of malnutrition. Is it justice? Many such examples can be given. There is need to feel that we have not come here just to pass time, but have some accountability to the country and society. The day we will realise, the solution of all our problems will come up.

The beauty of democracy is unique, if it were not there, I would not have been sitting here today. I used to go to Satna on foot from my village Khamharia to study. I have

reached the 14th Lok Sabha while walking on foot and travelling on bicycle during elections. My parents were not even the Panch of Panchayat and their son has reached the Parliament of India. It is the wonder of democracy that hundreds of people like me have reached here after negotiating many difficulties. I am happy that I am a co-traveler in the voyage of 60th Anniversary of democracy since 2004. It is my desire that the roots of democracy and the prestige of the Parliament becomes strong.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Madha): Today is an important day in the history of this country and in the Parliament of this country. At the outset, I pay my respect to those who had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country, gave prime time of their life to the country and got it liberated from the clutches of British. I feel it my foremost duty to pay my respect to all these patriots.

The Constituent Assembly has a big contribution that we are celebrating this Day. Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar did the work of giving direction to its members. We have tried to give direction to this Parliament, judiciary or media institutions during the last 60 years. Many countries of the world were wondering about this. But our country has been successful in this regard. The people of this country has much contribution in making it successful. We all know that we tried to deviate from the path of democracy and the people of our country taught us a lesson that we people have no right to deviate from the path of democracy. It is your responsibility to protect the democracy. The people of this country made home this fact. But the people of this country are strange, when they found that the people to whom they have handed over the charge of this country are incapable of running it, they sent them out of power within two years. The people of this country made a big contribution in strengthening the democracy in this country.

During the last 60 years, the Parliament has taken some good steps, has given some good statutes. I have seen in the recent past that whenever there is question of interest of the country, the whole house stands united, whether it is ruling party or Opposition. It is the uniqueness of our Parliament. We need to march forward with this quality. During the last few years this Parliament has given some good statutes With National Employment Guarantees Law, we accepted the right to work for poor people, with Empowerment of Women in the country, we have taken

some steps to allow them to work in many sectors. We have taken some steps with regard to Education for all. This Parliament has shown some good ways to effect social and economic change in the country. But if we feel complacent at this juncture, I think we shall not be able to safeguard the interest of the weaker sections of society. Therefore, some more needs to be done. There is need to take some steps to eradicate poverty. There is immediate need to protect the interests of farmers. We have responsibility of infusing confidence in small sections, whether these are minorities, dalits or adivasis that they are also part of this country. Therefore, we will have to think about doing some more work.

When we talk about education, only one thought comes to mind that there is dire need for quality education for all in this country and everywhere. Some people of this society get an opportunity to receive education in good institutions. A big section of society is even not in a position to get proper education, which affects their future life. Therefore, there is need to work in all these areas. I am confident that we can unitedly solve these problems. After coming to this, sometimes I don't get sleep, because I have spent 45 years in this House, Parliament and the State Legislature. One thing I can say with pride that in my political career of 45 years, I have never left my seat, have never gone into the well of the House. Sometimes I feel hurt when students come to see the proceedings of the House and there is pandemonium, disruptions in the House. What do they think about us? I feel it is our responsibility that when we are celebrating the 60th anniversary.

I remember that we made a declaration on completing the 50th year. All of us signed that declaration that we shall never go into the well of the House and will never disrupt the question hour. But I feel hurt when the very next day we breached that declaration. Therefore, I feel that when we talk of the prestige and the dignity of the House we should start from ourselves.

The second thing comes to my mind is about privileges as a Member of Parliament. We should use these privileges judiciously. When wrong things about us are uttered in public, we need to observe some restraint. If we use our privileges on one pretext or the other I feel a wrong message will go to public about us and our institution. It can create a misunderstanding in the mind of public. Therefore, today we will resolve that we shall do nothing which affects the

prestige of the House. We assure you and promise that we shall go on this path. With this I conclude my speech and take leave.

**13.00 hrs.**

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, we will skip the lunch. It is a historic moment and we would very much like leaders of all the parties and also the independent Members to speak.

Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has made some arrangement for lunch and will make an announcement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): I want to inform that the lunch for Members has been arranged in Room No. 70, First Floor, Parliament House from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.

\*SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIIDYA (Karimganj) : Exactly 60 years ago in 1952 on this day of 13 May- Indian Parliament started its journey under the leadership of the great visionary, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister with the support of the team of his colleagues-each one a stalwart in Indian politics – who were true patriots and men of wisdom at that time and all the time.

Our independence movement was not only aimed to achieve freedom from British rule but also to liberate ourselves from the social and economic inequities and discriminations by alleviating poverty and giving dignity to the lives of the underprivileged and downtrodden.

The objective of Jawaharlal Nehru and other nationalist thinkers was to establish a democratic sovereign Republic where power should directly belong to the highest people's forum. And with the adoption of Constitution of India framed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and sitting of Parliament on this day, this objective was fulfilled.

Initially many were doubtful if Parliamentary democracy with universal adult franchise would be suitable for India given the fact of its shocking poverty and illiteracy, huge ethnic

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

diversity of culture, caste, creed, religion and language. The argument in favour of Parliamentary democracy was that majority of our people might be illiterate but they have a strong political commonsense which created a sense of oneness among them that enabled to fight out the British Raj to make India independent under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

So, our people were politically conscious at that time also and the consciousness really paved the way to send suitable representatives to the Parliament who can make the country a successful parliamentary democracy.

It was challenging but it stood the test of time. Of course the journey was not always smooth. Yet it continues-because of its strength by upholding the human values and taking each citizen in its fold.

The value of Parliamentary democracy is being realized by our neighbouring countries. They tried many other methods of governance which did not work. Finally, they have opted for Parliamentary democracy.

Initially our objective was to establish a socialistic pattern of society where the underprivileged and downtrodden people will be economically more benefited so that the social and economic disparity will be reduced.

Though the quality of life of the less privileged classes in our society has improved a lot due to various states' welfare schemes and activities but unfortunately it failed to meet the expectations.

One of the main reasons for non-fulfillment of our expectation is the growth of our population – in 60 years – it has become four fold. That is why, a high percentage of Indian population are still living in Below Poverty Line.

Population is likely to grow more-in some statistics we find that within the next 20 years India would grow as the world's highest populated country.

So, we should now give more attention for the removal of poverty by creating more and more employment and also planning for generation of future employment for the future growth of population.

An agrarian country in 1950s, India is gradually being converted to industrial country — now competing the world market. In 1960s, we had to depend on import of food grains from other countries but now the population is almost double

and we can feed our people without importing food from other countries. This has become possible due to revolutionary development in agriculture sector achieved in the last 60 years. Achievements of development in all other sectors of economy are also very significant.

However, in social life the old golden days did not last long — the vast erosion of moral values and emergence of money power have evolved a new breed of generation. Many of our present day problems are related to this.

The need of the hour is reviving of human values that can cure the social evils.

Gandhiji's dream was to make India Ram Raj –that is an El Derodo-and that cannot be achieved.

However, we can have a good and peaceful society by inculcating human values and patriotism in the minds of the children who are the future citizens.

We are very much aware of our rights-but right implies duties which we wish to remain unaware of.

So, what we need- we need to bring up the children who will be fully aware about their duties also. And then only the qualities of citizenship will be more human and democratic due to the reason that what we learn in children we never forget.

And to achieve this – 50 per cent of the syllabus of children education should contain materials that make them aware not only of their rights but also their duties and rouse moral values and patriotism.

So we have a great task now-the task is to put all out efforts to improve the human values and make our people fully aware of the values of democracy and nationalism. All diverging forces are to be motivated to embrace the democratic values and all the population of India are inspired to develop the feelings that all of us are united and should live peacefully and harmoniously.

Lastly, I express my great respect to all the Parliamentarians who served the nation for the last sixty years. They contributed to the development of the country by upholding the values of human qualities to give us a peaceful, harmonious and happy social life.

\*SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): At the outset, I would like to express my deep felt gratitude and satisfaction to associate

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

myself with the special sitting of Lok Sabha on the occasion of celebrating sixty years journey of the Indian Parliament. Democracy is worth dying for because it is the most deeply honourable form of Government ever devised by man. People are supreme and sovereign in a true democracy. India, with more than 120 crores of population, epitomizes one of the most successful democracies in the world. Undoubtedly, India became a democratic republic infused with the spirit of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. The Preamble, the Directive Principles of State Policy and the Fundamental Rights reflect the heart and soul of our great nation.

We are proud to be called the largest democracy in the world. Maintaining its pluralism, diversity and oneness, our democracy is like a faith. It's a passion for millions of Indians. In the twentieth century many ideologies triumphed and fell but democracy will prevail. Yes, for democracy there is no alternative. All dictators in the world are in oblivion now. But who will forget apostles of democracy like Mahatma Gandhi who live in our hearts?

No one assumed that a country like India that had just come out of the clutches of colonialism will stand with the least of time and prove its worth to be titled a great democratic country. Speaking at the Albert Hall, Winston Churchill said that if the British left, "India will fall back quite rapidly through the centuries into the barbarism and privations of the middle ages". We proved that Winston Churchill was completely wrong. Thanks to our vibrant democracy, India did not fall back to barbarism and privations of the middle ages. Today, there is quality in every sphere of life, and India has been a successful democratic country, and we have responsible political parties that uphold democratic ethos to the core in the midst of challenges of all sorts.

When military regimes became order of the day in many neighbouring countries including Pakistan, India stood like a guiding star in the universe of democracy. When fundamentalism and extremism shook many nations, especially third world countries that got independence along with India, India was steadily moving to progress in 50s and 60s. When many of the democratic governments crumbled and consequently gave way to the totalitarian systems, India remained unaffected and achieved self-sufficiency in all fronts. Right from self-sufficiency in foodgrains to the self-sufficiency in advanced scientific field. Undoubtedly, our democratic stability has helped India to overcome economic

crisis that grappled even the most advanced nations in the world.

Why India is so unique? What contributes to India's unique democratic success? The visionary leaders, whom we respect and remember today on the occasion of celebrating 60 years journey of democratic success, have bequeathed to this young nation the breath of democracy, the earth of democracy and the fire of democracy which no one can challenge. 36 crore was India's population when we became an independent country. Linguistic conflicts, regional secessionist movements, communal tensions and riots and political violence had often made its existence rather precarious at times. We had to face three crucial wars, one with China and the other with Pakistan and Bangladesh liberation issue. However, our democracy survived all challenges and emerged from them much stronger, reinforcing in the process its commitment to democratic ideals. Famous historian Ramachandra Guha, has rightly said : "The sapling of democracy was planted by the nation's founders, who lived long enough and worked hard enough to nurture it to adulthood. Those who came afterwards could disturb and degrade the tree of democracy but, try as they might could not uproot or destroy it."

When we look back, there was different political organizations with widely different ideological approaches in colonial India. Undoubtedly, the credit goes to India National Congress for nurturing a unique democratic platform which is still unshakable. Indian National Congress has been the voice of resurgent India. It came to be of the people not merely for the people. It represented and still represents all the geographical regions, ethnic and religious diversities of our country. Being a Member of Indian National Congress, I proudly recall the glory of the Indian National Congress that moulded the destiny of Indian polity.

We had a great man who placed the thunderbolt of non-violent action in the hands of the deprived. Mahatma Gandhi, the one man army who challenged the mighty country where sun never sets. We bow our head before the memories of father of our nation and all those leaders, both known and unknown, who sacrificed their lives at the altar of true democracy. First Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was the source of inspiration for democrats all over the world. Yes, synthesis is our tradition. Humanity is our religion.

I am very happy to be here with all distinguished members of 15th Lok Sabha on the occasion of celebrating sixty years journey of the Indian Parliament. It is the uniqueness of Indian democracy that bestows opportunity for an ordinary man like me hailing from Upputhodu, a remote village in Idukki district in Kerala to join all eminent persons of my country and share my opinions. I was overwhelmed by memories and happiness when I entered the central hall of our Parliament for the first time. From 1st Lok Sabha to 15th Lok Sabha, this Parliament hall had witnessed many glorious moments, discussions on various issues of prime national importance. Whether it is India - China war, Bangladesh liberation, Shimla pact, Mandal Commission report, Babri Masjid demolition, corruption, famine and food-sufficiency, NREGA, Right to Information and so on, all the discussions happened in this benevolent hall epitomize the spirit of Indian democracy to the core. On this occasion, I would like to remember Indiraji, the iron lady of our country who was brutally assassinated on account of her relentless efforts to keep democracy intact in our country. The nation lost our beloved young leader Rajiv ji who was committed to protect democratic ethos in our country and abroad.

India, as a democratic country, has progressed in many aspects. No one can refute the achievements Indian democracy has attained in a largely hostile environment, vitiated by communal and secessionist conflicts, armed struggles, corruption and acute economic disparities. Today, Indian economy is growing. I would like to say the real success story of modern India lies not in the domain of economics but in that of politics. It is our political culture that qualifies and quantifies India's uniqueness. But we have to face lot of hurdles to reach out to the last man in our country. 'We have miles to go before we sleep'. The spirit of democracy requires change of heart. That is the need of the hour. I hope that Indian Parliament will be able to discharge its duties and serve the nation with utmost vigil in the days to come.

[*Translation*]

\*DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur): Madam Speaker, this Parliament has completed 60 years. I thank Madam Speaker for her efforts to have convened this Special Session on the occasion of the 60 years of Parliament's journey by way of enabling us to recollect and relive the moments of our discussing Bills and enacting laws in this august House.

\*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

In these 60 years, this House has legislated on several occasions giving impetus to our concern to uplift the poor and ameliorate their sufferings that has always been the prime concern of the Members of this supreme law making body.

We have witnessed 15 General Elections in the life of Parliament in these 60 years. Apart from successfully conducting those elections peacefully every time, we have implemented 12 Five Year Plans.

After the Independence of the country, we had established this Parliament to sound echo the aspirations of the people and reflect the true sentiments of the people and to give voice to the voiceless masses by way of legislations.

Many of the hon. Members who spoke ahead of me were referring to the greatness of this Parliament in which we can see unity in diversity. They were eulogising our ideal of coming together unitedly and ensuring unity in diversity. Our country India has got several languages and various cultures. That is why, we call ours a sub continent. We won freedom for all the languages and for all the cultures of the country that are wide and varying. Our freedom is not for a particular section of the society. We cannot afford to forget this. The people of this country expect from this Parliament to give importance to their respective languages and cultures. Our Constitution was framed bearing in mind the same and that has been adopted by this Parliament.

**13.01 hrs.**

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Going by our Constitution, we must give utmost importance to the spirit of federalism. We must uphold the principle of federalism and we must not ignore and sideline States. The contrary cannot help us to achieve the set goals for our progress and development.

At this juncture, we must think of the language problem we have today. Language is a vehicle of thoughts, enabling us to communicate what we think and it amplifies our governance as our official language. I for one who believe that we can call ourselves a truly independent country only when we accord official status to all the national languages enshrined in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. We must not give importance to just one language in an unjustified manner and it will be inappropriate from the point of view of parliamentary democracy. Our leaders strived to win freedom

for all the people of India and not for a particular section. We have won Independence for all the people of all the languages and cultures. It is not restricted to one particular language and that is not acceptable. I urge upon this august House to reflect over this hurt sentiments.

That was reflected in the speech made by our founder leader Anna in Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament. He said that we do not advocate English and hold brief for it and nor do we oppose Hindi. We only want our language to be accorded equal status and we want our Tamil language to be made an official language of the country. Our language must be respected and this Parliament must come forward to enact a law to make ours an official language.

Link language is different and official language is different. The status of official language must be awarded to Tamil and not only that, the same equal status and importance must be given to Malayalam, Odiya, Bengali and all other languages of the country. This is our avowed policy and principle.

In these 60 years, we have enacted several landmark legislations. More particularly we enacted laws against untouchability. That is an important move. Similarly, we have devolved powers to the people at the grassroots level and at the local level by way of 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments that provides for a vibrant local administration system. Our Panchayati Raj Act has made it mandatory to hold elections and elect representatives at the village level. We cannot ignore the importance of that enactment.

On this occasion, I would like to recall two incidents from my memory that had happened to me when I was a Member of this august House on earlier occasions. I was elected to this House during the Eighth Lok Sabha representing Dharmapuri Lok Sabha Constituency. I was young and a first timer and still I was given an opportunity to occupy the Deputy-Speaker's Chair. Our Founder Leader Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran and our Puratchi Thalaivi Amma along with the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi selected me for the post of Deputy-Speaker and got me elected. Our present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma saw to it that I got elected as the Deputy-Speaker. The youngest Prime Minister of the country Shri Rajiv Gandhi accepted the request of our Leader and made me a Deputy-Speaker and that way I happened to become the youngest Deputy-Speaker in the country.

I was made the Chairman of the Committee to work on the modalities of forming the Departmentally Related Standing Committees. I had toured round several States to elicit the views and opinions from many legislators and legislative forums. I had contributed to the formation of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees that are vibrant now.

Not only that, I came to this august House in 1998 as a Law Minister with the blessings of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. During 1998-99, our leader enabled me to win the Lok Sabha election and made me a Minister at the Centre for Law. I was also a Union Transport Minister.

Today, we are talking about Women's Reservation Bill to give 33 per cent reservation to women in Parliament and State Assemblies. At that time, when I was the Union Law Minister, I recall I came to this august House to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill. Due to confusion and a melee that arose out of it, there was commotion in the House and the Bill I was holding in my hands to introduce in the House was snatched away from me. An ugly scene was created when those papers were torn to pieces and thrown away thereby disabling me to introduce the Bill. Later on, in this very august House, remaining from the back benches with the lady Members surrounding me giving me protection thereby enabling me to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill which this country and the womenfolk are looking forward to, in the same way as eagerly as that of our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I recall this if only to highlight the point that this Parliament was founded to legislate such socially important Bills into Acts. Plans, schemes, rules, and laws must be evolved and framed to improve the lot of the common people and Parliament stands as an edifice to fulfill these aspirations. The Parliament is to ensure the prosperity and development of the country.

The role of Parliament is not restricted to legislating laws, but also to act as the watchdog to monitor the implementation of such Acts. It is also the duty of the Members of Parliament to keep an eye on the implementation of all the Plans and schemes.

We have completed 60 years and in the life of a nation, in the political sphere it is a small span of time. We have many more years ahead of us and many things and events



may unfold in the days to come. I have total faith in this Parliament and our parliamentary democracy that we will strive to continue fulfilling the aspirations of the people, reflecting their views and sentiments.

On this day, the 13th of May in 1952 we commenced our national endeavour from this House of Parliament. It is befitting that a Special Session has been convened to mark the occasion of 60th Anniversary. I congratulate and thank both the Prime Minister and the hon. Speaker for arranging this historical meet. We must resolve to improve the lot of the people and contribute to the development of the country.

As I pointed out earlier, I insist upon that all the national languages must be accorded equal status and must be made official languages of the country. Tamil language that is being spoken by the people of my constituency, who have elected me to this august House, are eager to see the day when this Parliament enacts law to make it an official language of the country. This is the pronounced policy of our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who has taken up with the Centre that Tamil language, one of the ancient and classical languages of the world, is made an official language of the country, to begin with, at the earliest. With these words, I conclude.

*[English]*

\*SHRI NATHUBHAI GOMANBHAI PATEL (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) : I may be a Parliamentarian but am a novice and may not be competent to speak or write on this subject. However, being one among few I am privileged and would like to express myself and try to justify the faith imposed on me by my electorate.

I know that this august institution's birth took place even before I was conceived by my biological mother, but would like to nevertheless express what I have learnt and observed during my tenure as a Parliamentarian.

The very first time, I got an opportunity to speak in the House was very intimidating as I was not bred to become one. It was only the love of my people, the desire to do something for them and their insistence to enter the political arena, as they were looking for a change, that I am what I am today. The point here is not how I became a politician but the very fact that I learned to speak in an august gathering here instilled in me a confidence to address large public gatherings.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Another thing I learnt was presenting myself. Well, all work be it political or personal could be dealt with in the vernacular in my constituency and the bureaucrats attached thereto. On hearing the learned and senior parliamentarians, in this House, both in chaste Hindi and English, I took a liking for the National language and English. Now, I am very much at ease in Hindi and have more than a workable of English.

I am sure that in future I shall have a lot of opportunities to further develop myself in my continued tenure as a Parliamentarian and look forward to being a seasoned one at that.

To end , I cannot thank enough for being a part of the Parliament and being considered one of the lucky few to be part of this august institution.

\*SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP (Kollam): It gives me immense pleasure to express my views in this special sitting of the House and its historic discussions to celebrate sixtieth anniversary of first meeting of Lok Sabha. The first sitting of Lok Sabha was held on 13 May, 1952. When 60 years ago, the Indian Parliament first met, critics had a field day. The conventional wisdom was that India did not have the political, social and education wherewithal to successfully maintain and continue a parliamentary democracy based on universal adult franchise. Democracy has empowered millions of poor and illiterate Indians who use their ballots to send their representatives to Parliament.

Today, after 15 successful general elections and a good degree of political stability for over six decades, we can say with confidence that Indian democracy has come of age and that democracy is here to stay. In spite of a country with innumerable languages, dialects, customs and practices, religious and above all with 1.6 billion population, post-independence met the challenges successfully to the envy of many.

The driving force behind Indian democracy is our people. Whenever the people perceived divisive or anti-people activities that contributed to the political instability, they have punished those responsible. No leader or political party can take for granted its voters. Voters are the best guarantors of Indian democracy.

As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru rightly stated, Parliament is the temple of democracy. Parliament is the fountain-head of

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

the people's aspirations and desires. If Parliament does not function effectively and loses public trust, parliamentary democracy too will have its impact. To raise Parliament's esteem in the people's eyes, we urgently need to address the issues of declining quality of debates, falling attendance of members, unruly behaviour and the increasing tendency to stall parliamentary proceedings to register dissent. To be successful, Parliament must not only be representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective but should also function in a manner that will further cement people's faith and confidence in the great utility of the institution itself.

One of the greatest challenges before Indian democracy is to curb the use of money power in elections. Even sixty four years after independence we have still not been able to evolve a transparent mechanism for funding politics. This credibility lowers the credibility of our parliamentary democracy. Another biggest weakness is the growing disruptions of proceedings of the House. It is a matter of agony that the laws made for more than 1.6 billion people of the country are at times passed without proper discussion and debate amidst pandemonium in the House. It is needless to mention that a well deliberated bill will reflect the will and aspirations of the people. The period of session of Parliament should at least be increased to 120 days in a year to increase the time of debates and to ventilate grievances of the people. Parliament is the highest forum of the country where national policies and programmes take its shape. Hence all efforts should be made to increase its standard and the people's confidence in the institution.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that Parliament has indeed worked as a vehicle of social engineering. A number of important laws have been enacted by the Parliament to make the lives of the people more meaningful and progressive. It includes comprehensive land reforms; enlarging opportunities in education and to provide just and humane conditions of work. Other enactments include to provide protection to women in work place, to ensure maternity relief, to broaden the base of women's participation in politics, delegation of power to the grassroot level, to act against child marriages, elimination of evil practice of dowry, sati etc. Recent legislations like 33 per cent reservation for women, panchayat raj, Right to Education, Right to Information, Protection of Women against Domestic Violence, Rural Employment Guarantee are aimed at enhancing the living conditions of the people and transparency in public life.

Today, India is becoming an economic power in the world. We possess an enormous pool of talented young men and women who have the potential to effect a major turnaround in the country's economic fortunes. Our brilliant technocrats, doctors, engineers and scientists are working in every nook and corner of the world. Our armed forces is reckoned as one of the best forces in the world.

We should be able to combat the forces and elements that are trying to vitiate our socio-political culture and undermine our institutions of democracy. It should be our collective endeavour to ensure that issues concerning our people occupy the centre-stage of political discourse in the country and thereby ensure that our people do not lose faith in democracy as the best system of governance available. Once people lose faith in the system, no force, no army, can help save the system. The independence and supremacy of Parliament should be protected and preserved. On this glorious moment of 60 years of Indian Parliament, I salute this great nation and pray for its onward march towards a stronger democracy and a powerful nation.

\*SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Baharampur): The Caravan of Indian democracy has transcended a long arduous path while assimilated the virtues of nation-state flourished elsewhere and continues to shape its own destiny in the harmony of the diversities. Today on the 60th anniversary of Indian Parliament virtually I am inundated with pleasure while witnessing the celebration of this august institution. According to Mark Twain 'India is the cradle of the human race, the birth place of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend and the great grandmother of tradition, owe most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.

I can safely add to that India is also the largest democracy which has a largest written Constitution at its disposal. India was never poor in thought and in vision. In ancient time also though India had no formal political philosophy, the science of statecraft was much cultivated namely "Dandaniti — the administration of force, Rajniti — the conduct of King demonstrates the culture of practical science.

In vedic literature we derive something about political life and thought in the pre-Buddhist period, a substantial idea of the Governance was reflected in the pali scriptures of Buddhism. Most important text book which devoted to the

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

statecraft was the Kautilya's Arthashastra, great epic Mahabharata of which the 12th book known as the Shanti parvan-teaches us the act of statecraft and human conduct inserted into the body of the epic in the early centuries of Christian era. Second epic of Ramayana is also a glaring example of statecraft depicted elaborately from Gupta to middle ages we can delve into the political texts, the most important of which are the Nitisara (essence of politics) and the Nitivakyamta (Nectar of aphorism) of politics.

The history of India is aflush with the legends of successive kings and dynasties. The ideal king was a paragon of energetic beneficence. Great Ashoka proclaimed that all men were his children. Arthashastra compares the King and the ascetic. It says in the happiness of his subjects lies the King's happiness, in the welfare of his subjects, his welfare. The king's good is not that which pleases him but that which pleases his subjects. Therefore, the king should be ever active and should strive for prosperity. For prosperity depends on effort and failure on the reverse".

If we replace the king with our present Noble Institution we can conclude that the objective is same, the people play the role of the king. They have elected us to entrust the duties and responsibilities for the welfare of the State. The statecraft has been replaced. Now we have the sacrosanct Constitution which binds us together in spite of diverse culture and disparate languages. We have inherited a great legacy enriched with lofty ideals. Though Monarchy was usual in ancient India tribal states also existed which were governed by oligarchies. The term republic is often used for these bodies. Roman republic was not democracy but it was a republic nevertheless.

In some of the ancient Indian republican communities, people also enjoy the liberty to say something in the Government. The most non-Monarchical state of that time was the Vrddian of which the Chief element was the tribe of the licatyavis.

India came under the influence of Mughal empire and became part of it and later we were colonized by the imperialist forces and came under the British Raj. India became a subjugated state and lost its identity. After a long and relentless battle against the British imperialism India was emerged as an independent country and recognized as a sovereign body on the midnight of 14-15 August 1947. But it costs dearly as India was divided into two independent dominions by

shedding blood and tears and that spectre of horror still haunts us. In pursuance of Indian independence Act 1947, we were able to frame our own constitution. We became the Captain of fate and master of soul. 9 December 1946 — inaugural meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held. 11 December 1946 Dr. Rajinder Prasad was elected President of the Constituent Assembly. February 1948 the 1st draft of the Constitution was published.

26th November 1949, the Constitution was enacted, signed and adopted by the Constituent Assembly. 1950 Supreme Court of India came into being. 26th January 1950 the Constitution of India comes into force. India becomes a republic. The Constituent Assembly became the provisional Parliament of India and functioned as such until the 1st General Election based on adult franchise was held in 1952. The great Indian Parliament was constituted under the provisions of the new Constitution. The evolution of Indian Parliament is a long chequered career. Political scholars designate 1648 as the date of the treaty of Westfolia, as the concept of state system set in motion. In the wake of Westfolia treaty England, France and Spain were emerged as national state. Others were all on the way, Holy Roman Empire was doomed in both fact and theory.

The architects of Indian Constitution drew on many external sources including Magna Carta.

In the august House, the people's representatives are free to express their views. This is the fountain of liberty, avenue of expression. We can act as a conveyor belt to heap the people's grievances, their wants, their aspirations before the Government and can demand its early execution.

We are ruled by the laid out precedents, conventions, norms, modalities and rules of business and predominantly upon the discretion of the Hon'ble Speaker. The Parliament is a witness of the transformation of India which is on the move in economic and technological terms. It has successfully progressed by the stupendous effort and transformed a traditional society into a modern one through the enactments of laws and amendments. We are converting from totally an agrarian economy to the industrial service and agri-economy.

Governance needs to be seen not merely in terms of managing resources and people during the tenure of the Government but its ability and competence to build the nation in compatible with the global context.

The political power originates in democracy from the people, therefore Governance is empowerment of people while devolving more power to control over Governance by ensuring stake holder's and shareholder's participation.

But all said and done the image of parliamentarians has been loosing its earlier sheen. Now people are becoming suspicious on the integrity of the members much to the disconcerting of us. The great institution is regarded as a Temple of Democracy. So everyone of us should be extra vigilant to keep up the novelty and singularity of this institution.

15th Lok Sabha is bedecked with Madam Speaker in the Chair which may help in negating gender discrimination. She also addressed on this occasion.

I have a little proposal in this august House.

I propose the Government to build a new Parliament House in view of the growing population of our country which may warrant more seats in the near future.

This is a great moment for me of attending this House today. I feel elated of joining me with the discussion today. My joy knows no bound today.

Long live Indian Parliament.

\*SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi): This is a matter of immense pleasure to express my views before you on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of India's Parliament. As we all are aware that the first sitting was held on 13th May 1952, since then the prestige of our Parliament and the participation of the common mass has grown continuously.

In the past several years many milestones have been added but still, in order to come up to the level of our citizens' expectations, we parliamentarians have to go far beyond. Sometimes it really disturbs me how we get engaged in arguments even on small issues. Most of the times, the Parliament gets adjourned because of this and many important issues of people's interests have remained unattended. The conduct of the people who get elected to this august House should be dignified, lead by example whereby nobody is able to put a question mark on the prestigious Parliament because of the conduct of its members. Being the representatives of the common man, the

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

indiscipline among us would be reflected on them which we all, surely do not want.

I have been elected for the third time from an unreserved seat and I consider myself really fortunate for getting a chance, though for a short period, to serve as a Minister of State in the 9th Parliament. I have got many opportunities to speak on different issues concerning people's interest. I have always put my stand firmly in front of the House.

As many of our neighbouring countries are still struggling with parliamentary democracy, India has presented a shining example of a working and evolving democracy. Undoubtedly, there are miles to go and milestones to make. I wish to have sessions where disruptions are infrequent, sloganeering and rancour are almost unheard of. I think the most significant achievement of India, in the past 60 years is the continuous effort to free all mankind, from the shackles of their negativities. Today, on this glorious occasion, I remember the optimistic words of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru "when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom."

\*SHRI R. THAMARAISELVAN (Dharmapuri): I thank you very much for allowing me to express my views on an important discussion on the occasion to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of the Parliament of India.

It looks if these all happened just a few years back, but we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of the Parliament of India.

I am proud and fortunate to be a member of this august House. This is the democracy we have been following all these sixty years that even an ordinary person can also become member of this highest institution of this great country.

If I am here, it is because of our great beloved octogenarian leader, statesman, and leader of our Dravidian movement, Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi who values and believes that the benefit of our democracy should reach and benefit all.

I am also proud that I am here in the House in which the founder leader of our Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Dr. Perarignar Anna was a member from 1962-67, and a profound scholar of our party Shri Murasoli Maran.

The world looks to India how it runs with a huge population with multilingual and culturally diverse society,

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

but the answer to them is the tall Parliament of India which is the supreme temple of world democracy.

This is the Parliament which has been guiding the whole world to follow the path of democracy for all these 60 years, and we have a responsibility to keep up that momentum. On this occasion I admire, recall and remember the valuable contributions made by all our great beloved leaders to make this august House a steering tool of democracy.

India is going to be a young nation of the world by 2020 and I am sure that the young nation will usher the democracy in the world in the coming days.

With this, I conclude and salute this august House, on the 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of the Indian Parliament.

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\*DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY (Shravasti): I congratulate the people of this country on the anniversary of the Parliamentary democratic system which came in being on 13th May, 1952 in the leadership of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, the seed of which was sown by Late Pandit Moti Lal Nehru in 1935.

The edifice of our Parliamentary system is standing on the sacrifices, rules, traditions, and the decisions taken in the ambit of Parliamentary structure. The voyage of sixty years of India is filled with happy and sad memories of equipollent strong nation and democracy.

There are the emotional utterings of Adam Gondavi Don't judge the prosperity of the country from the dazzling lights of cities, the real India is living on foot paths. I bow before the contribution of Ali Sardar Jaffery of Balram Pur in the freedom movement and his literary contribution in the free India, which is symbol of the greatness of this democracy where money power has to surrender before the power of people.

I would like to salute this leader of masses whose synonymous is Indian Democratic Parliamentary System. The reason for this is respectful tolerance towards views of others.

I would like to express myself through the lines of Late Devi Prasad Rahiji — "Yu to Samudra Manthan ab tak jaari hai, Amrit to sab lekar bhage, ab vish ki teyyari hai. Kaun Halahal Paan Karega Har Koi Yahi Nihaar Raha". The

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

churning of ocean continues, everybody ran away with nectar, Now is the turn of poison and everyone is watching as to who will drink the poison. Not only the Indians but the whole world is looking towards the prosperous strong and effective Parliamentary system. In this scenario, our many social, economic and political challenges of present and future are creating hurdles in the progress march.

I would like to quote the lines of Asgar Gondavi that "Tarke Dosti Mein Na Turn Roye Na Hum Roy, Phir Bhi Raat Bhar Na turn Soe, Na Hum Soye. (In this friendship neither you cried nor us, but even though neither you could sleep nor we)."

I wish all of you on the prosperity, richness and success of Indian Parliamentary system.

SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN (Bijnore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all I thank my leadership and the people of my Constituency who have made it possible for me to be part of this historic moment. This day will not come again for the Members who are today present here. I am feeling honoured that today we are part of the House, where stalwarts like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to Late Chaundhary Charan Singh, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had once worked.

Through you, I would like to tell one thing to the whole House. As Late Chaudhary Charan Singhji had once said that the water flows from Gangotri to Ganga i.e. from up to down. In the same way whether it is corruption or evils, these travel from up to downwards. The Parliament which is the Supreme institution of the country, we as well the people of the country are proud of it. As our jawans protect our country on borders in minus 40 to 50 degrees temperature, the people of the country expect us to work for a good society. The job of Parliament is to enact legislations. Since the advent of telecast of the proceedings of the House, people are watching us very closely. We should call people that without going on the path of spiritualism, Krishna, Mahatma Budh, Hazrat Mohammad, this country can't remain in peace. We should have to bring a sort of spirituality in our day to day doings. We will have to set our scale of satisfaction. Although satisfaction is a hurdle in the way of progress. Development is a continuous process, but we will have to rise above individualism.

Today when I set out of my House in the morning, I was very calm that there would be no tension in the mind of our senior Minister thinking as to what charges are going to be

leveled, neither our learned leader of Opposition would be scheming as to what charges are to be hurled. There would be no problem of going into the well of the House. As Madam has said that today House would function in a self regulatory mode. I think if we give such a message to our people, we would be discharging our duties honestly.

With the last thing I would conclude my speech. Nobody can challenge the Parliamentary system which exists today. There is rule of whip. Members are governed by the rules. I am thankful to the leadership that despite being a too junior member I get an opportunity to speak in the House, but there are many such Members in the House who are not able to speak due to various provisions. Only senior leaders speak, they don't get time. Their heart yearns to say something. There is a provision of Private Members Bills in the House. But our House is not making full utilisation of it. I would make a humble request to the Chair that PMB may be given priority as it is the only channel to express their views.

Secondly, many a time I feel that if we want our problems can be solved. I don't know why my heart says so. Many a times, everything is lingered on, Committees are constituted, reports are not given. At present, the matter of bags is going on, we are not getting bags for wheat. I saw on T.V. that a trader claimed that he can provide one and a half lakh bags. If Government desires, I can provide today itself. There was a time when Late Lal Bahadur Shastri called the people to sow wheat in their lawns and when there was shortage of foodgrains, people sowed it in their lawns. Today also we have such charismatic leaders like Soniaji, Sushmaji, Sharad Pawar ji, Lalu Prasad ji, Mulayam Singh ji, Chaudhary Ajit Singh ji amongst us, if they make a call to make arrangement for bags, there will be no dearth of bags. But I don't know why our Parliament is slow in taking decision. We start like a tubelight but I want that we should start like a bulb. We may resolve to remove the problems of the country and make our golden history more glorious.

*[English]*

\*SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): Today, we are celebrating 60th Anniversary of our first sitting of our Parliament. It was 13th May, 1952, this August House first met. I am extremely delighted and honoured to be the Member of this august House since 1989 continuously and witnessed many historical decisions taken in this august House.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The Indian Parliament is a symbol of our great ancient nation called 'Bharat' or 'Hindustan', the august House represents all sections of our society which proves that Indian democracy is not only young but it is totally a matured democracy.

As you are well aware that we got independence on 15th August, 1947 under the great leadership of our Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and our Constitution came into existence on 26th January, 1950 which was crafted by Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar. Today, I bow down my head before our great leaders. In true spirit our great nation has democratic values since our ancient times, whether it was 'Ram Rajya' of Lord Ram or Chankaya's 'Janpad' arrangements of the country.

These sixty years of our Parliament focuses our faith in democracy, our faith in our ancient culture. We are proud today that we have completed 60 years journey of Parliamentary democracy which is admired and respected by the whole world. This is only because of our great people of our country. Though they may be poor, illiterate, farmers, dailts, labours, downtrodden, believing in different religious, beliefs, castes, etc. but they stood as one nation and made this nation as the most respected and powerful nation of the world.

On this auspicious day, I salute the people of our country. I salute the Armed Forces, which have shown their bravery, dedication towards the nation at the time of 1962, 1965, 1971 and Kargil wars.

With these few words, I bow down my head before the great people of our great nation. Let us today resolve that we the Members of Parliament will join hands together to serve our 'Bharat Mata' and to fulfill the aspirations of the people of this great nation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have assembled here for celebrating 60th anniversary of the supremacy of Parliament in the Parliamentary system. There is no guarantee whether we would survive to witness its golden jubilee as some survive for 60 years and others for 70 years. It is our fortune that we are celebrating both anniversary and we would participate in the joint session also.

The founding fathers of Constitution of India created parliamentary form of Government in a democratic set up

the, State assemblies and also the judiciary have been created. I would like to read out the preamble of the Constitution of India. All the hon. Members know it, but I would like to repeat it.

“WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;  
LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;  
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;

and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

It was the objective of founding fathers of our Constitution. It is a matter of debate as to how far we have been able to achieve it, though it is not the right opportunity to discuss it today, but it needs to be debated upon. The founding fathers of our Constitution like Babasaheb Ambedkar have evolved this system and paved the way for our entry. All the people of our country, the Hindu, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs fought against the Britishers, gathered in mosques and Shivalayas and gave a call unitedly to throw the Britishers out of this country and gained freedom. On this occasion, I pay tribute of our fore-fathers who fought for Indian freedom.

These 60 years have seen many ups and downs, there may have been serious reasons behind it. If this democratic set up was not there, I admit that I, being from a poor rural background, who lived in village, used to graze cows, goats and buffaloes, sometimes. I even used to ride them, would have never got an opportunity to come to this place, the greatest panchayat in India, which I have never thought of even, though I can't say anything about Mulayam Singh ji and Sharad Yadav ji. It is my greatest achievement. All the Hon. Members are sitting here. Many tricks were played while passing the Constitution, though I won't call anybody's name, but some people were of the view that only the educated people should have the right to vote. It was no mean conspiracy that only educated should have the right to vote and those uneducated should have no such right. We fill up the form of candidate for contesting elections, it is by whose

virtue? Educated people the farmer in the villages used to guess as to what time is it — by looking at the stars in the wee-hours as there was no watch during those days. People used to guess about time by listening to the chirping of Tinduriya, Sukuva, Chuchuhiya and looking at the position of moon and stars. People used to get up in the morning on listening the crowing of cock. It does not mean that, if uneducated, they were just duffers, fools. They were more clever and prudent than educated ones. They are the common men, but target of negligence. 60 years have elapsed since we gained freedom. The minority communities have contributed a lot in this country. Whenever someone takes some initiative for them, he is attacked from one or the other corner, though I won't like to name them. It is alleged that, especially against secular people that they are resorting to appeasement of Muslims. Today, country's Muslim, who is from a minority community is at crossroads, even sixty years after our independence. Further, we should have a debate on the tribals, poor people. One may be from my religion no one has a right to hurt anybody. The Constitution has not given a right to anyone to demoralise others, demolish other places of worship. It is everyone's country, Baba Saheb has provided us a guarantee.

Sharad Pawarji was saying that people come to the well. If we are not given an opportunity to express our views, someone violates the constitutional provisions, we would definitely come forward and protect our Constitution. ... *(Interruptions)* People want to stop us on the pretext of a limitation and dividing line. They want to snatch the rights of people. But, we won't take it up for discussions today as we are celebrating the anniversary. I do not want to take much time as there is no use of it, moreover the people would say that he is making speech. Media persons have left, half of others have also gone. They should come and hear. As they are fourth pillar, they should convey it to the people. When I was getting ready to come on Sunday, Rabri Devi asked, 'Are you going to Delhi, I said I would catch 9 o'clock flight. She said that it is Sunday today. Then I said there is a special session. We are getting assembled to celebrate 60th Anniversary. What we have to resolve? Mere speeches won't do. This has been done that has been done won't solve any purpose. Pawar Saheb, perhaps you remember that earlier a Government has come to power which wanted to review the Constitution and that only educated people should have the right to vote; others not. We were being treated as uncivilised. When an educated person was

defeated they used to say that a learned person has lost and they have won, so something should be done to stop them. Had we not struggled, fought against it, no idea what type of changes they would have made? Changes would have been easy. We defeated their plan. It is supremacy of our Parliament, we have the Judiciary, the Executive and our Constitution has provided us a foolproof system. What right of speech we have? People say criminals are sitting here in Lok Sabha. What a great attack it is? Where are we? What have we been doing? We are laying carpets for such people.

Sir, a conspiracy is being hatched in the country. It is a deep rooted conspiracy to destroy democracy. Their matter is to devalue it, degrade it. These are attacks on us, people are supreme in democracy. The system is not supreme, there is a plan to create another machinery in the name of Lokpal to sit over the head of judiciary, executive. I want to say in clear-cut language. Who is bigger than Parliament, it is law making body, it enacts law. Enact laws in public interest. If there is a need to amend the Constitution, then we are sitting here, we are to do it. There is a conspiracy to destroy the country and the Parliament in the name of Lokpal. They are saying, Gherao the MPs and their residences. People abused us, used foul language against us. People are spending day and night in this work only. People are not talking about farmers, poors and other helpless people. Members from all the parties, be it BJP, NDA or any other party, are all politicians and if we speak the truth in any form it would spoil the images. Today, on 60th anniversary we would resolve that we won't allow anyone to dilute the Constitution or the power of the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)* Let it be any organisation. People vote us to Parliament so that we take up the issues of their interests and safeguard their interest and if we fail to do it they would abuse us. India is world largest successful democracy and the country is marching ahead.

Efforts are being made to eliminate this country and the Constitution. We people will come. This Lokpal will sit on our head. We don't know who is the officer? Where will he sit? He is going to sit on our head. He will be above the appointee who will appoint him. Therefore, we all have to resolve today that we will not allow any force to harm the Constitution and Parliament at any cost. ...*(Interruptions)* this will be our greatest achievements of today.

Sir, you did not listen. Pawar Sahib was telling that people come in the well. I am not making any allegation against you. You are sad, I know, what the matter is? ...*(Interruptions)* It is

your responsibility, it is necessary to speak about it. All the people were making debates during these sixty years. I was listening as to whether I will be called or not. What is the greatest achievement in this country, what change has taken place? All national parties were having their holds but the regional parties in the country have come forward. You can see in any State, regional leaders have emerged.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be silent. Let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You can see in all directions from Delhi to Kolkata, people don't realise their power. The symptoms which I witness at Sixtieth Anniversary, in the election of President, I find that right from the President's election to general election of 2014 the fate of this country is in the hands of regional parties because all the regional parties and national parties together play a crucial role.

Pranab Dada is also our achievement. We people don't displease. Dada is senior leader. Dada has the right to reprimand, we have authorised him. Dada has the right to praise also. Dada has never bad intention as you think. But, Dada agrees at the last. We congratulate him on Sixtieth Anniversary that he may live long, you keep reprimanding us and working for us...*(Interruptions)* your political life may long ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please let him speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I Know that you work very hard, therefore, you have every right. We are political persons. If any senior leader says something, we should listen to him and accept it. Hindu people become irritated with their growing age...*(Interruptions)* but when Muslim people become older they talk patiently because they realise that they have to go with the God.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you very much for giving me opportunity to speak. We resolve on the day that we shall keep the integrity, solidarity and secularity of India intact. Our country may have rule of Justice socialism. The people of socialism, equalitarian, CPI and CPM call it as communalism. The same is the equalitarian and socialist order. Our social disparity should be removed. It is no end of our struggle at the Sixtieth Anniversary, we have just started it, we have got



so much in the country, many achievements have been made. Many Governments came such as Government of Shri V.P. Singh came, Chowdhary Sahib came, your Government came, Atalji came. Atalji is not here today due to his ill health. We salute him and express our good wishes that he may get well soon.

\*SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (Hoshiarpur): Today the discussion is being made in the House on the completion of sixty years of highest court of India (Lok Sabha). It is the occasion of utmost happiness. Many rise and fall have come in this democracy of sixty years. Our family is also passing through this process for the last 64 years. This is my 41st year of putting my steps in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passing through the process of democracy much before the independence. The founding father of this democracy were Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Babu Jagjivan Ram, Maulana Kalam Azad and many other stalwarts leaders who were emblem of sacrifice. They served the people selflessly and strengthened democracy. But it is a matter of regret that pushing back the same feelings of sacrifice and service, some selfish elements entering in this House intend to malign this holy temple. Today the face of this supreme institution is not the same that was 60 years ago. The framers of Constitution had not think even in dream that such would be the nature of the serving people and as a result the Members of Parliament would be seen unrespectfully.

In fact, today on this auspicious occasion we all should resolve that we shall maintain the dignity of Lok Sabha. Every day, we shall put forth the opposite ideology of the Opposition before the Chair patiently. From time to time, we shall raise the voice of the people of India in a disciplined way.

I would like to present following lines before you as poem:

“Aaj Sansad Mein Anushasanhinta  
Partiyon Mein Vighatanvad  
Ye Kursi ke jhagde ye jativad  
Ye aapas ki ranjish, ye nafrat ki aag  
Bite hue kal par lage hue daag  
Aaj pran karna hoga hamen  
Sansad ki garima ke liye ekata tatha akhandata ke liye  
Badi shakiyon se mukabla karne ke liye  
Ki hindustan ki aan, baan or shaan ke liye  
Samast partiyan, samast sadan ek hai.”

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

\*SHRI C. SIVASAMI (Tiruppur): I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to express my views in this special session commemorating the 60th year of Parliament of India. This House has a rich tradition setup and emulated by great leaders discussing and evolving several historical legislations. In the comity of nations, our Nation would certainly emerge as a great power one day and there can be no doubt about. I have a reason to say so. Our people are industrious and hardworking contributing to growth and development of the country.

At a time when we are celebrating Parliament's 60th year, we must also introspect and contemplate on various issues our country faces today. Fair minimum support price must be available to the agriculturists for their agricultural produce and efforts must be made to bring about a renaissance in the lives of our agriculturists.

We must go in for linking of rivers which can help us to overcome the devastation caused by both the floods and the drought conditions.

We must evolve special schemes and announce special packages for our vibrant youth to take up entrepreneurial ventures. We must also give a pep to textile industry, garment industries of the country.

Union Government must take care to see that they do not side step, ignore and discriminate against the State Governments. They must positively respond to the demands and appeal made by the State Governments. At this moment, I would like to impress upon the Union Government to fulfill the demands made on behalf of Tamil Nadu and its people by the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I once again thank the Chair for this opportunity to make an intervention during the special session when we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our Parliament.

[English]

\*SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Today is the auspicious day for all of us we are commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of Lok Sabha, the supreme legislative body in the country. On this solemn occasion

\*English translation of the Speech originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

marked by the joint session of the two houses of Parliament, I pay my homage to the great institution which is the fountain head of the democracy.

The journey of the Indian Parliament has been a glorious one during the last sixty years. A period of sixty years is a short time for the nation. Nevertheless, during this period, the nation has progressed and advanced in every sphere. of life and is competing with the most powerful nations on almost every fronts. When the Indian Parliament met for the first time some sixty years ago, critic and skeptics felt that India cannot continue as a parliamentary democracy based on adult franchise. However, the founding fathers of the Constitution of India had great foresight and sagacity in ushering a democratic republic, based on the pillars of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, which has stood the test of time. The Parliament is the most important institution for our nation, the largest democracy in the world. As the supreme legislative body, the Parliament has ensured that the foundation of our democracy is deep and strong. In fact, the problems that Parliament often has to face in its functioning are also an outcome of the success of the democratic process in India.

Faced with a challenging task of nation building, the pioneers of democracy worked tirelessly and selflessly since the year 1952, when both the Houses commenced functioning. The Parliament took up the issues which required immediate measures for doing away with the customs and conventions which had brought in social disparity and discrimination. The task of instilling confidence in a common citizen was not possible without ushering in such legislations which could uproot the very source of committing of crime against humanity. In the glorious journey of sixty years, the Parliament passed many path breaking legislations which has shaped our participative democracy and ensured socio-political and economic progress. While it is difficult to list all such legislations in such a short time, I will take this opportunity to highlight a few ones, which has contributed in taking our country to the path of progress and inclusive growth.

A milestone in the financial sector was crossed when the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill was passed in 1969. The step was considered as a "masterstroke of political sagacity." Hon'ble Indira Gandhiji, the Prime Minister pioneered the move as she had realized that the well being of the Indian people was feasible only through such a piece of legislation which could

ensure financial inclusion and make the availability of money to meet various requirements of common man.

Similarly, another milestone was the abolition of the Privy Purses in 1971 by this supreme institution, which ended the special status enjoyed by erstwhile royal families in the democratic India and ensured ushering in an era of perfect socialism where there was no distinction between a hereditary king and a common man.

The Parliament passed the Constitution Amendment Bill, whereby the dream of late Rajiv Gandhiji for Panchayati Raj could be fulfilled, in year 1993 when the institutions of Panchayat were given constitutional status. This historical piece of legislation has ensured the participation of every citizen of India, in the process of self-governance.

The other path breaking legislations include the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) enacted by legislation in the year 2005. The scheme has provided a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 has provided for free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. Lastly, the Right to Information Act has ensured that our trust with the destiny will be based on transparency and accountability.

As far as the representation of Hon'ble Members in the Lok Sabha from North Eastern States is concerned, the statistics establish that there were 15 members from Assam and 2 each from Manipur and Tripura in the first Lok Sabha. Later on the representation increased with the formation of new states in due course of time. The Members from North Eastern States have their unique standing in the list of Parliamentarians and they brought to the notice of the House, the issues which dominated the contemporary arena and they contributed a lot to resolve the intricate social-economic-demographic-geographical issues of the region.

I feel immensely proud to felicitate Hon'ble Shri Rishang Keishing, former CM of Mainpur and presently a Member of Rajya Sabha who is now a prodigy for all the Parliamentarians. Shri Keishing has the unique distinction of being the only Member of present Parliament who has served as the member in the first Lok Sabha as well. He has witnessed all the seasons of formation of various historical nation building pieces of legislation in Parliament.

Remembering his day in Parliament Shri Keishing said “when I joined the 1st Lok Sabha, all eminent leaders were there. Parliament at that time was like a temple and Speaker with his Gandhi cap look like a priest. In the past MPs were much disciplined and entered the House with the sole aim of serving the people. May be it was because we were fresh from the freedom struggle. We maintained decorum; Speaker’s ruling was strictly obeyed. Nobody disrupted the house or shouted slogans inside the House. Today it pains me to see that decorum is not being maintained.”

Our country is one of the most diverse country in the world. However, we all are proud to be an Indian citizen. Every Indian is proud of his unity among diversity of race, religion, language, caste and creed. In this regard, the contribution of Indian Parliament in maintaining unity and integrity of the great nation has been well recognized and has served as shining example for others to follow.

Being a Member of the august House of the largest functioning of democracy of the world, it is my proud privilege to speak a few words during this special sitting to commemorate the 60th year of Indian Parliament and I express my deep gratitude to this institution and wish this foundation head of democracy continue to work for fulfilling the dreams of architects of the Constitution.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI SAJJAN VERMA (Dewas): Today sixty years have completed when Lok Sabha was constituted. I am overwhelmed with humble campaign and pride that I am also a part of the debates making policies to bring the country on the path of progress and development sitting inside this historical building of Parliament which is a biggest temple of democracy.

This Parliament, during its sixty years of journey of democracy and political as well as social development, has many a times groaned and all the countrymen have felt its silent weeping. Be it Indo-China War of 1962 or Indo-Pak War of 1965, in these difficult situations it is the same Parliament House from where message of keeping the country united and our independence intact was flashed which was accepted by the common man and they played an honest role.

When the terrorists attacked on Parliament of the country, when some Members of Parliament waved the packets of

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

currency notes with reference to vote for note in this very Parliament and when some Members of Parliament were disqualified from their Membership in a serious crime like asking questions by taking money then people of the country also felt heart rending pain of the soul of this Parliament of the country.

On the other hand, when farmer, the foodgrain provider of the country was in difficulty and marching towards the tendency of committing suicide then decision of waiving debts of 72 thousand crore rupees was taken in the same Parliament. When discussion on empowerment of women and providing reservation to them in Lok Sabha and all legislative assemblies of the country held in the same Parliament then smile of Parliament was felt by people also. Many great persons like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shashtri and Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel took historic decision to bring the country towards development and progress sitting in which Parliament House, about the same Parliament some alleged persons said that now they were feeling that Parliament itself is the biggest problem of the country. Once again the people felt the pain of Parliament.

Despite all these things, I would like to say that we have not been able to make India as was dreamed by the old people, the great freedom fighters who sacrificed themselves in the freedom struggle and who are left alive today- Let us all resolve to make India of the dreams of those great persons- let us resolve that the democracy which has come up to Parliament House must be brought to the downtrodden and poor people of the country.

*[English]*

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this great occasion, the historic event of completion of 60 years of journey of our Indian parliamentary democracy.

I pay homage to all our able and great parliamentarians and my warm wishes to each and everyone in this House. I am really proud to be an Indian and a parliamentarian. Our great leaders of the nation, Gandhi Ji, Nehru Ji, Ambedkar Ji, Sardar Patel Ji and several other leaders had shown us the vision and path for building vibrant India and for the success of our parliamentary democracy.

My sincere wishes to the living parliamentarians of Lok Sabha. We are proud to be a secular and democratic country

with binding unity in diversity. Our country's agricultural production has gone up; still there are so many hungry stomachs, that we need to feed. Never ending farmers' suicides show that we need to do a lot of agricultural reforms. In our young India, youth is waiting for opportunities to give their skills in different fields. However, we are not in a position to provide them the best opportunities and platforms to show their skills. We need to use their brains for country's development. Our top-notch young students from IITs, NITs, IIMs, etc. are going to foreign countries to work. We need to stop this brain-drain, attract our young talent and make them take part in nation-building.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, out of 15 Lok Sabha Congress and its alliance made the government eleven times and non-congress parties reserved the country by making the government at five occasions. It we see these include Sarvshri Morarji Desari, V.P. Singh, Chandra Shekharji, Dev Gowdaji, Gujral ji, Atal Behari Vajpayee ji and Chowdhary Charan Singh ji etc. who served the country by making non-congress government.

*[English]*

At that time, our beloved Telugu Desam Party's founder leader, late Shri NTR had played a major role in uniting all the regional parties. Our Party President, Shri Chandrababu Naidu also played a major role in uniting all the parties and he was instrumental in forming the United Front Government in this country. He also played a key role in forming the NDA Government by extending support from outside. Late Shri Balayogi, the first Dalit Speaker, belongs to the Telugu Desam Party. I have a great respect to the Madam Speaker, Shrimati Meira Kumar Ji, who has won all our hearts.

The story of Indian democracy is unique. In the last six decades of our journey of Indian Parliamentary democracy, we have not achieved what we are capable of achieving. Major scams and corruptions both at the Centre as well as at the States, affected our country's reputation. Our country is blessed with a lot of natural resources and human resources. We need to utilize these resources effectively and productively by formulating productive legislations, debates, and discussions and also by passing relevant Bills in this Parliament.

I will be very happy if the Parliament functions for a

minimum of 100 days a year and the participation of Members increases further – the Members have to actively debate and express their views and ideas. We need to strive for eradication of poverty and social justice, fight for the growth of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Minorities and farmers.

Our Party President, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu's visionary scheme, that is, cash transfer to the poor people is badly needed for our country to eradicate the corruption to some extent. Being a farmer's son and first time Member of Parliament, I am so happy to stand here and speak on this occasion. Let us all join hands and unite India at the great Parliament.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Purvi Champaran): Our Parliamentary system has completed its 6 decades, first sitting was held on 13th May, 1952. It is an important date in the history. We are commemorating this occasion today as celebration. We all are fortunate that our country is the best democratic country of the world. Today is Diamond Jubilee of first sitting of Republic of India. The Parliamentary practice which has started through first sitting has become an ideal for the democratic system despite many rise and fall in it. The proceedings of Parliament is so important today as it was at the time of its first sitting. It is another thing that with the passage of time the standard and dignity of Parliamentary proceeding is going down. While 103 sittings of Lok Sabha were held in 1952, this number has reduced to 73 in 2012. Whereas the challenges before the country are rising day by day.

Today, we all together are going to resolve to further strengthen our democratic system and take our country at the highest peak of glory. I recall, special Session of Parliament was held on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of Independence also. At that time, I was Member of this House. Various unanimous motions were adopted wherein Members of Parliament of all the parties were agree to let the proceedings of Parliament conduct smoothly. Today Leader of the House from ruling party Hon'ble Pranab Mukherjeeji has said this thing and I think that we all would also be agree that proceeding of House should not be hampered. Respected Advaniji while mentioning the special features of democracy of this country has talked about the things, if the ruling party and all of us establish them in our conscience then it is certain

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

that proceeding will never be hampered. Dignity of the House will go up. Certainly the ruling party play an important role in conducting the proceedings of the House in a smooth way and I am sure that on the occasion of this Diamond Jubilee, which is the great occasion of democracy, the ruling party will make efforts to keep in mind the guidance of Hon'ble Advaniji invariably.

Today, we have also to resolve that how to overcome the challenges which the country is facing in a democratic way. On the occasion of completing 60 years by the Parliament we should think over it, whether the use of Parliament should be made only to downgrade the image of one-another. Despite having full faith in democratic system whenever such moments come inside the Parliament when democracy itself is attacked then how much the countrymen would have suffered the pain, we should also think over it. On the occasion of discussion on Lokpal Bill, the incident took place at 12o'clock of midnight in Upper House, the manner in which constitutional provisions were neglected, so many questions are there on which we should think over today. In this era of resolution, the common man not only gets early information through media but the debate is also started thereon. Today, we should necessarily resolve in the House that how we should control our daily routine, our nature, conduct and character in the House which is exposed before the society. Regarding Parliament of India the things which are mostly discussed and which create headlines of the newspaper are our conduct, our shouting at one another, slogans, mongering, uproar, disturbance, indiscipline etc. and as a result over the years the thinking of people towards faith in and respect Parliament has changed when a common man watches the proceedings of the House on television he does not react well. On completion of 60 years of Parliamentary system many discussions will be made in this special Session of Parliament but we will have to see whether any solution of the problems of the country comes out or not. On the one hand, there is poverty and starvation, people are committing suicide, 30 crore people of the country are not getting both times of meal. On the other hand, foodgrain is rotting not only in open area but inside the godowns also. We have got 'Swaraj' (Self-Government). Crore of people celebrate it as function on 26th January and 15th August but we have not got 'Suraj' (good governance). Corruption and crimes have increased. The people of the country are deeply hurt.

Today, there is a lack of constitutional spirit in the country which says that it has been made for India by the people of India through the people of India. We should work according to the spirit of the Constitution. We should resolve today that we will not honour the criminals and corrupt persons at any level. Sir, it is our misfortune that today Parliamentary life is seen as profitable business. It is said that Roman imperialism rose and it reached on the top when its people wanted to give everything to Rome and downfall of Rome began at a time when its people started to take more and more from the society. Today, I hope that after this discussion Parliament will get a new direction in the times to come.

Terrorism and naxalism is a serious challenge before the country, we should not see it in the context of Vote Bank. Today the country has atomic power. Our country is emerging as world's super power. We are not lacking of courage and resources. We should combat them with our full strength. Many kinds of disparities are generating due to regional imbalance in the country. Today we should resolve to remove these disparities honestly. Our democracy should never be hurt, we have to safeguard our independence and integrity at any cost. We have successfully conducted our Parliamentary system during these 60 years. If we put aside the incident of emergency declared in 1975, nobody has made courage to raise finger towards democratic system in this country till date.

On this day we should resolve that we should not allow to attack again on our democratic values in the country as was done in 1975 after getting independence. On this occasion, I would like to conclude quoting the words of Respected Mavlankarji, the first speaker of Lok Sabha - He had said that for true democracy a person should not restrict upto provisions of the Constitution or rules and regulation made for conduct of business in the legislature only but true spirit of democracy should also be developed amongst the Members of legislation.

\*SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): You have given me an opportunity to speak on the occasion of special session organised for Parliament having complete its six decades journey after its first sitting held sixty years ago and I congratulate all my friends sitting here in the pious temple on the historical occasion.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

It is a thing of joy and pride for Members of this pious House that all of us have come here having been elected from various provinces of the country. Despite, various ups and downs our parliamentary journey has proved its excellence, relevance and usefulness. This long period has proved this also that we do have faith and deep commitment towards democracy. Besides, it has presented an excellent example before the whole world and conveyed that democratic system is be of all the other governing systems.

Our parliamentary journey is dynamic despite several difficulties it faced. During past years our political system has gone through revolutionary changes. During this period it saw the emergence of parties and party policies and its development. During this period we saw the changes in loyalties, changes in values and moralities, people engaged in calculations of gain and loss. Probably it would continue to be like that in future as change is a continuous process.

In Indian democratic system, role of people is given the top importance. Since elected representative has early access to the doors of power, hence people through their elected representatives expect the welfare and development of their area. There are several issues in daily life of common man which cannot be solved without cooperation of the Government. In such a situation, people do have expectation from their representative as he is their constitutional representative.

Indian Parliament has its own qualities, its own identity. Every Indian has faith on it and respects it but in today's context it needs to be reviewed in view of fulfillment of public expectations and public welfare in a comprehensive context because as we cannot exist for long without accepting the values, similarly, if we would neglect the democratic norms, definitely this system would be affected.

On this historical occasion a thorough analysis of Parliamentary journey and its achievement is needed. This historical Parliament passed a proposal unanimously in 1997 on 50th Anniversary that we would put a check on corruption and would bring an end to criminalisation of politics. When this resolution was adopted, at that time criminal cases were pending in court against 40 members but today this number is increased to 162. If during the last fifteen years, this parliament and its members had taken some steps to fulfill the resolution, probably, the indecent expressions, which today members, have to face would not have been made in

1997. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said that corruption has increased because of criminalisation in politics and to remove it we should not deviate from what we say.

Today it is a matter of concern for the Governments as they are continuously deviating from their basic objectives and responsibilities. Number of poor in the country is increasing continuously. Today on this pious occasion it is most necessary that while celebrating the golden jubilee of the independence, we engage ourselves to fulfill the commitments we made to improve the system with full sincerity without losing any more time. Then only we would be able to retain the respect of our people towards Parliament and the Parliamentarians.

Today a lot of time is lost in the House in unnecessary noises, thereby, wasting a large amount of the public funds, the problems of people remain there itself for want of any solid and meaningful discussion.

This is why people are losing their faith in this system and the public representatives. Famous ideologist and topmost politician Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, expressing his views had said that parliamentary system is our heritage.

Therefore, on this historic even today we all should resolve that in this House we would keep ourselves trust worthy by our decent behaviour and self-control and would find out solution to the burning issues of the country by logical discussion. Then only this system could remain this system could remain intact.

\*SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA (Banswara): Today on 13th May, 2012 we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of our Indian Parliament, which is the largest democracy of the world.

A real patriot of India would not ever forget the sacrifices made by Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar, Sardar Patel, Abdul Kalaam Azaad and thousands of our other freedom fighters.

These persons have established democracy in place of colonialism.

Mahatma Gandhi and numerous others had a dream to remove all the ills of society and disparities-economic

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

educational and other from India and it would be a great and most powerful country in the world after 60 years hence but after 60 years of Parliament coming into being, the progress which would have been made by Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes and minorities is still to be made and general category is also lacking in economic and educational fields. They should rise above their political thoughts in this great institution of democracy and strengthen the nation by removing the disparity in socio- economic and educational fields.

Good behaviour of Parliamentarians in Parliament makes a democracy strong. Therefore, political parties should select good people to get them elected to Parliament so that the atmosphere in the country be good and democracy could always solve the problems of people in the country.

I offer my homage to all these freedom fighters on the occasion of 60 years of democracy.

I am grateful to the executive, legislature and judiciary and the pillar of democracy i.e. media and electronic media.

In the end, I wish that expressing the gratitude towards the public of India on 60th anniversary, they should perform their responsibility to make India progress.

*[English]*

\*SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): I am thankful for giving me this opportunity to express my views in this glorious and historical occasion of celebration of 60th Anniversary of the First Session of our Parliament. Every Indian will have to take pride in the facts that we have an enriched Parliamentary tradition.

Parliament is the most important institution in any deliberative democracy. Our Father of the Nation, Mahatama Gandhiji, and many leaders of Congress Party sacrificed themselves to formulate such a democratic institution in our Parliamentary system. Shri Motilal Nehru during February 8, 1924 introduced a Resolution in the Central Legislative Assembly asking the British Government to announce 'Scheme of a Constitution for India'.

The Constitution that emerged from the Central Hall on November 26, 1949 was the longest in the world and had 395 Articles in its corpus. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who headed the

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Drafting Committee said about Constitution's ability to work: "It is workable, it is flexible, and it is strong enough to hold the country together both in peace time and in war time."

Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru when he was President of Indian National Congress during 1936 declared that India's ultimate object was to establish a Sovereign Indian Democratic Republic which would promote and foster 'full democracy' and usher in a new social economic order. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, addressed on the 16th May, 1952 insisted the Members of both the Houses to build up the "Unity of India". The first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehruji in his reply in Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 1952 the first priority was the unity and stability of India to be maintained. Political democracy by itself is not enough except that it may be used to obtain a gradually increasing measure of economic democracy, equality and the spread of the good things of life to others and removal of gross inequalities. Parliament had a good start. It engaged diligently in serious business keeping the concerns for the poor, deprived and disadvantaged in view and their good as ultimate goal.

Preamble of the Constitution states to secure to all its citizens justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. We get the opportunity to take part in this august House to express the views and the problem of the people from various parts of this country.

Now a days, many well meaning critics have started to point out that unfortunately political power has got polarized around identities of caste, religion and language. It is indeed a cause of grave concern that 10% of Parliamentary time is lost due to disorder and pandemonium. The usual form of Parliamentary protests have given way to obstructionist tactics, slogan shouting, and collectively jumping into the Well of the House. Sometime, the foreign delegates who eagerly come and see the proceedings of our Parliament, even during these occasions, some members shout, slogans without bothering about their presence. We have to think how the message will go out, if the Members are not maintaining discipline in the Parliament. A strong Parliamentary set up can be preserved and protected if the Members are maintaining the Parliamentary decorum. Each and every Party has the responsibility and accountability to keep the House neat and clean.

Even though our country has achieved a lot of development in our economy through this Parliamentary

system, there are people still, living in our country in need of food, proper education and shelter. Still, there is wide disparity among the people who are divided into haves and have nots.

We need stringent laws that will take immediate action to put an end to corruption and other irregularities which are inhibiting the growth of our economy.

It is perturbing our sound democracy. We need a common law to put an end to disparity among the people, caste-wise, religion-wise and social status-wise.

Anyhow, whatever may be the pitfalls, our Parliamentary democracy is appreciated globally so that it guides the nation of Unity in Diversity.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal): Sir, I thought that on such a solemn occasion there will be a better attendance in the House. We are talking of the 60th year of Parliament but it seems that Members from all sides are not having that interest in the deliberation.

The point is that it is not a year of celebration; it is a year of introspection also. *[Translation]* If anybody in India who deserves to be congratulated, it is the public. They deserve it, we know how the democracy was in danger, I know about emergency. But who was the saviour? Yes, there were leaders but above all it was the people who saved the Democracy. So they deserve the most. Our congratulations should go to them.

*[English]*

What is to be considered is that let us not speak of pleasantries? There must be introspection. What we have been able to do over the last 60 years? What we have not been able to do and what is to be done? What are the reasons that you could not do, what the Parliament and the Government of the parliamentary system is called upon to do by the letters of the Constitution and aspirations of the people who had laid down their lives?

It is really a great occasion. It is a glorious occasion for Indian Parliament. It is the temple of the hope of the people. It is the symbol of the aspirations of the nation. It is a citadel of the large democracy that has travelled a long way. It is a great thing. It has been able to travel because the barriers were broken. It has been able to travel because the assaults that have been mounted on the Parliament were thrown out.

It is all glory to the largest electorate of the world. Despite the aberration that had infested the system, people had elected one Lok Sabha after another. It is aptly representing and reflecting multi-polar political system, providing space to various political trends as rooted in different parts of the country. It is neither unipolarity nor bipolarity. Let there be no dream about it. It is the multi-polarity. It is the pluralism. It is the openness. It is the strength of Indian democracy.

The Indian Parliament came into existence because of the struggle of the people, because Britishers were thrown out, because India got Independence and because Constitution was framed. Therefore, it is the whole history. The 60th year of Independence, and the 60th year of Indian Parliament cannot be separated from the history of the National Movement and from the sacrifice that the people have made. Therefore, it is the most solemn occasion to recall the sacrifice of the countless martyrs all over the country.

It is useful to recall the role of the Father of the Nation. It is useful to recollect the role of the first Prime Minister who laid the foundation of modern India. Nobody is talking of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Unfortunate, it is. He was one of the greatest figures. He was the undaunted politician who had the courage to go out of India and built the Indian National Army outside the country. We seem to have forgotten him. We also pay our homage to Ambedkarji, the architect of the Indian Constitution. At the same time, let me also pay tribute to Jayaprakash Narain because he fought for the restoration of democracy in the country.

The Indian National Movement had many streams. It was not mono-stream. We are proud of Bhagat Singh. We are proud of Khudiram Bose. We are proud of Bagha Jatin We are proud of thousands of youth who had taken to arms to drive the British out of India. The National Movement was not the only an example of non-violence there had been so many trends. Therefore, we must feel that the youth who fought with arms are an integral part of the broadest freedom movement that had swept across the country. I acknowledge with pride the role that the working class had played against the British imperialism. I cannot but forget the uprising of the peasants — Neel Vidroh, Indigo Revolution. It is always important for the leaders of the country to remember as a whole the National movement and not a part of it. We have inherited freedom because of all that has happened in India against the British rule.



The fundamental issue is that the basic task of attending to the human problems in the country has large been left unfinished. What we have been able to do, we appreciate but what we have not been able to do, we must also recollect. A large part of the task assigned to the Parliament remains unfulfilled. We are million miles behind the time schedule. This is completely unacceptable. The social convulsion – let us have our eyes to look at, let us have our heart to feel, let us have our brain to think, let us look beyond our nose. What is today India is? A social convulsion is brewing. There is political impatience. There is gross accentuation of human problems. There is devaluation of all human values. There is delusion of commitment to the people. There is only copying of the foreign model. Disparity, distress, destitution and hunger pose a great challenge to the political system of the country. Let us not forget that. Remembering the dream of having a different India than what it is today, it is necessary that initiative is let loose by all.

There must be a new initiative. I had expected on the 60th Anniversary of Parliament, the Government would have announced a number of social security measures. I thought the programme would have been meaningful if the Government on this occasion had announced a number of programmes to ameliorate the grievances of the common people. It is useful to have a Special Session; it is more useful to have a Joint Session; it is useful to have a photograph; it is useful to have a dinner, but it would have been more useful, if on this occasion, a number of special packages were announced by the Government to take care of the problems of the people.

Sir, forgive me, if I say, ritualism has no relevance to ruthless reality. Ritualism has no relation or relevance to ruthless reality. What I mean to say is that we must not do what we are doing; we must do what we have not done. Once again, we re-dedicate ourselves to the struggle of building a different India, absolutely different than what it is today reconfirming our firm faith in the pluralistic democracy and parliamentary system.

Sir, but most important is the intervention of the masses that can stop the decline. We are in a situation of decline. Let us not pat our back. We are facing an unprecedented crisis. In a situation like this, I call for the intervention of the masses. Only by activating the masses democracy can be made more fruitful and the change can be made inevitable. On this day of

60th year of Parliament, I pray for new forces to come into play and play a significant role in changing and re-designing India in conformity with the dreams of the millions of Indians who had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country.

\*DR. RATNA DE (Hooghly): We are meeting on a Sunday, the 13th May, 2012 to celebrate 60 years of Indian Parliament coming into being. It is an historic occasion. We are all proud of this great feat.

We have made great strides in these 60 years. We are moving ahead holding our heads high. I would like to briefly state that India, after attaining its Independence started with the Five Year Plans, then Green Revolution came, then nationalization of banks. Liberalizations, privatization and globalization were adopted in July, 1991. We have completed 20 years of economic reforms. We are competing with the rest of the world in every conceivable feet. Very little is left for us to achieve. We have made great strides in space, science and technology, IT, agriculture, etc.

Many Members may have many opinions. But no one can deny the facts, the basic facts. Basic facts are we have successfully conducted 15th Lok Sabha elections, a mammoth exercise and a stupendous feat to achieve with such population. We have great institution in place-Constitution, the Supreme Court, Chief Election Commission, Central Vigilance Commission, Central Investigation Bureau, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, etc.

These institutions are running the country and people have been reposing faith in the Constitution, which we have adopted. These are definitely a marvelous feat to be cherished, particularly, when our neighbouring countries are facing instability, unable to provide basic rights to its people, etc.

On the other hand, we have many schemes in place, which is really a commendable feat of the Government of day. We have Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, Swarnajayanti Grama Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Electrification Programme and scores of other schemes which are aimed at providing succor to the needy and downtrodden. We have schemes for dalits, tribals, women, children. We have achieved a lot in terms of providing basic necessities of life-be it on health, education, housing, etc. But I hope one will not deny that there is much needs to be done and we

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

cannot lie low till each one gets the basic essentials of leading a simple life.

Criticism is a part of democracy. We are ready to face criticism. Facing criticism in a democracy is a virtue. Criticisms help the Government of the day to move in the right direction. After all, there has to be perfect coordination between executive, legislature and judiciary. Though all the three have different domains but at times, as we have been seeing in recent past, one entering into the domain of the other. This happens only once a wing-be it the executive or legislature or judiciary-fail to render its duty.

It is not that since we follow democracy, we are slow. In the 14th Lok Sabha, we have instances of expelling 10 MPs for their involvement in cash for query scam and many other MPs were suspended for various other activities. Parliament has played its part unhesitatingly when it comes to taking harsh decision.

Parliament has to follow the constitutional provisions and rules set out by our forefathers. We cannot be dictated by civil society as to what we should do. We follow what is laid down in the Constitution and in the rules and procedures. We have a set system, which has stood the test of time.

Even after 65 years of Independence, there are issues galore to be solved. Still people are hungry, poverty is rampant, corruption is all-pervasive. Our immediate effort should be to feed these hungry people and to remove corruption from the country, which is eating into the vitals of our economy.

Now, the time has come to rejuvenate ourselves and dedicate ourselves towards making our parliamentary democracy stronger, transparent and corruption-free. Time has come to repose our faith on Parliament, parliamentary democracy. Some say our democracy is fragile. But I don't subscribe to it. I hope many hon. Members too do so.

Ours is a young democracy, I can say this when compared to British Parliament and American Congress which are centuries old. They have evolved themselves over the years. We are evolving. Evolution takes time. We need to give further time to set things right. It takes time. We need to give further time to set things right. It takes time. We are moving in the direction of bringing in certain institutions in place which would make governance more transparent and accountable.

We have many challenges. No doubt about it. Still the lot of people is not above average mark.

Development should be made inclusive. We have to ensure that the fruits of various schemes, programmes and plans reach the poorest of the poor and they lead a decent and honourable life. And that should be the motto of the Parliament, Government and we, the people's representatives.

Our democracy has stood the test of time. Let us take the pledge that we ensure that our parliamentary democracy become more vibrant and ensure corruption — free governance in the country.

On this historic occasion, I would like to pay my regards to Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal, Mamta Banerjee and to the people of my constituency, Hooghly. I am able to remain in Parliament in the historic occasion due to their blessings and supports only.

With these words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur): Today, we are celebrating 60th Anniversary of Indian Parliament. Thus we are making our memories fresh today of the old days (history). Our country demonstrated progress and growth in the economic, social and political fields. Today our country stand as the largest democratic country in the world. Despite all diversities it is taking all the diversities of province, language, religion different cultures and dresses together to march ahead on the path of progress in unity as one nation.

Today, Her majesty, the President of India, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Chairperson of UPA and the Leader of Opposition Lok Sabha the Chief Ministers of a few States also happen to be ladies which is the strength of democracy.

In the days to come we have to move forward facing many challenges that may come in our way forward. I congratulate all the Hon. Members and the esteemed people of the country on this occasion.

\*SHRI MADHUSUDAN YADAV (Rajnandgaon): Completion of 60 years of democracy demonstrate the success of the system. However, in the present scenario the dignity of Parliament has gone down and the new generation

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

is faith in this system has become weak. I have been elected to the Parliament for the first time. When I listen to the discussions, I become because this great seat of democracy has become the platform of caste, religion, politics with the focus on votes. The real development issues are rarely discussed in the House.

If it happens to be special session analytically, then I would like to say that we can consider our democracy strong, but we cannot accept that our people too have become strong alongwith it. Poverty and illiteracy should have been removed from the country during these 60 years. However, we have to launch Literate India Programme even today. Situation in respect of poverty in the country is such that 98 per cent of the population cannot afford to send their children for Medical, Technical education.

Our ancestors made sacrifices for the country's freedom but it was definitely not dream that after 65 years of independence people will not be able to have two square meats and will not be able to get elementary education.

Doctor Baba Saheb Ambedkar has said, we may have to remain hungry but we should not forget to send or children to schools. This sentence of Baba Sahib underlines the poverty and illiteracy of the country. Despite this we have not been able to provide food to the hungry and education to the masses.

Farmers of this country commit suicide We have failed to provide adequate facilities to the farmers our country has no permanent policy for the economic development of the farmers. As a result the economic condition of the farmers has deteriorated. Women represent 50 per cent of the country's population. We have repeatedly been saying in every election for Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha about providing reservation to women for their empowerment. Our Political system has many deficiencies only providing reservation to women cannot ensure women upliftment/betterment. To me free education from Class 1 to Graduate and Post-Graduate Level and other higher education for women can definitely help in the upliftment of women.

What I want to say that we should move our democracy in a direction in which we can make the poor attain economic development. Their illiteracy is removed. Everybody has to be in a position to afford medical, technical education. There should be a permanent policy to see the economic upliftment

of the farmers so that our democracy may last for thousands of years.

[English]

\*DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG (ANANTNAG): 60 Year back National Newspapers flashed "New Parliament meets today; "Full functioning of Democracy begins". Visionary National Leadership thoughts of the system and full marks to the Indian people to preserve this and protect the system. Gandhi, Nehru, Dr.Ambedkar, Maulna Azad deserve a salute for putting the system in place. Gandhiji was physically annihilated "fringe elements" who disagreed with his views and wanted a theocratic state instead. Imagine as diverse, as multi-religious as multi-ethnic country as India without the Parliamentary system the situation it would have been into.

To preserve the credibility of the system the promises made and the commitments pronounced in the House should deliver on the ground.

It is a tribute to the secular Democratic India that a muslim majority State (J&K) acceded to it and as fine legal document crafted by Mriza Afzal Beg under Sheikh Abdullah's leadership (1952 Sheikh-Nehru Accord) was to be resorted and honoured in letter and spirit.

\*SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruvannamalai): In the life of human beings sixty years would mean a complete life. Instead in the life of a nation, sixty years would mean a part of history that covers a mere two to three generations. In the history of Parliament, that too in a sub-continent called India that has multi-party democracy, the Parliament's sixtieth year celebration can only be a bright event. On this occasion, let me share my views along with many who have put forth their view-points.

Sixty years back on this very day, the 13th of May, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the country's Prime Minister following the first General elections held throughout the country.

In 1952, on the 13th of May, Independent India's Parliament had its first sitting and the upper House of Parliament met that day. That ushered in the arrival of Parliamentary Democracy in a newly liberated India.

The free India's first state-function with flag-hoisting and a salute-march was held in the ramparts of Red Fort in Delhi.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

It is continued to be held even today. The Red Fort which stood like the symbol of our Indian Independence and as a memorial to the fallen royal kingdoms was completed on the same 13th of May, 1708.

The first three Vice-Presidents of India Dr. Sarvapali Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain and Shri V.V. Giri were coincidentally sworn in on this very day, May the 13th.

Parliament must give us a sense of hope that we can resolve issues through the meeting of minds and dialogue. Most often it proves to be so. Parliamentary democracy is the form of Government that has got least of infirmities. If we realize this we can establish a real good Parliament.

I would like to point out that the slavery system in Brazil was abolished on this very day May 13th of 1888. On May 1, 1962 our founder leader Anna, the popular leader who led the youthful part of the Dravidian movement to electoral politics made a speech in Rajya Sabha proclaiming the avowed policies of the Dravidian movement. We feel that speech is still reverberating in the Parliament complex even today. The five-times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the senior most parliamentarian of India and the greatest elder statesman of the country Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi had Murasoli Maran as his conscience keeper. With the backing of research and logic Murasoli Maran had enthralled both the houses of Parliament when he piloted a resolution on state autonomy. Integrated people make a nation.

When a nation had evolved so then where is the need to stress the importance of integrity was a moot question raised by Anna the founder of DMK in the Upper House of Parliament. Now, we celebrate the golden jubilee of that speech while we celebrate the 60th year of our Parliament. We know the importance of a canvas to paint. Only when there is a wall, we can paint on it. Saying so, Anna said that Indian Independence day cannot be a black day and a day of mourning. We are followers of Anna who gave up separatist demand in the wake of Chinese aggression. It is true we gave up separatism but the reasons for our raising the demand remain intact even today and that is why we insist on state autonomy, more powers to the states and equal opportunities to the national races. We come from the tradition of Justice party which was the fountain head of the philosophy of social justice. In the last sixty years, both Dravidar Kazhagam and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam are both functioning like double barrel gun and we are like the warriors to protect social justice

led by the champion of the noble cause Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. The history of social justice in India and its political history and also the history of our Constitution would stand a testimony to the fact that DMK though not a political outfit at that point of time was the real cause for the move to make the first ever amendment to our Constitution. In the annals of history this has been boldly engraved. Stressing that language and culture are like a pair of eyes to a nation, the Dravidian movement that evolved in the southern part of the country raised its voice for equality and equal treatment to all the national races of India. I am a representative of that Dravidian movement which stood as a fort to protect the interest of various national races especially of Dravidian stock. At a time when we celebrate the centenary year of our Dravidian movement, I would like to greet the Indian Parliament on its sixtieth year. It is a historical fact that Tamil was projected as one of the official languages of India in the constituent Assembly. Our founder leader Anna once recalled it in the upper House of our Parliament and stressed the need to accord equal rights and opportunities to all the national languages of the country. He also emphasized the need to retain English as the only link language of the country. The government agrees that English is necessary to communicate with the other countries of the world. English language is start in all the schools in India. When that is so, the government says that we must learn Hindi to communicate with people within the country. Is it not a contradiction? When English is taught in all the schools why not we retain English as our only link language was a question raised by Anna. He said that it would enrich all our Indian languages together all the people of different languages. I now recall Anna's logical question raised fifty years ago in this sixty year old House.

At this juncture, I would like to place before this august House a humble prayer of mine. Both the Houses of Parliament must have continuous simultaneous interpretation facility for all the languages. I urge upon both the government and the Parliament to fulfill this desire of ours to have two way interpretation facility for all the languages throughout the sittings of the House.

Babu Jagjivan Ram once contradicted Nehru to stress upon that the deprived sections of the society who were pushed to the lowest rung of the society must get additional concessions. Our leader Anna in his speech made in Rajya Sabha stressed the need for equal opportunities and pointed out to the fact as to how Babu Jagjivanram's stature grew

high as that of Nehru when he insisted on the continuance of welfare measures for the marginalized sections of the society. What did the social divide in the society like the scheduled caste and the backward caste denote? That question of Anna is still heard. Those arguments so advanced are like the seeds that can give rise to a society with equal opportunity. The two Houses of Parliament that have witnessed those arguments are now completing sixty year of its existence. Let it live long. Long live the cherished traditions of our Parliament.

[Translation]

\*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib) : I thank you Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak on a momentous occasion. Today we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament of India.

Many senior Hon. Members have expressed their views on this historic occasion. Sir, it is rather unfortunate that our country was under the yoke of Mughals for over 500 years. Then, it was enslaved by the British for over 200 years. The people of this country made supreme sacrifices to throw off the foreign yoke of slavery. Those who kissed the gallows and attained martyrdom had this fervent hope that a day will come when India will attain independence and each and every citizen, whether rich or poor, will reap the fruits of freedom. But, what has been our report-card since we attained independence? The chasm between the rich and the poor has widened all the more.

Unless we are able to bail out the destitutes, the downtrodden, the impoverished, the under-privileged and the deprived sections of society, our independence will remain meaningless. For the marginalized sections of society, independence has still remained a pipe-dream. Those who are at the helm of affairs and are occupying the powerful posts are having a field day. They are minting money whereas the poor are leading wretched lives full of squalor and poverty.

Although we constituted only 1% of the Indian population at the time of attaining independence, but I am happy to note that out of the 121 martyrs hanged by British imperialists, 93 were Punjabis and Sikhs. Out of over 2600 people who were handed out life imprisonment by the colonial rulers, about 2145 people were Sikhs and Punjabis. Although, we constituted a miniscule minority of the entire population of India at that time, over 80% freedom fighters were Sikhs and

Punjabis. We have always been at the vanguard during the freedom struggle.

After we attained independence, the Sikhs and Punjabis were always at the forefront to protect the freedom and sovereignty of the country. Punjab is a border state. Our youth laid down their lives during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars. Our womenfolk used to provide food to the soldiers fighting for the protection of honour and dignity of the country. Pakistan was taught a lesson by our valiant people.

Hon. Mulayam Singh Ji is present here. What happened on June 26th 1975? Efforts were made to crush the parliamentary democracy of our country on that day. Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Shiromani Akali Dal was at the vanguard of the struggle to oppose this draconian measure of Emergency. We opposed it tooth and nail.

Step-motherly treatment was meted out to Punjab ever since we attained independence. We have always been discriminated against by the centre. Our rights have been trampled upon. Sir, the Shiromani Akali Dal has been second to none as far as protecting the parliamentary democracy of our country is concerned. What to talk of Pakistan, we are ready to lay down our lives to protect the freedom and dignity of India if any power on earth tries to threaten our independence.

However, Sir, Sikhs are a minority in India. Their just and genuine demands have not been granted to them. We still remember the holocaust and massacre of 1984.

In 1947, India was bifurcated. Punjab and Bengal were divided. Lakhs of people lost their lives in rioting and communal violence. Property worth crores of rupees was destroyed. There was large-scale migration of Punjabis and Sikhs. The Sikhs opted for India. But, the promises made to us were never kept. Sir, our leader Sardar Parkash Singh Badal had to spend over 18 years in jails even after independence, as he chose to voice the demands of Sikhs and Punjabis.

I agree with Hon. Lalu ji. The people of India have now cast their lot with regional parties. They are fed up with the wrong policies of national parties. So, they have now reposed their trust and faith in regional parties. The regional parties voice the aspirations of the local people. They know about the agony and suffering of people at the grassroot level. They champion the cause of the common man. As a result, people of a lot of states have rejected the national parties and have

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\*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

voted overwhelmingly for regional parties. Sir, the future of the country belongs to the regional parties. The writing on the wall is crystal-clear. Only the leaders of the same state can work for the welfare of the people of their state.

We should all put our heads together to further strengthen parliamentary democracy in the country. However, we must ensure equal rights and opportunities for the minorities of India. A nation, that takes care of its minorities, thrives and flourishes. The farmers, the landless labourers and the poorest of the poor should never be left in the lurch. The Government must take concrete and tangible steps to provide relief and succour to all such sections of society. If we have a robust, thriving, throbbing, pulsating and vibrant democracy in our country, all credit must go to our sagacious voters. The poor voters are the bed-rock and bulwark of our parliamentary democracy. I pray to God to continue the faith of our electorate in our democratic institutions. Let us live up to their expectations so that we all can enjoy the fruits of democracy for centuries to come.

[*Translation*]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla): Today on completion of 60 years by our Parliament we would like to extend our congratulations to all the present members and those who have been the members earlier and to all our voters. India is the largest democracy in the world. 60 years ago when the democracy was established here, the House came into being by virtue of that, and from that time till today, irrespective of the party which ruled, everybody worked towards the development and progress of the country, there cannot be two opinions on that. However, the number of problems and issues faced by the country are very large which merit attention.

Only slogan mongering for democracy mongering will not help. Even long speeches will not do. We will have to feel the plight of the poor in our heart and take up that issue, we will not be able to tackle problems of unemployment, illiteracy, failure, etc. the evils like poverty, groupism disparity in the society need our deep understanding of them for their solution. So the first thing that is required is to remove these evils, then only we can take the nation forward.

**14.00 hrs.**

[DR. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*]

Today politicians consider politics as the tool for minting

money. Everyone feels some sort of pride in having more and more money. It is a common thing nowadays. There are people who talk against us against the House, and talk against those people whose efforts resulted in creation of this House. It is a matter of shame for them. They should understand that this House came into existence as a result of sacrifices made by them. This democracy has come into existence because people made sacrifices. It is this place where people like us put forward our point of view without fear. This is the concept of Federalism that we have got that to be kept alive at all costs. The States existence should be maintained for the purpose of ensuring integration. States should be made strong and stronger by giving more and more powers. They should be allowed to perform. We should desist from interfering in their work.

There are some people who should change their mind set. When a Muslim put his point they become agitated. When a Sikh put forward his point of view, it makes them uneasy. But they should realise that these people who put forward their views they are also the native of this country, India, they have the right to speak whatever community they belong to. So people have that old primitive mindset. They need to change their way of thinking and I would go a little further by saying that they should make a promise to that effect. I would have made a long speech but the time is restricted to five minutes. It is their day—

“Uthke Ab Khurshid Ka Saman SafarTaza Karien  
Lafz-e shok a sham-o shahar taza karein”

We should solve this issues with love, we have certain grievances. I come from Kashmir, we have some grievances against you, the Government, this House, Government of India and the people of India but today on this festive occasion, I would not put them. You all understand we were given some assurances in this House. They have been forgotten. We want to remind them. If you want to keep the country as one, voice that comes from any corner has to be heard, understood.

“Turn to Har Baat Par Talwar Utha Lete Ho,  
Shokh Nazron Se Bhi Kuchh Kam Liyejate Hain.”

It is not necessary that we lose our temper at every point raised. You have talked of so many great leaders and we pay our respect to them. However, no body mentioned the Name of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad. Nobody remembered Maulana Abul Kalam Azad whose speeches infused new

blood in the country's freedom struggle, then Shaikh Abdullah, the lion of Kashmir who fought in a big way when slaughter was going on in Hindustan communalism was at its peak But that hero stood by unity of Sikh-Christian-Hindu-Muslim. His slogans of unity among these communities were popular in every nook and corner. But nobody mentioned him. These were the founder member of the Legislative Constituent Assembly. Those documents bear their signatures.

I want to say that the poverty and unemployment found in our country, it has to be removed first, otherwise you talk at length of anything in the Parliament do anything, it won't help. The nation cannot move forward as long as the poor does not get his due right. If the poor is not shown the ray of hope, nothing will happen. For he has lost all hopes and is depressed so he should be brought out of that making him hopeful of bright future waiting for him.

Where a mother sells her child on the road for a thousand rupees, where a mother sells her honour for Rs. Fifty or Fifty thousand, Yet we call it democracy, this is something absurd, it is not proper, therefore we should look into our hearts as to where we stand today. We have to ponder over it today and decide ourselves as to what are our weaknesses. We must see them.

Mandey Shamsheer Hai, Dast e Kaza Mei Wo Kaum,  
Karti Hai jo Har Jama Apne Amal Ka Nisab.

The nation that takes care if its weakness what people say does not make it worry, that nation stand with these worlds I extend my heartfelt congratulations to this House, our old colleagues and assure you that as long as we breathe we keep talking of the poor, take his side. We will continue with our efforts to change the picture of India. We will take India to bright and beautiful future. Let Allah give us the will and strength.

\*SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Khagaria): Indian Parliament is celebrating its 60th anniversary today. On this day on 13th May, 1952, the representatives elected by people held their first meeting. Indian Parliament is the pride of democracy. Entire country repose faith in it. Our Parliament is committed to its principle of keeping intact the unity-solidarity while making the democracy strong. Parliament has played an important role in giving direction starting from Green Revolution to technical progress.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Our Parliament has remained conscious of its duties spanning from social, economic, political or judicial administration. It has discharged its duties in respect of controlling the executive or ensuring an accountable administration very intelligently. Parliament always remained vigilant in all these matters including finance control. It discusses the entire range of administrative policies. It keeps an eye on shortcomings. Parliament is the only institution which is empowered to bring a resolution to amend the Constitution and can pass it.

Indian Parliament has full right to impeach the President, vice President, Judges of Supreme Court and High court and the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission and State Public Service Commission. Indian Parliament has without any discrimination granted voting rights to all its adults citizens and thus identified itself as the world's largest democracy. It has been done for the first time in the world. As a first step our Parliament brought Constitution Amendment Bill and thus done away with Jamindari Pratha. Parliament ensured political and social equality through democratic means to the people. It gave a new direction to the nation building. Indian Parliament during its 60 years tenure saw many ups and downs. During this period it took many far reaching social, economic and political decisions which proved to be milestones. This our Parliament constantly strengthened Indian unity in diversity by playing a constructive role in every field. Indian's democracy sets an example before the world. However, this very democracy sometimes neglected the issue dear to the people. There are Bills which are pending for long, they can bring about lot of changes. The examples are the laws relating to labour participation in management or reservation provision in respect of minorities, women.

In Parliament the conduct of its members add to the dignity of Parliament. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, C. Rajgopalachari were the persons who contributed to increased respect towards this institution. While in the recent years the dignity of Parliament, its accountability and monitoring of implementation of Government policies saw downward trend, in this the globalisation of Indian economic policies was the biggest factor responsible for that. In fact many economic decisions of the Government are guided by the international agreements. However, Indian Parliament is one of those few Parliaments of the world which has no effective monitoring agency in place so far to monitor these international agreements. Today there is need for improving the image of Parliament.

Parliamentary reforms need concerted efforts. For this purpose reforms are necessarily required to be made in the Judiciary, Executive and Administration also with a view to ensure Parliament a more effective and dominant role in socio-economic development and national empowerment. Parliament reflects country's view and will power and it is expected that it will continue to play its role strengthening the country's people and democracy in times to come.

[English]

\*SHRI P.K. BIJU (Aalathur): Indian Parliament's glorious sixty years calls for a great celebration not only because of India's achievements in these sixty years but also for steadfastly holding on to its independence. Today India has a strong institutionalized democracy. India is set to become a powerhouse of the 21st century and now has a higher voter turn-out than the United States. While the countries surrounding it have lost their freedom to dictatorships and military regimes, India has safeguarded its freedom zealously and this I think is its greatest achievement in these sixty years. Ours is a country of unity in diversity, still more striking but in spite of all these, India has maintained its unity and shown to the world that whatever be the differences among us, we are one that also proves the point that persons from the Dalits, minority communities and women have risen to the highest positions in the country. This shows the strength and greatness of our country.

But, if you look at the definition of democracy, we cannot say that our country has completely achieved the democracy. The fruits of this freedom have not reached fully to all the people of the country and Mahatma's dream of wiping away the tears from the eyes of the people of the country has not been realized yet. Though 60 years have passed, we have not succeeded in overcoming poverty, illiteracy, injustice, oppression, violation of human rights, child labour, terrorism, communalism, atrocities against women and many are the problems that the country is suffering from. The vast dimension of the country, population bulging at the seams, abysmal poverty, rampant corruption and the daunting illiteracy has stood as an obstacle in achieving complete democracy. In providing education to all and employment, no sincere efforts have been made in the last 6 decades. These rights are not guaranteed in India. Corruption has reached its peak. This has destroyed the very foundation of building a strong and vibrant Indian society.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Besides the age-old problems of poverty, illiteracy and division in the society we have newer challenges springing from globalization and neoliberalism. Since the 1990s, the country has adopted a neoliberal path in its approach to development. Intervention of the state in the welfare sector has been giving way to private capital. It is visible in every important sectors such as health and education. Today, we see everywhere fertile agricultural lands are being converted to industrial lands for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that favour the rich, provide them tax-free shelters and greater opportunities to indulge in speculation of land and property. It is a heavy blow on poor farmers. We also read about farmers committing suicide for not being able to get support price for their goods or not being able to bear the cost of fertilizers. As far as growth is concerned, only a governments have failed in democratizing more equitable access to the processes and benefits of the market.

There is also "the puzzle of why, in a democracy in which the poor vote more than the middle or upper classes, the policy outcomes are not pro-poor." India has most certainly taken giant strides on the road to democracy over the past years. India is still far from being a full democracy in 60 years. It has a long way to go in seeing that every citizen enjoys the benefits of democracy. The dream of Mahatma Gandhi was not merely for political freedom that was only the first step. Unless and until when every one among us enjoys the fruits of freedom and democracy, Indian democracy will remain an unfinished project.

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (Amreli): There are three methods to rule a country in the whole world- i. Monarchy, ii. Military rule, iii. Democracy. The best, of all is democracy. I would like to say that India is the largest democracy in the world, which is being practiced in the country for the last 60 years through various political parties without any problem and with full efficiency which is praised all over the world. World community is popularising the Indian ideals.

Today it is 60th year of Indian democratic system and it is to be proud of that on this day only under leadership of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the democratic system in India was initiated. Through this Parliament our great leaders expressed their views in this House and the country had been running in a systematic manner.



I am glad to tell that Shri G.V. Mavalankar was Speaker of first Lok Sabha, and under his Chairmanship the foundation of democracy in independent India was laid, which today, has completed its journey of sixty years, and it is good that today on the day of 60 years of its first sitting, the Parliament is functioning very efficiently under Chairmanship of Shrimati Meira Kumar. To make this Parliamentary system and democratic system successful and strong, our great leaders like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay, Nananji Deshmikh, C.D. Deshmukh, Ram Manohar Lohia, Morarji Desai, Krishna Menon, K. Kamraj, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Babu Jagjivan Ram, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Lal Krishna Advani and present leader of Opposition Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and many distinguished leaders have contributed substantially in running the Lok Sabha. Due to the shortage of time I am not able to tell the names of other several senior leaders, who, from the first Lok Sabha to the present Lok Sabha, had been members of this prestigious House, and have made very significant contribution to conduct this House and even today whosoever members is sitting in this House, is fortunate that on this sixtieth anniversary we are conducting this House. I express my heartiest gratitude to all my senior leaders and colleagues.

In this House only Parliament has passed many important Bills and in near future also would be passed as per expectations of people. Today the people of our country are asking to pass a strong Lokpal Bill. A few days back a Bill in this context was passed also but I regret that the Bill is not that strong and is not upto public expectations. I especially request Shri Lal Krishna Advaniji and Shrimati Sushma Swarajji that they may please take initiatives to get a strong Lokpal Bill in this House. In the end, I thank all the leaders with all my gratitude.

*[English]*

\*SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jajpur): Today, i.e. the 13th May, 2012, marks the completion of 60th years of journey of the Indian Parliament in Independent India. We got our independence from the clutches of imperialism after a long, arduous and painstaking struggle of our countrymen through the methods of violent and non-violent means. Thousands of youths and students, workers and peasants, women and

common people came forward to join the mass movement against the colonial regime being influenced by the lofty ideals of national leaders. They sacrificed their lives, went to the gallows, faced bullets and lathis and embraced martyrdom, only to achieve complete independence of the Motherland.

Today is the occasion to remember them and offer our sincere tributes to these great sons and daughters of India. It is because of their exemplary scarifies we are now enjoying the status of being the largest democracy of the world. On this occasion, let us remember the immortal message of Mahamanav Mahatma Gandhi who had asked every Indian to carry the talisman that in essence says when you are in doubt about taking a decision, remember the face of the poorest of the poor and ask yourself whether your decision will serve him or not? But it is a matter of regret that many of us have forgotten this immortal message. The sentiments of our great leaders to fight for the deprived, the poor, have taken a backseat. Some of us have become self-seeking and pursuing the narrow selfish interest of different class, caste and humanity. No doubt we have achieved many things in materialistic terms during these last 60 years, but we are yet to reach the goal of an egalitarian society which was the cherished dream of our constitution framers. Our society still remains a divided society by different man-made barriers. The barriers of class, caste, wealth, gender, religion and so on, expanding their tentacles day by day. No doubt we have come a long way as a developing nation, but unfortunately, that development is an uneven development. At one end of the spectrum, we have some of the richest people finding their names in the

'Forbes' list, on the other hand, we have teeming millions in the grip of abysmal poverty who cannot afford two square meals per day. Against this backdrop we have to do some serious soul-searching and self-introspection as to how to bridge this huge gap between the haves and have-nots, between the upper caste and the so-called lower castes, between man and woman?

Today is the day to recall the prophetic words of the great leader, Bharat Ratna, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly. He had expressed his apprehensions that after the adoption of the Constitution, we are going to enter a phase of contradiction, that is politically we may have a system with the principle of one man, one vote, one value, but in the social and economic field we have many ups and downs. We

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

are not going to give our country social and economic equality. So, this will be a peculiar contradiction in Independent India. If this contradiction is not removed soon, this will pose a threat to the entire system. Today, we are discussing “the Sixty Year Journey of the Indian Parliament” and we must introspect and ask ourselves how far we have succeeded in eliminating this contradiction from our social fabric?

We have taken great strides in the field of science and technology, we have achieved nuclear power, tested Agni-V missile to defend our sovereignty, but we are yet to eliminate deep-rooted social evils like untouchability, child marriage, gender-bias, caste prejudice, etc. These evils are a blot on our image in the international arena. So, on this day, we have to take a vow to translate the resolutions, values and morals of the preamble of our Constitution into reality in our social life and then only we can claim with pride that we have at least reached the first rung of the ladder to equality.

Let us unite and take a pledge to fight for justice, human rights, equality and progress.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI E. AHAMED): Mr. Chairman, Sir thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion. I represent Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) in the Parliament and it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for my Party that my Party was in the first Parliament in 1952 and we are continuing our membership till this date. I think after the Indian National Congress, it may be my Party which is here from the 1st Parliament to the 15th Parliament. Of course, numerically our strength may be very small or not very much, but still our policies, programmes, approach, contribution and commitment are much bigger and more appreciative to many of the political parties in the country.

Sir, India is a secular democratic Republic. The great leaders, who led the freedom struggle and brought us Independence, thought that the democracy is best suited for this country. Our great leader, *Quade Millet Mohammed Ismail Saheb*, who was the veteran Member of this House, who has been described by the National Leaders including late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri; a leader with honesty and integrity and has taught a large section of Minority to support and commit to democracy as this is one important thing for the Indian people for their future as the best-suited administration.

I am very happy to say that my Party since its inception in 1948 and after having the membership of the Parliament — I salute the Indian Parliamentary system and also salute the people who have elected us without interruption from the 1st Parliament to the 15th Parliament — that we are committed to secular democracy and at any rate, we have to uphold the principles of secular democracy in India. There is no place in democracy for the violence, communal disharmony or any such kinds of tendencies.

In a secular democracy, Parliament is the biggest institution in the history of the world's Parliamentary System. Our's is the largest democracy in the world, we have been respected by all the countries in the world. This is something which we have to be proud of. Only a democracy can fulfil the aspirations of different sections of the society.

India has immense diversity. We have different religions, different languages, sub-cultures, ways of living and even thoughts. Such a country of diversity can be held together and taken on the path of progress only through democracy.

Our political guide, I would say, Pandit Jawaharhal Nehru, who was the founder of modern India, thought that we must uphold every time unity in diversity. We have different religions, different languages, different cultures but we are all one as Indians. Therefore, it is the solemn duty of every Indian to commit ourselves to maintain the national unity of this country.

Sir, all the time, we are speaking about the very democratic principles. This Parliament is the best example for the legislatures of India and the people of India. For the last 21 years, I have been a Member of Parliament. I am completing the 21st year in this House apart from my seventeen-and-a-half years in the Kerala Legislative Assembly. I have seen many of the acrimonious situations here but this is the Parliament which provides the people the opportunity to ventilate their sentiments and feelings. This is the Parliament where Maulana Abul Kalam Azad told his detractors “my life is an open book. You can see everywhere and you can find any fault of me.” This is the Parliament where members of the minority community told our then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: “We have been asking and pleading for appointments in services but we are getting back only disappointment.” Pandit ji was so moved. Pandit ji had taken action on that. This is such a Parliament of which we are the members. We must be proud of the fact that we

are the Members of this great Parliament. But, at the same time, we must also see what things we will have to do.

There are socio-religions groups in our country who have not got a say in the developmental arena. At the very same time, I would say the Constitution says there should be equality. The Directive Principles of the State Policy enjoins upon the State to bring about socio-economic equality and fair distribution of resources. But, during the past 60 years, despite our great and best efforts, are we proud of the fact that everybody has been given his equal right and share? No. Unfortunately, it is not. At the very same time, there are deprived people. Especially, democracy means minorities should be respected. I am very happy to hear from no less a person than Shri L.K. Advani that minorities should be respected. That minority should not be only the political minority. That minority should also be the linguistic minority, religious minority. Therefore, the democracy that we have in India should strive hard to send the message that minorities should also be given compassionate consideration. Their demands should be considered sympathetically and also there must be tolerance to hear that. If it is not given, we cannot be proud of the fact that we are in a democratic country. Of course, it is better than many other countries.

If today 230 million people are going to sleep hungry, then, we must have a serious look at what has gone wrong. Representation of disadvantaged sections of the society, whether they belong to one religion or the other, in the service and other sectors of development, is much less than what it should have been. Therefore, there are sections which are the disadvantaged sections that have been alienated, that have been kept out of development of this country. So, everybody should be given an opportunity to participate in the building of this nation. They must be given their position also.

This occasion, when we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the First Sitting of Indian Parliament, it is our duty to see that these disadvantaged sections of the society, including the minorities, get their due share in the development of the country. That is the thought which should guide us in our deliberations and our future, actions.

Sir, I would like to say that we should introspect about of our treatment of the minority, our Constitution is very clear, our Constitution has given wider provisions to enshrine the rights and privileges of the minorities but it has to be

implemented. They should also have their rights and privileges. Such a Constitution should be upheld; such a Constitution should be implemented. Unless we do that, we cannot do justice to democracy. I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by my other friends also that this Parliament should show that we are all one in maintaining national unity. At the same time, I would like to say that the Indian Parliament has necessary will and expertise for bringing about progress and prosperity in the lives of millions of the people of our country, who are deprived of a better life today. At the same time, we must also see that people of our great country should give a fitting reply to those who try to malign the image of our country. But one reply by the other side was that they say, minorities have no rights and privileges. This is wrong. There may be some lapses. Minorities have rights and privileges as enshrined in the Constitution.

Not only that, here the propaganda let loose by anti-Indian people elsewhere has very much been defeated by our people. They would say that there is no cultural integrity or cultural security in regard to minorities. No, the Indian culture is a composite culture. That culture is integrated with the Hindu culture, Islamic culture, Christian culture, Buddhist culture and all the cultures. So far as minority Muslims of India are concerned, Indian Muslims culture is as strong as Red Fort, as strong as Qutub Minar, as beautiful as Taj Mahal, which no Indian, especially majority community will not allow it to be finished.

That is, maintaining India's unity, cultural unity, religious unity, national unity. Therefore, on this auspicious occasion, all of us are committed to maintain and to go ahead with national unity. May God bless this country to maintain its unity and integrity!

*[Translation]*

\*SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (Sheohar): Our democratic system is strongest in the world. Major contribution in this direction has been made by the deprived community. On this sixteenth anniversary of our Parliament we should make resolution that the underprivileged, poor and deprived people who could not get their rights, should not go unheard. Government should remove socio-economic disparity and

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

provide them with basic necessities. Then only India would become a prosperous and independent India. This would not only make the dream of Mahatma Gandhi true but would strengthen our democratic system also.

[English]

SHRI H.D. KUMARASWAMY (Bangalore Rural): It has been pointed out by various distinguished speakers, the journey of the Indian Parliament over the past 60 years has been historical and eventful. Charged with the responsibility of advancing the interests of the citizens of the largest democracy in the world, Parliament has weathered many storms, and has been witness to momentous achievements. This is the home of a vibrant emerging new India, poised to take its rightful place among the leading nations in the world in the not so distant future. We need to salute many great leaders, parliamentarians, indeed citizens from all walks of life who have contributed so much to the great journey that we, as a nation, are undertaking.

However, this must also be an occasion for stock taking, indeed introspection by us, parliamentarians. Have we fully given to the great people of India what they deserve, through our endeavours? Most of the basic promises made in the Directive Principles chapter in the Constitution lay nearly totally unfilled. The latest estimates released by the Government indicate that nearly two-thirds of the country is living in abject poverty. The quality of education at all levels, particularly at the primary and secondary stages has sharply deteriorated in the past decades — nearly every other Asian country has overtaken us in this key area, which has a bearing on the welfare of the future citizen. Our public health standards are among the lowest in the world, comparable with conditions in Sub-Saharan Africa. I could go on enumerating what we have not done to meet the basic essential needs of the average citizen. Sixty years is a long time in history, and we ought to have progressed much more than what we have achieved, or failed to. As the effective Board of Directors of the country, we, as Parliament, cannot escape direct responsibility.

While this is an occasion for celebration, this is equally a moment for serious introspection. Have we failed the people who have trusted us? Do we need to change ourselves — if so, in what manner? Ultimately, history will not forgive us, if the largest democracy does not mean complete and total welfare of the lowest citizen.

[Translation]

\*SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): Today our Parliament has completed sixty years of its existence. All of us have gathered here on the occasion of diamond jubilee celebration of the Parliament, which in itself, is a historic event I would, on this occasion, congratulate President Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, Lok Sabha Speaker Shrimati Meira Kumar and all the Members of Parliament. I would especially congratulate first Member of our Parliament Hon'ble Rishang Kishing, Resham Lal Jangde and K.S. Tilak.

Our democratic traditions and Indian representative institutions had been integral part of our prosperous culture heritage and have contributed for development of Indian Parliamentary democracy. In Vedic era about 3000 BC our institutions had emerged when public Complaint assemblies and elected Government was in vogue.

If you go through history, you will find first struggle for independence of India is an honourable incident of modern history of India, which has scrambled the roots of century old British rule in India and British Government was forced to bring about legislative reforms. As a result in the year 1861 Indian Council Act brought legislative decentralization scheme and for the first time a few legislative seats were provided to be filled up through election. Through Government of India Act of 1909 Legislative Council was expanded and their powers were enhanced and through this Morley-Minto Reforms were implemented.

Through Government of India Act 1919, provisions for bicameral legislature in Centre and responsible Government in provinces were made under this first Legislative Council was constituted in 1921.

Through Government of India Act, 1935 federal features and provincial autonomy were initiated and provision for distribution of legislative powers between Centre and Provinces were made. Central Legislature had been functioning for 25 years since 1921 to 1947.

Constituent Assembly under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad had a detailed deliberation 11 sessions spanning a long period of 11 months and 17 days in Central Hall of Parliament House, with the efforts of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who was Chairman of Drafting Committee other senior

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

members it came up with a largest constitution in the world, which had 395 Articles and 9 Schedules. On 26th November, 1949, we the people of India adopted this Constitution and on 24th January members of constituent assembly put their signatures on it.

On 26th January, 1950 the Constitution came into force. Immediate before the enforcement of Constitution constituent Assembly turned into a permanent Parliament of India and in this form it functioned till the first general elections in 1952 held on the basis of adult franchise.

According to Article 79 of Constitution of India Parliament of India is a bicameral legislature, which consists of a President and 2 Houses of Parliament, namely Rajya Sabha (Council of States) and Lok Sabha (House of the People). First time Rajya Sabha was constituted on 3rd April 1952 and first Lok Sabha was constituted on 17th April 1952. First historical sitting of both the Houses was held on 13th May 1952. Direct elections are held to form Lok Sabha, the lower House. In 1952, it had held a total of 489 sittings and today during fifteenth Lok Sabha there have been 545 sittings. Election to Rajya Sabha i.e. Council of States is held indirectly, where not more than 250 members are there.

As all of you know, the Parliament of India, which is Apex legislative and a deliberating body, is a biggest Panchayat of the country and is biggest abode of democracy. It has a most important and focal place in democratic system of country, which is the mirror of Indian society.

From the ancient time, to the medieval period to the British rule and thereafter also, our Parliament had been flourishing. All the members of Parliament had been carrying out their responsibilities imbibing the expectations of the even changing time and are busy with the process of governance.

I would like to bring it to the notice of all of you that our Lok Sabha was constituted on 17th April, 1952 and till now fifteen Lok Sabhas have been constituted after the general elections.

The Parliament in its long inning has become more strong in comparison to its earlier decades of independence. The social base of democracy has become broad and more deep and all the political parties have accepted the ideal of social justice.

It has been the big achievement of both the houses of Parliament that now they are representing more categories, sections, castes, professions and sects of India.

Today we can see the reflection of social, political and economic diversity of today's Indian society in Parliament. After the Constitution of the Committees of various departments, the efficiency of the Parliament has improved and has become possible to utilise the special talents of the M.Ps.

In the past, there have been fifteen speakers of fifteen Lok Sabhas and all the speakers have made important contribution in maintaining the continuity of Lok Sabha. Along with, I would like to say that the freedom fighter Late G.V. Mavalankar was the first Speaker of Lok Sabha and Dr. Radha Krishnan was the Chairman of Rajya Sabha and today Meera Kumar is the 15th Speaker of Lok Sabha and the first woman speaker. Today there are 60 women members in the Parliament. I would like that this number should increase.

Till date this Parliament has worked with Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Dr. Manmohan Singh and many stalwarts. These include bright leaders and Prime Minister like Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Bhupesh Gupta, Inderjit Gupta, Ram Manohar Lohia, Atal Bihari Vajpayee (who has been the Prime Minister of the country from N.D.A for six years) Madhu Limaye, Madhu Dandwate, Pilloo Modi who have left their indelible imprint on the working of Parliament. We are proud of this fact that despite many difficulties during the last five decades, we have kept our democratic type of Government secure in our democratic constitution.

There have been many important changes in the political behaviour of the people during the last fifty years. People have shed their caste discrimination which shows our rural power. Not less than one third posts have been reserved for women. It has enhanced the respect of women. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been given reservation in the matter of promotions.

Acts like, Hindu Marriage Act, 1956, Motor Transport Workers Act 1961, Personal Loss Act, 1961, Bonus Contribution Act, 1963, Juvenile Justice Act, 1972, Muslim Women Act, 1986, Women Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Act, 1988, National Women Commission Act, 1989,

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1996, Human Right Protection Act, 1999, Information Technology Act 2000, Universal Education Campaign 2003-04, Right to Information 2005, MANREGA 2006, Right to Education 2009 have been enacted. By seeing all this, it seems that the Parliament of India has a continuously strived to evolve itself as per the expectations and aspirations of the people.

The gap between the people and the Parliament has shrunk with the advent of direct telecast of the proceedings of the Parliament since 1997. Many astonishing changes have been witnessed in administrative set up economy and the society of India during the last six eventful decades. We faced many challenges and crossed many hurdles before the economy of the country and all the Parliaments and the Central Governments have realised the importance of electoral reforms.

With a view to make the Committee system more strong and effective to ensure administrative accountability, Departmentally related 17 Standing Parliamentary Committees were formed in 1993. All these Parliamentary Committees are playing a good role of link between the Parliament and the executive.

Parliament has played a prominent role in the great job of building a strong and united India. Parliament has always endeavored to be true to expectations of the people as a catalyst of social change.

Despite all this, many shortcomings in the proceedings of Parliament are as it is even today, which include Lok Pal Act, National Food Security, Prevention of Hawala and Laundering of black money. Nuclear Regulation, Copy Right, Seed Regulation University for Research and new initiative, National Sports Development and Land Acquisition. Along with all these, Women Reservation Bill is yet to take the shape of an Act. Changes are seen in the matter of issues raised in Parliament. International issues have started disappearing from the proceedings of the House and national issues are also diminishing considerably. Today, small parties can easily blackmail the Government and Parliamentary Constituencies have become market place of democracy.

There have been drastic changes in social, economic, administrative system of India during the last six eventful decades. The expectations of the masses have increased

manifold. Unity in diversity is the specialty of India, people are divided on the lines of caste and creed. All are exerting pressure on the Government as per their number power to grind their own axes — it has become challenge for the Government to give priority to the national issues. Large number of political parties and groups is the prime characteristic of the Indian political system. Due to the pressure tactic of Pradeshik parties for protecting their regional interest, the national parties are also forced to deviate from the national issues and look after regional interests.

The Opposition has essential and important role in the Parliamentary system of democracy. Today's Opposition may be tomorrow's ruling party. The increasing lack of tolerance in democracy is also a challenge. Some people feel that Parliament has lost its hall mark of discipline and dignity. It is losing its credibility amongst the people and as a result today people are agitated over it and speak irrelevant things about Parliament.

The time of Parliament is very valuable and it should be utilised to its optimum. Today even Government believes in parliamentary proceedings of less than 120 days. The time available should be utilised for positive and appropriate debate. It has become a challenge. It is a challenge before the Parliament to dispose of the business before it effectively.

As a public representative, there are two basic requirements to maintain the dignity of the Parliament, one is system itself and the other is integrity of those responsible for conducting the business. Ethics Committee was constituted on 16th May, 2000. It needs to be revived and made functional.

Half of the population in the country is that of women. Today we are raising the issue of women empowerment very strongly. Today no sector is devoid of women. For example the President, as well as the Prime Minister of the country have been women and in the present the speaker of Lok Sabha is a woman, Chairperson of UPA is a woman, Leader of Opposition is a woman and despite having Chief Minister of some States women, the issue of 33 per cent reservation for women is pending with the Government.

To win the confidence of the people in Parliament, there is a need for electoral reforms. The conflict between Parliament and the judiciary be resolved. The Parliament

can't fulfill the aspirations of the people rapidly and that is why the judicial involvement has increased. This is a challenge which needs to be considered.

In the year 1997, we had unanimously made some promises with the people of the country that we shall curb the menace of corruption and will eradicate the criminalisation of the politics but nothing as such can be seen.

In the last 15 years, that consensus proposals have been consigned to dust bin. Whether this has enhanced the prestige of the M.Ps? The Anguish of people is justified for that breach of promise. I would say that the members should remain alert with regard to their work and Sarvajan Sukhaye-Sarvajan Hitaye.

After the Constitution of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in 1952, the laxity started shadowing the moral issues. Everybody effected by corruption wants to get rid of it. The money power has made its grip over democracy.

The black money has over powered our economy by becoming a parallel economy. Time and again debate take place over it and promises are made by Government after Government but no concrete steps are taken to bring the money back. The other non-Government organizations have been able to raise this issue by starting agitations. The Parliament should play an active role in amending the ineffective laws of the country to bring the black money back and accept the challenge of winning back the faith of public.

If Parliament is to run properly, there should be two effective parties. The Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee himself has said that the collusion Governments are obstacle in the way of decision making process. It is not possible to take along everybody and as a result of which necessary decisions cannot be taken.

The regional factor creates hurdles in the decision making process. It is unfortunate for the Indian Parliamentary system that Food Security Bilk, Bima Suraksha Bill, Lokpal Bill, 33 per cent reservation for women, Retail Market Bill could not be passed due to it.

Some times, due to party politics, Central Constitutional institutions are politicised with the force of majority. These are the following factors of concern before the democracy-

Centre-State relations, the demand of reorganisation of States, decentralisation of power upto public, Misuse of Article 356, the problem of Jehadi Terrorism and Naxalism, Maoism Reform and regulation of laws with regard to political parties and electoral system, systematic political reform Parliamentary and judicial reform and review of public administration- all these need to be reformed so that these could become civic centers clean and devoid of corruption, transparent and accountable to the Government, population control, reservation policies and NCTC, Operation Green Hut, C.B.I, appointment of Governors are some issues which need to be addressed.

Earlier public was disturbed even with small scams involving a few lakhs but today scams involving thousands of crores do not create ripples. The hearings of the accused become a matter of routine. Common wealth games, 2-G Spectrum License, Adarsh Society, LIC Housing Loan, Lavasa Hill Station Projects, Nira Radia Tapes, Heavy subsidised foodgrains for BPL families of U.P. which were sold in the open market are some scams which compel us to hang our head in shame, but in such cases also, complete action has not been taken.

I, being an active woman worker, President of Women Front of the State, ex-chairperson of Gujarat Woman Commission, Member of Committee on Woman Empowerment and Woman member of the Present Lok Sabha, strongly demand that by passing the Bill with regard to 33 per cent reservation justice may be given to women and uphold the dignity of the Parliament.

Woman Empowerment and Woman member of the Present Lok Sabha, strongly demand that by passing the Bill with regard to 33 per cent reservation justice may be given to women and uphold the dignity of the Parliament.

Out of 121 crore population of our country, 65 crore i.e. 55 per cent are youths. Due to unemployment, starvation, illiteracy, they are creating a new problem for the country by indulging in anti- national activities. The Parliament should consider to form some youth Policy on the occasion of 150th Birth Anniversary of Respected Swami Vivekanand who was a guide figure for the youth so that they could be rescued from this despair and these direction less youth could be brought into the mainstream of development.

India was called golden sparrow and its 70 per cent population lives in villages and agriculture was considered the backbone of Indian economy and all the villages were self-sufficient. Our country was making progress by adopting the Swaraj pattern. But today farmers and agriculture both are on the verge of suicide. 42% of the farmers have left farming. On the one hand their paddy is rotting on the roads and on the other 23 per cent poor people are unable to make both ends meet. It is the demand of hour that we should ponder upon to recover ourselves from this economic policy of two Indias-India and Bharat.

There is resentment amongst people due to Naxalism, Maoism and Terrorism which has spread its tentacles in the country due to above reasons. People are fed up of their activities and more over kidnapping and ransom has become their profession or a means to get their demands accepted by the Government.

Till date there has not been complete ban on these organisations. The final verdict of the Supreme Court to hang the terrorist responsible for attack on the Parliament, could not be implemented. I would request that some competent policy may be evolved to curb the activities of these organisations and concrete steps should be taken against them. We have to fight unitedly against the challenges of poverty, unemployment, price rise, illiteracy, health, malnutrition, clear drinking water, environment protection, national security etc.

Once again I would remind that today our Parliament has completed 60 years and if I utter the words of the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, it has neither tired nor retired. Keeping in mind this Indian Parliament, the hon. Members should understand that time is changing, they have Parliament before their eyes but the public is nowhere. The public is state away rejecting the system which has emerged so far in the country. The democracy should not be considered a game of figures of 51 versus 49.

After reconsidering the basic elements according to the requirements of the 21st century, we have to march further. With this I hope that all the Members will work together by devoting their full time to maintain the supremacy of the Parliament.

\*SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (Cooch Behar): I have been given the opportunity to speak in the august House on this historic occasion of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament for which I am thankful to you, Chairman Sir. In 1947, on August 15, the country became independent after lakhs of martyrs shed their blood but the bitter truth of partition also come along. Five years later, on 13th May, 1952, the Parliament assembled for the first time. So we are grateful to our great constitution makers who under the able leadership of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar presented a stupendous document which guide us today. The constitution provides for a mutli-party system. Religion or community cannot run a country. Those who fought for freedom did not seek partition. Leaders like Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi never thought of partition. Even the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru did not want partition to take place. We actually fell prey to the conspiracy of the Britishers. On 14th August 1947, midnight the declaration of independence was made. The next day, the national flag was hoisted from the Red Fort. Lakhs of people had sacrificed their precious lives for the cause of freedom. Starting from Siraj-uddaula, Hyder Ali-Tipu Sultan to Binay-Badal-Dinesh, Mastarda Surya Sen, Pritilata Waddedar, Khudiram Bose of Bengal and Bhagat Singh of Punjab and scores of other martyrs who laid down their lives are the pride of this country. The Partition of the country took place at that time on the basis of religion. Religion cannot help any country prosper. Though the nation was divided into Pakistan and India in 1947, in the year 1971, independent Bangladesh was carved out not on the basis of religion but to achieve a separate identity, on the basis of language.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was the national leader who went abroad to set up his Azad Hind Fauj to fight for freedom. He should be remembered for the precious contribution he made.

Even after 65 years of independence, the society is not free from class divisions. There are also divisions based on colour, caste and religion. This is very shameful. On this auspicious day, we must take the vow that, there will not be illiteracy in our country. This is the land of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Raja Rammohan Roy. So no one should remain illiterate here. There should also not be any class distinction

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\*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.



in the society. So many years have passed but still there is no electricity connections in most of the villages. Healthcare facilities are absent, educational facilities are also next to nil in the remote areas. Even potable drinking water is also not available to the villagers. There are large number of school drop outs. Children do not get the opportunity to study in schools. There is a great divide between the haves and have nots; the rich and the poor. This scenario must change.

Cutting across party lines, we feel proud about the vibrant democracy of the country. We are elected to this House through universal adult franchise. People from every stratum of the society cast their vote and choose their representatives. They may be farmers, labourers, traders, or wealthy entrepreneurs, but they are our electors and selectors. I hail from a village and belong to a peasant family. But I am proud to represent my people in this Parliament. There were many stalwarts who have glorified this House like Lal Bahadur Shastri, Jawaharlal Nehru, Morarji Desai, Indrajit Gupta, Somnath Chatterjee, Bhupesh Gupta, Chitta Basu, Amar Roy Pradhan, Chitta Mahato, Babu Jagjiban Ram, Ram Manohar Lohia. There unparallel parliamentarians and great leaders have been our forefathers. We are grateful to their legacy.

Therefore it is not enough to discuss issues to celebrate the 60th anniversary, but we need to do much more. We need to go beyond the formality of speech-making. We should strive to strengthen the democratic tenets of the country and present a bright and rosy picture of our parliamentary democracy before the world. Let us take a solemn vow that there will be no illiteracy, no starvation deaths, no poverty stricken faces, no powerless villages, no thirsty throats. We should realize people's dreams, their aspirations and make sense of the discussions that are taking place today. shaheed Bhagat Singh had raised his voice and protested in this Parliament and had got himself arrested for achievement of freedom. He was hanged by the British Government for that audacity. Thus we must not forget the sacrifices of the great souls. The land of Bhagat Singh, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Subhash Bose, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Tipu Sultan should not be allowed to degenerate. The Government must announce pro-people policies so that their dreams can be made true. This is a pious land and we should always recall the contributions of the great leaders who led from the front. Once again I salute Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and thank you for

allowing me to participate in the discussion on this historic occasion. Now I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

\*SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY (Mandya): I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this historic event. It is a historical day as we all are assemble here to mark the 'sixty years journey of Indian Parliament'. It is the special day of the largest parliamentary democracy in the world. So, I am thankful to hon'ble Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar for making the opening remarks and hon'ble Finance Minister for initiating the discussion on this very important event. In these 60 years, Indian democracy has achieved several milestone.

Those were the days when only people belonging to a few section of the society entered into legislative bodies. But these days in order to "strengthening democracy" it has allowed the weaker sections of the society, women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities and other vulnerable sections to enter into this temple of democracy, the Parliament. This has a bigger impact on mainstream politics. This is an indication that roots of Indian democracy are strengthening and constitutional provisions for social justice are creating great opportunities to the people of all deprived classes and communities. To that extent, I would say our Indian Parliament has achieved a lot.

When it opened six decades ago, it was a highly revered institution, packed with stalwarts who won freedom for India and where debates were of high quality. Great leaders and oratories like Jawaharlal Nehru and Ram Manohar Lohia, Hiren Mukherjee and Pilloo Modi had contributed a lot. In recent years, MPs such as Ataul Bihari Vajpayee, Chandra Shekhar, H.D. Devegowda and Somnath Chatterjee upheld the tradition. The Parliament has its own decorum. I was maintained by all our elders. Unfortunately, these days that decorum has reduced the Houses of law making into platforms for partisan issues. Slogan-shouting and disruptions have become routine. It would undermine Parliament's credibility.

The Constitution of India has made very clear-cut provisions to ensure all round development of the country. But still we need to achieve the welfare of the people of our country. The Union Government should take all necessary

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

steps in this regard. And I would like to suggest that Central Government should think always in terms of the interest of the entire nation. There should not be scope for any individual and a particular political party's interest. We are here to safeguard all sections of the people of every nook and corner of the country. That is why, while taking decisions, the union government should always go beyond the individual political party affairs. Nation should be its first priority next comes other things.

People are expected to make the right noises on all these subjects. We should understand the pulse of the people and respect their sentiments. Therefore, I would like to suggest that a resolution should be passed on this occasion to ensure smooth running of the Houses of Parliament. In this, we must do something for meeting the expectation of the people of our country. Then only celebration of this kind of events would become meaningful.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ (Mohanlalganj): The data of 15th census held in 2011 clearly shows that the meagre 0.5 per cent GDP at the time of independency has been turned into 9 per cent at present by the hard work and performance of duty of all Indians. Though, the crisis prevailing at that time has been improved a lot even then the evils like malnutrition/ unemployment, discrimination and corruption are increasing in the country like white ant. We cannot ignore this truth but the strong and capable leadership can remove all these evils in time and India can be made a developed country from developing nations.

Every Indian has unlimited capability along with patriotism and we can achieve greatest victory with their dedication and hard work. Three wars were inflicted upon the country after independence out of which we got marvelous victory in two wars but unfortunately we lost 1962 war which gave deep injury and pain to every Indian. Now, we are making defence policies even more strong, our technical capability is best at the world level and we are atomic power too and the world is astonished at our space and other technological equipments. Indians are backbone in the field of science and technology almost in all the countries of the world.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

India has some such shortcomings which require urgent resolution. We have witnessed nearly 46 lakh and 30 thousand female foeticide cases in the country in the last six years. This is a very scaring data and it may give birth to several social evils due to considerable gap in the sex ratio and its result would be fatal if it is not improved. The States having less than 900 sex-ratio include Chandigarh with 818, Delhi with 866, Haryana with 877, Jammu and Kashmir with 833, Sikkim with 889, Punjab with 893, Andaman and Nicobar islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

This sex-ratio data of children challenges the traditional concepts of development and modernisation. The resolution of problems only through law is not guaranteed. The society needs awareness and favorable environment.

The Indian ranking in the survey regarding malnutrition, low weight and slow growth in infants in this agriculture dominated country exposes the Government policies and programmes. As per UNICEF report, out of 1.9 crore low weight infants born in developing countries annually 74 lakh are from India and Indian ranking in case of severe malnutrition is 12th. Likewise, the prevalence of below average weight children in the age group of five years is 30 per cent in 17 countries which include the countries like Bangladesh, India and Timore Leste and Yemen which is a matter of grave concern.

The tobacco tendency in the school going children is developed by the persons having criminal background in the beginning and it is increasing at a very fast pace. As per a survey, the prevalence of tobacco addiction in the age group 13-15 years in Goa is 3.3 per cent and 62.6 per cent in Nagaland.

The electronic and print media remain full of news regarding crimes and sexual assault against children in the country. As per the data of National Crime Bureau, nearly five thousand and five hundred children became victim of sexual assault in 2010, it is Government data and nobody is aware of it and nobody is sure of their accuracy.

Our country dreams to become the world power but the data of National Crime Bureau indicates that the violence against children has become out of control. In Delhi, various crimes are committed against 16 children out of one lakh.

Everyone knows the Nithari incident at Noida near Delhi a few years back. This incident is a clear cut instance of hateful crimes against children in India throughout the world. This incident forces us to make and implement strict law.

I always engage myself with full seriousness in social works along with my strong determination to bring India on the highest level through my reformatory thinking and creativity and I hope that India would definitely be a developed country.

\*SHRI JITENDRA SINGH BUNDELA (Khajuraho): Today we have assemble here to celebrate the diamond jubilee of democratic system of the world's best democratic country. I congratulate all on this occasion and pray to God and Indian Parliament create confidence in the democratic system throughout the world by continuously strengthening its dignity. At the same time, I congratulate the public of this country that it has given a strong reply whenever the democratic system in this country has been attacked. The first sitting of our parliamentary system was organised on May 13, 1952. This is an historic date. I consider myself lucky that I am a part of this commemoration of the 60th anniversary. Despite several and ups and downs our parliamentary system is the best in the world and an ideal tradition for the world.

The strengthening of democracy in the country is visible from the instance that in the first sitting the dominance was that of the national parties of the country but gradually in the last sixty years the public has enhanced the importance of the regional parties by strengthening the roots of the democracy. Today regional parties are in power in various states. This is the great transformation witnessed by the country. But on the other hand, the people's representatives and the various political parties have stood strongly with the Government at the time of crisis in the country and helped to come out of the crisis. But the democracy of the country has never allowed any Government to adopt autocracy and arbitrary ways and means. The democracy of the country has such examples too. Shrimati Indira Gandhi imposed emergency on the country and put the leaders of non-congress parties behind bars but the public of this country uprooted congress today.

The then President of the country while addressing the first sitting of the Parliament highlighted the then prevailing problems in the country and asked to resolve them through

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

parliamentary system. The proceeding of the Parliament is as much important event today as it was in the first meeting. There has been a long history of meaningful debate in the meetings of the Members of Parliament. The leaders like Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and several other leaders gave a new dimension to parliamentary debates and sittings. But the common man is feeling the decline in the level of parliamentary proceedings and its integrity. The country is facing more and more challenges, whereas, the number of sittings has been declining constantly.

Today we have assembled here for strengthening the parliamentary and democratic machinery. Earlier, on the occasions of 50th anniversary of our independence a special session was convened and several resolutions were passed.

Today we have to evolve a mechanism, whereby, we can come over the challenges before the country in a democratic way. Though, there is total faith in our democratic system, still we find occasions when our system comes under attack and the faith of common men in our representatives is eroding which is a matter to be taken seriously. We should make endeavor to prevent recurrence of incident which occurred in Upper House, i.e. Rajya Sabha at 12 o'clock midnight during debate on Lok Pal Bill. Today there is a need to ponder over seriously as to how we can present our day to day proceedings in the House, our behavior in the House, our character before the public in a well-defined way.

On the one hand, our country is rapidly moving on the path of development, whereas, on the other hand, the cases of corruption, poverty, starvation, deaths and malnutrition have increased at an alarming rate. Today, more than 30 crore people in the country are unable to get two square meals every day. Further, it is more unfortunate that our Government treats the person earning Rs. 24 per day in villages and Rs. 28 per day in cities above poverty line. It is a matter which needs serious thought as to how a person earning just Rs. 28 per day is above poverty line.

The basic spirit of our Constitution that the Government is of the people, for the people and by the people lacks somewhere. We should work in accordance with this spirit of the Constitution. We should resolve it strongly that we shall at no cost protect or honor the criminals and the corrupt. There would be no soft corner for terrorists and they would be punished without loss of time. We must adopt the policy of zero tolerance so far as terrorists or terrorism is concerned.

Today, we are celebrating diamond jubilee of our Parliament. I thought that the Government may make announcement launching of some social or economic programmes which may benefit the common man in some way, but nothing of this sort happened, therefore, I am somewhat unhappy.

[English]

\*SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (Kancheepuram) : On 17th April 1952, the first Parliament was constituted but it commenced its first sitting on 13th May, 1952. But the first Lok Sabha was dissolved after 5 years on 4th April, 1957. The first Lok Sabha had 677 sittings and worked for 3784 hours. Mr. G.V. Mavalankar was the first Speaker and Mr. Ananthasayanam Iyengar was the Deputy Speaker.

The Parliamentary procedures laid down by Mr.G.V. Mavalankar is being followed till date. He is considered as "Father of Lok Sabha".

The first Parliament was decorated by stalwarts like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Feroz Gandhi, Syama Prasad Mukerjee, Kamaraj, Kakkan, S.A. Dange and many others.

Mr. Rishant Keising (Manipur) and Mr. Resham Lal Jangde (Chattisgarh) are the only two surviving MPs of First Lok Sabha. Mr. Rishant Keising is now a sitting MP of Rajya Sabha.

Subsequent Parliaments were represented by stalwarts like Sarvashri. Feroz Gandhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Bhupesh Gupta, Madu Limayee, Jyothi Basu, Pilloo Mody, and several other prominent persons.

Sarvashri, O.V. Alagesan, A.K. Gopalan, T.T. Krishnamachari, P.Kakkan, R. Venkataraman, Smt. Maragatham Chandrasekhar and other eminent people represented Tamil Nadu. Shri R. Venkataraman has become President of India subsequently.

Shri Pasumpon Muthuramlinga Thevar has represented three terms in Parliament. The King Maker, Shri Kamaraj represented the Lok Sabha twice from 1952-54 and 1969-75. He was instrumental in bringing two Prime Ministers viz Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri. He was instrumental in bringing free education and mid-day meals scheme during his tenure as Chief Minister.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

There were several veteran parliamentarians from Tamil Nadu who decorated the House due to their dedication and sincerity. It will be a long list but I have to mention some of their names viz. S/Sh. C.N. Annadurai, one of the greatest orators of Tamil Nadu, Era Sezhiyan, P. Ramamurthi, Kumari Ananthan, Murasoli Maran, and several others.

Mr. P. Chidambaram was first elected to Lok Sabha from Sivaganga constituency in 1984. He was re-elected from the same constituency in the general elections of 1989,1991, 1996, 1998, 2004 and 2009. A scion of a prominent industrial family from Madras, Mr. P. Chidambaram chooses to stay away from the predictable path of joining the family business and went into politics. He is one of the leading lawyers of this country and also having MBA from Harvard Business School. He is one of the able administrators and served in the Union Government in various Ministries. His debates, speeches in Parliament are outstanding and a guide to several young parliamentarians.

The foot print laid down by these great leaders will be followed by the young parliamentarians who come to the forefront subsequently. I am very proud to be a Member of the august House on the occasion of 60th anniversary.

[Translation]

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Indian parliamentary democracy today completes its journey of 60 years. I am extremely proud to be able to participate in this special session as a people's representative.

The countrymen have not only kept our parliamentary democracy alive but have strengthened it more and more inspite of immense hurdles and adverse provocations for 60 long years. We salute our people for this. History has proved that only parliamentary system of democracy was capable of tying together all the people belonging to different castes, creeds, regions, religions and languages. No other system could achieve this togetherness.

Today as we commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the first sitting of the Parliament, we should properly evaluate the successes and failures so that Indian democracy becomes more vibrant, more robust in future; so that it can realize the dreams and aspirations of the citizens.

In this context I want to mention few very significant points here.

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

First, we should see how the democratic system has actually evolved in the country. In the last 60 years, a large part of the population gradually has become aware of its democratic rights and that has been evident in the previous 15 Lok Sabha elections and numerous assembly elections. But much more needs to be done. Even today, the rate of universal suffrage is approximately 50%. In our multi-party system, even if a party gets 20% of the votes, it gets the mandate to rule the nation. This is not desirable.

The second important trend is the increase in the number of wealthy members in the House.

It is very alarming that the present election system is having untoward repercussions on the functioning of our democracy. Therefore, in the past, penniless social workers used to get elected but now they don't even get nomination as against rich competitors. Those who really want to serve the people, to help them realise their dreams do not get a chance to come to this august House. Thus there is an urgent need of electoral reforms.

The basis of the success of parliamentary democracy is free and fair election. To ensure fair polling, the Election Commission takes various praiseworthy measures from time to time. But it is also the responsibility of the Government and the legislature to keep the election process free from money and muscle power.

Thirdly, and most significantly, we should think about the role of our Parliament in uplifting, the socio-economic condition of the huge population of this country. By the 42nd Constitution Amendment the phrase 'socialist' was incorporated in the Preamble of the Constitution with a greater cause in view.

But since the 90s, this socialist essence has been replaced by the policies of economic liberalization and globalization. Indirectly capitalism is being sponsored while the corporate houses are controlling the Government policies. As a result, people are being deprived of food, shelter, education, healthcare facilities etc. This is the adverse effect of capitalism which is spreading its tentacles in India and hampering the social and economic progress of the nation.

We should continuously strive for establishing the rights of common people and must struggle through democratic means to achieve real independence. It can be also mentioned here that the leaders who fought the struggle for

freedom like Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Ram Manohar Lohia, Lal Bahadur Shastri, J.P.Narayan, Sardar Patel should be remembered at this juncture. We must also recall the contributions of Tridib Chawdhury, Chitta Basu, Hiren Mukherjee, Indrajit Gupta, Devilal, Charan Singh, Atal Behari Vajpayee, V.P.Singh, Sucheta Kripalini and such other leaders who have led from the front. We should never forget what our forefathers did for this great nation and must carry forward the legacy.

With these few words, thank you all for allowing me to speak in this august House and I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Sir, first of all I would like to pay my homage to the great leader of my Party, 'Salar-e-Millat'. It is because of his great hard work that our Party has been represented in this august House. I would also like to thank the constituents of my constituency for reposing faith in us.

On this historic occasion, I would like to bring to the notice of the august House that 15 Lok Sabhas elections have taken place. And the biggest concern and the grievance of the Muslim community is that in the 15 Lok Sabhas elections that have been held, only 471 Muslims have been elected to this august House; whereas, according to their population, 908 numbers should have been elected. This is the deficit of nearly 48 per cent. It is a huge deficit. This is a real cause of concern for those parties who, at the drop of the hat, claim to be the saviours of minorities. This is the main reason for Muslims being socially, educationally and economically backward. In 1947, we stayed back. Why? We stayed back because it is our country, and also because of our faith in Parliamentary democracy. But what have we experienced? What have we got?

If you see the data also, the only socio-religious community which exercises the highest number of votes are the Muslims. Not less than 70 to 80 per cent of Muslims in each and every election of State and Parliament exercise their votes. But what is the result? Are we getting proper distributive justice? No, Sir, we are not getting proper distributive justice. I feel and I am of the strong opinion that the time has come for this country to strongly debate whether we should still continue with this 'first-past-the-post' system or whether we should adopt proportional representation system. I am of the opinion that time is now ripe for this country

so that the weaker sections, the oppressed community, the minorities can get adequate representation only by adopting proportional representation system.

If we are not represented in Legislatures, in Parliament, then this representative deficit will continue. This gap, this vacuum, which is there, will be filled by whom? It will be filled by those fringe elements who do not believe in Parliamentary democracy. Let me be honest in saying that 60 years have not healed our pain; it has only dried our tears. I want to give you an example. There are 118 Lok Sabha seats in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Out of these 118 Lok Sabha seats, there is only one Muslim who is representing 118 seats. This is what you call a participatory democracy. We talk about adopting the 'inclusive economics', but what about politics? Why do not we talk about the inclusive parliamentary democracy?

My second important point is this. On this historic occasion, I would like to request through you to the Government that let there be an institutionalised dialogue between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. On every Tuesday in Westminster Parliamentary System, the Prime Minister meets the Queen. Let the Leader of the House to meet with the Leader of the Opposition so that our outstanding agenda can be completed.

The third point is about what Shri Madhu Limaye wrote in March 13, 1967. He had mentioned five points which are still relevant now. If this House adopts those five points mentioned by Shri Madhu Limaye, the Chair will become very strong. One of the strong points of Shri Madhu Limaye was, 'Let the Speaker of this august House be above all political parties. The Speaker should resign from political party.' And his next point was, 'No political party should put a candidate against the Speaker. The Speaker should be given a pension for life long'. These five are important points, which I feel, are right on the present democracy of ours and have to be adopted.

The third important is this. Why is it that in the 60 years of our existence, the respect for Parliament is there but the respect for Parliamentarians is not there? It is not there because we do not deserve it. It is not there because we have not risen up to that occasion. Day in and day out, if we disrupt this House, how can we expect that the people of India grant us respect?

Sir, the word 'Parliament' comes from the French word 'Parley' which means 'to speak'. But what are we doing? We do not speak over here; we do not discuss and debate the burning issues of the common man. But what we do, we go to TV studio and discuss and debate over there. This is how the respect we are paying to this august House.

Sir, if this destruction of decorum and dignity of Parliament continues, let me point out you that in our country right now one-third of our districts are in the throes of insurgency. If we do not rise up and protect the decorum and dignity of this House, these anti-democratic forces will get strengthened more.

It is high time that we restore the dignity and decorum of this august House. We say that Parliament is sovereign. No, Sir, I say, Parliament is not sovereign. Parliament's sovereignty is in books, it is not in reality. Our sovereignty has been taken away by the courts. It has been taken away by our wrong behaviour.

There are three separation of power – Legislative, Executive and Judiciary. The Legislature is at the weakest point now. The Executive has never been so weak. Why is it happening? It is happening because introspection has to be done.

The last point to which I want to come to is this. Let us rededicate to make Parliament sovereign. We must have our own agenda and not the agenda that has been imposed on us by those forces who are not accountable to the people, they are only accountable to their own bank accounts. Let Parliament put its own agenda. Let us ensure that our agenda is debated, that is the people's agenda. That is for what the people have sent us over here. If Parliament does not change, I am forced to say that this House will become an old school boy network. This House will become a House of oligarchy. This House will become a House wherein Muslim voices will never be heard. This is the challenge to this democracy.

If we do not rise up, this Parliamentary democracy can become sophocracy. This is a challenge to all the Members including me. I am a pessimist. I do not know whether I am right or wrong. I hope I am proved wrong. But in conclusion I would like to say that please ensure that Muslim voices are heard; Muslims get elected and come over here. If that is not the case, a day will come when we will lose the faith in this system. That will be wrong for our democracy because we

still have enough and immense confidence. It is for those parties who talk day in and day out. I am tired of being a coolie of secularism. I do not want to carry the baggage of secularism. For God's sake, in the garb of secularism, do not destroy our chance of coming to the august House.

\*SHRI CHARLES DIAS (Nominated): Today, we celebrate the 60th anniversary of Lok Sabha. This is no doubt, a proud moment for all of us, that the democracy in our country sustained even amidst the complex social conditions, after the onslaught of all kinds of adversities caused by multi-lingual, multi religious, multi-cultural and multi-racial groups.

The Lok Sabha was duly constituted for the first time on 17th April 1952, after the first general elections held from 25th October 1951 to 21st February 1952. The first Session of Parliament was held on 13th May 1952.

The Republic of India with a Constitution claims a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic and secures its citizens, justice, liberty, equality and assuring fraternity.

Undoubtedly, Parliament is the institution that can claim the maximum credit for creating conditions for democracy to flourish in the country. It is this vibrant institution that brought changes in the country by enacting laws in a broader social perspective.

How far the Parliament could bring changes to its citizens has to be evaluated by the progress the country has achieved during the past sixty years. From a country with 30 crores population during 1950, to the present 120 crores populated country, India has traveled a long way. The living conditions of our people have definitely improved. The revolutionary laws from bank nationalization to Right to Information the five year plans and the Right for Free and Compulsory Education, the nation has passed many milestones.

But, the improvement of a large section of people is still a challenge to the nation. The literacy rate has to be increased in many states; providing drinking water and healthy sanitation facilities. Food and health care are areas of vital concern.

Political stability is a big question for the last more than twenty years. The so called concept of a healthy bi-party system is still to be achieved in our country. From 4 or 5 main political parties in 1950, it is now more than 40 parties that have come forward to serve the people. This has made Indian

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

political system more complex, which according to me shows the attitude of our social groups. Whether this multiplicity of parties will help Indian democracy is a big question. The creation of political instability because of pressure groups has already created unhealthy trends in our political system.

The frequent disruptions in Parliament for every odd reason has caused delay in law making, made hindrance to healthy debate, and even caused passing of important bills without discussion. The disruption of question hour take away the rights of Members and denies opportunities for people to redress the grievances through the forum of Parliament. While, our Parliamentary system provide opportunities for raising any kind of matter through various clauses stipulated in the rules, disrupting the proceedings is defying the democratic system.

The time lapsed by way of disruptions, cause disturbance to time allocated for debates and cause hindrance to complete the listed business. This trend of disrupting the Parliament has made the Parliamentarians belittle among the common people. On the occasion of 60th Anniversary, the Members have to think seriously about this aspect and even though there is a Committee on Ethics, this problem has to be reviewed by appointing a new committee and a fresh outlook has to be created.

On this historic occasion, I salute the generous framers of our sacred Constitution and founding fathers of our Parliament and join my colleagues in celebrating the 60th Anniversary.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI PREMDAS (Etawah): Today we are celebrating 60th anniversary of Lok Sabha. On these great occasion, I would like to say that the people of country have full faith in Lok Sabha. Lok Sabha is a great mirror which reflects the faith of the whole country. We have contributed a lot in India's development and our country has emerged as a super power. We are happy that our country has developed a lot, but we still need to take it further as it is a vast country.

The most backward people among us should also realise that they are better in India. Everyone should taste the fruits of democracy. Today, on this occasion, I salute our soldiers, who have sacrificed their lives for the country. Agriculture is a dominant profession in our country, but it is getting poorer

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

day by day. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen it. Attention should be paid for providing education, health services, employment to the common man and there is a need to give special opportunity to people. And also there is a need that we give a good message to the masses so that coming generation have faith in us.

We have paid attention on providing education and bridging the gap between the rich and the poor, but let us not sit idle. There is a need for making concerted efforts in this direction till it is rooted out. We have been elected to the Lok Sabha by mercy of people. We will have to have a big heart so that the country can develop further.

“Kuch hum badlen, kuch tum badlo,

Fir Jalim Jamana Badlega.”

[English]

\*SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Guwahati): This is the pride moment for this largest democratic country of the world.

Today, I remember those great persons who fought for the country's Independence and those lakhs of people of India who sacrifice their lives for this cause.

I do offer my sincere prayer for the great departed souls of Founding Fathers of our Constitution.

Ours is a federal country. Here is overall development of each and every component of the country. There are individual States. If every State grows equally then our democracy can strive with proper growth.

For this, once again I remember great personalities who helped the country to grow and stand equal among huge countries of the world. I wish our country can fulfill all the expectations of the people.

[Translation]

SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO (Tezpur): Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this historical occasion of 13 May, 2012. I congratulate my colleague M.Ps on behalf of Assam Gana Parishad for our entry into 60th year. My predecessor Speakers spoke very well on various issues. I would speak in brief and conclude.

First of all, I pay my tribute to those, who sacrificed their lives for enabling us to see this day. At the same time, I

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

remember the founding fathers of our Constitution. I remember all those who had to sacrifice their lives to protect this House and kept it in tact.

It was Mahatma Gandhi's dream that no one in this country should remain poor, everyone should enjoy Swaraj, but it has not been fulfilled. Today, the ball is in our court, in our hands, in the hands of the Parliament. Let us endeavour to fulfill it in a better way. It would be good if we do something for the country.

Let us make efforts for bringing the black money to our country stashed abroad. It would solve many problems. Today, I won't speak much, I would conclude by expressing my thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on his historical occasions. I expect everyone to do something for the country.

[English]

\*SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA (Warangal): I am very much proud to be in the 15th Lok Sabha wherein our august House celebrating unique, historical, glorious 60th Anniversary of our Indian Parliament.

At this occasion, I want to draw the kind attention of the august House the situation and the fate of our country at pre-Independence period wherein the people of our country were treated as slaves in our own country.

Mahatma Gandhi ji, the Father of our Nation, with the help of several stalwarts of our country took up the movement for Independence.

The Britishers were in possession of muscle, money, weapon, wealth, knowledge, skill in their hands.

Contrary to this, the people of our country were suffering with a great degree of poverty, innocence, ignorance, illiteracy, inequality, with region, caste, creed and other disparities.

The habitations were spread out across the country without any communications.

Mahatma Gandhiji identified peace, non-violence, satyagraha, non-co-operation as our weapons and used them to face the Britishers and succeeded in this path.

India being the sub-continent formed into Indian Union duly re-marking and de-marking the boundaries (Provinces) of the country.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



We have declared the Indian Union as sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic assuring our citizens justice, equality and liberty and endeavours to promote fraternity among the people.

The beauty of our democracy is equality in voting rights among rich, poor, literate or illiterate.

The spirit of our democracy is of the people, by the people, by the people and for the people.

We have confirmed ourselves for the federal system of Parliamentary democracy.

With all the limitations like illiteracy, poverty and various diversities, the Indian Parliamentary democracy has proven to be largest and strongest and became role-model to the entire globe.

We strongly believe that unless and until the people actively participate in a big way in the democratic process, the fruits of the democracy shall not reach the last man.

We have initiated several steps to bring the people together and participate actively in the democratic process by way of de-centralisation of the democratic system.

We brought in a revolutionary Constitutional Amendment 73 & 74 to make the people to participate in the democratic process actively including women.

Though we are divided across (socially, economically) but we are united and strong.

Ever since from Independence, our Indian democracy is sustaining strongly without any leakage, breakage.

I, once again, proud to say that the people of our country are united and shows unity in diversity.

This country, through our Parliamentary democracy, faced several challenges every since Independence.

Our country initiated several steps for reduction of poverty and to attain self-sufficiency.

The Parliament brought several amendments and initiated programmes in the areas of health, education, science and technology.

In the democratic system, problems are inevitable for which debates and discussions are only the ways to find solutions.

Constructive, meaningful discussions and extension of public support is only the strength of our Indian Parliamentary democracy.

I hope, our Parliament shall find such ways wherein the participation level of the people will improve qualitatively and quantitatively in the days to come.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kottayam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to use this opportunity to pay respect to the founding fathers of the Constitution, the Members of Parliament who have graced this House since its inception and also express my gratitude to the people of Kerala, especially my constituency, Kottayam, for having given me this privilege to represent the constituency during the 60th year of the Indian Parliament.

We chose parliamentary system as it ensured responsibility and stability in governance. Our Parliament has been ensuring accountability of the Executive for the last sixty years through Questions, Resolutions, No-confidence Motions, Adjournment Motions and Debates put forward by the Members of Parliament. But this institution's role does not end by ensuring accountability alone. It also has to participate in the Legislative Business and apply its collective wisdom in considering and passing of the legislations placed in the House.

The Parliament, in the last sixty years, passed laws which have had far reaching impact in the society. Be it the laws abolishing the social ills like untouchability, dowry system or empowering ones like reservation of seats for women in our local bodies, land reforms, and the Bills like MGNREGA, Right to Education and Right to Information. But this tool for social engineering is facing internal and external challenges which we must overcome and to stay relevant in the present times. These days, much of economic decision-making is governed by international treaties but our Parliament does not have a system of effective treaty monitoring in place. Lack of such system has impeded the ability of the Legislature to negotiate with the signing parties and obtain favourable terms of trade for the country.

The other point which I would like to mention is that these days, more powers are being delegated by the Government to non-elected institutions like independent Central Banks, utility commissions, market regulators, independent human rights commission and transnational institutions.

The reason for this process of delegation is to increase transparency and accountability. But we lack a viable concept of parliamentary oversight over these institutions. As a consequence of this, the courts are playing a big role in the Indian politics by holding parliamentary legislation to a greater scrutiny, going beyond the court's core jurisdiction of protection of rights.

Another point I would like to express is the slow pace in passing of the legislations, which has led to rise in issue of ordinances, which again has resulted in Parliament losing out on a day-to-day scrutiny of the Executive.

The public perception of Parliament is also changing due to change in people's aspirations. In the present time, people aspire for education, good jobs and quality living conditions. But the people feel that there is a gap between their demands and the ability of the Government to deliver the same.

Let me conclude, Sir. Since this is the situation prevailing in the country, a beginning in course correction must be made by the House. Our first Lok Sabha used to meet for 127 days a year and pass, on an average, 72 Bills every year. Therefore, to raise the Parliament's esteem in the eyes of the people, we must work towards constantly improving the quality of debates and immediately address the increasing tendency of stalling the parliamentary proceedings to register dissent.

We should devote more time towards law-making and make the Committee system more effective in order to oversee the Government's function and to scrutinize the legislations in a better way.

With these few words, I conclude.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI O.S. MANIAN (Mayiladuthurai): Our Parliament has completed 60 years and we have assembled here holding a special session and I am thankful to you for the opportunity to record my views delightedly on this occasion.

August 15, 1947 is a golden day and a scared day and we enjoy from that day our freedom. It is universally acknowledge that great men come to the fore whenever evil is to be overcome and good is to meet with victory. In this world which has seen Buddha, Gandhi and Jesus, we have

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\*English translation of the Speech originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

this holy land called India which has seen several freedom fighters who lost their everything and suffered in the presence and even gave away their lives for the freedom of this country. On this occasion, we remember their sacrifices and pay homage to them.

We have a duty ahead of us to identify the leaders who have contributed their mite to safeguard our freedom, rightly guide our democracy and preserve the sovereignty of this country. We must pay a rich tribute to the leaders who have contributed to raise the image of this country as a great democratic country in the comity of nations. We must also identify those who try to divide the society in the name of caste, community and language.

It is appreciable a sense of pride that we feel one as Indians in spite of our having different states, languages and cultures varying and differing from one another.

In these 60 years, our country has seen several changes and much of development. We have improved our life standards. We have progressed in a revolutionary way both in providing educational opportunities and job opportunities. Still, the population increase throws a big challenge to us. We have 120 crores of people and on one hand we feel proud that we have several hands to work and produce, it is also a matter of worry that we have too many mouths to feed and our needs throw a very big challenge to us.

In order to overcome threats from the neighbouring countries, we have always endeavoured to improve our foreign relations in a respectable way. India had never aspired to occupy the territories of others. It never declared war on others and never succumbed to any war threat. We have always got respectable victories and hence I deem it fit to bestow a valiant salute to those soldiers who made it possible.

We have super powers and the developed world on the one side and the developing countries on the other. We also have countries that struggled to fulfill their basic needs, necessities and requirements and looking forward to the developed countries. We are also having countries that are oil rich and hence very rich. In the comity of nations, we upheld non-aligned movement and had won many friends. I pay rich tribute to those leaders and I consider it necessary on this occasion.

Though we may have several things to feel proud of, we must also understand that there are still certain parts of the

country that do not have even the basic amenities. Untouchability and caste-discrimination have not been uprooted fully and hence we find men who divide and discriminate. In all these 65 years of Independence, we have not wiped-out the social evil is saddening.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the social revolution brought about by the great leaders like Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna, our revolutionary leader MGR and the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, revolutionary leader Hon. Amma has enabled Tamil Nadu to have an all-round development holding its head high among the states.

I feel proud to say that India is my country and all the Indians are my brothers and sisters. At the same time, I have a question arising with a sense of anguish. How can one State say that the rain water, the gift of the Nature belongs to that state only? How can they claim overriding rights over it? How can they deny sharing water with the neighbouring state? How can they say that they will not release water? How can they say that no one has a right to decide on the river water sharing? Is it fair and justify to say that we will not we will ignore even the apex Court of the land? Can we not find an end to it? It is 65 years since we have won freedom. Our Parliament has completed 60 years. Can we not resolve this water dispute? I wish that day come soon. I firmly believe that. I hope Parliament and Court of justice can bring about an amicable solution to this problem.

National parties running the governments at the Centre with their own majority has become a thing of the past. We are witnessing a change now and the multi-party governments with the support of the regional parties have become the order of the day. I hope this will put an end to narrow-mindedness, parochialism and regionalism. Henceforth, we can aspire to see resolution to problems as they could be solved collectively.

I would like to express my very strong desire to have a credible administration enjoying the majority support of the people from various sections of the society. Those who come to power must give up bribe, overcome scam and avoid the misuse of the official machinery and they must strive to win over the people from all walks of life ensuring a better administration.

We all know that politicians are subjected to severe criticism. On this occasion of 60th Anniversary of Parliament of India, the politicians and political workers must evolve a

new approach, follow a new path and create an atmosphere for the future generations to come to public life.

We have Railways, Postal Department and few other Departments that link the North and South of the country but I do not know when we are going to have the day when we will have River Ganges and River Cauvery get linked. Only on that day, we can raise our head proudly as a great nation India. All we Indians can feel proud of our country India on that day. On this day, I hope that that day may not far off.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): It is a historical Occasion. Your elevation to the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Kariya Mudaji as Deputy Speaker, a woman being our hon. President, a woman being Chairperson of UPA are the examples of the extent to which our democracy has matured in the past 60 years. It reflects that the disparities which existed before our independence in our society especially during the slave dynasty, the Mughal era or in British rule are no more existing and our women are placed in honorable positions as has been our ancient culture. We recognise two things- "Yatra Nariyaste Pujayante, Ramante Tatra Devta" and "Ayan Nija Paroveti Ganana Laghuchetsam, Ud Chanitanam Turn, Vasudhev Kutumbkum." But during intervening period, the rulers tempered with our Vedas, our culture and divided the society. If we take the example of our two epics- the two pillars of Hinduism, one the Ramayana, written by Maharishi Balmiki, considered to be a dalit, second the Mahabarata, under which the message of Gita was given the world over was written by Maharishi Vedvyasa, a son of a fisherman. Similarly, Lord Shri Krishna was a Yaduvashi. Further, the founding father of our Constitution, the foundation stone of India's democracy, Baba Saheb Ambedkar. These four examples indicate that the society was no more divided on casteist lines. And the past 60 years have revived old Indian culture and civilization and also bridge the gap between castes, religion or classes. The development achieved by our country is definitely praise worthy. Discipline, equity, harmony, development, secularism words are sweet to hear but there are some lapses which needs to be analysed. Corruption is increasing day by day and no law has been able to check it. And consequently, the faith of people in us is declining and it is weakening like an intolerant person, we are not able to digest this attack and therefore there is a need

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

to introspect. The common man are perplexed by issues like corruption. There is a need to evolve a mechanism for making the system transparent so that people get sigh of relief.

During the past 60 years, we brought an end to independent States and acceded too small States and brought India on world's map. But, again we are moving towards nepotism, dynasty rule which is not a good signal for democracy. Therefore, there is a need to ponder over it.

Though the Constitution envisaged an egalitarian society but the gap between rich and poor is further widening. Our education system is helpful in creating more gap between English, Hindi and other regional languages and the gap between the facilities of health, water, basic infrastructure being provided in villages and in cities is constantly widening. Consequently, the number of unorganized labour, unemployed youth, children facing malnutrition, sick women is constantly increasing.

In view of it, we should strive hard for creating egalitarian, castes less society and develop religious tolerance for strengthening democracy. Otherwise, terrorism, naxalism will again divide our secular country in pieces.

But there are certain achievement which provide us strength to tackle these shortcomings. Today, we are in a position of producing foodgrains for the population of over 120 crore by virtue of farmers. If we are able to make adequate irrigation facilities India can become a major fodgrain exporting country. The role of different Governments important in this regard. The number of illiterate persons has declined since independence. The Right to Education is a mile- stone in this regard. The Vajpayee Government without caring for what the world would say carried on further the task of atomic explosions and tests started by Indira Gandhi. He showed that despite economic sanctions by America, Japan and other developed countries India is strong enough to stand on its own feet. The whole world has recognised India's advancement in telecommunication and information technology. If our project for providing power, rural roads and drinking go on schedule, it would enable us to bridge the gap between a village and a city. Today, we have occupied a respectful position in the World Bank, IMF, G-8, G-24 and ASEAN and other international forums. The whole world wants to come with India. They want to invest in India. Poor man, man from small cities and small villages has become our policy maker. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singhji, Sam Pitroda, Kalam Saheb are the example. We

need to take these things further. If this House adopts the policy of creating new opportunities, irrigating every field, job for all, then India will again become number one country in the world, where there would be no rich, no poor, no castes and there will be religious harmony. All world live peacefully. On this occasion, we should resolve— "Sarva Bhavantu Sukhin, Sarva Shanti Niramaya, Sarve Bhadrani Pasyante, Makschid Bhambavet."

*[English]*

\*SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum) : It gives me immense pleasure to be in this august House to participate in the 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of the Parliament of India, on this day, the 13th May, 2012. The eminent personalities of this country namely, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabbhai Patel, and the above all the great Father of the Nation Late Shri Mahatama Gandhiji all are the role Models for the younger generation of our proud nation.

This Parliament was and is being represented by Parliamentarians coming from the different states, different castes and different languages. From entire Kanyakumari to Kashmir, we all stand one and united. This is not enough. At the same time, we all have to struggle a lot to uplift the downtrodden, poor and uneducated by enacting necessary laws by this Parliament for the overall benefit of such people.

In the country, still many people have not been in the Assembly or in the Parliament, because of being poor and less educated. We are proud that the Parliament has enacted a law on the Right to Education and Right to Food and further, equality should be brought amongst all men and women too. This idea was conceived by Lord Shri Basaveshwar in the 12th century wherein he devised many means to bring about the equality in the genders then. Hence, this privileged House should be alike an "ANUBHAVA MANTAP". The experiences and knowledge of the different personalities should be made use of for the benefit of the people of this great country. The poor should live in great dignity and seek justice, when wrong is committed on him, even by approaching the highest court with ease. This country should hereafter strive to be a casteless society, so as to see the all round development.

I am proud to be here to be on this occasion of the 60th year of the journey that the Indian Parliament has made.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR (Salempur): Our country was known as golden sparrow because of its abundant natural resources and its people were laborious though there was lack of infrastructure. The foreigners observed that the feudal rulers in India were fighting with each other for creating their hegemony and superiority till 500 A.D. The Shak, Hun, Portuguese came here, established themselves and then came East India Company, which established its empire. People soon got fed up of their oppressive activities and soon revolted against them in 1857. It was Mangal Pandey from my district Ballia among others such as Rani Jhansi, Tatyán Tope, who rose against the British Empire. But lack of proper leadership and coordinated efforts revolt failed. After Jalianwala Bagh firing, Chaura Chauri incident and whole — hearted efforts of Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad, the sentiments of people built up and they wanted to throw out Britishers from India. Mothers sold their jewellery, young people were up in arms and Quit India movement was launched all over India. Whole nation got up for making India free. Today, on the occasions of 60th anniversary I salute all those who laid their lives for the freedom of our country. Madam Speaker, the Parliament rejected casteist society and adopted the Constitution for creating an egalitarian society.

Since 13 May, 1952, 545 Members of Parliament have been working through three sessions every year. Though our population at that time was 35 crores which has increased fourfold since then but the number of MPs is state. But people are still raising finger at this apex House. The five main points of focus since first Lok Sabha i.e. one — the Members were required to prove that they are worth becoming a Member, whereas now in 15th Lok Sabha their integrity is deteriorating; two — economic, social equality was envisaged. Enough has been done on this front, but inequality still remain, three — corruption is yet to be overcome, three- continued migration of rural populations still a matter of concern; four-three fourth of the poor are still homeless, they live in slums, five — though we have become somewhat self-reliant in national security aspect, but one-and-a-half percent of our GDP falls prey to corruption. 55 per cent of our population get their work done only after paying bribes. Begging by children is a national shame.

The people have made great sacrifice with a hope that no one would remain hungry in independent India, there

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

would be no economic inequality, no unemployment and people would be prosperous. While adopting the Constitution Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said that the Constitution based on the principles of equality will only be successful if the intentions of the people ruling the country is good. The enthusiasm and expectations with which the Parliament had resolved in 1952, we failed to bring the poor, SCs and STs and OBCs and other denotified castes into the main stream of society. In 1947, we have resolved that all are equal, all have equal opportunity in this country. Is it true now?

Saluting this August body, I would like to say that the soul of those, who sacrificed their life for the freedom of our country, will rest in peace only if we are able to bring every citizen in the mainstream of development. Swami Vivekanand ji had said that those who do not see God in human beings are fool. In the end, I thank the people of my Constituency who have sent me to this House.

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I must thank the hon. Speaker for allotting time to all the parties; and I am extremely privileged to be sharing some of my thoughts on this historic occasion of Parliament at 60.

At the outset, I must thank the people of Sikkim; I must thank my party leader Dr. Pawan Chamling; I must thank my party, the Sikkim Democratic Front; and above all, I must thank the parliamentary democracy of this great country for having an institution of this kind in which the voices of the people of Sikkim can be made to be heard.

Sir, 60 years as has already been alluded to is not a very long time in an institution. But nevertheless when we introspect in this manner, it sends out a message to the wider world that 60 years ago there were enough cynics, who felt that India would collapse; India would disintegrate; and India would not be able to carry on parliamentary democracy as is known. But today, the people the world over — and I can assure you because of the many visits that I have made the worldwide — look at the Indian Parliament as a source of inspiration, as a source of inspiration to be able to take their own democracies on the path that we have taken.

I would also like to say that on the 16th of May, 1975, Sikkim became the 22nd State of India. Therefore, in three days time, Sikkim will be celebrating its 37th State Formation Day. It is in three days from now that we will celebrate it.

Through the 36th Amendment, the State of Sikkim became a part of India. It became the 22nd State of India. Through the 36th Amendment, the people of the State of Sikkim embraced democracy. I can say without any hesitation here today that the people of Sikkim not only embraced democracy but have indeed enjoyed it. They have prospered and today Sikkim is one of the most advanced States moving with great fervour and with great development to a path of progress where even the human development of the State is now one of the highest in the country.

I would like to thank all the Members of Parliament for having given the thought during the 36th Amendment. Since the Tenth Lok Sabha, my Party, the Sikkim Democratic Front, has been representing the State of Sikkim. It is on behalf of all the other MPs that I would like to thank this particular august House that we have been able to participate in the sustainable democracy of this great country.

I would like to just add a few thoughts to the previous speaker when he said that parliamentary system must be made to work a lot better. One of my thoughts is that we have to pay much more attention to the subordinate legislation. We cannot leave the subordinate legislation from the ambit of our focus because the devil lies in the details and we need to get into those details. We also need to work much harder. We need to work many more days than we work presently. Our oversight mechanisms have to be strengthened, and I think the oversight mechanisms can be only strengthened if parliamentarians can make a lot more contribution in the Standing Committees and in the other Committees that they represent.

I would also like to say that today, even though the average education of all the MPs has increased substantially, considering the global forces and the globalisation that has taken place in the world today, they need a global insight. Therefore, this needs to be strengthened as well.

With these words, I again congratulate this House and I congratulate the people of Sikkim.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRIMATI SEEMA UPADHYAY (Fatehpur Sikri): I salute the great personalities of India who sacrificed their whole life for the independence of India. I salute Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji, the founding father of our Constitution, also. It is a matter of

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

great pride for us today as our Parliament completes its 60 years of creation I congratulate all Indians as India is the only country with unique unity in diversity. People of different castes, religions, classes, sections stay together harmoniously. The Parliament is the only place where we take up social, economic, developmental problem of our areas. It is the strong pillar of our democracy.

I salute our democratic system that it maintained its integrity as the treasury benches and opposition resolved issues by discussions even during adverse condition. Today, we complete our 60 years. I congratulate my countrymen. Women have played an important role in our freedom struggle, in the field of security and in politics. I want large number of women come to the Parliament and play lead role in nation building.

\*SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY (Jamui): At the outset, on the occasion of 60th anniversary, I would like to pay tribute to the brave martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country.

Prior to 15th August, 1947 India was dependent. People empowered to decide about the future of this country were living either in America, England, Britain (London) and they were deciding about the future of poor in this country. In view of their cruel activities the first war of our independence broke out in 1857. Many upheavels took place in the intervening period and the Jalianwala Carnage of 13th April, 1919 shocked the whole country. People can't forget Kakori incident of 1925. A movement in opposition to the arrival of Simon Commission was led by Lala Lajpat Rai in 1928, wherein, Lala Lajpat Rai was killed. Sardar Bhagat Singh was hanged on 23rd March, 1931. If we look back at our history, one thing comes to mind that Britishers were all powerful, they ruled almost the world over. It is said that the sun never set under the rule, i.e. the empire was spread all over the world, if it was day in India it was night in Africa, and it was day in Africa, it was night in India.

They had everything, rifles, ammunition, machinegun and even money, whereas, Indian were fighting empty handed.

Reverend Babu Mahatma Gandhi had two dreams, one to free the country and second equality amongst all in free India. Without any hesitation, I can say that we have become

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

politically independent but not economically. On the one hand, a poor is pinning for a house costing only Rs. 40-50 thousand, whereas, one family has spent Rs. Seven Thousand Crore for construction of their palace. There is a need to remove this inequality.

The Constitution came into effect on 26th January, 1950 and first general election was held between 25th October, 1951 and 21st February, 1952. First Lok Sabha was constituted on 17th April, 1952.

It is glorious and historical day today as the first sitting of Lok Sabha was held on this day and we are celebrating this day as 60th anniversary day. This day is of special importance to me as the people of Jamui Lok Sabha constituency in Bihar have elected me and sent me here to participate on this occasion.

The Parliament is supreme in this country and no one can deny its supremacy. This House belongs to the people of this country. The public sends us here and it is our duty to work for its welfare. The Parliament is tasked with the development of the country and evolution of machinery. The Parliament has contributed the maximum in bringing this country upto this level. It is responsible for making and promulgation of laws as the Government is formed on the basis of majority.

The level of proceedings in the House has been improving. Earlier, lawyers, journalists, powerful people used to be got elected to the Parliament in large number. Now, the representation of weaker sections has increased. The number of graduate and post graduate entering Parliament has also increased. In first Lok Sabha 21 women got elected, but now their number has reached 60.

Our democracy is successful in this aspect also as there is unity in diversity. People of different castes and religions live together. There are divergent views on regionalism, castes and religious matters but so far as the unity and integrity of our country is concerned, people stand united. Whenever, outsiders looked at with bad intention, India stood together. Neither cast nor religion nor anything else came in its way. The democratic Government in many countries have been overthrown, some countries in the world are now being ruled by either dictators or military.

There are challenges also before the Parliament. Gandhi, Lohia and Ambedkar had dreamt of alleviating

political, social and economic inequality but we have not made much headway in this regard. The rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer. 80 per cent of our population finds it hard to earn their daily bread. Our country has successfully completed its 60 year of independence but a common man is still struggling to earn his bread. Though a Food Security Act has been implemented. Rich is getting richer. We can't stay away from this responsibility as it is our responsibility to provide food and shelter and education to every citizen.

There is a gap between the people in the name of caste and religion. It is the responsibility of the Parliament to bridge this gap and take the backward ahead. The quantum of work which was to be completed, has not been. Population control, proper utilization of country's resources, including human resources, development of agriculture, industry especially small and cottage industry and development of India is our responsibility.

It is our duty to alleviate poverty, unemployment and remove corruption. Poverty is increasing, corruption is rampant and unemployment, poverty and increasing population are inter-linked. If these issues remain unanswered how can our democracy be a success. What is the use of democracy for a starving person. We will have to take it seriously. On this occasion, we should resolve we would tackle and overcome poverty, unemployment and corruption.

Keeping these issues aside, our Lok Sabha has undertaken certain landmark judgments, which are example before the world. In this very House, Somnath Chatterjee Saheb disqualified UMPs involved in a simple case of corruption. Corruption was involved in auction of 2G spectrum. This very House fought against it and powerful people are behind bars. In fact, some of our colleagues acted with malafide intention which gave bad name to the Parliament and our image has been lowered in the eyes of our people. Today, we should resolve that we shall do the task, for which the people have sent us here, honestly. The acts of moral turpitude should be checked. So long as people of our country have faith in us this House will remain intact and this great democracy of the world will survive. Now, there is erosion of faith. We need to check it. If we are unable to check this erosion it is neither good for the country nor for our democracy.

The whole country as well as the world views the proceeding of Parliament live. We should corner the

Government through prescribed rules and not that we stall the proceeding, do not allow the House to function. We can raise matters through Rule 377, we can move adjournment motion, no-confidence motion, but we should not resort to the acts which lowers the image of the Parliament.

Today, there is biggest issue before the Parliament that is expensive election management. Thousands of crore of rupees are spent on elections. We should seriously ponder over it as to how we can bring it down, how corruption in elections can be checked so that the integrity of the House is not dented.

I am very happy today and with pride I would like to say that we should resolve to see that we leave no stone unturned in ensuring that the integrity of the House is not lowered.

\*SHRIMATI KAISAR JAHAN (Sitapur): I feel great pride that I am a member of this August body on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

I whole heartedly thank all the great persons who have worked very hard with honesty and dedication in establishing his apex body. Simultaneously, I congratulate and extend my wishes to all my colleagues on this auspicious day.

We need to maintain integrity of the House and debate and take decisions on the matters of public interest. We should always endeavour for keeping integrity of the House high and work in public interest.

[English]

\*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (Erode): Let me recall the observation made by Sir John Strauss, the member of the Advisory Committee to the Governor General that entrenched British Rule in India, in his lecture series delivered at Cambridge. He said that we have given a common name called India when we brought together several states for our administrative convenience. He also said that there was never a country called India and there shall never be. He also added that this is what the students of Cambridge must know as foremost important thing about India.

Winston Churchill is one among the important followers to this principle of Strauss. In 1930, when there were talks to accord Dominion Status to the Indian Colony, Winston Churchill said that the thought of giving self rule to the Indians

would be strange and dangerous. He added that Indians do not deserve to rule themselves.

After 1947, many British and American writers were coming out with predictions like Domsday prophets saying that India would disintegrate. We have miserably failed them and we are united now to celebrate 60 years of our Parliament. Unity in Diversity is like a magical wand that make we Indians as one. Even now, it is unbelievable to see that we have evolved as a nation with several races, several different points of view, several languages and cultures. Still, there is a pervading sense binding us together and we can at best call it a spirit of Indianness.

We have the duty ahead of us to have a re-look at our present status in this 60th year. Our hearts tend to believe that India would last. But our minds worry that it cannot. This is a confusing crisis situation. When we call India a country, we must also carefully approach it realizing fully well that it is an artificial arrangement.

We must understand fully at this hour that we have a bounden duty to protect intact the rights and the separate identities of various national races and languages that have come together.

The spirit of Independence, acceptable leadership to all the people, one party rule are all the warps and webs that bind us together enabling us to have Unity in Diversity. We have come to a phase where we must unfailingly realize that that binding unity is slowly loosening.

Pandit Nehru, in his letters written to a daughter from the prison, stated that there was a Southern State in the Southern part of Indian Sub-Continent much before the River Indus and River Ganges could originate and millions of years before the Himalayas could emerge. He says that the Dravidian civilisation was great not only in the South but perhaps in the North too.

We Tamils hail from the Kumari continent which was called continent Lemuria where the living organisms and species originated for the first time in the universe according to the researchers. We the Tamils who have an ancient tradition and an ancient civilisation and an ancient language and culture have now become strangers in our own homeland as we have been brought into an illusorily cocooning unity. Even after the highest judicial forum of the country, the Supreme Court, gave its pronouncement against the checking

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\*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.



of water flow to Tamil Nadu, we are denied of our share in the river waters flowing from the neighbouring states. The Centre has not impressed upon those erring States and has miserably failed to get us our due share. Still, we remain with the Indian Government that has suppressed our rights.

In the northern part of the country, the Government is spending crores of rupees to save our soil from being encroached upon by our neighbours. At the same time, even without our knowledge, you have given away the Katchativu to the Sinhalese racists who are out to wipe out the Tamils in Sri Lanka. This Government is expecting us to forget all this with a vicious cover called unity.

When a fisherman is attacked in the western waters, he is an Indian fisherman. If a fisherman is attacked in our southern waters, we call him a Tamil fisherman who had strayed into the international waters. I would like to ask you a question as to when did Tamil Nadu secede from India.

When you have the right to speak in this august House in a language that was born just a few hundred years ago, why do you deny our rights to raise issues and listen to you in our Tamil language which is one of the ancient classical languages of the world. We are still Indians. But is it fair to impose upon us only to see Unity in Diversity? In the European Union Parliament, they have simultaneous interpretation facility for 23 languages throughout the entire proceedings vice versa, why is not possible to have the same facility for all the national languages of India in our Indian Parliament? Where there is a will there is a way. I insist on that and urge you to make all National languages as official languages of India.

If minorities are attacked in Pakistan, you are raising it is our Parliament to protect the rights of Hindus there. But when the Hindus were killed in Sri Lanka, you were hand in gloves with the Sinhalese. You did not do anything when Hindu temples were razed to ground. Is it because the Tamils of Sri Lanka have got umbilical cord relations with the Tamils in India? Is it because the Sinhala State was established by Vijayan who is reported to have gone from the northern part of India? Vijayan went to the island of Sri Lanka from North India during Buddha's time. Pandit Nehru himself writes that Sinhalese come from the Vijayan lineage. But at the same time, you are extending all possible help to the Sinhalese to wipe out the sons of the soil the Tamils who have got umbilical cord relations with us.

Do not think that this is a question raised only by me. These questions are lurking in the minds of millions of Tamil youth who think with a historical perspective and an affinity for their Tamil race. These are the moot questions raised by the seeds of disunity that remained buried in the confines of the cozy armour called unity.

So, I urge to set aside the differences and think in terms of evolving unity based on the experiences we have gained in all these sixty years. Truth hurts. Still, I have to share with the House in the interest of the nation certain hard realities. Do not mistake those who come with suggestions to overcome separations and divisions and do not brand them as secessionists and put an end to this ignorance of yours. If we are interested in national integration, we must be open minded, impartial and pragmatic with a definite will to find lasting solutions. This must be our resolve on this 60th year celebrations.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH (Surat): I feel great pride on 60th anniversary of the Lok Sabha. The voters of my constituency had faith in democratic process and voted for me and sent me to this temple of democracy. I am thankful to them. I have got an opportunity to act as a witness to the 60th anniversary of our parliamentary democracy. Democracy means the Government of the people, for the people and by the people and Parliament is the strongest pillar of democracy. I salute the parliamentarians who have served our democracy since 1952 till today. I feel so proud of being a parliamentarian in the largest democracy in the world. All of us parliamentarians have come here to fulfil the expectations of our people and to stand true to their faith. The basis of our democracy is a common man. The task of the Parliament and parliamentarians is to fulfil hopes, expectations and needs of common man of this country irrespective of political affiliation or the ideology. As long as the common man is the focus of our attention the dignity and integrity of our Parliament will remain intact.

Parliament is the highest representative body and everyone should take care of each other's respect. People are supreme in political system. Giving due respect to all the religions we should look for social harmony, equality. On this occasion I pay my regards to all the members, all senior political thinkers, guides who strengthened our democracy and pay tribute to Gandhiji.

[English]

\*SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for allowing me to express my views on this historic day of commemoration of the 60th year of Indian Parliament. The Indian Parliament the highest forum for debates and legislations is celebrating its 60th year which stands as authentic testimony that the Parliamentary democracy in one of the biggest country has worked successfully maintaining the high standards and values of Parliamentary system.

The preamble of our Constitution states (we the people of India) which implies that the people are the sovereign in this democratic country and the Parliament, the representative body of the people holds the responsibility to the people for fulfilling their aspirations and objectives of all-round development through passing people-oriented laws. In the last 60 years, the Nation has shown that in spite of many hitches and glitches, the country has made outstanding achievement in all fields.

We not only made the British to quit India through non-violence but also framed the Constitution handing over the ultimate power to the people in a most peaceful and a democratic way without any bloodshed or violence. While in countries like France, the democratic republic was set up after bloodshed and butchering the Royal family. We have a deep rooted tradition in our culture based on spiritual and moral values of life.

The Britishers while quitting India sowed many thorns for us by giving freedom to more than 600 states where the kings were rulers. They were under the impressions the Indians will not be able to hold the country together but the history stands its witness that not only this problem was solved but India today stands as democratic sovereign, secular republic where people of all casts, colours and religion live together and feel themselves as proud citizens of India.

The need of the time which the people of India want from their representatives at this critical juncture of time is to have consensus in the Parliament and to make it function smoothly without disruptions to achieve the common objectives which our Constitution has laid down. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Chairperson UPA, Madam Sonia Gandhi has set in motion the reforms necessary for overall development

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

of this country. I make an appeal to the Opposition to support the people oriented reforms so that our country can go ahead.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee has rightly pointed out that even in Indo-Pak war of 1971, the Parliament was sitting everyday and functioning properly that shows how strong are the roots of Parliamentary Democracy in India.

Being MP from Garhwal, Uttarakhand, I would like to shed some light on the plight of Uttarakhand people. For years, even after Independence, it was ignored and very little was done in the name of development in this Hill state but after the formation of Independent state, the state is making strides in all fields and as per the people's demand the Garhwali and Kumaoni languages are being given recognition and going to be included in the 8th Schedule to Indian Constitution. Moreover, the long standing demand of the people for the construction of railway track from Rishikesh to Karnaprayag has been sanctioned, inaugurated and the work is already in progress. The importance of the issues raised in the forum of the Parliament are so powerful that even state Governments have to accept the demand of the people raised by its representatives in the Parliament like the holding of one Session of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly in Gairsain has been acceded to by the recent Government of Uttarakhand.

I thank and salute the people of India who have shown wisdom, patience inspite of doubts expressed by certain powers of least chances of success of democracy in India torned by caste, religious, provincial and linguistic division so rampant in our country but the people dashed all the doubts and made democracy a great success in India.

Let us join in this celebration of the 60th year and make a pledge that we will work as one man to achieve the common objectives of wiping out the poverty, corruption and terrorism from this holy land of India as the whole nation stands as one man when there is a external danger to the country.

\*SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT (Kachchh) : It is an honour to be a part of this august House on the occasion of completing of 60 years of Democracy in India. But when I look back in the last 50 years India must have achieved a lot but has even lost a lot if we talk of parliamentary traditions. It is quite painful when we see disruptions in the House for

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

even small issues and even on media reports, even when we are not sure of the authenticity of the report in the press. But we as parliamentarians should see the responsibility of the people who have elected us and sent us here to make their life less miserable. But somewhere down the line the parliamentarians should not forget their oath and work for the betterment of the country to make it the best in the world in every aspects. But I even think some reforms should be done to lesson the expenditure of elections which is also the main cause of people going for wrong means to win election and gather wealth.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (Chidambaram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, let me convey me heartfelt thanks for the opportunity given to me to speak on the occasion of the Special Session to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Parliament of India. We feel proud to call our country as one of the largest democracies of the world. No can deny the fact that it is only our Constitution that has contributed to this greatness. It is also known to all of us that it was Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who contributed mainly and solely to the framing of our Constitution in a significant way. The great revolutionary Dr. Ambedkar spent midnight oil lamp and had spent more of his time and energy in giving a shape to the Constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly. It is a question whether that revolutionary Ambedkar has been properly celebrated and exalted by the Government of India with due respect. It is a continuing sad tale seen in several parts of the country that the portraits and statues of Dr. Ambedkar are time and again desecrated by the casteists. They deface and dishonour the statues and portraits of that great revolutionary who stood for social justice. They stoop to the level of smearing cow dung on the posters and pictures of Dr. Ambedkar. We ask unto ourselves as to when the Government will take stringent action against those who show disrespect to the relics and portraits of Dr. Ambedkar. If we are to greet and honour the Parliament, it is like honouring our Constitution. If we are paying tributes to our Constitution, it is like paying tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, the great revolutionary. It is only in India we find the shameful act of dishonouring great national leaders like Dr. Ambedkar.

At this juncture when we are celebrating the 60th year of the Parliament of India, I would like to put forth a prayer before

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

the Government of India. I wish a Resolution is passed unanimously in this august House and let it be moved by the Government. Gandhiji is referred to as the 'Father of the Nation'. Similarly, the revolutionary Dr. Ambedkar must henceforth be called the 'Father of Indian Constitution'. To this effect, a Resolution must be moved and passed in both the august Houses of Parliament.

**15.01 hrs.**

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

We are now feeling proud of our parliamentary democracy whereas I would like to point out that it is only a participatory democracy. The democracy in India provides for the participation of the deprived and depressed sections of the society, the unemancipated women, and the minorities. It is our bounden duty to ensure that these different sections get their due place as provided for in the Constitution. We can preserve our democracy only by way of ensuring that reservation is available to all these sections of the society in all the sectors including that of the private sector. My second demand placed before you as my humble prayer would be that we must go in for legislative measures to provide reservation in jobs in the private sector also. Only then, ours would be a true democratic country.

When I happened to meet recently the UPA Chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi, I had placed before her this demand of mine. When we are celebrating the 60th year of our Parliament, I urge upon all concerned to see that the legislative measures in this regard to provide reservation in jobs in the private sector are taken up in this august House.

We have accorded national language status to 22 languages after having enshrined them in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. Tamil language, as pointed out by my esteemed colleagues Shri Ganeshamurthy and hon. Thambidurai Tamil is one of the six ancient and classical languages of the world. Tamil language has got a long tradition and history from time immemorial. I would like to ask this Government as to why Tamil is not given an equal treatment along with that of Sanskrit which we all agree to be one of the ancient classical languages of this country, this sub-continent and also of the world.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to make Tamil the classical language and still a living language to be another official language of India. There are various national races in

India with distinct language and culture and all of them must have to be accorded equal status and protected equally.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said:

“I feel that the Constitution is workable, it is flexible and it is strong to hold the country together both in peace and in war.”

Thus, our Constitution keeps this country united. If we prefer this unity to be preserved, we must treat all the national races and their language and culture equally. In the wake of globalization, we find the deprived sections of the society, the women, and the under-privileged are marginalized further. The national races are denied of their rights. The Centre is making the power structure more Centre-centric. The powers of the States are also being taken away to the Centre. Centralisation of power is on the increase. We can have a meaningful democracy only when we have decentralization of power. I make a plea not only for Tamil and Tamil national race, but I make an appeal for ensuring equal treatment to all the languages and all the national races of the country. Power must not be vested with one power centre at the Centre. This will be detrimental to our body polity. I urge upon the Government to see that every national race gets the right to self-determination. This is the only way out to keep our unity and integrity intact.

At this juncture, I would like to recall the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. Separate Tamil Eelam alone can be a lasting solution. If our Indian Government is interested in protecting the Tamils in that island nation, then they must come forward to mobilize the support from the world community to carve out a separate Tamil Eelam as that alone could be a viable and a permanent solution to the ever-continuing vexing problem. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

\*SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Thrissur): I salute the martyrs who laid down their lives for the freedom of this great country. I bow my head in reverence before the memory of great leaders of our freedom struggle, Mahatama Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Azad and a host of other stalwarts who through struggle and sacrifice made this nation great. Centuries of bondage made India poor. We woke up to freedom after a long struggle of Independence while has no parallel in history. Today after 65 years, India has emerged

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

as a developing nation. Looking forward to a bright future, predicted to be a powerful economy in the decade to come.

Gandhiji spoke for 40 crores of Daridra Narayans of India. We were impoverished by the long spell of subjugation and exploitation by foreign rulers. The white lords who ruled us realized that they cannot keep us under subjugation, they divided our country and we got freedom with tears. They cursed us that majority of Indians who cannot read or write cannot manage a democratic government or a sovereign Parliament. But we failed the predictions of all and gave into us a written Constitution which today is a model for the world. We established our Parliament after the first general election in 1952 and today we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of our Parliament. It was and it is our commitment to uplift the poor and downtrodden of our population and establish a socialist society where the need of common man is met and we emerge as a powerful economy of the world.

Our Parliament in the last 60 years had set a model for the democratic world and today we proudly recollect that when many other systems of government failed during the last 5 decades in the world, we survived all the odds and Indian democracy is stronger than ever before. Many countries in our neighborhood are facing military dictatorship while India is ruled by the power of common man, the adult franchise.

We have passed more than 90 amendments to our Constitution in this Parliament for social justice and economic progress.

Even today we have the problem of lack of basic amenities to a sizeable section of our population. We believe that the solution lies not in the barrel of the gun but the collective wisdom of our people.

We had 15 general elections in India and this House which is the 15th Lok Sabha has to take a decision to take forward the pledges we have taken.

Democracy is the freedom is discuss, to differ and to arrive at a consensus.

The collective wisdom of the House which is the elected body of our democracy is the only answer to the problems this country is facing today.

I recall that in 1997 when this House sat continuously for a day and night for our Golden Jubilee Session, we had

taken a solemn pledge that we will use this a House for discussion and debate and we will conduct the House with dignity and decorum. We have specifically decided that whatever be the provocation, the members will not enter the well for protesting on any issue. Today, we see the disruption of the House for even frivolous issues which could be easily resolved through discussion. I think today is the appropriate time to resolve once again that we will implement our pledge taken in the golden jubilee session and we will conduct this House with all the dignity it deserves.

We have to admit that a wrong message is going to the people that their elected representatives are not rising to their expectations. We should not waste a minute to correct this impression.

We are the largest democracy in the world and the fate of 120 crores of people that is one sixth of humanity depends on the effective functioning of our Parliament. We have to find solutions to our economic backwardness, social disparities and regional imbalances. This can be achieved only by putting our heads together. The great chumming process of parliamentary debates will guide the government and reflect the will of the people. Any moment we miss to discuss things in the House is a loss for the whole nation.

We are fortunate to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of our Parliament and let us decide that we will make this temple of democracy an effective forum for debate. We have to strengthen the great traditions we have established in the last five decades and set an example for the successful functioning of our democracy through effective functioning of our Parliament.

This Parliament is a cross section of the divergent views of our political spectrum. We belong to different parties and hold divergent views on issues, but we are one on the future of our country. With that goal in mind, let us salute the common man of this country who elected us to this august body and resolve to rise to his expectations and dreams.

*[Translation]*

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): We are happy to celebrate 60th anniversary of Indian Parliament. Our Parliament has a glorious history. Right from its first meeting on 13th May, 1952 it has always protected the rights of democracy. The expansion of power of people in democratic set up can only be done through the Parliament. A number of times the

judiciary has raised questions on the supremacy of Parliament but the Parliament has always tackled it with constitutional amendments and it has been made clear that while amending the constitution the Parliament will function as a Constituent Assembly.

The House is fully aware that while adopting the Constitution was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November 1949 and at that time Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar had made it clear that now we are entering the phase of contradiction. On the one hand we are bestowing political equality to everyone, at the same time, social and economic inequality is the greatest challenge before us. Dr. Ambedkar had presented this thing to the future Governments on an agenda. A number of efforts were made in the Constitution for removing the said social and economic inequality. In pursuance of it, socially backward classes were given benefit under Article 14 and under Article 15(1) provision has been made for removal of discrimination on the basis of castes. Under Article 17 untouchability was made a crime. Abolition of bonded labour was sought under Article 23. Under Article 25 all were given right for entry into public temples. Under Article 330/332 reservation was given to SCs/STs in Parliament and in State Legislatures.

It is clear from the above that several provisions were made, as was said by Dr. Ambedkar, for providing economic and social equality and from time to time the judiciary interfered with the Constitutional right of Dalits and tried to curtail their rights. A number of constitutional amendments have been done for subverting such decisions of the judiciary. First Constitutional Amendment was done in 1951 in Article 15(4) wherein the States were authorised for making special provisions for upliftment of Dalits. Provisions were made under Article 15(5) for admission of the children of SCs/STs in Government/Public/Government assisted/non-assisted educational institutions.

The judiciary had abolished the facility of reservation in promotion for SCs/STs under Indira Sahani Case, which was in practice from its inception and the House had passed 77th Constitution Amendment to make it infructuous.

To make the orders of Supreme Court infructuous regarding negation of seniority on promotion by virtue of reservation, the 85th Constitution Amendment was made. Similarly, the 81st and the 82nd Constitution Amendment was also made for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

In M. Nagraj case, Constitution Amendment 77,81,82 and 85 were challenged. The Supreme Court of India had accepted the supremacy of the Parliament and delivered a verdict that the amendments made by the Parliament are fully valid, but the High Court had given benefit by one hand and taken back by other. The Supreme Court had directed that reservation in promotion is not a fundamental right, it is only an enabling provision and if the State wants to provide reservation, then they have to carry a specific study in each case that SC category is still backward and this category does not have adequate representation in these services and grant of this facility will not affect adversely the administrative competence. The judiciary again had given a decision to render the amendments inactive made by the Parliament in M. Nagraj case. Now, there is a challenge before the Parliament. Whereas the Supreme Court had itself said in Indira Sahani Case on the matter of SCs/STs that this category is really backward and there is no dispute in this regard.

The situation created through M. Nagraj Case should be cleared immediately by Constitution Amendments in Article 341 and 342 that the Castes enlisted in this schedule shall be treated as backward and there shall be no dispute in this regard. Similarly, Article 16(4) and 16(4a) need to be amended compulsorily so that supremacy of Parliament is maintained and the people of this category get full advantage on the basis of amendments made by the Parliament. There is need to make Constitution amendments in view of the challenges kept by Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkarji in front of Governments and Parliament to remove the inequalities.

On the basis of my experience as Chairman of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission, I request that the Scheduled Caste Commission has the power of recommendation under Article 338 and not the power of compulsory implementation of the decision taken. It also needs to be amended so that the decisions taken by the Commission in favour of the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes may be implemented compulsorily.

\*SHRI HARSH VARDHAN (Maharajganj, U.P.): Today, we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Parliament. On 13th May, 1952 when the first meeting of this House was held, the views inherited from Gandhiji during the struggle for freedom actually came into existence.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

There were other freedom fighters other than Gandhi like Bhagat Singh and Chander Shekhar Azad who resorted to another way and laid their lives for the cause of attaining freedom. The same Lok Sabha included their views in the resolution of the Preamble of the Constitution by making an amendment in Constitution by adopting the word Socialist and said *[English]* We dedicate ourselves to a Sovereign Socialist Republic.

*[Translation]*

While studying in Sainik School in Uttar Pradesh at the age of 15 years, I had some memories regarding Lok Sabha that Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia raised a discussion in this House about the income of common man, 3 annas vs 13 annas. Or it was regarding first no confidence motion against the Cabinet of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. In reality, it was the efforts of an image demolished to spoil the image of Chacha Nehru.

Today, at the time of discussion in the House those members who can easily speak in Hindi with supremacy but when they deliver their speech in English by reading it from papers, suddenly come to my mind the skill of Dr. Lohia, Madhu Limay, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chander Shekhar, George Fernandes like members who left their impression of speech in the House.

60 years of the Indian democracy is not an important thing because not only we have to lead the world on biggest democracy for centuries together, but get the world accept the supremacy of this system.

Recently the Indian Parliament has proved its glorious existence in the Supreme Court of India when the then Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee reaffirmed the sovereignty, supremacy and greatness of the Parliament in the case of Keshvanand Bharti.

It will not be exaggeration to say that Indian Parliament has been instrumental in the progressive growth of India. During the grand sixty years of Parliament the GDP which was only 0.5 per cent at the time of our independence reached upto more than 9 per cent due to best labour rendered and conscientious of all the Indians. The problems which were felt very big, now about to be vanished. Even then the evils of mal-nutrition, illiteracy, unemployment, inequality, corruption are increasing day by day, but we are ready to be developed country from developing country by removing these evils from India due to strong and competent leadership.

Development and problems affects each other, but unlimited ability of India, sense of patriotism of Indians, their interest and hard labour had made it capable to achieve the small and big targets and Parliament reflects these characteristics of Indian society. The democratic practices have advanced with strength and the main thing behind this advancement is that we respect and give priority to other religions also and live with tolerance and harmony even belonging to different religions, it means our customs have helpless in maintaining unity in diversity.

When India got freedom many other countries also got freedom, but the democracy could not get strength in several countries and today they are being ruled by military or dictator. But India had maintained democracy in the world and proved that roots of democracy have deepened in India.

Precious time is wasted by way of interruptions during discussions various issues in Lok Sabha, this practice should be stopped. In fact, this practice is beneficial for both the ruling party and Opposition, but it results in fargoing loss to our democratic system. So, it is necessary to find a universal way which will be beneficial for the democracy.

\*SHRI KAMAL KISHOR COMMANDO (Bahraich): Today is an important day. On this auspicious occasion, I greet the downtrodden people of the country. Today all of us will have to decide that we will have to tread the path which has been shown to us by revered Mahatma Gandhi, Nehruji, Baba Saheb Ambedkar ji, Mahatma Phuleji, Dr. Lohiaji, Dr. Rajendra Prasad ji and Maulana Azad ji. This will enhance the dignity of Lok Sabha. By walking on this path Late Indira ji and Late Jagjiwan Babuji had achieved success in changing the history of the country. We will have to carry on the legacy. To maintain the democracy of the country, we will have to remove the gap between rich and the poor honestly. Until the gap between rich and poor is removed and the education reaches the villages, nothing can be done. So far we are lacking in the field of education. Today on the occasion of celebrating 60th anniversary, we will have to take oath. The speech delivered by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi shows that while working, we will have to keep our forefathers in mind. Hon. Lok Sabha Speaker Pranav da, Sharad ji and other speakers have also mentioned this fact.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[English]

\*SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : It is the rare and the splendid moment during this 15th Lok Sabha to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament of India. I congratulate all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and rest of the country on this occasion. We should pay our sincere and humble tributes to our Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi and the Architect of the Constitution, Shri B.R. Ambedkar, President and Vice President Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Dr. Radhakrishnan, first Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the Opposition Leader Shri A.K. Gopalan and many other dignitaries who are in the political as well as administrative arena. Equally, we should respect lakhs and lakhs of people who participated in the freedom struggle.

We are marching forward through the Parliamentary Democratic set up. There were and are ups and downs but we could keep our democratic set up in the highest prestigious status.

The salient feature of our Constitution is its Secular character. India is a democratic, secular republic. We have a large number of religious, languages, castes and subcastes. In spite of all these complex factors existing in our country, we should project and protect by unity of Nation on the national perspective. We have the system of democratic set up and elections in the states and Centre. We have the independent Election Commission. We have the Supreme Court and the Minority Commission. We have also the Backward Commission and the special Commission for the women.

In the past 60 years, we have enacted a number of legislations. Time to time we have amended our Constitution. This also shows the strength of our democratic country to change and amend the legislation when it needs.

The recent landmarks are Right to Education, Right to Information and NNRIG and the Tribal Acts etc. We have successfully carried out 73-74 constitutional amendment in order to make the decentralization in practice. The Panchyati Raj System is the other landmark step that we have taken. But it is big laps on our side, not able to pass the women's Reservation Bill. Since women comes about 60% of our population there is no justification for this big failure.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

We have the Five Years Plan and the Finance Commission and many other committees set up for the review of the progress in various sectors but we witnessed that the section of the people become rich and rich and the number of poor people are becoming higher. According to the Government's Report in 2004 the number of millionaires were 9. Now, it has become 69. According to the Arjun Commission's Report 73% of the people are living with meager amount of 20 rupees per day. This shows the gap between the poor and the rich. It is reported that two lakh fifty six thousand and more farmers have committed suicide due to very serious financial difficulties caused by high debts in banks.

Though we are in a better position to keep and protect the democratic set up in a high prestige. Its merits and fruits are not translated in the day-to-day life of the people. So, the outcome of various legislations, administrative decisions should better the life of the common people. This was the goal of lakhs and lakhs of people who fought and sacrificed their lives in the freedom struggle. This was also the aim of our great predecessors who have given shape to the constitution and also shaped and protected India as a democratic country. If we fail to take steps to eliminate corruption, which has become the most dangerous evil affecting the health of nation, it would be against the future of the nation.

Democracy, defined by the Abraham Linkcon, is Government of the people, for the people and by the people. So, whatever may be the Government in power and also parties in Opposition, both should bear in mind this fact. This is what we need at present. May this inspiring sitting of Parliament be a guideline to achieve this goal.

Before, I conclude, I am proud to pay the tributes to the great heroes Bhagat Singh, Chandershekhar Azad and Rajguru who were martyrs in the British Rule just because of attacking the British Parliament of India.

*[Translation]*

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL (Banda): Today is the diamond jubilee of the first sitting of Parliament of the Sovereign State of India which took place on 13th May, 1952. All of us have assembled here to make the occasions memorable. I am feeling honored to be present in this House on this momentous occasion as a Member of these supreme institution. During the last 60 years, the Members of Parliament

have raised the Parliamentary history to the pinnacle and they have always been striving for the prosperity of the public.

Personalities like Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Lohia, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Acharya Kriplani, Krishna Menon have made unforgettable efforts for strengthening the democracy in the country. The roots of our republic are embedded in our Constitution. An M.P. of Parliament is not a Member of any specific area, but he belongs to the whole country. Service of the country means, the service of crores of people which means eradication of poverty and ignorance, removal of inequity of opportunity. It has been the aspiration of every public representative to wipe the tears of every eye. Perhaps it may not be possible but I hope that for the progress of the people, every Member present in the House shall continue to make efforts in this direction.

During the last 60 years, our Parliament has given many talented men and women M.Ps who are known for their command on language, rules and Parliamentary culture and traditions. They are also known for their personal dignified manners. There has been a long history of fruitful debate in the sittings of Parliament. Many public representatives like Jawahar Lal Nehru, Ram Manorial Lohia, Madhes Limaye, Pilloo Modi, N.C. Banerjee, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, George Fernandese, Somnath Chatterjee, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Sharad Yadav have given new dimensions to Parliamentary debate and its sittings. Not only their each and every word has been listened to very attentively but the leaders of treasury benches — Opposition have been compelled to change their views on the basis of their speeches.

During the last 60 years, many a time people have lost their faith in the Parliament and MPs. India is a democratic country and in democracy everybody has right to express his views, but it is essential to keep the dignity of Parliament in mind.

Today we are celebrating the special session on the occasion of completing 60 years of Parliament, but we will have to keep in mind that in our agriculturist country, the condition of farmers is worst of all. If we want to enter into the Category of developed countries, we will have to take effective steps to improve the lot of our farmers. We will have to provide food, clothing and housing to every citizen of the country. Being a Member of Parliament, all of us will have to make sincere efforts in this direction, only then we will be able to keep the dignity of Parliament intact.



I pay my homage to those great men and leaders who are not with us today, but have made unforgettable efforts for establishing democracy by uprooting monarchy.

*[English]*

\*SHRI K. JAYAPRAKASH HEGDE (Udupi-Chickmagalur): The Parliament marks its 60th Anniversary today and I feel humbled as the newest Member of Parliament, to be part of this special session. The last 60 years have been a period of sea changes but for a country it is only a small period of time. Congratulations to all who made the Indian democracy. Our is a young and biggest democracy in the world.

When this highly revered institution first opened six decades ago, it was graced by the greats who won freedom for our country, their debates were of the highest quality and parliamentary discipline was upheld with utmost respect. Today, we as Members of Parliament must be cautious that we don't fall from grace as looms large over the proceedings of house.

The first Lok Sabha was dominated by the towering presence of Members such as Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, S/Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, A.K. Gopalan, Sucheta Kriplani, Babu Jagjeevan Ram, Sardar Hukum Singh, Ashok Mehta and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai. Even their debates and interventions were of the highest orders. Criticism was taken positively, disruptions were almost absent and sloganeering was almost unheard of. Today, our parliamentary democracy is under criticism and we must shoulder the responsibility to prove that there is no better alternative to this system. We must justify the faith that people have placed in us through their votes.

Let our democratic values not vanish and let the voice of our people not drown in the ruckus created in the house.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARJUN ROY (Sitamarhi): On the occasion of 60th Anniversary of Lok Sabha, I congratulate the hon. Speaker along with the people of the country.

Our Constitution came into effect on 26th January, 1950 and the first general election took place between

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

25th October, 1951 to 21st February, 1952. After the elections, first elected Lok Sabha was constituted on 17th April, 1952.

Today is the glorious and historic day because first sitting of Lok Sabha took place on this day and we are celebrating this occasion as the 60th year. It is especially an important day for us because the people of our Constituency Sitamarhi, Bihar has elected me to take part on this occasion.

Nobody can deny this fact that Parliament is supreme in this country. This house belongs to the people of this country. The people send us here and it is our duty to work for their welfare. Its duties include development of the country, debate on important issues and development of system. The Parliament has played the biggest role in taking the country where it has reached in 60 years. From enacting the legislation to its implementation is the responsibility of this House because the Government is formed on the basis of majority.

The quality of debate in Parliament is improving continuously. Earlier, the number of lawyers, journalists and big people was higher. Now the many people from weaker sections of society have larger representation in this House. The number of graduates and post-graduates have increased substantially in this House. Where 21 women were elected in the first Lok Sabha, the number has increased to 60.

Here democracy is considered successful because here there is unity in diversity. People of various castes and religions live here. There are conflicts on the basis of region, caste and religion. Despite all this, the whole country is united on the question of unity and integrity. Whenever there was external aggression on the country, whole of India stood united. At this juncture, neither caste, nor religion or any other diversity could stand in the way. The very foundation of many democratic countries of world had shaken. At many places, autocratic Government captured the power, at other military to come into power.

There are many challenges before the Parliament. On the one hand, there is vision of Gandhi, Lohia and Ambedkar to remove political, social and economic disparity. But we have not achieved much success in the direction of removing this disparity. Rich are becoming more rich and on the other hand the number of poor is increasing. 80 per cent people are entangled in their day today problems. Even after sixty years of independence, the people are struggling to make

both ends meet. Here we are Making Food security Act. We can't run away from our responsibility to provide, food, clothing and housing to our people. It is our duty to provide education and medical facilities.

It is the responsibility of Parliament to uplift the socially backward people and to remove the disparity which exists in the name of caste and religion. The progress which should have been in the sixty years, has not been made. Population control, proper utilisation of our human resources, development of our agriculture and industry, especially small and cottage industries are the areas which are our responsibility.

It is our duty to eradicate poverty, unemployment and corruption. Poverty is increasing. Rampant corruption, increasing poverty are related to population. If these problems are not solved, how can we claim democracy to be successful. What is the use of democracy for a hungry man. We will have to consider it seriously. We should resolve on this occasion to eradicate poverty unemployment and corruption in a time bound manner.

Apart from all these issues, this Lok Sabha has many a time done such a wonderful jobs, which is a lesson for the world. In this very House, when Somnath Chatterjee was the Speaker, the membership of 11 members was terminated. It was done in a simple case of corruption. This House fought the fight against corruption in Two-G case and many big people had to go to jail. Many of our colleagues from this House were also there. It is true that the activities of some of our colleagues were such that the dignity of this House got damaged and our credibility got set back in the eyes of people. Today we should resolve that we will discharge our duties honestly. There should be some check on this moral deterioration because it is the faith of this House. Till we enjoy the faith of our people, this largest democracy of the world is intact. At present there is erosion of faith. It needs to be protected. If this trend continues, it will not be good for our democracy.

The whole country and the world watches the proceedings of the House. We have to make the Government accountable under the rules. Whether it is through questions, Rule 377, Adjournment Motion or other statutory provision. We should not lower the credibility of the House by using force or creating pandemonium. Today we have to consider all these issues.

The biggest question before the House today is that of expensive electoral management. Today we are spending thousands of crores of rupees on this. We should find out some way that no one has to take the path of corruption for election expenses so that our House could project itself as an honest House.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Sambhal): Parliament of India has completed 60 years. We are fortunate that our country is free and we have our own Government. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of this country. Gandhiji, Maulana Mohammad Ali Johar, Alam Fazal Haq Khairabadi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad went to jail, many people were hanged and many faced bullets on their chests and liberated this country. Gandhiji had said that there is too much poverty and disparity in the country and we will have work hard to improve their lot. Only then this country can make progress. But it is a sad state that we decorated our cities, but did not care for poor who are victims of hunger. They are committing suicides which is a matter of shame for the country. Today inequality is at its nadir. Dalits and backwards are victims of atrocities. As far as Muslims are concerned, justice has not been done to them. Today the condition of Muslims is worse than even Dalits. As Sacchar Committee has written in its Report and Rangnath Mishra Commission has also advocated reservation to Muslims. Largest minority of India, which is more than 30 crore is deprived of employment and education. The Government have never thought of their progress and to improve their lot. Muslim votes are taken but no attention is paid towards their unemployment and education but injustice is meted out to them. Ignoring such a big minority is damaging the country. Parliament stands for justice. Those who are thinking of hurting the Muslims are in a way weakening the roots of country. The report of Sacchar Committee is not being implemented. Muslims are devoid of their rights, whereas their sacrifices in the freedom fight are second to none which cannot be ignored. Even though they are considered second class citizens. The Babri Masjid of Muslims was demolished. Whether it is Gujarat or any other city, injustice is done to Muslims. Hence we should resolve to work hard to eradicate poverty from the country and to remove unemployment and work towards giving justice only then our country will become prosperous and we can be proud of it.

\*SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (Meerut): No doubt, today is an important day, that negating all the apprehension,

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

crossing all the crisis, we have completed 60 years of Parliamentary democracy. Developing democracy was not possible without freedom of the country. Therefore, first of all, I salute those countless people who laid their lives for the country. Our freedom is the fruit their sacrifices and hard work. I, once again, salute those makers of Constitution, especially Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar who gave Constitution to Independent India. Parliament was constituted under that Constitution.

The Parliament gives expression to the aspirations of the people of country and it must do it. Today on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the first session of Parliament, when I look back at the sixty years, I see some dark aspects along with some bright ones. Even after 65 years of independence why forty percent of the population is condemned to live below poverty line? Why the farmer, who is called 'Anndata' is himself hungry? Crores of youth are unemployed? I come from West U.P. which is treated the region of competent and rich people. When I go to the villages of this so called prosperous region, I find there are no roads, no drinking water, no electricity, no medical and educational facilities. Some islands of prosperity have definitely developed in the country, but most of rural and urban population is living a life of shortages.

I have come to this house for the first time, but I think there has been some mistake in understanding the common man and his problems. The Parliament is not able to represent the aspirations of the common man in true sense.

Mahatma Gandhi led the freedom movement in the country. He was a great man who felt the pulse of the common man. He understood the capabilities and specialties of this country. On the basis of his knowledge of the country he led country wide movement of independence. After the independence, on which path he guided us? He gave a famous talisman to the country that any of our scheme is useless if it does not reach the last man in the line. He had last man in the ambit of development. I feel that we have forgotten that talisman somewhere? We remember Gandhiji but forgot the path which he showed us. That is why, the half of the population of the country is living in such pathetic conditions.

Today environment is a matter of concern in the whole of the world. "Earth Hour" and "Earth Day" are celebrated but the injustice being done to the earth itself is not abetting.

Water is polluted, air is polluted, land is polluted, there is pollution all around. The consumerist economy of the West is spoiling the whole world. It is a parasite economy which needs the whole world as market to fill its belly. Will we continue to be the market of Western economy or shall realise the sufferings of our own people and try to remove them. I would request that on this glorious moment, the Parliament of the country should identify the problems of the common man, realise his aspirations and become a competent medium to fulfill them. We should find a way by walking on Gandhiji's path of Swadeshi and self dependence. We have that understanding but it is necessary to understand that, otherwise the Parliament will fail in discharge of its duty. Parliamentary Democracy shall become glorious only when Parliament will discharge its duty.

\*SHRI KAPIL MUNI KARWARIA (Phoolpur): The first Lok Sabha was constituted on 17th April, 1952 and its first meeting was held on 13th May, 1952. Today, our Parliament has completed 60 years and revolutionary changes have taken place during these six decades. One major change is with regard to the background of the Members. Earlier, most of the Members used to be from elite class or rich families, whereas, those days large number of Members come from farmers community or labour class. It is good that a common man has found a place in our Parliament. The sapling of democracy has matured. In first Lok Sabha there were 497 elected Members and 2 Members were nominated one, whereas, in Fifteenth Lok Sabha there are 543 elected members and 2 nominated.

All the Speakers have made remarkable contribution in keeping the traditions of Indian Parliamentary democracy intact and enhancing its integrity. The role of Speakers in Indian Parliamentary history right from its constitution till today has been excellent. The task of the Parliament is to undertake legislature work for smooth functioning of Parliament and enact laws for its enforcement but now there is a decline in it. We are unable to devote adequate time for debating on important issues.

Earlier, the Parliament used to discuss development taking place internationally. Gradually, national issues took the place of international issue and then local issues prevailed upon, whereas, these should be debated upon in State Assemblies. Today, there is a need for taking

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

international and national issues first and then regional issues should be taken up so that we can take policy decisions on issues of national interest.

\*SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR (Supaul): The first meeting of Indian Parliament was held on 13th May, 1952 and today we have convened a special meeting on Sunday on completion of 60 years of our Parliament for deliberating and introspecting as to what changes have taken place in India during these 60 years.

A similar special meeting was held in the year 1997 on the occasion of 50th anniversary and some important decisions were taken. Certain promises were made but those promises have remained promises only on papers though 15 years have elapsed since then. And consequently, handful people have started insulting the Parliament and the Members sitting in it. We should ponder over it seriously and resolve that until and unless we resolve to alleviate Poverty and allround development cannot take place.

The condition of farmers is deteriorating, the rich are getting richer and the poor getting poorer. 35 crore people in our country are not able to get one square meal, whereas, large quantity of our foodgrains are getting destroyed in open. It is a very serious issue. If we are unable to provide basic necessities to our people then what type of freedom we have? We need to be concerned about providing food, clothing, shelter to all the citizens in India.

Apart from population control, we need to resolve for removal of malnutrition. Every year lakhs of children fall prey to malnutrition and it still remains a serious problem and we need to take steps to check it. The efforts being made by the Government for alleviation of illiteracy needs to be made more effectively at grass root level in the form of new schemes. We need to ensure that our schemes are implemented in real sense and these should not remain only on papers as formalities.

All of us should come together for tackling terrorism, extremism being thrust on us by our neighbouring countries. There is a need for finding a solution to terrorism and extremism by taking all parties in confidence then only our country can come at par with the developed countries.

The development of our country is possible only if around development of our rural areas take place and migration of

people from villages can be checked if we provide all the facilities in villages, then our country will develop in leaps and bounds. There is a need for making budgetary allocation for this purpose. There is a need to bring revenue revolution. We will have to take initiative for removal of social inequality. Our per capita income, which was Rs. 5708 sixty years ago, has increased to Rs. 35 thousand. Basic infrastructure has also increased. Economically, now India is recognized as a world power. It is a matter of pride, but we still need to tackle the problem of social inequality, we need to work in this regard in a phased manner.

Country's history has been full of pride. Every citizen has a right to equality, freedom of speech. But media has a tremendous role in modern perspective as to how it presents country's glorious history at international level. Earlier, media was tasked with awakening the masses and presenting solutions to the problems, but, today it is acting differently. Therefore, it also needs to improve itself so that the things are placed before the people truly and in real perspective. Common men expect a lot from Members of Parliament but inability of Members in interacting with people of their constituencies directly because of vast area and population of 30 lakh creates resentment among people. It is worrying. We need to be cautious about it.

\*SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI (Sant Kabir Nagar): Today it is a historic day. Today, we can account for our achievements and failures and prepare a course of action for our future.

Traditionally, the Parliament is tasked with enactment of laws and in this regard it is an apex legislative body. By passing Constitutional (Amendment) Bills it has endeavoured to move with the time and it has given a new direction to the country in commensurate with the changing time and circumstances.

The nature of Parliament has been changing with the passage of time. In the first Parliament most of the Members were freedom fighters who had played important role in country's freedom and making of Constitution. Since, the leadership of the country at that time was with intelligentsia, therefore, the level of Parliament was high. There, the standard of debate and discussion and other logical things prevalent at that time are rarely seen these days.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The nature of Government has undergone sea-changes since the first Lok Sabha. Earlier, a single party used to rule, whereas, now no single party is able to form the Government on its own. Therefore, earlier, there used to be strong Government, and now there are compulsive Governments and it is not a right thing for the country. In tug-of-war between national and regional issues, national issues now occupy back-seat and the Government bows down under pressure from regional parties.

A change is seen in the Parliament also in respect of Opposition parties. Earlier, though with fewer seats, the Opposition parties were led by experienced and respected leaders. In view of the logical oratory on many occasions the Government conceded their demand. Though the Opposition has more number of seats but the Government do not bother for their demands.

Since, the Parliament is not only a legislative body it is a representative organisation also. In view of it the masses have great many expectations from Lok Sabha. The Members present their views in effective manner and they make efforts for getting their demands met from the Government. But, on many an occasions, the Government does not pay attention to their demands and ultimately they are seen standing in front of Speakers and shout slogans. In Parliamentary conventions, it is termed as nothing but indiscipline. Sometimes the situation comes to an extent when there is uproar in the House and Members through paper, files and mikes and utters abusive language and interrupt the proceedings of the House. Suitable action is not taken in such matters due to coalition Governments. Today, all of us will have to think over these situations as to what extent the purpose for which the Members of the House have come here is fulfilled. Whether we can solve the challenges posed before the country in a concrete manner. In my view, the question arises about the significance of the House even.

Our Parliamentary system is based on United Kingdom. The conventions about parliamentary conduct put forth by the House of Commons guide us in a large number of matters. Robert Walpole, a Member of House of Commons, who was Secretary of War was found guilty of breach of privilege and serious corruption on accepting five hundred ginni (golden coin) and five hundred pounds. He was not only handed over to Tower for the entire proceeding of the House but he was also expelled from the House on 17.1.1711.

We are not less than the House of Commons of the Great Britain. Our Parliament has also taken strict action against Members for their such conduct which were against the norms of the Parliament. It may be the matter of Provisional Parliament of H.D. Mudgal or the decision of the previous Lok Sabha wherein ten Members were disqualified from the Membership for accepting money for asking questions in the House. Therefore, it can be said that the House has used its rights wherever required for implementing discipline in its premises on the Member.

But despite this, today after 60 years the feeling among the common people is that a game of politics, diplomacy and corruption is being paid in our Parliament. It is necessary to ponder over it.

Today when anarchy, discrimination, poverty, naxalism and corruption has created the problem of terrorism in some parts apart from character downfall due to which people are losing faith in the Government. Baffled from destruction people have started thinking whether this is the real form of constituency controlled democracy of independent India wherein there is nobody to think about the security of life and property of a common man, not even the public representative.

Although, such questions are not limited to the Parliamentary democratic system but Executive and Judiciary are also not untouched with these.

Who is guilty in this matter? Existing corruption and other deficiencies in the Government and its departments raise this serious question. The defect and the defaulter can be identified on monitoring.

Feeling of right comes in the minds of the people who are in power and they forget their duties for vanity and self interest. However, it is a known fact that right and duty is correlated. Therefore, forgetting duty and taking side of corrupt means is also giving patronage to corrupt practices.

Today when we have got an opportunity to discuss these things, we should decide a line to resolve these problems.

Every disease is to be given treatment. First remedy is reforms in electoral laws which can prevent misuse of money and muscle power in elections and if proved in court the person concerned should be disqualified from becoming member of Legislature institutions for the whole life. There should be speedy disposal of such cases.

A provision should be made to punish the guilty immediately for any crime and corrupt practices.

Propagation of education is necessary in India for character building. We shall be capable of facing the future challenges by education and character building and set an example for the coming generations.

Importance of Lok Sabha lies in the fact that its members are public representatives.

The factor of responsibility is important in any administrative practice. Members of Parliament are the elected representatives of public and they are directly responsible towards the public which is different from other institutions of the country viz. executive and judiciary. This opportunity should not be limited to pat on the back. We have done good task which has brought a positive change in the lives of common people. We should consider it our duty and we should take a lesson today as to how we can deliver the goods in a better way.

\*SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Our Parliament has completed 60 years of custodian of democratic practice. This is a matter of great pleasure and glory. Voice of several great orators have echoed in this House. Our patriarch have discussed several issues in this House about security of our borders, dignity, rural development, education, poverty alleviation, upliftment of the poor and all round progress of the country and have repeated many resolutions.

Today after sixty years when experienced, elderly, youth public representatives are expressing joy on this festival, then we are bound to have some consideration also. A question comes in mind several times that we have adopted the Constitution of this country after due consideration. We have resolved to work according to the provisions of the Constitution and to work for the people, by the people. But it is necessary to think that when the constitution directs that we should see every one with one eye and give respect to all. All seats are same for us — whether our conduct and behaviour is according to that?

Constitution framers have made provision for reservation with this hope that after ten years we will bring all dalits, backwards on one platform. The provision for reservation was made for ten years only for this reason. But what

happened? Some mistake has been committed somewhere. The patriarch of this country became weak somehow and went on extending reservation after every ten years just by way of formality and instead of improving the society, we went on connecting society. We became backward. Therefore, need of the hour is to think by coming above the party line, caste line and political lines. Today is the festival of thinking as to how to enter into the 61st year by making progress of the country and to uplift the people sitting in the last row.

We have seen several persons in the country who are filled with the feeling of dedication, surrender and libation. I am not taking any name because it will not be good if even a single name is left. But a continuous chain of very dedicated politicians who were ready to sacrifice their lives for the cause of the country.

Today nature of politics has been changing. The practice of accusing politics and leaders has started and that is very dangerous for the future. It is easy to point out that water is dirty while standing on the bank will not solve the problem. You have to make efforts to go down into the flow of water and try to clean it so that coming generation may get clean water.

Today all the Members present here should take a pledge that we will do whatever we can do sincerely to preserve universality, sovereignty, integrity and rich culture of this country.

\*SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO (Balmikinagar): Today, country is celebrating 60 years of our Parliament. But today Ruling Party and Opposition parties are deteriorating our Parliamentary values. Parliamentary dignity is declining. Precious time of Parliament is wasted in uproarious scenes. Look at the history of last twenty years, you can see how much time of Parliament has been wasted due to interruptions and uproarious scenes.

All political parties are promoting dynasty rule. No son of a poor, Maha Dalit, Dalit backward, most backward, farmer or worker can become a Member of Parliament. You can look at the history of last 60 years, you will come to know about the fact. We have not got real freedom during last 60 years which was contemplated by Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi. It seems that Bharat Mata is still shedding tears from her eyes.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Today all political parties should take a lesson that without development of villages, there cannot be development of India. Nothing can be done unless backward, Dalit and Maha Dalit are made Members of Parliament.

If you want to have a real freedom in the country, you have to make us Members of Parliament. All political parties have to give tickets to poor, Dalits and backward people to send them to the Parliament and that would be the real freedom.

SHRIMATI PUTUL KUMARI (Banka): Sir, today is a glorious day, Indian Parliament has completed 60 years and all of us are witness to this moment.

Sir, I have discharged the duties of a housewife for so many years. A cruel decision of time and destiny has send me to this Parliament. When I came first time to the Parliament and took oath, other Members told me about the working of Parliament, they showed me Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha and Central Hall. At that time, I realised my duties and responsibilities, I remember lakhs of those people who had elected me to the House with so many hopes and aspirations. When I entered Central Hall, I got thrilled by remembering the transfer of power between Moutbaton and Jawahar Lal Nehru at 12.00 mid night. It was a great and glorious event, our freedom movement was very long, be it Jhansi ki Rani, Shahid Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose, Chandra Shekhar Azad, everyone participated in freedom movement. Different methods were adopted such as violence, nonviolence, liberal group and extremist group and through these different means we got our freedom. But today everyone of us should think whether we have fulfilled those dreams which were seen by our freedom fighters and Mahatma Gandhiji. Dream of self-reliance, dream of self respect and so many other dreams were there. Have we fulfilled those dreams. Definitely this comes to our mind that we could not fulfilled those dreams. Today, we are struggling with the problem of health, education, drinking water, unemployment, poverty, terrorism, Naxalism, separatism etc in different ways. That is not the case that India has not achieved anything during these years. We have overcome big challenges, we have defeated big forces. Whenever there is any calamity or any crisis in the country, we all Members of Parliament have faced it unitedly. There is a system in our Constitution given by our Constitution makers that every Government has to work in public interest. Their priorities are fixed and on those

priorities Government works but whenever Government changes, priorities are also changed.

We are public representatives and public elect us. Our aim is one, our path and destination should also be one. We all know that but even then we do not fulfil that. Whenever we go among our electorates then we feel sorry that in spite of having a strong feelings we are not able to meet their expectations to a small extent. We have such a system in which you cannot do anything even if you wish to do. I feel sorry that we have such a system. I think lack of coordination among Executive, Legislature and Judiciary is the main reason for such a system. We enact laws in Parliament, Judiciary and Executive implement those laws but coordination is lacking among them. If that deficiency is removed, our system will work effectively and we will also be able to do more work for which we have been elected.

With the passage of time, our system has become strong, federal structure has become strong and in Parliament. You can see people from different classes communities and from different professions have come in 15th Lok Sabha as compare to 1st Lok Sabha. In Rajya Sabha, which is a Upper House, you can see different colors of people from economic, social and political sphere.

Big decisions have been taken in this Parliament. Guilties have been punished. But it really hurt us to see after the journey of 60 years of our Parliament that proceedings at the House are interrupted and House is not allowed to function. Lakhs of rupees of tax payers are spent on it. Question Hour is not allowed, zero hour is not allowed. Print media and Electronic media want to show our proceedings. People with great enthusiasm come to see proceedings of the House from visitors galleries but due to uproar House is not allowed to function. It certainly raise a question mark on our seriousness in the House. That is the main reason that faith of our people in Parliament and Members of Parliament has dwindling.

We see that people start campaigns outside and a question mark is raised on the commitment of Parliament. I think we need to do introspection as to why questions are raised about our faithfulness, devotion and behaviour. Therefore, we have to look at our own self and need to be more serious. Today we all have to make a commitment that in the time to come, we will make a commitment that in the time to come, we will set an example that we will be able to

win confidence of the people that their hopes and expectations will be fulfilled.

I think some big decisions should have been taken on 60th Anniversary of Indian Parliament. 60 gifts should have been given to the people, 60 resolutions should have been adopted and 60 announcements should have been made because it is a historical session. Tomorrow it will become a history but decisions and resolutions adopted today will pave way for development and well being of the country.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion. With these words I conclude.

[English]

\*SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (Kozhikode): Today we are proudly celebrating the 60th anniversary of Indian Parliament. This is a long way for an individual but a drop in the ocean for an institution.

This system had been built by the visionaries like Pandit Nehru and Dr. Ambedkar who conceived our Constitution which is growing stronger and stronger by the passing day. Indian Parliament has also produced number of luminaries and renowned parliamentarians over a period of time.

During the time India attained its Independence; many British territories also obtained their freedom. But thanks to our Constitution, India still remains a democratic Republic Nation while most of our contemporary nations have either got despotic rulers or have military junta as their administrators.

This largely exhibits the people's participation in the governance of our nation and exhibiting the social and communal harmony that prevails in the country. We are indeed proud of these.

The enjoyment of our freedom rests with not only due to the social, cultural and financial liberties that we enjoy but also due to the strong defence preparedness which protects us from any international threats.

Incidentally, I am pained to see that at times the conduct of the house draws adverse reporting internationally. It is time we thought about restraining ourselves over unwanted interruptions and necessitating for a smooth discussion on the core issues of national importance.

We have framed rules and regulations for many social security schemes. But a good number of them are not implemented properly. The social security schemes like the MGNREGA and NRHM are perhaps unique in its nature. But we see allegations of corruptions at all levels on these schemes. We should not confine ourselves to framing of schemes and rules. We should also ensure that these are properly implemented, monitored and evaluated. Housing, food, health and education are some of the major area of concern we need to delve into. We need a good PDS system which will have a better reach to the citizens. Health is required to be viewed at micro level. Cost of medicines and in-patient treatment is increasing and ordinary people are unable to meet the costs. Educational upliftment needs more emphasis which will ensure more social upliftment. We also need a Kerala model land reforms which will ensure eradication of the landless and homeless. The Parliament should also stress importance on agriculture which is the mainstay of the nation.

So my submission is that let us jointly strive to build a nation which should withstand the test of time and keep in mind that when democratic system fails other institutions try to fill the gap which would be detrimental to our democratic system. Therefore, we should ensure that our democratic system prevails.

[Translation]

SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI (Chatra): Hon. Chairman, Sir, we have assembled here today on a historical occasion and we are on a juncture from where we have to move forward keeping in mind our past. We have to look at our short comings as well as our merits. We should have pride over our merits and embarrassment on our shortcomings.

I today recollect Picaso here when I have got a chance to speak. Picaso was a great painter. He made a very beautiful piece of art, painting. He was proud of it and thought that nobody would be able to trace out my shortcoming in it. He put that painting in the market out of vanity and announced that anybody, who finds a shortcoming in it, may put a spot on it. In the morning when he went to look at the piece of art, he found several spots on it. He was disappointed and thought that his masterpiece created with hard work had so many shortcomings. Thereafter, one of his friends suggested him to put a line under the picture saying anybody may put spot on it if there is any merit in it. The next morning Picaso went

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



there and found that his whole picture was full of merits. Mr. Chairman, in the same way Indian democracy is full of merits and shortcomings. So, we should have pride on it, when we sit here on its 60th anniversary, as there are so many languages, religions, castes in the country and we have moved together with 120 crore people.

We become united at the time of crisis otherwise we remain divided. We never discriminate whenever the boundaries of the country call us. We become united from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Atak to Katak, this is our great peculiarity.

Indira ji was our Prime Minister during the 1971 war with Pakistan and the boundaries were calling us. No leader of Opposition dare to call the leader of his opposite party as 'Durga'. But when the boundaries of the country did make a call to us then he said that without any hesitation that Indira ji should play the role of Durga and the people of the country were with her. The country has manifested its democracy in this way.

As I have said, democracy has many merits but we should not ignore its shortcomings. Our democracy too has weaknesses. We have participated in Jai prakash Narayan's agitation. We also spent 17 months in jail during emergency. I feel the journey of democracy is just like a spring. When we visit Gangotri or Jamnautri, we see how springs come down from those spiral paths, the path of democracy is spiral like that. Shri R.C. Prasad, the great poet of Bihar has said that human life is like a spring. He says-

"Ye Jeewan Kya Ek Jharna Hai, Masti Hi Iska Pani Hai,  
Sukh-Dukh Ke Dono Teeron Pe, Chal Raha Rah  
Manmani Hai. Kab Nikla Giri Ke anchal Se, Kab Parvat  
Se Utara Neeche Kin Ghaton Se Hokar Laya, Apne Ko  
Samtal Me Kheenche."

A spring comes into the plain crossing the vallies and hills. I am sorry to say that our democracy is still in vallies and has not reached the plain. The spring does come in the plain but the democracy and condition of the country has not come in the plain. The first song that used to sing in JP Movement was-

"Koti-Koti Jhopadion Me to chhai hui udasi hai,  
Muthi Bhar Banglown me Dekhi Jati Puranmasi Hai."

Honourable Hukumdeo Narayan ji was also emerged from that movement. So, today when we see poverty in the

country we think of the day when there would be no poor in India. On one hand people are dying of hunger and on other hand foodgrains are rotting, there is mess somewhere in the system. How can we remove this disorder? So, today we should introspect to find out shortcomings in our democracy and the ways to remove them so that we can make such a society as mentioned in our "Upanishads". "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah Sarve Santu Niramayah, Sarve Bhadrani Pasyantu Ma Kaschidh Dukh Bhagbhavet". It was an ideal imagination about the country and the society.

Today, the children of the poor do not get drinking water while the dogs of the rich get milk. How can we say that our country is passing through an era of Ram Rajya.

Today we need to do self introspection. After 60 years of Parliament, when we are sitting here, we have to work keeping aside discrimination and caste factor. Every time when elections are held in the country such tendencies are emerged. I have been watching TV for the last two days and have noticed that people of Muradabad and adjoining districts are leaving their homes. There is tension after the election. Hon. Chairman, Sir such things should not be allowed to happen. Election should be fair and free like a line on the water. Discrimination in caste and religion should not prevail before and after the election. If people start to run away towards Delhi then what will be our belief towards democracy. We should imagine for it.

Sir, I want to say that this is the time, as I have said about introspection, I think that it is right that people would contest elections on behalf of their parties till the party system exists. But there is a need for a lot of reforms. Election reforms should be carried out. Hon. Chairman Sir, the chair which is occupied by you, I think that the person sitting on this Chair, who is called Speaker, should be independent from party. I also sit there some time. In England, it has been said that "once Speaker, always Speaker." If some one becomes Speaker once he should have self respect in such a way that he can maintain impartiality and it can be maintained only when he would be above party and politics. When he got to contest election, no other candidate should be against him. Then we will be considered that we are heading towards a noble way. Like this, many other reforms can be done in the election. It should be ensured that we should keep the election free from money power, muscle power, castes factor and religion. Otherwise, the way the country is heading to the building is so strong, but it has become weak from inside. Today the

need of the hour is to make it strong and make election reforms so that the unaccounted money which is being spent like water, can be checked-until then the politics of noble Parliament and noble country will remain a dream and it will be very difficult to achieve the goals.

Hon. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak.

\*SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): At this historical moment, on the eve of 60th anniversary of Lok Sabha, learning from Indian past history, I pay humble tribute to those great personalities who have gifted us the great democracy of the world as a heritage. At the same time, I also pay tribute to the great martyrs who laid their lives and presented a free India.

Our country has faced great challenges and has emerged as a powerful nation. Unity in diversity, respect for every ideology has been special feature of our democracy. Despite fierce debate from time to time, we arrive at a common platform in public interest. It is the speciality of our democracy. This temple of democracy is a symbol of belief and faith of people. Even in adverse conditions, we have spoken in unison on the issue of integrity of our country. Our democracy is the largest and strongest democracy in the world. We have lengthiest Constitution in the world. I salute the founding father of our Constitution Dr. Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly.

We are fortunate enough to witness this moment of pride. I salute the great personalities, the son of the soil who sacrificed themselves for freedom of our country. We resolve that we shall leave no stone unturned in making our democracy strong, powerful and trustworthy. We shall make concerted efforts for service to the people, to our country and for strengthening our democracy. We wish our country every success.

[English]

\*SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA (Koppal): It is an historical day as we all are assemble here to mark the sixty years journey of 'Indian Parliament'. Parliament is the temple of democracy. It is the special day of the largest parliamentary democracy in the world. So, I am thankful to hon'ble Speaker Smt. Meira Kumar for making the opening remarks and hon'ble Finance Minister for initiating the discussion on this

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

very important event. In these 60 years Indian democracy has achieved several milestones.

I am proud to be a Member of this august House for the first time. I am grateful to people of my constituency Koppal and also to the people of entire Karnataka.

It is a unique platform for every region of our vast and diverse country to have its voice heard at the highest forum of our democracy. Great leaders and oratories like Jawaharlal Nehru and Ram Manohar Lohia, Hiren Mukherjee and Pilloo Modi had contributed a lot. In recent years, MPs such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Chandra Shekhar and Somnath Chatterjee upheld the tradition. The Parliament has its own decorum. It was maintained by all our elders. All these many great leaders served the Parliament with great distinction.

In order to "strengthen democracy", it has allowed the weaker sections of the society, women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities and other vulnerable sections to enter into this temple of democracy, the Parliament. This has a bigger impact on mainstream politics. In my opinion it is the best way to ensure social justice to all the community. This is an indication that roots of Indian democracy are strengthening and constitutional provisions for social justice are creating great opportunities to the people of all deprived classes and communities. To that extent, I would say our Indian Parliament has achieved a lot. But I would say that there needs to be done a lot of work to ensure the complete welfare of our country.

We should agree to the fact without any hesitation that even after sixty years of the journey of the Parliament, our independence, many of our brothers and sisters are unable to get justice in the mater of sufficient foodgrains, cloths, education, housing, etc. If this is the condition what is the use of celebrating, even to mark 60 years or 100 years.

That is why I would like to make my submission to all my respected colleagues to take a broader view in terms of the development of the entire people of the country. When we talk about development there should not be any kind of divisive thinking. The government should take decisions beyond the interest of any individual, political party, etc. Only such comprehensive steps would help out our country to come out of present crisis of imbalance development of all the sectors.

The Constitution of India has made very clear cut provisions to ensure round development of the country. But

still we need to achieve the welfare of the people of our country. The union government should take all necessary steps in this regard. Nation should be its first priority, next comes other things.

People are expected to make the right noises on all these subjects. We should understand the pulse of the people and respect their sentiments. Therefore, I would like to suggest that a resolution should be passed in this occasion to ensure smooth running of the Houses of Parliament. In this, we must do something for meeting the expectation of the people of our country. Then only celebration of this kind of events would become meaningful.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): Today, our Parliament has completed 60 years. This celebration is taking place on this occasion. The system governed by the people is known as the House of the People, i.e. Lok Sabha. The system has no control of the people. Democracy is formed with the coordination of language of the common man, common-attire, a people's building and peoples' food and their culture. Casteism and feudalism are the enemy of democracy. Our society is ridden with casteism. Administration is feudalist. As long as caste system continues exploitation on the basis of castes will continue. The dirty virus of inequality and corruption takes birth and develop on the dirty waste of caste system and they keep hurting the society. These can be eliminated through special efforts but we can't root them out totally. Reservation is a kind of special opportunity. Special privilege creates inequality in society but when special opportunity gets transferred into a special privilege then it creates many types of problems in the society. When a special class gets created by virtue of special opportunity then the fruit of equality can't reach upto the last man. Inter caste marriage should be made mandatory. The root of caste is not livelihood but daughter. The caste compulsion has weakened in the matter of livelihood. A law should be brought in Parliament for making inter caste marriage compulsory for getting Government jobs and other facilities. It will take 100-200 years in rooting out the thousand years old evil. As the caste difference diminishes, the country becomes stronger. Concrete steps will need to be taken for removal of economic inequality. The Parliament should resolve with a strong political will and enact law for

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

decentralisation of economic control. The principle of one person one job should be adopted so far as agriculture, service and business is concerned. All the citizens should be given equal opportunity for creating egalitarian society. Law should be enacted for providing common- education for all, be it a son of the president or a poor child. This principle should be strictly followed for ensuring that 72 per cent rural farmers get proper place in administration. The obtaining of high school level education in rural schools should be made mandatory for a person seeking entry into Central or State administrative services.

Discipline, dignity, decency, politeness and dedication towards the nation is the base of democracy. Truth can be discovered only through logic. When logic is defeated, autocracy takes the charge. Individualism, casteism, dynasty system and offering eat out the roots of democracy. Today such a tendency is prevailing and powerful over democracy. Today lust, fear, confusion and corruption are weakening our country. A tacit understanding is reached with terrorism and extremism for personal political gains. The country can be made strong and prosperous only through courage, resolve and dedication. The Parliament should resolve for taking bold steps for creating social harmony and national integration. Society should change. We should resolve to ensure that the poor, weak, neglected and those deprived should have a right to live with dignity.

*[English]*

SHRI HASSAN KHAN (Ladakh): Sir, I really feel very proud and honoured to participate in this 60th Anniversary of Indian Parliament. I represent one of the remotest areas of the country, known as Ladakh and also the third region of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 545 Parliamentary Constituencies. My Constituency is the biggest in area and with around 60,000 square kilometers area with very less density of population. After Siberia, the coldest region is called Ladakh where temperature goes upto -50 degree Celsius and it gets cut off from the whole country for almost six months. But, despite all that, we are very proud that we are part of India and we are very proud that we come here after getting elected and put the problems of people before the House; the Government. You are aware that Chinese attacked Ladakh in 1962. The whole country is aware of its outcome.

Pakistan attacked Kargil in 1999 and our area has suffered as a result of it. Despite these all difficulties, we are with the country but Chinese intrusion on Ladakh border still continues. No developmental activities take place in this area. Works under the schemes like MNREGS and other schemes can go on only for six months because of adverse weather condition, whereas, works under these schemes goes on for whole year. But in Ladakh it is severe cold for six months, entire system gets frozen. Despite such difficulties we feel that we are parts of India, part of this Parliament. Therefore, I have come to participate in grand celebration as the occasion of 60th anniversary with a hope that in future, our these difficulties will be resolved. The hon. House should realise that all weather infrastructure should be constructed that as we get cut off for six months. Nothing is available there. I am hopeful that Shariq Saheb has also said, steps will be taken to meet the challenges as the State of Jammu and Kashmir is terrorist affected, climatic conditions are bad, but despite all that we have faith in democracy.

*[English]*

In spite of all these difficulties we still feel that we are a part of the country, a part of this august House. We believe in democracy and we have been a part of the democracy. Today we also feel proud of being a part of the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament. But there is one thing which always hurts.

*[Translation]*

Many Hon'ble Members have mentioned here about the repeated adjournments of the House. They do not allow the House to conduct its business. We come from far and away and with great difficulty get time to speak about our problems. But we do not know what happens, the House is suddenly adjourned. Mr. Chairman, I am an independent member and I am observing for the last three years. When I come in the House from outside, I come to know that House is adjourned for the day. When I ask that why the House is adjourned, it is said that they also do not know. But they have received the instructions of not allowing the House to conduct its business. The Hon'ble members who come in the well of the House, they also do not know that why the House was to be stalled that day? When we come in the Central Hall and ask that why did they stall the House that day, they said that they were also asking that why the House was being stalled but they made noise in the House. This is the condition of our

Parliament today. Madam Speaker, also do not know. She says again and again to carry on the discussion. She would give us time. If you have any problem, if you have seen something in the magazine or have said something in some newspaper or anything has happened in a State, you discuss that. We will give you time. But they say no, adjourn the House. Neither they want debate, nor they want to express their point of view, they will only not allow the House to conduct its business. It is said for those members who have been elected and have come here from far away. Who need opportunities to express their views. But they go out laughing that they had stalled the proceedings. They wait for the next day newspaper news that so and so members stalled the proceedings.

Today we are celebrating 60th anniversary. Therefore, they have to think it over that how their men, their forefathers struggled and with so many difficulties had attained independence. We get opportunity to speak in this House, as Owaisi Saheb has just now said that Parliament means speaking. We have to speak here on every subject. We make the House aware of it and bring to the notice of Speaker. Through Hon'ble Speaker we say to the Government. But we do not get the opportunity to speak here due to adjournment of the House. Therefore, we feel very sad for this. Thus, we hope that such situation will not arise in future and we will remain disciplined.

\*SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Today our Indian Parliament has completed the historic journey from 13th May 1952 to 13th May, 2012 and we all have assembled here to celebrate its 60th anniversary. India is the largest democracy in the world.

During the last 60 years whichever laws have been enacted and implemented by our Parliament for the development of the country their result is before us. Our country has developed because of these laws and our efforts and our country has come in the category of developing countries after coming out from the category of undeveloped countries.

I am proud of it that I was elected for the first time to 7th Lok Sabha of this supreme Parliament and from then onwards I am a member of the 15th Lok Sabha continuously. I am very happy that at this historic moment also, I am the member of this Lok Sabha.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru given a new direction to the development of the country through this Lok Sabha. Our first woman Prime Minister of this country, Indiraji enacted several laws in this Lok Sabha for tribals, down-trodden and backward classes of the country and worked for the development of the poor people of the country. I have seen the period of young Prime Minister of this country, Rajiv Gandhi also. Besides, I have also seen the term of Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri VP Singh, Shri Narsimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh etc. and have seen the country progressing in the leadership of all these.

I have seen the members to do their duty of maintaining dignity of the House and even today I am seeing the members to take the pledge that they will keep on maintaining the dignity of the House. I am confident that the guidance given by the framers of the Constitution for the development of the country is being followed and in future also it will be protected.

On this occasion of 60th anniversary of Lok Sabha, I on my behalf and on behalf of the people of the constituency, Nandurbar, Maharashtra, convey our good wishes to this House.

\*SHRI C. RAJENDRAN (Chennai South): Our Parliament came into existence on May 13, 1952 has got many distinguishing features. I deem it a privilege and feel proud to record my views in this august House on this day when we celebrate 60th Anniversary of our Parliament.

On this occasion, we recall the sacrifices made by our national leaders for the country and pay tribute to their memories. Though we have different languages in different states with distinct cultures from place to place we have set a model for unity in diversity. We are one of the biggest democratic countries with parliamentary democracy in place in a unique way. Our Parliament has got people's representatives elected by a large number of electorate. We have many castes and communities, religions and beliefs, but when it comes to national interest we have always ignored the differences and unitedly came forward to uphold the nation and its unity. We cannot forget that people themselves have come forward as a shield and guard.

Our growth and development after Independence is significant. We have achieved self-sufficiency in many fields. We are looked upon with a sense of admiration. We have the capability to help other countries.

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\*English translation of the Speech originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Hon. Amma is very much concerned and more particular about safeguarding the safety, security, sovereignty, unity and integrity and she is very careful about overcoming anything to the contrary. She is very keen to see that Women's Reservation Bill is passed in this august House. At this moment, we must resolve to pass this Bill to give equal status to women and help women's emancipation.

Our ancient language, the classical language Tamil must become the official language of the country and right steps in this direction must be taken. We must remove poverty and untouchability. We must link all the national rivers. We must make a reality the dreams of our national leaders to develop our country to emerge as a super power.

*[English]*

\*SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR (Zaheerabad): I am proud to be a Member of this august House when we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the first India's Parliament and also it is great feelings to represent as the only Member of Parliament from Lingayath community from Parliamentary Constitution. Andhra Pradesh representing the Indian National Congress. Lingayath Community has originated through Lord Basveshwara who fought for the classless, casteless, elimination of untouchability and promoted peace amongst all the communities irrespective of caste, creed and religion. He used to call all religious heads by organizing Anubhava Mantapam and preach the above. Lord Basveshwara was born in 24th April, 1293 and his statue incidentally and most deservingly have been installed in the Parliament. India became a Republic country on November 26th, 1949 but it took a couple more years before the first general elections were held in 1951-52 and hence the Parliament becomes the supreme legislative body in this country. When it opened six decades ago, it was a highly revered institution, packed with stalwarts who won freedom for India and where debates were of high quality. We cannot forget the Father of this Nation Mahatma Gandhi ji and our first Hon'ble Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ji and also of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar ji who had written our Constitution. The Members of the first Lok Sabha included in the treasury and opposition benches, besides our beloved Leader late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ji, Lal Bahadur Shastri ji, Vallabhai Patel ji, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar ji, Shri Abdul Kalam Azad ji,

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Shri A.K. Gopalan ji, Shri Jagjivan Ram ji. Their speeches, debates and interventions in the House were of a high order. Even when they differed with their opponents, everyone maintained decorum. But after sixty years later, this has been biggest causality for all of us.

I guess, the take away from last 60 years is that people who get elected to this august house must conduct themselves with more dignity, lead by examples whereby nobody is able to then belittle the great institution of Parliament. I must also salute to those who had drafted the Indian Constitution would be proud that the legacy has turned out to be a great leveler. Why it is so, because Smt. Bhagwati Devi, a stone quarry worker from Gaya and Ms. Poolan Devi, a dreaded former dacoit from Chambal, have an equal opportunity to legislate at the highest levels of the country just like their more privileged counterparts.

In order to improve the quality and quantity of debates in the Parliament, the number of days has to be increased where it is only 73 days per year whereas in the first Lok Sabha it was 127 days. Parliament word has come from a French word Parler which was for the first time utilized by Britishers way back in the year 1236. The real Parliament in India was introduced by Britishers only in the year 1858 after abolishing East India Company. To mention briefly about the Parliamentarian in Andhra Pradesh, it is a great pride to see that two of them by name Shri Kandela Subramaniam and Shri Kanety Mohan Rao are going to be honoured on this event. It is not out of context to mention about the name of Shri Damodar Sanjeevaiah who was our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh during 1960-62 was elevated to the post of Rajya Sabha couple of times and at the same time was also AICC, President, appointed by Shri Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru ji once and later on by our beloved leader Late Smt. Indira Gandhi ji. At the time of his death, he had just Rs.17,000/- in his Bank account and a old fiat car. During the year 1967, he contested from Lok Sabha by resigning both Rajya Sabha seat as well as his Ministry which only reflects his political character. Politicians should get inspired by such simple dedicated persons to the nation unlike the present politicians who are complete contrast.

In these 60 years long journey this great democratic institution has seen a worst day ever to face direct attack on Parliament on 13th December, 2001 where five gunmen infiltrated into the Parliament House in a car with Home Ministry and Parliament labels. Our brave security personnel

including the vice President's guards shot back at the terrorists and then started closing the gates of the compound. Many security personnel/officials and gardener were killed and almost 18 others were injured. We cannot forget to remember and pay our tributes for those who have loss their precious lives where no Hon'ble Minister or any MP was hurt for this nation and also to secure this great institution from any direct/indirect attacks from terrorists.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (Jalgaon): Today, I am specially grateful that I have been given the opportunity to express my views in this special sitting held on his historic occasion of completing of 60 years by the Indian Parliament. In our country Indian Parliament was called a temple and Lok Sabha was called its poojari. Today, contrary to this, the work done in the Parliament is less and noise made is more. It is very sad. There is no discussion in the Parliament. Last year, one of the issues of public debate was this also that if Parliament is supreme, then above whom it is supreme? Whether this supremacy is on people? What is the remedial reply of this question under our parliamentary system? More important is this that what situation arose after six decades that people started asking unsatisfactory questions about the role and functions of Parliament. We shall have to think over it.

The functioning of parliamentary democracy in India has been very well during the last 60 years, keeping in view the innumerable social, economic and political challenges it has faced. Our Parliament, State Legislatures and Panchayati Raj institutions have taken forward the ideals of guiding principles of our Constitution i.e. participatory democracy, secularism, social justice and ideals of more opportunities of participation of citizens in the overall progress of the country.

Of course, there are shortcomings and successes in every field. It may be that in some fields, i.e. egalitarian society, our resolve to march forward toward economic order; our shortcomings may be more as compared to our successes. Therefore, there is a need for maintaining of a balanced view while looking at the last 60 years of our Parliament. We should neither overlook the great contribution of parliamentary democracy in building of modern India, nor hesitate in mentioning it with pride. At the same time, while looking at our shortcomings we should analyse honestly that where

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

and why we remained back, and appropriate remedial measures may be taken in this regard. This is such a balanced thinking from which we shall be able to unite our force and remove the shortcomings. It is evident, that in completing these two tasks, the maximum responsibility is of Parliament and State Legislatures.

There is no dearth of dynamic, honest and dedicated members of Parliament in the country who want to bring changes in the society with economic independence. A trend has always been seen in the history of world where stones were thrown on the temples, mosques, gurudwaras and their followers and worshippers. Similarly, nobody is surprised to see the groups of such persons who reprimand the Indian Parliament and Parliamentarians.

Today the common people expect more from us because we make promises and make full efforts to get them fulfilled but due to slackness of the Government the resentment among common people towards we people is increasing. So, the small problems of the people should be resolved immediately.

Sir, I can say with pride that whenever there were any crises over the country, all the parliamentarians, leaders came together and united to face the problem. Today our country has established itself as developed country in the world though it is still under development. I am very much grateful to you and feel lucky to participate in the discussion on 60th anniversary of the Parliament.

*[English]*

\*SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR (Bagalkot): The Indian Democratic Parliamentary system has established a unique standard among the Polity of Nations. Though for the first 30 years there has been strong single party rule in the country and the ruling party had massive mandate from the people having largest number of Members in the Parliament. The opposition parties also enjoyed respect getting full opportunity of representing the views of the people supported them inside the Parliament. Since the era of late 1980's India has witnessed rule of coalition government. But democratic norms have been upheld with highest dignity in the Parliament.

India is the longest serving democracy in the world. It is a matter of great pride and satisfaction for the people of the

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Nation, in spite of the diverse political views. We have existed unanimity in the matter of nationality, national integration and upholding highest tradition of democracy.

This is the Hallmark of Indian Parliamentary democracy. The Parliamentary system should be strengthened by strictly following the rules, procedure in deliberation made in the Parliament.

We are proud that today we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Parliament is existence and I hope the Indian Parliamentary system will be continued with more strength and vigor for all time in the future also.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Today the supreme institution of the Indian democracy i.e. Parliament is completing its sixty years. Today, a special Session of Parliament has been called which is really a special day. We cannot forget Mahatma Gandhi ji, the great personality. Such rare persons are born very less in the world. We are independent due to him. Today we have to think that we started from where, what we get, where we stand today and what we have to achieve? India became independent and become atomic power. It may become world power one day. The story of Indian democracy is very strange, we fought very vigorously to win this freedom. We crossed the obstacles and difficulties. Our great achievement is that India became a successful democracy. We can proudly say that our country is a successful democracy. We established great parliamentary practices and will keep this heritage alive. We have resolved the most of issue in this House, made laws in the interest of society, but there is fall in the standard and dignity of the parliamentary proceedings. The duration of Parliament sittings is decreasing. Everyday interrupting the proceedings of the House does not enrich the thinking of the Opposition or treasury benches. Many a times the ruling side behaves in a manner as they are obliging the Opposition by giving them opportunity to speak. The schemes worth millions-billions of rupees affecting the country are passed in uproar. They are not discussed properly Whether the Bills, which are directly linked with the public interest, are seriously discussed? There are so many acts which are connected with the daily life of common people and infrastructural development. Many a times it looks that the discussion is made in hurry and the acts had to pass due to lack of time.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The Parliament had played an important role in retaining the faith in democratic system. This concept of greatest Parliament of the greatest democracy of the world, is a very special point for us. For abolition of corruption, to liberate the politics from criminalisation, should we not resolve to go forward for election reforms and political reforms. Should we not resolve to control the population, remove the illiteracy and unemployment and start a campaign for the same. Today the number of poor people is increasing continuously and the number of billionaires is also increasing. Narration is not enough in the matter of corruption, but deed is also important as well.

When the China occupied a large area of Indian Territory in 1962 then a motion was passed in Indian Parliament that each and every inch of Indian Territory will be recovered. Thereafter a motion was passed in the Parliament in 1994 that Pak occupied Kashmir will be recovered. Are we serious on both the motions, but the People of the country has forgotten these motions. The Parliament in 1997 made some promises unanimously on the 50th Anniversary of Independence of the country. That time motion was passed to curb the corruption and abolish the criminalisation of politics. It is open to everyone that corruption has increased manifold.

The problems of corruption and criminalisation have taken a serious turn after 1997. Today the money power and muscle power have overpowered the democracy. We had promised for election reforms. Today the common man is finding it difficult to contest the elections. Why the promises made from the highest democratic forum of the country have not been fulfilled? There have been 15 big scams after 1997. We are the face of the country, we have no right to befool the public. There is no alternative of goodness in life and if the political leaders and parliamentarians has acquired the duty of giving a new direction and laws to the nation and responsible for raising voice against each wrong deed, then they have to play a great role to do accordingly. The Public also pay respect and honour to such political leaders. It is a fact that sometimes the honest and clean image leaders had to face difficulties, but the clean image and honest leaders always win. The image of good politicians has become very dirty in markets, schools, among students and teachers and film stories, could it be changed.

Today questions are raised on our credibility and parliamentary duties of the leaders. Not only the distance

has increased between the Parliamentarians and public but a gap has also broadened. The disbelief has also increased, people do not honour we people. This is a serious matter for us, we should maintain the belief of public. Today there is a challenge before us as how to remove poverty and how justice is provided to the public. We should remove the economic disparity. We should abolish the caste-system. We should ponder over these things and think how much we have fulfilled our promises. We should remember our martyrs due to whom we become independent, we should salute them who fought for our liberty. We have to make the country according to their aspirations. We boldly propagate the misdeeds but do not say a word about good deeds and close our eyes. If the honestly working trader are not honoured, how will the people be inspired.

*[English]*

\*SHRI R. DHYUVANARAYANA (Chamrajanagar): I would like to extend my heartfelt felicitations on the 60th anniversary of the first session of India's Parliament.

The Parliament of India over the years has been an important institution where matters concerning the depressed and backward communities of our country have been raised, discussed and addressed. However, one would agree that at times, in view of the several burning issues in front of the country, issues plaguing the depressed and backward communities took a back seat and were more often left unaddressed.

In the evolution of Parliament as an institution, Parliamentary Forums have been the latest addition. Presently six Parliamentary forums, concerning water conservation and management, children youth, population and public health, global warming and climate change and disaster management are in operation.

Such fora have helped the Members in acquiring information and knowledge regarding issues and developments in the areas concerning each such forum and indeed have helped many Members to become aware of the seriousness of the situation and to enable them to adopt a result-oriented approach towards these issues.

At this historic juncture, I would like to seek your kind intervention for the setting up of a Parliamentary forum on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. This forum will help

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



the Members belonging to such communities to come together and discuss various unique problems being faced by such communities in different parts of the country and assimilate a common view on them. This forum will also give an opportunity to intellectuals and researchers belonging to such communities to make presentation before the Members on their findings, which in turn can be raised on the floor of the House and in the various Committee. Moreover, it is well known that Dalit literature and research is often ignored.

I would like to add that no doubt there is a Committee on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which has a predefined mandate. However, such a Parliamentary forum will give a wide platform to Members and the intelligentsia of such communities to sit, discuss, understand the intrinsic dynamics of issues concerning these communities, which otherwise is not possible within the mandate of the Committee on SC & ST.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (Thiruvananthapuram): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity for a first-term Member of Parliament to have a word on this extremely important occasion.

Mr. Chairman, as we reflect on the 60th anniversary of this august House and this Parliament, it is time to think a little bit about the democracy that this body enshrines. The whole emanation of the idea of India, to borrow Rabindranath Tagore's famous phrase, the idea of a plural civilization, a civilization that has been created by generations of people of various backgrounds coming to contribute to our history, Nehruji spoke about a palimpsest written over by new, succeeding waves of people coming to this country, making the India we know today and yet not erasing what has gone before.

In the last sixty years of this Parliament, Mr. Chairman, India has grown from 370 million people in 1952 to 1.2 billion people today. We have reorganized our State structure. We have defended our country from internal and external dangers, and we have managed to do this while remaining democratic.

Our Parliament is the result of that magical exchange of hopes and promises, exchanges of compromises and aspirations, that constitute the people's mandate, for every one of the MPs sitting in this House today. It is with this that we represent the people, whose hopes they have entrusted to us to fulfil through our work in this House. Democracy, that we in this House and this institution embodies, has given the

poor, the oppressed an opportunity to break free of their lot. And, this is reflected too in the changing composition of this Parliament, the degree to which the broadening social and class base of this Parliament has been reflected in the history of the last 60 years. The way in which no one today is excluded and we have a Parliament that truly looks like India.

Our Parliament reflects our great diversity. Even today's debate is a proof of that — the various languages we have heard spoken, the different ethnicities that have risen to contribute to today's reflection and discussion, the different religions and castes represented amongst the Members of Parliament today. This Parliament embodies the idea that India is a country where we can transcend differences of caste, of creed, of colour, of culture, of cuisine, of conviction of consonant of costume and of custom, and still rally around a consensus. That consensus is on the simple idea that in a large and diverse democracy like ours, we do not really need to agree all the time; so long as you will agree on the ground rules of how you will disagree. This is what this Parliament embodies — how we can disagree in a way that strengthens our nation, strengthens our democracy and strengthens the future of India.

This is the idea of India; it is an idea of a diverse land where all of us belong, where you can be many things and one thing. You can be a good Christian or a good Muslim, a good Keralite, a good Indian — all at once, because all of these identities are secured in the identity of Indianness that this Parliament today embodies.

I know that in other countries, they speak of the minor differences that divide people. In our country, this Parliament celebrates the commonality of major differences. We celebrate all the varieties of our nation. In fact, when I used to live in the United States, I would tell American audiences that your country calls itself a melting pot. We are not a melting pot; we have many differences in our country; we are, instead, a *thali*, because we are a collection of different dishes, each of which has a different taste, does not necessarily mix with the next, but they belong together on the same plate, and they contribute to give you a satisfying repast. That is our India — the India of the *thali*.

This Parliament's Founding Fathers wrote a Constitution for their dreams. Today we have given passports to their ideals. We must live up to those ideals; let us ask ourselves in this Parliament — and I say this with all the humility of a

new Member, let us ask ourselves whether we are always worthy of those ideals of our founding fathers. Let us ask ourselves, if the way in which this Parliament was conducted 60 years ago, is still the way in which we behave today — whether the slogan shouting, the disruption that we have seen, that has deprived us of so many days of work in this House, is the true reflection of the high aspirations that we are praising, and honouring, and commemorating today.

Let us also say to ourselves that this is the time when many outside this Parliament, the self-appointed representatives of civil society has challenged this Parliament's right to represent the people, have claimed that there is a disconnection from the popular will of this country. Let us show, not only that we have the popular mandate through the votes that we have won, let us also show that we believe in fulfilling the needs of the people, and that we will use this Parliament to work for the people, and not to disrupt our work.

Equally, I had the privilege of calling on the Speaker, to offer the suggestion that we could take the Parliament to the people by having a five-day Session, somewhere other than Delhi. I suggested Bengaluru, not only because it is a State ruled by a Party other than mine, but because it has the facilities to host both the Houses of Parliament. Let us go to another part of the country, show the nation that they too have a claim; they do not have to come to Delhi to see parliamentarians at work, but it is available to them, everywhere in the country.

I would respectfully suggest that what we need to do is to remain faithful to the founding values of our nation's Parliament, to the founding values of our democracy and our Constitution; and in that process, we need to revive it, we need to come out with new creative, positive ideas to make Parliament more relevant and more connected to the people and this nation.

If we are true to these founding values of the 20th century, I know that this Parliament can go on to transform the future of India in the 21st century.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH (Sagar): I consider myself to be lucky enough that I am participating in this celebration

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

on the festive occasion of 60th anniversary of Lok Sabha. Democracy has taken a deep root in this country and I feel that there was a time when national political parties were ruling the roost but within this period of 60 years, regional parties have suddenly gained significance. Today, regional parties have their Governments in the States while at the Central level, the period of coalition Governments has started.

First sitting of the Lok Sabha was held on 13th May, 1952. In those days some foreigners had reacted with these comments whether democracy will succeed in this country. But during these 60 years, the people of this country have strengthened democracy and have belied the comments of so called intellectuals.

Today we have assembled here to strengthen the system of parliamentary democracy in this country. Even earlier, on this occasion of the 50th anniversary of Indian Republic, a special session of the Parliament had been convened in which several resolutions has been adopted unanimously.

Today we are to resolve here that we will face all our challenges in a democratic way. In spite of our full trust in the democratic system, sometimes there are such moments when democracy is invaded. It brings down people's trust in their representatives. We should think over it. We should ensure that there is no recurrence of such events in future as had taken place on the midnight of discussion on the Lokpal Bill in Rajya Sabha which had impaired our constitutional institutions. We also need to discuss in its seriousness today to see as to how to ensure our day-to-day decorum in the House and our image in the public.

Today while on one hand, this country is marching ahead on the path of development, on the other hand there has been rapid increase in corruption, poverty, starvation and malnutrition in this country. Even today, more than 30 crore people of this country are not getting two square meals. It is all the more unfortunate that the Government of this country considers a man with a daily income of Rs. 24 in the rural area and the other with a daily income of Rs. 28 in the cities as living below the poverty line. We should also consider it seriously whether a person with a daily income of Rs. 28 can be a person living below the poverty line?

The area I represent here is called by the name of Bundelkhand. Though this Lok Sabha has brought about several radical changes, the Nationalisation of Banks, Panchayat Raj Act, Right to Information, attainment of Nuclear

Energy, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, Compulsory Education Act in this country but with regard to the Bundelkhand region, I am presenting here for the consideration of this House some very important issues like River linking Scheme, creation of Railway network, Separate Budget for farmers on the lines of the Rail Budget, exploitation of mineral deposits for the backward and poor people of Bundelkhand. I am sure that in the time to come, this Lok Sabha will also take care of these issues. While congratulating the people of this country, Once again, I bid adieu to all of you.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Darjeeling): Mr. Chairman, I am rather a late entrant to this discussion. Much more so, as an afterthought than one of the original participants that have been listed.

I had earlier this morning reflected on the not so much the irony but the continuity of our discontents — by reflecting on the 50th Anniversary debate that we had on this very theme and I have with me, Mr. Chairman, if you permit me to read it out a Resolution which was adopted on 1st September, 1997 in the drafting of which Resolution, I had the honour to be one of the contributors and the then Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma was just piloting the entire Resolution. I will not read all of it but some of it. This is of 1st September, 1997. It said:

“We do now solemnly affirm our joint and unanimous commitment to the issues hereinafter mentioned, and we also do solemnly resolve and direct that they be adopted as minimum tasks, constituting our “Agenda for India” on this historic occasion.”

I wonder if that ‘Agenda for India’ is now only a part of the Archives of India and not so much of continuing Agenda. Let me read out just two or three commitments that we had made. It said:

“That the prestige of Parliament be preserved and enhanced, also by conscious and dignified conformity to the entire regime of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Houses and Directions of the Presiding Officers relating to orderly conduct of business, more especially by maintaining the inviolability of the Question Hour; refraining from transgressing into the official areas of the House, or from any shouting of slogans and invariably desisting from any efforts at interruptions or

interference with the address of the President of the Republic.”

The Resolution had gone and covered a variety of economic and social aspects. Therefore, the obvious enough point I leave for all of us to reflect on, is whether now this is a forgotten document and why did we go through this exercise, ten years back when it was the 50th Anniversary? I say this not with any cynicism but really as an aspect of our concern, whether our deliberations here at the 60th Anniversary will also meet with the similar fate five or ten years from now. That is why, I leave just three other thoughts with you because I have been told that I have only five minutes and I shall stick to that.

Let us please reflect not on the fact of having traveled these 60 years much more on recognizing and taking into account the discontent of our time. If we do not address the discontent of our time, we are not addressing the substance of the democratic impulse of our country.

The other point I wish to submit to the House is this. We speak often of physical infrastructure. We speak of social infrastructure. There is yet another infrastructure and that is the moral infrastructure of the country. Let us on this occasion or any other occasion reflect deeply on whether in our pursuit or whatever we are pursuing, the concept and the question of the moral infrastructure of the country has been forgotten by us because if the moral infrastructure gets eroded, then we witness what we are witnessing today about corruption and corruption of spirit; corruption and procedure; and corruption in governance. It is that moral infrastructure of the country that I think we need to reflect on, on this 60th occasion.

I, therefore, strongly recommend that we in this Assembly or such Assemblies re-examine and re-discover the ethics of democracy. Yes, we have a democratic system. We do follow the democratic procedures. But are we following the soul of democracy and are we pursuing the democratic impulse of India in accordance and in harmony with the ethics of democracy? I do not intend to elaborate on this but there is a third element which I wish to leave for everyone to reflect on.

During Independence and for some decades after Independence, the element of the heroic in national life was the element that inspired all of us. For those of us who served in the Armed Forces, or were in uniform and then sought to enter the public life of the country, that was always an element of the heroic. What I deeply miss and regret is the absence of

the heroic in our national life. However, on the 60th Anniversary, can we re-discover that?

Finally, 50 years from Independence, in 1997, that was not a predominant question until then but I think we need to reflect very seriously that the excessive centralisation of the polity that we adopted in 1947 and continued wherein one party ruled the entire country to today's political situation mandates upon us to rediscover the unity through re-defined federalism of the country. If you do not re-define federalism, we will further put pressure on the nation's sinews of unity.

I do not have time and I do not think it is necessary for me to elaborate these. These were some of the thoughts that I thought I would leave with you and with other Members on this occasion.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): If we make an assessment in this special session held on Sunday, the 13th May in the Parliament House on the occasion of completion of 60 years of Indian Republic, we will find that parliamentary traditions have strengthened our democracy. While this occasion is a matter of pride for the Members of this House, all the people of this country felt it that it is the supreme institution of this country which reflects the sentiments of all the people of this country. This historical moment provides an opportunity of retrospection to all the Members of this House. I am speaking of retrospection because in this very House a special session had been organised on the 50th anniversary of Indian republic. Even on that occasion, all the political parties had adopted several resolutions unanimously and had resolved to conduct the proceedings of this House smoothly in the time to come. In spite of that, last year this House conducted its business only on 73 working days and 258 hours had been lost on account of various interruptions. Today here we are talking more of non-functioning of this House than the conduct of business by this House. In spite of that, the democratic system of India has been strengthened while in our neighboring countries, democracy is facing serious challenges. In those countries, democratic values have been facing serious challenges. In those countries democratic values have been facing serious threats. Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar etc. are the examples. Therefore, this occasion and this day is not to be observed merely as a formality. But it is an occasion of serious thinking and discussion.

In order to check the devaluation of parliamentary traditions, all of us should rise above the political considerations and resolve to keep the great traditions of this House and democracy intact. If we went to observe this important occasion of history mere as a formality, then it has no significance in any way. Today, it is a matter of pride for the people of India, that the members of 1st Lok Sabha, Sarvashri Kamal Singh from Bihar, Rishang Kishang from Manipur, Resham Lal Jangde and Kandala Subramanian from Tamil Nadu are alive. Among them Shri Rishang Kishang is a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha who has been a witness and participant of Parliamentary system for a period of six decades because the first Rajya Sabha was constituted on 2nd April, 1952 and its first sitting was held on 13th May, 1952 while Lok Sabha was constituted on 17th April because Lok Sabha elections for the first time were held in 1952. First sitting of first Lok Sabha was also held on 13th May, 1952. In this 60 years' parliamentary sojourn we have taken several important decisions. In spite of different ideologies of our people this House is an important centre of sovereignty of our people's sentiments. Therefore, the Parliament of India has made 97 amendments in the Constitution of this country at different points of time which have helped to enact laws for welfare schemes for the general public of this country and to safeguard their interests. In the 10th Lok Sabha, 73rd and 74th Constitution amendment were brought in this House to provide for 33 per cent representation to women under Panchayat Raj System. Empowerment of Indian women has been possible on account of this very House. In the first Lok Sabha, there were 21 women representative while today in this 15th Lok Sabha we have 60 women representatives. Our democracy is based on equality. Today, when our democratic system is being strengthened, we shall have to resolve to eradicate casteism, corruption and communalism. Only then our people will get its fruitful results. Today, we shall have to remember the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly Dr. Rajendra Prasad and convener of the draft Committee, Babasaheb Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar who provided Article 395 and 8th schedule to safeguard the fundamental Rights of our people. It is safeguarding the interests of common men of this country. Our Constitution is considered as a good Constitution of the world. Therefore, other hon'ble great Members of the Constituent Assembly i.e. Sarvashri Alladi Krishnaswami Ayer, V. Patrami Sitarammya, K.M. Munshi, G.V. Mavalankar, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Acharya J.B. Kriplani,

Harender Kumar Mukherjee etc had put in a lot of efforts to prepare the Constitution. Speaking on the resolution presented by Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the President of India. Dr. Rajendra Prasad ji had said on the occasion of discussion in the joint assembly of the two Houses of Parliament.

[English]

Mr. President "Before formally put the motion in front of House which was moved by Dr. Ambedkar, I desire to say a few words:

- (a) "I have only to add that they all (members of Dalit Committee) worked in a business like manner and produced report which were considered by the Assembly and their recommendations were adopted as the basis on which the draft constitution had to be prepared. This was done by Mr. B.N.Rao, who brought to bear on his task a detailed knowledge of constitutions of other countries and an extensive knowledge of the conditions of this country as well as his own administrative experience."

As a result, the Draft Constitution has increased in size and by the time, it has been passed, it has come to have 395 Articles and of Schedules, instead of the 243 Articles and 13 Schedules of the original Draft of Mr. B.N. Rao.

- (b) "I must convey, if you permit me, my own thanks as well as who worked on honorary basis all the time that he was here, assisting the Assembly not only with his knowledge and erudition but also enabled the other members to perform their duties with thoroughness and intelligence by supplying them with the material on which they could work. In this, his band and research workers and other members of the staff who worked with zeal and devotion assisted him. Tribute has been paid justly to Shri S.N. Mukerjee who has provided of such invaluable help to the Drafting Committee what ever I have said it is part of Mr. President's Speech."

[Translation]

If we see in the context of today event during these 60 years Parliament had gone through many ups and downs, yet its history had been promising. I am proud of the fact that

I am also a part of that Parliament. Our countrymen have become more confident during these 60 years. It was during this period in 1954 Lok Sabha passed so many important Bills like Prevention of Untouchability Bill and Prevention of Dowry Harassment Bill. It went farther and bestowed upon people the right to work. It was made a fundamental right during 14th Lok Sabha. It is in this very House that Right to Information Act was passed by our Government to make it simple and possible for the common people to access the Government decisions. Today the 15th Lok Sabha is considering the proposal to bestow upon all the people the right to food security. Today our country is being ruled by a democratic Government. We sincerely wish that the standard of living of the people should go up. We should remember that all of our development plans depend on a strong republic and Parliament. In order to bring about real democracy one should not contend with following constitutional provisions or rules or regulations framed for conduct of business in legislature only, it should go further to inculcate among the Members of Legislature the true spirit of democracy. Anywhere in the world the pre-condition for a democracy is not only a strong Opposition, expressing one's ideas forcefully but it essentially requires a base where support of Government as well as Opposition is present. These days the spot news about Parliament relates to the conduct of its members in the House. This makes a great news. Recently the people's feelings about the faith and respect of the Members of Parliament has undergone a change. When the people watch the proceedings of the House on TV their reaction is not always positive. The reason behind is this that earlier Lok Sabha used to devote 48.74 per cent of its time on legislative business which has now been reduced to an average of 13 per cent. Today's event provides an opportunity to the newly elected Members of Parliament for introspection. There was a time when people like Pandit Nehru, Shastriji, Indiraji, Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Lohia, Acharya Kripalani, Shri Krishna Menon, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Madhu Dandvate, Shri Madhu Limaye, Shri Kanjru, Shri Pattnaik, Shri Pilloo mody, Shri Dillon, Shri Firoz Gandhi, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Somnath Chatterjee were known for their thorough knowledge of Parliament procedure and an authority over Rules of procedure, logical method of putting their point of view and their faith towards parliamentary culture and traditions and individual decency. Parliamentary democracy is a civilized and cultured system. It has its own culture which decides as to which conduct is parliamentary and which is unparliamentary. The people of India can take pride in the

fact that our democracy has run for 60 years successfully. If we want to make Parliament and the parliamentary democracy strong, we will have as a first step to do something which can help restore the traditional dignity of the Parliament and parliamentarians and once again they are able to win back the respect and love of the people. It is said that Roman empire came into being and then reached to the top. It happened only when its people were prepared to sacrifice everything for its sake but it saw its downfall as soon as they started taking more and more from the society. Let us hope that our Parliament will find a new direction in days to come. Parliamentary institutions will get back their pride and respect. Politics will get itself free from the evils of monsters like communalism, criminalisation and corruption and our democracy and republic will flourish. The outcome of the journey of 60 years of Indian Parliament has been a mixed one from the point of view of achievements and challenges. Today the foremost important question before the Parliament is the accountability, transparency and stability of the Governments. The responsibilities of the Parliamentarians and their accountability to the people has enormously increased. The Parliamentarian today prefer to raise issues relating to common man with all force while keep himself aloof from raising idealistic issues. Even today the expectations of the common man and the poor of the country are met in the House. The four basic requirements of the country is right to work, right to education, right to information and right of food security, they were all ensured by this House by enacting law in this regard. Today Standing Committees are the medium for transacting Government business, this is so because of paucity of time. Before making any laws, bills are referred to Standing Committees relating to concerned Ministry where the same is considered rising above party lines and then sent to Lok Sabha. Our youth also getting actively involved in politics in large number. A good number of young people have won the parliamentary elections and have come to the Parliament. They want to serve the people and the society and thus take the society on the road to development. Shashthipurti 60 years. The age for entry into new system, though this age is considered to be the beginning of obstacles and problems, yet in respect of Parliament it would be seen as an institution which is maturing this institution while erasing the slur of untouchability and putting a stop to the practice of dowry, which has made a great contribution to the society, on the other side by introducing land reforms, providing reservation for women in local bodies,

providing employment opportunities to crores of people through MNREGA scheme, it has done a great job of making available to people employment and a source of making food no problem. It was this Parliament which gave the Right to Information to the country. This Parliament has contributed greatly in building faith among common Indian people in democratic system. Today biggest issue is how to conform to the concept of world's largest democracy and the best Parliament. Constitution can provide the three things the Legislature, Judiciary and Executive to the State. Therefore, today is the diamond jubilee of the sovereign India's Parliament first sitting. And on this occasion we must resolve that we will do everything possible to maintain parliamentary traditions lively and strong. We have also to give it a thought that while in 1952 Lok Sabha had 103 sittings in the year 2011 this number came down to merely 73. This is the situation when the challenges before the country are going up. There has been a long history of positive discussion during the sittings of the House. Many things are taking place in the special Session of Parliament. However, we have to see whether they render any help towards solving the problems and meeting the challenges that are being faced by the country, On this occasion of this Diamond jubilee we should resolve not only to take forward the electoral and political reforms but should also implement it. We can make this historical occasion a thing to remember (memorable). Service of India means service of lakhs to crores of people who are downtrodden. It means elimination of poverty and ignorance and eliminating disparity. The ambition of the greatest person of our generation had been to wipe out tears from eyes of each and everyone. Perhaps this may not be possible for us but as long as there are tears in the eyes of people and they are depressed our job will not be over.

\*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): Many issues came to the fore during the discussion today in the House on the occasion of 60th anniversary of Indian democracy. Our Parliament started functioning on 13th May 1952. Merely first three days saw many important issues being raised in the House. Of them many are as much relevant today as they were that time. The temple of democracy, that is Parliament which deserves due respect from the people. Normally, the respect people used to have for the public leaders 60 years back, that is going down today. Several times it is seen that peoples representative have to secretly face the ridicule of

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

the people in place of respect. After independence the life style of the leaders was simple without any show off. They were away from false show of and were dedicated to their duty towards the nation. Today, Parliamentarian Shri Resham Lal Jangde, the member of first Lok Sabha is going to be honoured in the House, who even today lives in a two room house. His lifestyle is a matter of proud for the family, no doubt, it is also a sources of inspiration for the society. Today, there is paucity of such leaders in the politics, it is just opposite. Scams relating to spectrum 2G, commonwealth and NHRM have created distrust among people. In 1962, when China had occupied a large part of India's land at that time Indian Parliament had passed a resolution stating that we would take back every inch of our land. Thereafter in 1994 a resolution for taking back Pak occupied Kashmir was passed in the Parliament. Both these resolutions are such, about which our leaders do not want to remember even. Criminalisation is on the increase in politics. Many people's representatives are involved in criminal cases. Many of them have been lodged in jail. There is want of transparency and honesty in public life. Selfish motive is getting hold of people. Castism is spreading fast in politics. Regional politics is also being encouraged. All these things are sending national issues in the background. Much needs to be done in the education sector. Enactment has been made for educational guarantee. Though Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has helped in construction of buildings even in villages, yet the number of teachers as compared to the number of students is very low. As a result, education is not coming up. Specially in villages because teachers do not want to go there. There is a large gap in education percentage among the poor and rich students. It was thought that the education should be encouraged by providing mid day meal but this too was not without anomalies. Education need to be made job oriented. The number of educated unemployed is constantly growing while the standard of education has gone down. Many a serious crisis have confronted the country due to change in climate and environment. Forests are dying. Sources of water are drying up. Some places are visited by floods while others are facing drought. It is affecting the pace of economic development. Migration from villages to cities is on the increase. It is the source of creating many problems. NDA Government did not perform. Work requires to be done on this plan in the national interest leaving aside the political bias. Drinking water is going to be the greatest challenge in times to come.

The discussion in the House should not remain formal but it should consider the suggestions given by Opposition and thus there is need to reform parliamentary systems by taking positive initiative. All the parties should introspect as to why the parliamentary system got worse. Thereafter collective efforts should be made to improve the situation. Political parties should see that educated and people of flawless image should come to the fore. When a large number of parliamentarians are capable and dedicated to the country, the parliamentary system will automatically improve. Hanging (Trishanku) Lok Sabha has gone to make the parliamentary culture and the country's politics regional and narrow minded. Bi-party system is a must for parliamentary democracy. This thing cannot be done by enacting law or bringing a Bill, but the voter awareness will make it possible.

By seeking vote in exchange for currency note and raising question in Parliament by taking money has resulted in removal of membership of several members of Parliament. So many parliamentarians came to the Parliament who enhanced the dignity of Parliament among them starting from Jawahar Lal Nehru. Dr. Shyam Prasad Mukherjee, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, Lal Krishna Advani ji, Sushma Swaraj ji, Madhu Linaye, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia etc. are worth mentioning. There are so many other members who are also important also struggled for the poor during 14th Lok Sabha in my parliamentary constituency during which I was seriously attacked by Railway Police when I had a narrow escape from death. I remained confined to bed in Hospital in unconscious state. This matter was raised in the House. Mr. Speaker, the Railway Minister and others all expressed concern. During the discussion on Atomic agreement several lollypops were offered to me to influence my vote. However, I did not budge and cast my vote along the party lines only.

The need of the hour is that all the parliamentarians should go from here after resolving that they would discharge their duties towards the nation, observing honesty, transparency doing their duty towards the society and the nation.

Today on the 60th anniversary there is need to resolve. It is a matter of happiness that food, cloth, shelter and water has been made available to the villages and the poor. Patients have been provided with medicines and thus we are celebrating the anniversary of the House in the right sense.

\*SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Our ancestors had dreamt of a parliamentary democracy. That has become a reality and has become the source of inspiration to rest of the democracies in the world.

The anniversary which we celebrate on completion of 60 years is called Shashipurti, that is what Indian tradition. To day we are celebrating Shasthipurti celebrations of our Parliament. However, according to Indian traditions obedient children pay their best respects to their elders after Shasthipurti and they look after them well. If we happen to be the capable children of Indian democratic tradition, then we must resolve today of providing safety to our Parliament. We must take pledge to safeguard the dignity of parliamentary traditions and must strive to see that the business of parliament get more mature and inclusive.

Parliament is the mirror of the feelings and aspirations of the country. Our conduct is the future of Parliament and as such decides about the future of the country. Therefore, as new life starts after completion of 60 years, similarly hereafter we should strive to see that our parliamentary traditions may present themselves in a new Avtar, style and more mature way.

\*SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (North East Delhi): I would like to congratulate all countrymen on the 60th anniversary of Indian Parliament which was constituted on 17th April, 1957 and whose first session took place on 13th May, 1952. Indian Parliament has been the living example of ever active and progressive democracy while democracy in our neighbouring countries stand on the shaky ground even today.

The main objective of the democracy is sit, talk and take decision. In a democracy the stream of discussion on the public and country's interests should never cease. Though we get diverted from our chosen path and try to find solution to our problems by interrupting parliamentary proceedings. In democracy this point of view often proved to be wrong. Therefore, I would like to lay emphasis on this point that in a democracy the option of discussion should always remain open.

Our Parliament is 60 years old. It is working successfully. Indian Parliament has played important role in strengthening Indian democracy. The role of Indian Parliament is going to

be challenging in the changed social, political and economic conditions. Taking this challenge we should define our roles afresh. We should take this pledge today. Let us resolve that our Parliament should run constantly, it continues non-stop discussing and hearing the views put forward before it. Its work is never interrupted. Silence is the most dangerous situation.

On this occasion I would like to recollect certain golden moments which are coming to my mind automatically. First I would like to remember the 1971 Indo-Pak war where our historic victory gave birth to a new country Bangladesh. Thereafter, when Indira Gandhi came to the House, she was given a very warm welcome by clapping of hands. The leader of the Opposition Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji bestowed on her the title of (Maa Durga). That moment was the memorable moment of the Parliamentary history. Alongwith this constituting Government in this House with 408 Member of Parliament by Rajivji presented an example which is unlikely to be repeated.

Madam, Soniaji after resigning when again entered this House after being declared victorious, she was accorded a very warm welcome. How it would be relevant to reveal this fact that in a democracy every votes carry its own importance. This fact became more conspicuous when NDA Government fell by one vote only. It is the truth and nothing else that with the passage of time our democracy has attained maturity, however our election system urgently needs reform in the present context. With this object only I had presented in this House a Private Member's Bill also demanding for compulsory voting. Therefore I am of the view that election procedure needs to be reformed in order to make parliamentary democracy strong. We should take step in interest of public good. We should refrain from doing any such work which may lessen the faith of the people in democracy.

\*SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Today we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Parliament. The 60 years of the Parliament has gone in a glorious way. we consider it as a firm foundation of democracy for the country. the democracy of our country is the strongest democracy in the entire world, the reason behind, is that the persons of the bottom line got a chance to occupy the high position. Today it is said to abolish the reservations. But I would like to say that the situation is still very grim. The country even divided in

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



different castes and religions there is no threat for the unity and integrity of our country. We will have to consider seriously to eradicate social and economic imbalances. The day when the social and economic imbalances are done away with, the country will become more stronger on that day.

I am sorry to say that great difference is being felt from the Parliament of 13th May, 1952 and the present one. If we see the Parliament of 1952 and the years afterwards, we will find that earlier the sittings were more whereas in 2011 the sitting were minimum. It is against the dignity of the Parliament. It is a matter of concern for all of us.

I consider myself fortunate as I was a member of the Parliament at the Golden Jubilee year and still am a Member of the Parliament.

*English]*

\*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur) : The Indian Parliament turns sixty today, May 13, 2012. It is indeed an excellent opportunity for me to be a Member of Lok Sabha at this point of time. I am extremely grateful to the people of Manipur and the people of my constituency in particular for having given me this rare opportunity.

While the Indian Parliament celebrates six decades of its existence, I do seek the indulgence of this august House to inform you how prestigious is my State, Manipur. The State of Manipur do take the pride of presenting to the Nation Shri Rishang Keishing, who is a sitting Member of Rajya Sabha today and who was also a Member of this Lok Sabha in 1952, that is the First Lok Sabha. He was the Chief Minister of Manipur for more than 12 long years. In short, Shri Rishang Keishing is the only Member of Parliament today who was also a Member of the First Lok Sabha. We congratulate and salute him. Let the Almighty God bless him many a happy returns of the day.

It would be appropriate for the Indian Parliament to reflect upon the efficacy of the system in general and the image of the parliamentarian in particular. Now, that we have successfully completed 60 years of Parliamentary democracy. In these years, we have achieved tremendous progress and have many achievements worth mentioning. Today, we are an emerging economic power and a super power. We are in the nuclear club and space club. Very recently, we have joined the Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Club.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Our economy is consistently growing. Our foreign reserves are one of the highest in the world. We have achieved 74% literacy. And 75% of the population is now above poverty line. We have made education a fundamental right. These are some of the achievement we have made in the last 60 years of our parliamentary democracy.

However, there are still many challenges before us. We have to completely eradicate poverty. We have to achieve 100% literacy. We need to guarantee employment to all the unemployed. Many people are struggling for a square meal. All our people are not getting safe portable water. All the households are yet to be electrified. We have to extend healthcare facilities to all our citizens. We have to guarantee food security for all.

At the same time, we have to deal with terrorism, insurgency, Maoism and Left Wing Extremism. We need to curb the money power and muscle power during elections. We have to make a more vibrant democracy. When our voters and citizens become educated, we will certainly achieve a much stronger democracy. Our grass root level democratic institutions like panchayats and Nagar Palikas should also be strengthened. More power and responsibilities must be given to our democratically elected local and village bodies. In short, our citizens should be fully empowered.

In fact, the world is watching us with envy. Such a huge country with a huge population and numerous ethnic groups and still running a functional democracy; it is indeed a remarkable feat. In 60 years of our parliamentary democracy we have made great progress in almost all spheres of life. In the years to come, we will certainly move ahead of other countries of the world.

The spirit of democracy is not a mechanical thing to be adjusted by abolition of forms. It requires change of heart-Gandhiji.

\*SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): It is a matter of great pride and glory for Indian Parliamentary Democracy as we are celebrating the 60th year of the formation of this august House. During this historic period our democracy has seen many challenges and sometimes threat to the very foundation to our democratic system. But all the time it met with such challenges. Indian people have risen to the occasion and upheld and protected our parliamentary system. We were

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

more about 40 crores when the dawn of Independence ushered in 1947 but today we are more than 1 billion a largest democracy of the world. But, I must say with pride that it is not large in size but we have a qualitative and vibrant functional democracy.

During this 60 years of functioning of our parliamentary system, India has produced great stalwarts like Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Sh. Shyamaprasad Mukharjee and living legends like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L.K. Advani, Pranab Mukherjee who by their unflinching advocacy of democracy and their dedicated services enriched the parliaments of their times and also made us the worthy inheritors of this great system.

As I have said earlier, with the passing time and growth of our population the aspirations and dreams of our masses also grew in larger dimensions. During the beginning years of our independence we had to face the persistent challenges of illiteracy, poverty, ignorance and first to build a system where we could see the equality in the social justice.

The country was faced with the challenges of removing social and economic injustice of weaker sections of the masses. The heaviest responsibility on the shoulders of the Indian political system was to give social justice and establishing a economic atmosphere of greater good of greater number and to achieve this constitutional ordains of providing reservations to the socially and economically backward classes but to usher them into main stream of economic development.

This new chapter of the history was written successfully and I must say the credit of this success should go to all political parties to the consensus in achieving this goal. There were not a single voice of dissent in bringing this well cherished ideal of social justice and creating a socialistic pattern of political system. But on this occasion, I must say we should not be completed over what we take pride in achievement still much needs to be done. After having been successful in creating an egalitarian society our eyes should set toward achieving more inclusive economic growth. We are boasting since the last 10 years that India is achieving high economic growth in terms of GDP. It is true that we have made a long strides and leaps in building a strong country by nearly achieving a double digit GDP growth. But we must ask ourselves a relevant and fitting question that whether this growth has reached masses equitably whether we have seen

to it that this newly created wealth is equitably distributed to our people and by that, brought a qualitative change in their lives. Whether we have been able to see the smiles of complacency on their faces. The answer is the certain "no". If this is the reality, what is this growth for.

It is a great opportunity to be in this greatest temple of democracy when it is celebrating its useful existence of 60 years. There is no other proper or better system of governance in world other than democracy. It feel that in this country there is culture of debate (proposition-condemnation). Therefore, we should use this floor of the House for purposeful debate. If house can function smoothly, every Member including junior Member will get opportunity to participate in the debate and proceedings. Otherwise, people lose confidence in this system itself. Therefore, in this moment of 60th year of Parliament we should pledge ourselves to uphold democratic values.

So, our strong resolve in the 60th year of Parliament is nothing but to make our masses feel that they are sensing their real share in the growth and they are real heroes of this growth story. This can only set to create egalitarian society. We have an ardent goal to achieve in this 60th year of our Parliament and 60th year of Independence. "Swaraj Milgaya Lekin Suraaj Lana Abhi Baki Hai."

\*DR. G. VIVEKANAND (Peddapally): On the occasion to commemorate the 60th anniversary celebrations of Parliamentary democracy, I salute the Indian people for keeping the faith in democracy by electing 15 Lok Sabha Members and sdgiving an opportunity to its Members to highlight the problems of the people and make necessary laws and amendments to suit the needs of the day. Despite, global recession and slowdown across the world, India was able to grow at 8 percent GDP for past five years and 6.8 per cent last year. This clearly shows that democracy has played an important part in the progress of the country. However, the plight of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, minorities is still precarious and there is utmost need to look after these sections of people. The UPA government has increased the allocation for the weaker sections in the last two budgets. But, to ensure that the funds are not diverted as was happening until now, there is need to pass necessary legislation to ensure that these funds are not diverted, non-lapsable and are monitored by a nodal agency, preferably

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

the Social Justice Ministry. The President's address to the Parliament on the Government's commitment for Telangana and the union Home Minister's statement to both houses of Parliament that the process for formation should be honoured especially in view of over 700 people committing suicides for the cause of separate Telangana. 15 out of 17 Members of Parliament from Telangana were forced to stall proceedings to highlight the issue and also send a message to the people of Telangana not to commit suicides. On the occasion to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Parliament, the Telangana issue needs to be resolved positively so that suicides do not take place and the aspirations of the people of Telangana are fulfilled.

SHRI C.M. CHANG (Nagaland): Sir, celebrating 60 years of the Parliament of India, this great Institution we find ourselves in today is indeed a matter of immense pride, honour and happiness. As the leader of the Naga Peoples Front and as the representative from the state of Nagaland, I too extend my congratulations to the people of India on the occasion of their Parliament completing 60 years.

Sir, 60 years ago when the Parliament first met, there was widespread scepticism, at home and abroad, that a country so diverse and fragmented, could not survive. Popular opinion suggested that India did not have the political, social and educational maturity to survive as a Parliamentary democracy based on the rule of Universal Adult Franchise. It is a hallmark and reminder of the exceptional nature of our past leaders, and above all the belief of the Indian people, that this institution has stood the test of time.

Over the course of its existence the Parliament of India has become an embodiment of the hopes and aspirations of its diverse people. While initially dominated by the elite of India, the Parliament gradually began to reflect the actual reality of the people it sought to represent. The deepening of democracy has meant that people cutting across social, economic and regional lines now have representation in the Parliament and have a say in the future of this country.

Citizens of this country, who have historically had minimum access to resources, now have a greater stake in the democracy we pride ourselves in. As such it is our responsibility, our duty, as their representatives to ensure that their concerns are brought forward and their demands for a better life of them and their children are fulfilled.

While indeed over these 60 years, Parliament has meant

a greater sense of empowerment for the citizens of India, and thus merits celebration, today must also be a moment for introspection. Questions regarding the efficacy of Parliament must not be brushed aside. It is imperative that we understand that this discontentment is result of the fact that the promise of democracy has not brought about positive changes in the life of every Indian, with poverty and deprivation still widespread.

It is essential for us as Parliamentarians to realise that today must not only be a moment for self-congratulation, but rather we must accept that many changes need to be brought about in how we conduct our business here. We must conduct ourselves in a manner that befits an institution as great and glorious as this, for that is what is expected of us as representatives of the people in the world's largest democracy.

\*SK. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhaman-Durgapur) : I am happy to say that today on 13th May, 2012, we are observing 60th anniversary of the Indian Parliament in both Houses. We are proud of our Parliament has which for last 60 years has made a long journey to make our democratic system more strengthened. From the first day of Indian Parliament till now, Parliament has accomplished many a goal, the foremost among them being the passage of a number of Acts necessary to kick-start diverse functions in the new democracy. The first Parliament passed 322 acts for sectors as diverse as banking, currency, insurance, commerce and industry, defence, education, fiscal and finance, health, legal and several others. It also passed six constitutional amendments before its termination on December 22, 1956.

We are guided by our Constitution in every walks of our life. The Constitution of India is the supreme law of India. It lays down the framework defining fundamental political principles, establishes the structure, procedures, powers and duties of government institutions and sets out fundamental rights, directive principles and the duties of citizen. It is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world, containing articles in 22 parts, 12 schedules and 97 amendments.

The Constitution was enacted by the Constituent Assembly on 26 November 1949 and came into effect on 26 January 1950. The date 26th January was chosen to commemorate the Purna Swaraj declaration of independence of 1930. With its adoption, the Union of India

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

officially became the modern and contemporary Republic of India and it replaced the Government of India Act 1935 as the country's fundamental governing document. The Constitution declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic, assuring its citizens of justice, equality and liberty and endeavours to promote fraternity among them. The words "socialist" and "secular" were added to the definition in 1976 by Constitution amendment. India celebrates the adoption of the Constitution on 26th January each year as Republic Day. The centrality of our Constitution lies in the sovereignty of the people. This is exercised by those accountable to the legislature (Parliament/State Assemblies). The executive (Government) is accountable to the legislature which in turn is accountable to the people.

The efficiency of this mechanism depends on the duration and proper conduct of the Parliament proceedings. On this score, there is much need for corrective action.

Clearly, unless the Parliament sits for longer durations, its vigilance over the government is not effective. Thus the executive's accountability to the legislature becomes the casualty. This seriously undermines our constitutional scheme of things engendering authoritarian tendencies. This needs correction by ensuring a mandatory 100 sittings a year through a Constitutional amendment. At the same time we need to enhance the quality of debate and discussion in Parliament. We need to maintain the dignity and decorum of this august house.

To uplift our constitutional mandate and also to strengthen our Parliamentary democracy what we need is to review the role of judiciary as being both the interpreter of the Constitution and law, the custodian of the rights of citizens through the process of judicial review and the delivery of justice. The system of delivery of justice, thus, needs to be urgently beefed up. Further, recent experiences of judicial activism have blurred the delineation between the three organs of democracy. The judiciary interprets the law but cannot make them or decide on public policy. The Constitutional mandate is for judicial review and not for judicial activism. Thus, time has come for us to seriously consider the establishment of a national judicial commission with representatives from the three wings and the bar.

Another important factor to consider is that the maturation of Indian democracy needs to be accompanied by certain structural changes to enrich the process further. All the

Governments at the Centre had more people voting against them than supporting them. In fact, since the first general election in 1952 has a Central Government being formed which commanded over 50 per cent of the polled vote.

This merits a serious consideration of the proportional representation system where the people vote for the parties, who, in turn, will send to the Parliament MPs on the basis of a prior-declared prioritized list, in proportion to votes they received. Any government that is formed on this basis by a majority of the MPs in the Parliament will necessarily reflect the majority as expressed by the electorate.

Lastly, notwithstanding all the talk of "inclusive growth" the reality is that during the course of the last two decades of economic reforms there have been two Indians in the making — A shining for the rich, a suffering for the poor. In this context, we may recollect what Ambedkar had said when he presented our Constitution's draft for final consideration.

"On 26th Jan 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognizing the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In social and economic life, we shall by reason of social and economic structure continue to deny the principle of one man one value. If we continue to deny it for long we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which this Assembly has laboriously built up" (25 November, 1949).

The Parliament must enact necessary laws which empower our people economically, politically, socially and culturally. One man, one vote, one value must be transformed into one man, one value. The time has come for us to heed the above warning. We have to implement the very ethics of our democracy. We have to build a nation, quoting Tagore's words; where, 'Head is held high, mind is without fear'. Let our harmony be more strengthened. Ours is a culture where there is unity in diversity. That should be maintained and strengthened.

It is incumbent upon the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha today to make the Parliament and our democracy system a better one for the future. Let us make our Parliament true representative of the toiling masses. Let no money power capture over it. Let us be concerned with the causes for the

kisans and workers, youths and women for making their life better. This Parliament has been attacked by the terrorist forces. But we have been able to defeat those forces. Let us move forward for an India which is in true sense, for the people, by the people and of the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI (Hisar): It is a matter of privilege for me that I got an opportunity to express my views in the special Session of Lok Sabha on the occasion of Diamond Jubilee of our Parliament. Today we have got an opportunity to pay our homage to those people who laid their lives for the freedom of the country and safety of our democracy, whether he was Mahatma Gandhi who was made victim of a mad terrorist, whether she was Shrimati Indira Gandhi, whose own Security Guard turned as her devourer, or they were the Jawans of CRPF and Parliament Security who lost their lives in 2001, protecting the Parliament. At the outset on this occasion I pay my tribute to those people.

During the last 60 years our country has made unbelievable progress. Perhaps this incredible progress was not visualised by the leaders of the English Colonial Government during the freedom that is why they were making joke of our freedom struggle that a country where 80 per cent of population do not know to sign, will run the democratic Government. Rudyard Kipling had said to this extent [*English*] "East is east and West is west and never the twins shall meet."

Today the greatest problem before us is to protect our democracy. Mahatma Gandhi had said that for the security of the democracy the sense of freedom, dignity and unity must prevail in the mind of people, so first of all it has to be seen how we can maintain the unity in the country. Our country is an unique country where the dialect changes after every distance of two miles. The confluence of so many languages and culture could perhaps hardly exist in any other country. Our country is an example of unity in diversity. Second thing, which is necessary is tolerance. Tolerance is necessary in democracy because no democracy can function without it. Till we do not honour one another's sentiments, the country cannot progress. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "there is no place for terrorism in democracy. He was of the opinion that if the policy of an

eye for eye is being adopted the entire world will be turned blind." The President of America Shri Abraham Lincoln had said 150 years ago that [*English*] "Ballot is stronger than the bullet." [*Translation*] As the people of this country are living with the spirit of unity with one another for the last sixty years it is an unique example before the world. We have to keep up this spirit of mutual dignity and tolerance.

It is demand of the time that we should march forward by taking all together and keep it in mind that in the run of development anybody should not be left behind. If any section of the society is left behind and the benefit of development is not reached to him then it will not be called democracy in a true sense. There is a famous French proverb, [*English*] "A Government in democracy should be" For the people, of the people and by the people. [*Translation*] That democracy will be called true democracy in which the sentiments of all and their cultures are respected.

It is true that democracy is the worst form of Government. The ex-Prime Minister of England Winston Churchill had also said [*English*] "Democracy is the worst form of Government except all those other forms that have been tried form time to time." [*Translation*] But the question is which is the best option available to us. Keeping all the option in view the founder of our Constitution under the leadership of Baba Bhim Rao Ambedkar, framed such a Constitution in which democracy is above all. Our country will always remain indebted for this to Baba Ambedkar ji.

Today it the occasion that we all together make a resolution again for our dedication for the country and democracy. My family has been serving the country including Haryana for the last fifty years. My father, prominent public figure Chaudhary Bhajan Lal, as a member of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and Haryana Vidhan Sabha, three times Chief Minister of Haryana and as a Union Agriculture Minister had served the country with physical, mental and material resources and I too following his footprints serving Haryana and the country for the last one decade and resolve for doing the work for the welfare of the people.

In the last I thank our favourite Speaker of Lok Sabha that she took initiative to summon this special Session of Lok Sabha at this pious occasion so that we all may remember the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and remain alert to our duties and make resolution to work for the society and the country with the sense of complete dedication.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (Siwan): Madam on this historic occasion you gave me an opportunity to express my views for which I am thankful to you. Today we are celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Lok Sabha. On this very day in the year 1952 the first sitting of Lok Sabha was held and the historical journey of Parliamentary democracy started. Our Parliament is the highest forum of expression of public aspirations. The Constituent Assembly of the country has given us a comprehensive and lengthy constitution in which we all Indians are equal. The historical journey started by the Constitution and the Parliament that has given enough strength to the process of democracy. The Parliamentary Democracy has given right to all, to elect their representatives by the right to vote. The deprived class of the society has also been given right to express their aspirations. The Parliament has done a great work of creating a society based on equality by bring the deprived class people with the mainstream of the society through various legislations. During the period of sixty years journey the Parliament has always fulfilled the aspirations of the people keeping in mind the needs of the country and passing legislations for those needs. In these sixty years the country has made progress in all the areas. Our Parliamentary democracy had transformed India from a poor nation to an emerging great power. Today in the world community we hold a respectable position. The world see us with respect. This all had been possible through the Parliamentary democracy, In Our democate constitution provision for overall development of every citizen of the country has been laid, and any citizen of the country can occupy seat in the apex House. We have seen all this taking place in these sixty years. When our country get independence in 1947 at that time the situation was so much different that the world community could hardly believe that India with so much diversities will remain united. We have proved all of them wrong. Today we are not only united but progressing in all the spheres of life. Our parliamentary democracy has given strength to the weaker section of the society. It is the blessings of our parliamentary democracy that a very ordinary man like me has got the privilege of being a member of this august House. I bow with respect before the Parliament and the Parliamentary Democracy.

\*SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmadnagar): In the life of a worker like me this day is the day of glory, pleasure and self-confidence from my point of

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

view. It is an important day. It is the 60th Anniversary of the Parliament.

First of all I pay my dedicated greetings to all those leaders who paid their contribution for the smooth functioning of this democracy through this Parliament. My greeting are to those leaders and Mahatma Gandhi, the farther of the nation.

India, today is the biggest democracy in the world. Every political worker and the common man feel proud of it. After getting freedom the manner in which our predecessor had the sitting of the Parliament on 13th May, 1952 it was for the completion of Constitution and today with the same constitution, the country is advancing on the way of progress.

I am proud that I was elected for this Parliament in the 13th Lok Sabha and had got the leadership of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and had a privilege of becoming a Minister of State of the country. Beside this I feel proud to say that as Mahatma Gandhi had said for the poorest of the poor, following the same the Government lead by Atal ji, keeping in view the alround development of the common man, opened the doors of the country for the whole world gave encouragement to open economy and started a new era of development. Today when we look behind the villages, which were deprived of from the facilities of roads, electricity, water, telephone and health facilities, in such a country we have been able to provide all the schemes to 3.5 lakh villages.

I accept this fact that today the country is emerging as one of the most powerful country of the world. Who is responsible for it? This country has made progress, nobody can deny it. It is the greatest achievement of our democracy. The major contribution of all these leaders has made the country strong, which made the country to march forward on the way of progress. Anyone who had made planning and gave directions to it, that is the Parliament of the country having the considered views.

We have not been able to give the benefits of developments to all the sections of the country. A great challenge is before the country in the coming days and I am firm confident that through the Parliament we will be able to fulfil this resolution and will lead the country on the path of progress and developments.

With these words I would like to thank you all and would like to convey my whole-hearted thanks to the people of my parliamentary constituency Ahmadnagar who made me their representative and elected me to Parliament.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you that on this auspicious day you have given me a chance to speak Mr. chairman this day reminds us of the glorious history and we people are sitting in an august House. The story of greatness of this House is so great that it cannot be limited in words. For it I would like to remember that great man, Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi infused such a revolution to the country which never took place in the world earlier — Non-violence revolution. Neither he took bullet nor stick, that great man did the work of finishing the British Rule in India. Lakhs of people sacrificed for it. I would remember Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, who organised the Indian National Army. I would remember all those martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the country. I would remember the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru who laid foundation of new India. I would like to remember all those great leaders among whom the name to me is of Jai Prakash Narayan. He worked to bring an end to an elected Government and brought a new Government in its place. I would remember all those people. I remember one incidence. In this very Parliament when Somnath Chatterjee was Speaker, the membership of 10 members were ceased. It was an example in the whole world. Such a big action has not been taken in any Parliament of the world, in any democracy. I would like to remember Maulana Azad, he when Pakistan was being made said India is our country I will not go to Pakistan leaving it. He opposed openly the Indian Muslim League.

I would also like to salute him today. I would also remember Frontier Gandhi who liked to remain in the country but did not accept the partisan of the country. I would praise Feroze Gandhi. In this very Parliament Feroze Gandhi raised a question and I remember T.T. Krishnamachari who was very able Finance Minister like Dada, he had to resign on the question of Feroze Gandhi. He resigned and Jawahar Lal Nehru accepted it. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, this Parliament is witness of all this history. I agree that the present day condition which is going today the Government has the greatest responsibility for it. The Parliament constituted Standing Committees for the review of Budget. Such a great work perhaps would be done anywhere by these Parliamentary Committees. But the days of working of the House have been reduced. Today the House works only for 70 days. I feel, if the House may work for 100 days, the Committees meetings are held separately the

interruptions of such type may not take place. If we want to discuss any question, only one or two days fall for discussion under Rule 193. If you want to discuss under this Rule one or two days falls for it. Today the same thing is taking place in Vidhan Sabha. I remember that after the year 1960 the Vidhan Sabha has discussions not for more than 20-25 days. I remember when Mulayam Singh Yadav was Chief Minister he made the Vidhan Sabha to work for 70-75 days. But now in most of the States the Vidhan Sabha functions for 20-25 days or maximum 30 days because they see what is going on in Lok Sabha. I would demand from the Government if he wants to stop this interruptions...(*Interruptions*), You made it to work. But now you have changed your religion. I would not like to mention your name...(*Interruptions*). The parties were merged there. We came due to the merger of Party. We had not changed the religion like you...(*Interruptions*). You leave. My time is coming to an end...(*Interruptions*). When you deliver your speech then tell.

Sir, I would demand from the Government to consider seriously for increasing the days of functioning of the Parliament and it may sit for 100 days and work.

\*SHRI RAKESH SACHAN (Fatehpur): Today it is the Diamond Jubilee of the first sitting of the Parliament of Sovereign India which was held on 13th May, 1952. Today, all the hon'ble members of Parliament are present here to make it a memorable moment. During the last 60 years, all the members of Parliament have taken the history of Parliament to the new heights and they would always strive for the prosperity of this country.

The stalwarts like Dr. Ambedkar, Dr. Lohia, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Acharya Kriplani, Krishan Menon put in their immeasurable efforts to establish democracy in this country and to strengthen it. Our republic is embedded in our Constitution. A member of Parliament does not belong to a particular area but he is a person who belongs to the entire country. Service of India means to serve the lakhs and crores of affected people of this country. It means the eradication of poverty and ignorance and to do away with the inequality of opportunities. It has been the ambition of all the people's representatives that the tears are wiped from each and every eye. Perhaps it may not be possible but I hope that all the members present here in this House of Parliament will always continue with their efforts for the progress of our people.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

During the period of last 60 years, there have been many men and women parliamentarians of eminence and great virtues who were known for their authority on rules relating to parliamentary skill of debates, their oratory skill, dedication and commitment to Parliamentary culture and traditions and also for their own personal sense of decorum. There has been a long history of meaningful discussions in the sittings of Parliament. Since the period of Jawahar Lal Nehru there have been several people's representatives like Ram Manohar Lohia, Madhu Limaye, Pilloo Modi, SC Banerjee, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, George Fernandez, Somnath Chatterjee, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Sharad Yadav etc. who gave a new dimension to parliamentary debates and sittings. Their each and every word was listened not only attentively but on the basis of their words, the members of the ruling party as well as those in the Opposition were compelled to change their outlook.

During the last 60 years, there were some moments when some persons expressed their non-confidence in the Parliament and its members. India is a democratic country and everybody has a right to express himself but maintenance of Parliamentary decorum and dignity and respect of Parliament is very essential.

Today all of us are celebrating here in this special session organized on the completion of 60 years of our Parliament but we shall have to keep it in our mind that in this agricultural country of ours, the worst position is that of our farmers. If we want to bring ourselves into the category of developed nations, we shall have to take effective steps to ameliorate the conditions of our farmers. We shall have to provide food, clothes and dwellings to each of the citizens of this country. As the members of Parliament, all of us shall have to make serious efforts in this direction. Only then we will be able to maintain the dignity of the Parliament.

Even after a period of 60 years, we have not been able to take care of our economic and social disparities which have been the basic reasons of backwardness of Indian Society. In spite of a lot of discussions in Lok Sabha, we have not been able to count the number of our poors to this day. Economic disparities have increased to this extent that on one hand, entire capital in this country is under the control of few people while on the other hand, 80 per cent of our people in the villages are on the verge of starvation. They are struggling for their basic needs like food, clothing and dwellings. With the votes of these people, all of us are elected

to Lok Sabha and for them, we are not able to do anything. Today, on the completion of 60 years of Parliament, we shall have to resolve to find a way out to deal with this problem unitedly. With these words, I conclude.

\*SHRI GOVIND PRASAD MISHRA (Sidhi): Indian democracy has a special place in the world because after our independence, Lok Sabha had to face economic, social and educational disparity-related challenges but our elected representatives discussed the woes of our rural and urban population in Lok Sabha and took firm steps by enacting laws/policies to take care of the prevailing disparities and to cater to the basic needs of the common man. For example, some very important decisions like the Abolition of Privy Purses, Nationalisation of Banks, 73rd and 74th Amendments in the Panchayati Raj Act, Pokaran Nuclear Test, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Employment Guarantee, Right to Information, Right to Compulsory Education etc had been taken. These historical decisions have proved to be milestones in the development of this country.

In spite of that, even today there are several problems before us which are challenges for all of us. On account of uneven development, some people have gone far ahead in some fields but some areas are still the victim of unbalanced development.

Basic tenets of a successful democracy are enshrined in national spirit, honesty, sensitivity and the responsible conduct of dutiful representatives. Today, we should take a lesson from our historical traverse of 60 years and should keep in our mind our future challenges. In order to make India a world power in different fields, all of us shall have to be active and work with dedication and honesty. Only then we will be able to give development, employment and justice to 1 thousand million and 21 crore people of this country.

Lastly, I pay tributes to the freedom fighters who liberated this country.

*English]*

\*SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI (Jagatsinghpur): Following the Constituent Assembly, Independence and provisional Parliament, the first general elections were held in the country in 1952, the first Lok Sabha was constituted on 17 April 1952 and met on 13 May 1952. From that point of

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



time, this law-making body has gone through a long way to maintain the sense and discipline of democracy which reflects a tradition of tolerance of different views and creeds, sex, castes, religion etc. justifying the colour of unity in diversity. In order to make the words of preamble i.e. 'We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic republic and to secure to all its citizens' true. Indian Parliament has enacted various laws and policies in the course of its 60 year journey, Governments have come and gone, policies, laws have been framed and implemented, wars have been fought, conflicts on different issues whether at state/national/international level have taken place.

In spite of all the hurdles, ups and downs, Indian Parliament has been setting out its journey having a greater sense of democratic thoughts and ideology. It has made the provision to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people, for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years, promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of society. It has provided the right to work, to education and to public assistance, just and humane conditions of work etc. It has seen times of grave emergency when the security of India has been threatened by war with China in 1962 or with Pakistan in 1971 or terrorist activities or internal unrests like naxalite problem or atrocities against weaker sections of society. In order to remove these emergent issues and the difficulties which have arisen in achieving the objective of socio-economic revolution, with a view to end poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity, Indian Parliament has been drawing the active attention of respective Governments for years. Therefore, the Parliament from time to time has proposed to amend the Constitution to spell out expressly the high ideals of socialism, secularism and the integrity of the nation, to make the directive principles more comprehensive and give them precedence over those fundamental rights which have been allowed to be relied upon to frustrate socio-economic reforms for implementing the directive principles. It is also proposed to specify the fundamental duties of the citizens and make special provisions for dealing with anti-national activities, whether by individuals or associations.

However, with lot of anguish, I am to express that Indian Parliament has failed in execution of its noble intention to achieve the goal to make India a socialistic pattern of society

to provide justice, equality and liberty and freedom to the deprived sections like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women. We are also not fully equipped with technology/policy to combat terrorism, communal forces, criminal activities etc. which substantially destabilize the unity of our nation. Democratic process of Indian Parliament as one of the strong pillars of democracy of world has deteriorated to some extent as voters are being purchased by money funded by corporate Houses of the country and disguised autocratic rule. Hence, it is felt as if the pillar of democracy, which is built upon supreme sacrifice of our martyrs who fought against the colonial power, is approaching towards a dangerous phase. In spite of all these malign factors, Indian Parliament tries to embody the will of the people and has been taking every sort of action for prevalence of people's will. It has always proposed to strengthen the presumption in favour of the constitutionality of legislation enacted by Parliament and State Legislatures. That's why many countries of world today follow the efficient activities reflected through the democratic form of Indian Parliament. Since its inception, it has been standing high having the spirit of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. I am sure that in spite of many ideologies, many parties, many hurdles and many issues, Indian Parliament in coming years will stick to its stance of growth and development.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH (Jaunpur): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this historic moment.

Sir, on this great occasion, I bow my head to all those great persons who dedicated and laid down their lives for this country and made available to us this moment of pride. I also pay my tributes to the crores of citizens of those times who, by the dint of their direct or indirect contributions, made this moment available to us and on that account, today we have established ourselves as the most unique and strong democracy of the world.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, today on this historical occasion, most of our senior members have expressed their concerns on the Parliament and its healthy democratic traditions and have also resolved to work for their betterment.

Sir, on this occasion of 60th Anniversary of Parliament, I would like to urge upon you and all the members of this House that all of us are automatically aware of our lacunae

and virtues. Therefore, I feel that the time has come that we conduct the business of this House smoothly and in a better way and try to rise above our party considerations and commitments. To achieve it, we shall have to develop new methods and new procedures with the changing times, otherwise all the systems will come to a standstill. Therefore, Pandit Hazari Prasad Dwivedi had said 'Yadi Nirantar Vyavasthaon Ka Sanskar Aur Parimarjan Nahi Hota Raha, To Ek Din Vyavasthayain To Tutengi Hi, Sath Sath Desh Ko Bhi Tod Dengi' (If we do not go in for a regular overhauling and refinement of our systems, one day, not only these systems will be shattered but it will also shatter the entire country).

Sir, this House was constituted to find out the solutions of the problems of our people and in the earlier days, the role of our Government used to be creative because they used to find out the solutions through collective deliberations in this House. But in the present times we see that the Government is taking one-sided decisions and imposing them on the people of this country which is resulting in the daily disruption of parliamentary proceedings and House does not conduct its business. We are paying for it in the form of diminishing trust of our public in the Parliament and its members.

Sir, I think that if this House constitutes a shadow cabinet, it will be able to have the joint opinion of the Government and the Opposition at the time of policy formulation. For that, the Government shall have to show their firmness and should not consider the Opposition mere as an opposition but accept them as one more side and follow one more ideology and view point. Moreover, some working days of this House should be allocated for the Opposition so that the work agenda for that day is decided by the opposition so as to minimise the day-to-day clashes in the House.

#### 16.00 hrs.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, we all know that many things in this House are governed by the British Parliamentary system and British Constitution. There we have seen that they have fixed Opposition's days. In that country, 20 days out of the total working days, are allotted to the Opposition parties. Today, all the members have expressed their concern on the non-functioning of House and the members flock into the well of the House. Today, on this occasion of 60th Anniversary of Parliament, entire House is unanimous. So, I would like to urge upon them to fix some dates for the Opposition because

nowadays we find that only those things are discussed in the House on which the Government wants to have a discussion and all those things on which the Opposition wants to have a discussion are left out.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to give you many thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion. In the end, I would like to tell one thing, While dedicating the Constitution to the people of this country, Dr. Ambedkar had said "howsoever good or bad may be a Constitution but the question is as to how are the people who follow it or implement it. If they are good, even the bad Constitution will be good and even a good Constitution will become bad if those who implement it are bad persons. That will definitely erode the dignity of that Constitution."

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, this Parliament is a good institution but it is so good or bad as the people who sit here.

\*SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Today we are completing the 60 years of Indian Parliament which has a very important role in it. In India, the Government works under the Parliamentary system. Indian Parliament has the highest place in parliamentary democracy and it is the biggest Panchayat of the people of India. In a period of 60 years, it is 15th Lok Sabha but one thing is worth consideration that the son of a poor, labour, farmers, dalit and mahadalits and the most backward rarely reaches in the Indian Parliament. If you cast a glance over the last sixty years, it will be completely clear.

Today all the political parties shall have to think over it to ensure the right type of freedom for this country of which the father of this nation had dreamt. Soul of India lives in villages which are not being developed. Today, the soul of India is weeping and cursing.

Today we shall have to think over the negative aspects of Indian Parliament. The very precious time of our Parliament is being wasted in uproars. This trend had begun from the Eighth Lok Sabha which is still continuing. Ruling party and the Opposition both are eroding the parliamentary values. We shall have to think over it.

\*SHRI MAHESH JOSHI (Jaipur): The first sitting of Parliament may be considered the actual day of establishment of the institution of Parliament. My heartiest congratulations to everybody on its 60th anniversary.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

In a way, setting up of Parliament is in itself something very important but we, all the Members of Parliament, are more lucky in this sense that 60th Anniversary of Parliament is being celebrated in our term and Hon'ble Madam Speaker is the most fortunate person because this anniversary is being celebrated under her Chairmanship and her tenure is indicative of a 180 degree change for our democracy. Before a period of 60 years when the Parliament had held its first sitting, may be some people might have dreamt that a lady would be the Speaker of Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Upper House of Parliament but perhaps nobody would have believed that it would happen merely before 60 years and the Hon'ble Madam Speaker. I can say that this thing in itself speaks of our parliamentary maturity on one hand and also reflects the strength of our system, on the other. It proves that our democracy stands on the ground of healthy intellectual approach. In other words we can say that in our system we give prime significance to non-violence, give highest respect to healthy ideas and accept the supremacy of people's sentiments. Our democracy shows our ideological strength which is inherent in this most ancient culture of our country. May be that in modern times, our democracy is not the oldest one but intensity of democratic feelings in this country is very strong and natural. It is the climax of democracy and our commitment to democratic feelings. This 60 year democracy of ours is merely the leaves and branches of the tree of democracy and since ages, our people have been watering its roots in their minds.

If we look at the conditions prevailing in the entire world, it can be claimed that as compared to those countries where there is no system of democratic governance or where there is kingship or dictatorial rule or military rule, the Governments of democratic countries are more stable. Even the armies of such countries where the rulers are wielding their gun power or ruling with their arms and ammunitions, are weak, why so? Because their services do not have the support of public sentiments. The people of those countries may stand with the army in a mechanical fashion but ideologically cannot boost the morale of their army because they are always haunted by a fear that even in the time of peace, their armies may turn their guns on them at any point of time and the entire system is plagued with that distrust which weakens the entire system of governance while in democratic countries, there is no such feeling or weakness in minds of the people as may defer them from boosting the morale of their army. Sense of insecurity in a system do not strengthen any country.

When Government and Janata do feel fear towards each other, then how peace and calmness can be imagined, without which base of development of any country or society can not be created and I have no doubt in saying that the biggest power of our army is our democracy, our Parliament, our Janata and our representatives and until this faith is maintained, we will remain strong and keep on developing.

But today there is concern before us that conspiracies are being hatched to weaken this faith. The mind of the people is being poisoned against the Parliamentarians, Parliament and Parliamentary system. Challenges are being raised and are presented before the Janata that people may develop sense of disbelief against the system.

This is a serious challenge which we have to confront in many ways. We have to improve the system and have to endeavour to create positive sense in the public towards these reforms. We should resolve that we must present our self before public as example, we have to simplify the rules to maintain the faith of people in the system. Now, such rules can be a reason for lack of interest of people which are far from the easy understanding of the people. Therefore, it is very-important to consider this matter seriously.

Besides, I would like to submit that there are some social evils which need to be abolished like girl child foeticide, dowry system and show-off in marriage ceremonies and ensure education to all and food for all. The standard of life will also be upgraded by abolition of these evils.

Today the very first and important organ of our Constitution, the Legislature, is bearing maximum pressure. Attacks on Legislature are being made by remaining under the purview of Constitution otherwise also. It is a matter of concern. Anyhow, our Legislature is keeping its meaning intact and performing its role responsibly and proving itself trustworthy on the expectations of public of the country. The public expect maximum from the Legislature of elected representatives, not from the Executives. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain the power of Legislature and it is the utmost responsibility of ours.

Apart from these things, I would like to say that Indian democracy is a byproduct of Indian culture and civilisation. The characteristic of our civilisation and culture is that it had seen so many attacks, interferences, aggressions, ups and downs and even then its existence could not be brought to an end and who so ever came from outside he became Indian.

I am sure that our democracy will strengthen more after bearing all sorts of ups and downs.

Therefore, Dr. Iqbal had said- "Kuch Baat hai ti Hasti Mit ati Nahin Hamari, Sadiyon Raha Hai Dushman Daure Jahan Hamara."

At the end, I conclude my speech by saluting all the freedom fighters and the Constitution framers.

\*DR. RAJAN SUSHANT (Kangra): Today on this historical day, we cordially congratulate the 120 crore Indians on the 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of our Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha). We also wish to self analysis ourself on this occasion that what we have achieved, what we have lost and what we want to achieve in future?

Today 60 years ago on 13 May, 1952 when the Constitution of the country was adopted in this House, it was written in the Preamble of the Constitution of India:

"We, the people of India, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and to secure to all its citizens."

Justice, social, economic and political, liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, equality of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. In our Constituent Assembly, this twenty sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution."

On this historical day we first of all salute the revolutionaries, men and women and the brave sons of Mother India who sacrificed themselves, to maintain the independence of the country, after the independence in 1947, 1948, 1965, 1971 and Kargil war and fought in outer and inner attacks.

During these 60 years, our country has made very good progress whether it is in the field of self reliance in food grains or increasing industrialisation or in the areas of science or atomic power. Certainly we have made progress in several areas including education, health, roads etc and the credit goes to the great democracy of this great country.

But there is a black aspect of these 60 years also. The country cannot go ahead without finding a proper solution or

ignoring it. Today the country is facing social, economic and political inequalities.

We have not achieved equalities in social area. Time and again, caste based justice is being demanded. Similarly, rather bringing equality in economic area, the gap between rich and poor had broadened.

About 50 per cent OBC of the country complaints that they have not given representation in Legislature, Executives and Judiciary and press according to their population and about 25 per cent SC/ST also complaints the same but the other castes are also not satisfied and they are also demanding reservations. Similarly, reservation being demanded in the name of religious and ladies are also demanding according to gender.

We have to find some justified solution after taking these issue in serious consideration. Is it possible to provide reservation in Legislature, Judiciary, Executives and press to all the categories of castes according to their population and that is too on the basis of number of male and female.

Further reservation be provided according to age means an youth, middle aged and old so that caste based, gender based and age based reservation is seen in all the sector of the society. Will this provide solution of the problem?

Inequality is increasing in economic sector. The treasure of the country is concentrated in the hands of about five thousand families rather five hundred families rather five hundred houses whereas about ten crore educated persons are roaming in the country and the BPL list is also shown at more than 50 per cent. There is no control on price rise and trio (corrupt leaders, officers and industrialists) involved in corruption becoming stronger continuously.

Almost all the political parties are under influence of the trio. The country is advancing toward party dictatorship which is a danger for a true democracy. Political piety, simplicity and principles are vanishing from the society. The people talking about ideology are said to be ridiculous.

The corrupt groups are getting supremacy and impressive at everywhere and these groups are involved in making the ideal, faithful and honest people ineffective and many a times they succeed in their efforts.

Even then the patriot, good character and honest people (leaders, officers and industrialists) and young generation of the country are getting ready to fight with the corrupt powers.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The country is going ahead in the direction of appointment of powerful ombudsman at Centre and in States. We should strongly support this system.

We have to develop the sense of forbearing and proper honour towards all the opinions and ideologies, only then our democracy will get strength and sense of Constitution will also be developed. This great country will go ahead and will soon be world mentor and prove to be 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'Sarvebhavantu.'

\*KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY (Durg): Today, this Parliament, the temple of democracy, the biggest institution of this republic system is going to complete its 60 years. Today it is a sentimental point of view, who understand democracy and contribution of a common man and honour it. When our country was liberated, the entire world had said that India is not prepared for democratic system and expressed apprehension that it will be impossible to maintain the democratic system in view of physical and linguistic diversity. But today even after 60 years, this country, the people of this country have shown that the democracy can be maintained facing every diversity and resultantly we have been awarded the status of biggest democracy of the world.

The period of 60 years is not a small period and that is why so many questions have arose. There is no doubt that the country has made progress. It has come out of the group of countries of third world and became a great power. In comparison to the last 60 years, today we are more developed and more capable. But a question is arising in the mind of public that what the democracy has given us in these years? Whether it could be better condition as today we are? Whether the basic necessities like food, housing, education, medical facilities etc are available to every citizen of the country? If not, what are the reasons therefore and who are responsible for that?

60 years period is not a small period. What are the reason that caste system still prevails in this country? What are the reasons that our children are deprived of proper education? Why such a system has not been established where nobody had to sleep empty stomach, no mother loss her life while giving birth to a child, no child is resorted to do labour in the age of going to school, no youth remain- -unemployed and every State, every area remain peaceful and be developed.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Besides, one another important thing is concerning me being women that there were 20 women member in the Parliament 60 years ago and today after 60 years this figure has reached only upto 60. What are the reasons that even there is not the half representation of the half population of the country? This situation is there when the woman is treated as Goddess in the country, she is worshiped as a form of power, but when the time comes to give her rights, these all senses goes away? This democratic system will be strengthened by empowering the women folk. Some steps has been taken in this direction, but that is too late and very few. There is need to take speedy steps in this direction so that women can have their rights.

Our democracy is facing challenges in the present conditions. As it was expected from this system, that could not be achieved successfully. So, this is the time of introspection of ourselves and ask question that what better can be done now. History may not be made that there was time to do something for the country, for the people but we lost the opportunity.

*[English]*

\*SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (Karimnagar): I would like to welcome and wish all the Hon'ble Members of Parliament on the occasion of "60th Anniversary of the Parliament of India." I would also like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister of India who are participating in the evening "Special Session" in the "Central Hall" for allocating their valuable time from their busy schedule though today is Sunday.

It is really an historic and glorious occasion. As a common rural background farmer's son, I feel elated being a Member in this 15th Lok Sabha amidst you and share my views with the House on this occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Parliament in which the House felicitates the living Members of the first Lok Sabha. I should really be grateful to the Congress Party also for giving me an opportunity as Member of 15th Lok Sabha and I never imagined that I would be amidst all of you here. For this, I am very much grateful and indebted to our UPA Chairperson and Hon'ble Leader of Congress(I) Party, Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji.

First time MPs like me, were very much inspired from the speeches of stalwarts in Parliament through debates and meaningful discussions and I am really indebted to one and all.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

As the House is also aware that during the pre-Independence period, people were put to hardships, particularly SC, ST, OBC and other minority sections who had suffered socially, educationally, legally and in all manners in the society.

Till 1952, our country was under capitalist forces and democracy has brought rays of hope to the poor people. It is the Parliament, as a platform, which has helped the weaker and minority sections to have their rights ensured through legislations to get the justice. I personally know the plight of the SCs, STs, OBCs and other minority sections in the villages particularly in the remote areas.

As the House is also aware that though India is the biggest democratic country among the world, people with different castes, creeds, languages and religions are happily residing with their own cultures and customs and proved as the unity in diversity. As we all are well aware that during the last 60 years of journey of Parliament, many fruitful discussions took place in both the Houses.

Historic and landmark important legislations were passed for the welfare of SC, ST, OBC and other minority sections of our society and one example is setting up of OBC Committee in Parliament.

I personally thank one and all for having been given me an opportunity to represent from Lok Sabha though I hail from the backward class community in the remote area like Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking at the special sitting of Lok Sabha on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament of India today, unflinching faith of the people of India in the cherished values of democracy forms the bedrock of our Parliamentary system and that the common man and the neglected lot whose life is a saga of struggle for survival, toil day and night to make both ends meet and yet actively participate in the election process.

The founding fathers of the Constitution established a parliamentary form of government to attain the noble ideals of justice, liberty and equality and human dignity and this august House has stood the test of the time and has made determined efforts in articulating and addressing the varied demands of our vast population.

It is obligatory for the public representatives to follow the directions of their respective parties and to live up to the

expectations of their voters which is the parameter of success of their political career.

This supreme deliberative institution has enacted many far reaching and revolutionary legislations for an egalitarian and progressive Indian society to benefit the poor people. It has kept pace with the changing times. Parliament has enacted nearly 3400 legislations. During its arduous journey our Parliament has amended the Constitution 97 times including the landmark 73rd and 74th amendments passed by 10th Lok Sabha.

As we all know that Parliament's engagement with people is the keystone of a vibrant democratic system. Each one of us, therefore, has the onerous responsibility of reinforcing peoples' faith in our democratic institutions. We should, therefore, conform to the highest standards of democratic traditions and respond to the changing needs, ambitions and aspirations of the people.

We should visualize the challenges that lie ahead to face in future. It is a moment of introspection. It is time to foresee the future challenges. It is an irrefutable fact that democracy and caste system cannot go hand in hand since democracy is based on equality whereas the caste system is rooted in the gulf between the upper and lower strata of society. Out of these two systems one has to meet its extinction.

Today, when we are collectively glorifying the democracy with full zeal, we should also root out the caste system with all the might at our command. It is a fact that there are challenges galore in our future path and the journey so far has not been easy and smooth nor has it been a downward journey. It reflected the aspirations and ambitions of all sections of people.

The steps taken by the House has changed the face of the country in its journey of achieving progress and also surpassed many of the countries not only in the continent but the entire world. A few of the Acts which were brought into force were nationalization of banks in 1969, merging of 565 independent states in the country, in turn, amounts were paid to the kings and were abolished in 1971, amendment to articles 73 and 74 regarding panchayats and municipalities, light to Information Act, 2005, Domestic Harassment Act with effect from 2006 are a few instances.

The House is an example for conglomeration of different communities, races, religions and aptitudes. It prompted all

the people to live peacefully with and affectionately. It is only in our country where crores of people from these differences can meet harmoniously and lead their lives happily.

As the House is aware that the Government had announced for setting up of formation of separate Telangana on 9th December, 2009 to fulfill the wish of the people living in the 10 districts of Telangana region. The Parliament which fulfilled the desires of lakhs of people throughout the country with its mandate, I plea the Hon'ble House to listen to the heart desire of the people of Telangana and form a separate state for them as it was announced in this House earlier.

In the House today, some Members have expressed their resentment for disturbance of the House. As we also know that the House is being disturbed by us, but it is not our wish. We also feel bad while disturbing the House but it is not our intention. But it is the responsibility of the Parliament to fulfill the wish of the formation of Telangana which was announced in the House, in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

I am also thankful to the Government for setting up of a Parliamentary Standing Committee for OBCs to empower them after the 60 years. I hereby vouch that I would work for the welfare of all the OBCs.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on this significant occasion.

Sir, at the very outset, I would like to extend my revolutionary greetings, salutes and tributes to the departed great soul of Mahatma Gandhi, and also to all the departed souls of those great people who had laid their valuable lives for the people of this country.

[*Translation*]

I mean to say that the session of our Parliament had started on 13th May, 1952. Today it is 60 years. So many bills have been passed. Reservation has been provided to SCs/STs on the basis of 1971 census altogether 41 years ago. The population of SCs/STs has increased in those 41 years.

[*English*]

If the population of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) has grown up to a certain figure, why the reservation quota for the SCs and STs should remain

only at 15 per cent for the SCs and only 7-1/2 per cent for the STs? Why is there no enhancement in the reservation quota for these two communities? Even in 2002 more than 200 tribes and communities have been included either in the list of the SCs or in the STs, but the reservation quota has not been increased. Why is this kind of discrimination against the SCs and STs?

So, Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take appropriate steps to increase the reservation quota meant for the SCs and STs. Likewise in the case of representation of SCs and STs in both the Parliament as well as in the State Assemblies, why can the reservation quota for the SCs and STs not be increased?

[*Translation*]

Today a very serious issue is being discussed in the country. From 1953, you have created total 11 new States, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh. America has 50 States whereas the total population of America is only five crore.

**16.06 hrs.**

[*MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair*]

[*English*]

If a population of 5 crore in the USA could have 50 numbers of States, why not in India? The total number of Indian States should be increased up to 50.

Recently, I had visited Hyderabad. As on today, more than 800 people in the Telangana Region committed suicide. Most of them are young people. Why can the Government of India not start political dialogue with the leaders of the Telangana Region, with the leaders of Bodoland Region, with the leaders of Vidarbha, Ladakh, Bundelkhand, Gorkhaland and so on and so forth? You should talk to the people concerned. I would request the Government rather appeal to the Government, through you, Madam, to take appropriate steps to start the political dialogue with the leaders concerned.

Today, I would like to know what happened to the peace talks between the NSCN (IM) and the Government of India. Nobody knows what happened to the peace talks. ... (*Interruptions*) So, today, I would also like to know what

happened to the peace talks between the NDFB (P) and the Government of India. *[Translation]* They do not tell anything, why they do not tell. *[English]* Why can you not speak to us, why can you not tell us? *[Translation]* It is a very painful, therefore, through you madam I would like to request that if the Parliament of India will not take steps to solve the burning problems of this country, then who will resolve them, steps will be taken in the sky or in the region? *[English]* This august Parliament is the supreme institution to make the required laws for the people of the country. Why can the required laws not be enacted? Let there be thorough discussion on each and every burning issue of this great country. *[Translation]* Why? After attaining swaraj. *[English]* more than sixty-five years have already gone. Today, more than 80 per cent of the people have been suffering a lot. They have been deprived of their due share. *[Translation]* Why it is going on? It is not a fun. If you want to govern the country, do it rightly with love and affection. *[English]* Today, I will tell you one very hard fact. I am here since 1998. *[Translation]* We have been here for 14 years till today. Over the last 14 years, perhaps I have not been given even 14 hours to speak in this August house. I being alone. *[English]* Why can the single-Member party not be given enough time and enough chance to highlight its problems and to speak about various issues? This is a very serious thing. Please take care of this aspect.

*[Translation]*

Pranab Mukherjee Saheb had told one thing in his first statement. We talk about solving the problems of all over India, some solution is done. There was a need to take steps to resolve those problems which has not been resolved so far. Through you Madam I want to speak again that discussion should be done on the issue of Bodoland, on the issue of Telangana. It is very much needed to have discussion in this House.

\*SHRI RAMESH BAIS (Raipur): Lok Sabha of India has completed 60 years. India is the largest democracy of the world. When the country accepted democracy, the people of other countries surprised. People were of the opinion that where people are not literate, how can democracy be successful there. Today those very people admit that if democracy is anywhere, it is in India.

There was a great contribution of our leaders in attaining freedom. They loved their country most. They were ever ready to die for their country. For them first place was of nation,

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

second place was of State and third place was of family. But today the family has come at the first place and therefore, the feeling of nationality become less in the people. The corruption has increased in the country and respect of the public representatives has decreased in the eyes of people. The symbol of our national love are Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. They gave their lives for the independence of the country. Seeing the condition of the country people discuss with each other and say that Bhagat Singh should take birth again. But people think that Bhagat Singh do take birth, not in my house but in neighbourer's house.

Today is the time of self analysis. The country become independent 65 years ago. Today we are celebrating 60th anniversary of Parliament. What has been lost and what has been gained by the country during the last 65 years. Whether we took the country ahead or we have gone back.

When we are thinking about country, we will have to see in ourselves that what I have done for the country. Today there is poverty in the country, clean drinking water is not available, illiteracy is there, rich are becoming more rich and poor are becoming more poor. The gap between rich and poor could not be narrowed. On the one hand people sleep hungry and on the other hand people are having stomachache due to excessive eating or throwing away food half eaten and people are compelled to eat that.

It is needed today that we think of everyone's progress. Today politics stands divided on the basis of language, caste, religion. The thinking of people narrowing. Result is that country is dividing again and people are thinking about themselves, no one is thinking about the country.

Today, there is dearth of nationality in people. There is a need to inculcate the feeling of nationality in the people. That country is progressive where people love their country. The day the people starts loving their country and feel that this is my country and taking her forward is my duty the country will progress automatically.

In the last, I expect from the hon'ble members and public representatives representing people of the country at various levels that by doing our duty sincerely we should come true to the test of the time.

*[English]*

\*SHRI VIJAY INDER SINGLA (Sangrur) : On the historic occasion of sixty years of Indian Parliament, I bow with

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



gratitude in memory of the great souls who first occupied the hallowed benches of our Parliament, as India began her "tryst with destiny". They nourished this temple of democracy with their flesh and blood, so that we the future generations, could live with dignity. With deep humility and responsibility towards the people whom we represent here, let us vow to preserve and protect the supremacy of this sacred legacy, whatever be the price.

On this occasion, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not bring to your kind attention some of my observations which, I firmly believe, would go a long way in strengthening our Parliament.

Firstly, I would like to talk about the Departmentally Related Standing Committees. We have two kinds of such Committees, namely, the Consultative Committees (since 1967) and the Standing Committees (since 1993). The purpose of these committees includes deliberating the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry, Bills related to that Ministry and the Annual Report of the Ministry. No doubt, the Committee system enables a thorough scrutiny of Government functioning and has also made the functioning of the Parliament more efficient, however, I wish to point out from my personal experience that many a times, either the Committees do not appear to be serious about the work assigned to them, or their deliberations/recommendations are not taken seriously by the respective Ministries. This not only renders the entire exercise a mere eyewash, but also wastes valuable resources of time and money. I would, therefore, request to kindly have a thorough review of the working of our Departmentally Related Standing Committees so that they can be made more effective and accountable and their recommendations be acted upon in a time-bound manner.

In today's information age when information Technology (IT) has embraced all aspects of our lives, it is heartening to note that use of IT is being encouraged among the MPs also. However, I suggest that ways be found to harness IT so as to make the Parliament more accessible to the people. This can be accomplished by working out an IT based Grievance Redressal Forum in Parliament that would receive peoples' representations on socio-political issues in a manner that is somewhat similar to the social networking sites. The forum would examine each issue and forward the same to the MPs and Departments concerned of the Government so that the

grievance of the common man is heard at the appropriate level.

With all humility at my command, I will like to draw attention to the working of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. The Lok Sabha Secretariat is supposed to exist to assist the Members of Lok Sabha in discharging their duties and not vice-versa. However, it has been noticed many a times that the attitude of the Lok Sabha Secretariat staff has been far from helpful and courteous. At times, they just appear to be giving lip service to our genuine requests and seem least bothered to ensure that our requests reach their logical end. All I am trying to say is that if we bring some pertinent issue to the notice of Lok Sabha Secretariat staff, they should display the sincerity to help us not only in their words, but also in their actions.

As we deliberate the last sixty years in this special session, let us all pledge to safeguard the sanctity and supremacy of the Parliament at all costs. And let us vow to take our Parliament to newer heights of excellence so that the nation meets the aspirations of our people.

\*SHRI ANTO ANTONY (Pathanamathitta): I am happy and proud to share my feelings on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of the Indian Parliament. Parliament is the symbol of India's democracy, sovereignty and our rich and diverse cultures as well as our national unity.

Apart from the formation of other nation-states in the World, we the people of India established a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic, republic. Many countries in the world were intended to form a nation-state on the basis either of a particular, language, ethnicity or a religion. They feel that accommodating other ethnic groups might affect their national unity and tried to drive away or marginalise other groups. Today, we see that, majority of such nation-states formed on the basis of homogeneity were disintegrated into many pieces.

Forefathers of our nation-state envisaged to form "one India and one people" by accommodating all the people in this great landmass irrespective of religion, language, caste, etc. The Constitution of India assures equal treatment of all the citizens of this country. Justice, liberty, equality and fraternity are secured to our citizens. These elements are

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

vital and have been playing a major role in maintaining the "Unity in Diversity of our Motherland".

During the birth of our republic, many people in the country as well as abroad were afraid that it would have an immediate death due to communal violence, weakening of Parliament and military takeover of power, starvation, external threat, etc. But it did not happen and today India is widely considered as an emerging power by the international community. There are lots of reasons for the success of our country in this regard. Firstly, we attained Independence through a non-violent but mass freedom struggle or the Satyagraha Movement led by the Father of Our Nation — Mahatma Gandhi. The Satyagraha Movement disseminated the democratic values among the people and pitted them against the mighty British rule in a peaceful manner. The Movement reached each nook and corner of the country and aroused a feeling of oneness of Nationalism among the people. It was a movement cutting across barriers of religion, caste, language, culture and gender. By ensuring the participation of people in the freedom struggle, the leaders of our National movement were training the generations to overcome the challenges in a democratic way. Our democratic culture, safeguards of the Constitution, and powerful Parliament, executive and judiciary are mature enough to overcome the challenges in the contemporary times and in the future.

During the time of Independence, India was a synonym for misery, disease, hunger etc. It was the result of plunder and exploitation under the British rule. However, the first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru dared to dream a modern India i.e. a hunger-free and developed India. He knew well that the real India existed in the villages and without alleviation of poverty of the rural poor, India could not prosper. Steps taken by various Governments in this regard could make a positive impact in alleviating poverty and advancing the developments of our country. In this occasion, I thankfully remember the former Prime Ministers such as Shri Lal Bahadur Sastri, Shri Gulzarilal Nanda, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Chandrasekhar, Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for their meritorious contributions to this nation. This list is incomplete without mentioning the name of our present Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. Dr. Singh became the Finance Minister of India, when the country had undergone acute financial crisis. Through his successful interventions in the economy we could successfully overcome that challenge. Endorsement of second consecutive term to

the UPA Government is the result of unshakeable trust of people towards Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Programmes and policies of the UPA Government can successfully ensure inclusive growth in the country. Today, India has become as a major exporter of foodgrains to other needy countries. Not only that, India extends financial assistance, sending troops for peacekeeping missions as part of its international commitment. India also plays an active role in various international forums including the United Nations Organisation.

Our Parliament plays a major role in realizing the aim of the Constitution. The Parliament enacted various laws and made timely amendments to protect the interests of our people. Our Parliament ensures representation of all people in the country irrespective of their social status and this helped to conceive the different opinions of our people. Functioning of the Parliament is a replicable model to other legislative bodies in the world in reaching consensus in a peaceful manner. Therefore, I wish all the success to our Parliamentary democracy. Once again, I express my sincere gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker for granting me an opportunity to share my thoughts in this historic moment.

\*SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE (Shirdi): I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to the founding fathers who deliberately chose the system of Parliamentary democracy as the best form of governance suited to the needs of our nation. I feel with immense satisfaction that the Indian Parliamentary System has grown from its nascent stage into a full blown democracy demonstrating the flexibility of our system in keeping pace with the changing national aspirations and global needs which every Indian is proud of.

It is also a matter of great pride that the various multi-dimensional challenges which came in our way not weakened our Parliamentary Institutions, rather have made them even more stronger, reassuring us that the Parliamentary Democracy is well and firmly rooted in our system.

Also our Parliament as a key institution of good governance has all along remained constantly vigilant in effectively discharging its legislative, representative and supervisory responsibilities.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The procedure of functioning of our Parliament since its first sitting has been progressively evolving to make it a vigilant deliberative body to serve the nation in a balanced manner by accommodating the changing demographic needs.

Though of late there have been efforts to dent the credibility of the Parliamentary System by challenging its supremacy, the able leadership of the elected representative and the efforts put in by those who believe in Parliamentary system have retained the faith of the people of this Nation in the efficacy of democratic processes and the Parliamentary institutions in delivering the common good.

I conclude by saying that it shall be my constant endeavour to further strengthen our Parliamentary system so that the Indian Parliament is able to better serve the people of this great nation.

\*SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Today is the day to commemorate 13th May, 1952 when our country reached a new mile stone in the evolution of Parliamentary Democracy. That was the day that representatives of the people, elected through the first General Election met for the first time as Member of the House of the people named later Lok Sabha. The Council of States renamed as Rajya Sabha.

We have crossed eventful six decades. Since the first day, Parliament has been the voice of the people and articulating their concern and reflecting their aspirations. Today in this historic solemn occasion, we are paying tribute to the freedom fighters, paying tribute to Dr. Ambedkar and all the Founders of the Constitution.

Parliamentary democracy in India has faced various challenges. Our Parliament is playing crucial role in promoting the lofty ideals of our Constitution namely, secularism, social and religious pluralism, plural polity, social justice, federalism, opportunities for the citizens so on and so forth.

Under the scheme of our Constitution, the three main organs of the State are the legislature, the executive and judiciary. The Constitution defines their power. But even then however our Constitution does not permit of the concept of judiciary democracy. Sovereignty of Parliament is the main. But now a days that is getting weakened, more over judicial interruption often encroaching the right of Parliamentary supremacy.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The polity of this Institution are very different from what they were at the point of first sitting. Predominantly Single Party System of the fifties and the sixties hav given way to political pluralism. It is evident that this august House of the day has representatives from about 45 parties compared to 4 or 5 main political parties in the first Lok Sabha. So, this Institution is not desirable to become a game of the Ruling and principal Opposition parties. The voice of others should be recognized adequately.

Today polity of State power are different from what were in fifties or sixties. Federalism is unfolding greatly. That aspect needs to be recognized. No doubt even success in different areas are there still there are serious shortcomings. The Directive Principles of the Constitution are still remain to be achieved. Poverty, unemployment, farmers suicide, social and economic oppression, joblessness, price rise – all are the challenges before us. Also the challenges are there with regards to cross border terrorism, internal security. It is revealed that there are deep dissatisfaction, resentment within the large section of the people.

The Parliamentary system would be more meaningful if all the prevailing challenges are addressed properly.

Today, in this solemn occasion, I express thanks and gratitude to all the citizens of our great country. It is evident that notwithstanding the importance of Parliamentary Democracy, the people's initiative outside the house are very important. The reforms of Election, corruption at the top level, criminalization of politics as well as the genuine demands of the people's life are the points of people's agitation.

It is expected that this House would be more effective and meaningful in these regards at this juncture and would be instrumental in achieving the goals of lofty ideals of the Constitution.

\*SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): This is high time for all of us to rededicate ourselves for the celebration of biggest democracy in the world. It's a great privilege to see five honorable MPs who were Members of the first Lok Sabha. I am happy to share with the House that out of these five two Members i.e. Shri Tilak and Shri Rammohan Rao are from Andhra Pardesh. Shri Tilak represented the Vizianagarm parliamentary

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

constituency, presently represented by me. The dedication of these parliamentarians laid a strong path of democracy in our country. Our Parliament made path breaking and historical legislations for the overall development of the country. This is high time for us to preserve the legacy, which started on the same day in 1952. I congratulate Madam Speaker and each Member of your team and honorable PM Shri Manmohanji and UPA Chairperson Shrimati Soniaji for taking up the legacy of democracy to further heights.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN (Bansgaon): Expressing happiness on the 60th anniversary of Parliament, I give my good wishes to one and all. On this occasion, I pray to God that by strengthening its dignity the Parliament may be successful in awakening of the confidence of the world in democratic system.

I also want to mention that our Parliament had resolved to take back the land of our country grabbed by China, but the action has not been taken on it.

It has been said not once but many times in our Parliament and among people that Jammu-Kashmir is an integral part of India, but to make it integral Article 370 has not been removed. An early action may be taken to remove it.

There is need to make common civil code for maintaining social, cultural and religious harmony in the country. The High Court has also given decisions to this effect. Today also there is need to make common civil code in the country.

During the last 25-30 years, the sittings of Parliament are becoming less and less and presence of hon'ble members has also not been sufficient. Therefore, there is lack of open discussion on Bills and other subjects brought in Parliament. As a result, thereof, people have started feeling that the number of sittings of Parliament should be increased and adequate and meaningful discussion should be held on all subjects.

The great men who fought for the independence of the country had, after attaining freedom, expected from our Parliament and Government that there will be peaceful atmosphere in the country, our country will be leading in the world, there will be social, economic and education equality and harmony will prevail. But in this country, we could not achieve success as per our expectations. Today, there is a big gap between rich and poor. The 90 per cent money of the

national income of the country is only with 10 per cent people and 10 per cent money is with the 90 per cent poor people of the country. Today, Government of the country says through Planning Commission that if a person living in rural area and earns 22-23 rupees everyday then he is not poor and if a person living in urban area and earns 28-29 rupees daily then he is not poor. This thinking is an injustice to the poor people.

The people of the country are now of the opinion that fall is evident in members of Parliament and their working and thinking, it needs to be improved. People also discuss that instead of using the democratic system and election system of the country on large scale, these are being misused in an individual's interest. Therefore, people are losing confidence in democracy and election system. People want that the dignity of our Parliament and MPs become more strong and we should make such efforts so that it may get name and fame in the world.

On this occasion I want to draw the attention towards one more subject. In our country reservation has been given to exploited, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people in jobs and political areas. The purpose for which the reservations was given, needs more efforts for its fulfillment. For this, such schemes should be formulated by which gap between rich and poor may be shortened and we may succeed in bringing social, economic and educational quality.

On this occasion, I expect from the Parliament and the Government that after giving a serious thought to the above said subjects, active efforts may be made in the interest of democracy and people so that India could come in the category of leading countries of the world. I hope the Government and Parliament will take useful steps in this direction.

At the end, I expect from all the hon'ble members and people's representatives of the country that we should sincerely work to do our duty and come true to the test of the time.

\*SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): Today is the 60th year of Lok Sabha, the temple of democracy of independent India. It is a fortunate day of life that on this good occasion of 60th anniversary we have got an opportunity to speak in Lok Sabha as member of the House. Today, I salute

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

those great men who established world's greatest democracy in the country by dint of their hard struggle. The leading heroes who brought this pious democracy in the country, were Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi ji, Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar ji, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia ji, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan ji, Dr. Sarvapalli Radha Krishnan ji, Jawaharlal Nehru ji etc. In taking ahead this democracy, those great persons have also contributed who live in villages, majro, dero, purvon, towns, and cities. From the establishment of this democracy till today, there is great contribution of all those laboures, poorman, farmers and youths who are living anywhere in the country. The perception of democracy of independent India imbibed by our forefathers was that all in our country should get bread, cloths and house. They presumed for everyone medicine, education, clean drinking water, employment and a strong nation. Today we feel happy and proud, but the dreams of our forefathers have not fully realized. Even today people are living under an open sky. They have no money to purchase cloths. They have no money for treatment. They have no money for food. Due to lack of food and medicine, even today thousands of people are dying. Today, we will certainly demand in this House before the entire country that our country can go forward only when the basic requirements of common people are met and Government listens to one and all, only then the purpose of today's happiness will be fulfilled. I pray to God that today we are standing in this temple of democracy, this temple may remain pious forever. For thousands of years it may remain an example of democracy for the world. It's dignified image may always be presented before the world.

\*SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (Hamirpur, H.P.): As we all know that today Lok Sabha has completed 60 years. First Lok Sabha was constituted on 13th May, 1952 and today we are celebrating its 60th anniversary. I, on my behalf and on behalf of all the hon'ble members of 15th Lok Sabha, congratulate all the people of the country on this occasion who have played an important role in conducting smoothly and maintaining the democracy. This House is the best House of the country, we should make every effort to maintain its dignity. Many laws and policies are made in this House for the overall development of the country. If we recall that day when this House came into being we will come to know that at that time our country was in the category of undeveloped country which after 60 years has come out as a developing country.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Today the country is facing the vices like corruption, terrorism which are a big hurdle in the development of the country. We should try to enact appropriate laws for the solution of acute problems like terrorism and corruption. We should avoid groupism and work together for the development of the country. To fight against vices like terrorism, instead of bringing new laws and rules, we should implement the present laws in a proper way.

We have discussed several times in this House about the acute problem like poverty but it is very sad that it remained only a matter of discussion. Poverty could not be lessened, but poor became less due to poverty. Today many people are committing suicide due to poverty. If we talk about Vidharab region of Maharashtra, even today water is not available to farmers there.

Today, the level of education has certainly been increased. The level of education has increased very fast in villages and cities and because of this people are becoming literate, but at the same time the problem of unemployment has arisen. Vices like theft, dacoity etc. are arising in the country because of unemployment. We together should formulate new policies for the development of the country so that unemployment can be removed.

Even now in this Parliament the important law like child abuse have remained on papers only. We shall have to implement those laws.

[English]

"Survey conducted in 2007 by the Women and Child Development Ministry and the NGO Prayas in association with Unicef and Save the Children across 13 states and with a sample size of 12,447. The shocking details were laid bare to the entire nation. The survey found that 53.22 per cent of children reported having faced one or more forms of sexual abuse. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Delhi had reported the highest percentage of such incidents at that time. In 50% of the cases, the abusers were known to the child or were in a position of trust and responsibility and most children did not report the matter to anyone.

The National Study on Child Abuse is one of the largest empirical in-country studies of its kind in the world. This study also complements the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children 2006."

[Translation]

Today people's expectation from Parliament and MPs have very much increased then before and to fulfil those expectations we should enact such laws and take such decisions after rising above the party politics, which can play a vital role in serving the interest and changing the condition of the country.

The people's confidence in Parliament and laws enacted by it is becoming less day by day. We will have to make them believe that this is people's Parliament and this Parliament is "for the people, by the people and of the people."

Therefore, we should come true to the expectations of the people and work together for the interest of the people.

\*SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): I got an opportunity to express my views on completion of 60 years by Parliament.

Right from the creation of Parliament till its implementation, my State Gujarat has played a very important role. Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Shyamji Krishna Verma and several other great leaders hold an important place in this. It is the contribution and sacrifices by these people that people like us representing backward areas, that we come from, have got an opportunity to come to this temple of democracy. I salute them on this occasion and would place my views. During these 60 years, our Parliament contributed for rapid progress of the country. If we see unity in diversity, the force working behind this, is Parliament only. The problems that we people are confronted with from time to time from inside or outside, they are solved by Parliament. In this the entire country also becomes unanimous to find the solution to the problem. It is the greatest example of unity in diversity and this happens to be the greatest strength of the country.

Here we should not forget that when our country became independent, most of the people were illiterate. If we overlook certain differences, we see a remarkable increase in the number of educated people in the country. In this respect, we have progressed in the field of technical education as well as scientific-education due to democracy on the strength of which the country is progressing constantly. Right from agriculture to security, at every stage, our country's is moving on the path of progress.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

During the period of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister, this Parliament had thought of linking different rivers of the country with each other with a view to solve the water problem in the country as also the disputes arising over this issue. It prepared itself to work on it to see that no part of the country faces shortage of water. I do not hesitate in saying that it is this Parliament which decided to build national Highways to connect every part of the country with each other, the work on which is going on speedily. Both these works had contributed to the unity of the country, that is what I think.

Here unemployment was on the increase like anything, this Parliament faced that situation by forming rules and with the help of MNREGA and thus tried to reduce it.

Today country faces the problem relating to the social and economic development of the poor and the people below poverty line though no specific step could be taken in this regard so far. However, I am fully confident that our Parliament will succeed in this and will solve this problem by enacting a new law in this regard.

In the end, I wish that the democracy may continue uninterrupted and conclude my speech by saluting once again the great leaders, who contributed to the cause of bringing in democracy and made sacrifices for this purpose.

\*SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PATLE (Janjgir-Champa): Today I got the opportunity to come to this great Panchayat of the biggest democracy of the world, and an opportunity to be the witness of this historic moment. I thank my leaders and the people of my Parliamentary Constituency for this.

I pay my floral tributes to our countrymen who made the supreme sacrifice for our freedom. I would also thank our architects of Constitution like Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar and the common man of the country who made our Parliament and democracy strong by casting their vote and thus have added to the dignity of Parliament playing their important role towards the success of country's democracy and thus kept it intact.

Today our Parliament stands comparatively more prosperous in view of the representation of each and every community in the Parliament. The role of farmers, leaders and women in Parliament has become more prominent. We have been recognised as the developing nation in the world. Let us hope, it will be known as a developed country in future.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

All people faced the crisis together whenever our country faced it. In spite of having different castes, religions, communities, language, attires etc, we have demonstrated unity in diversity and will continue to do so.

Today we resolve that we will not allow anyone to put in peril this biggest democracy of the world. We are proud of our democracy. This democracy of India is an example for the world will continue to be so.

[English]

\*SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri) : At the outset, I feel proud and would like to thank for giving me an opportunity to participate in the Special Sitting of 60th Anniversary of the first sitting of Parliament of India.

Today is the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of India's Parliament constituted on April 17, 1952. The Lok Sabha held its first session a month later, starting May 13. In the sixty years of our democracy, we have attained lot of growth in various spheres. Parliament has been empowered with more powers in the administration of the Government. We have attained milestones in the three organs of Government i.e. executive, legislature and judiciary and tried bring harmony between the three organs of our democracy. Our Drafting Committee headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar has foreseen various aspects and carefully drafted the Constitution of India which we are following in the passing of our legislations though we have incorporated several amendments to suit the times of need. Persons irrespective of caste, creed or religion have represented Parliament since its Constitution and we have committed to fulfill our 'secular' status.

In the Parliament, we have passed several landmark legislations and ensure smooth functioning of the Government. Heated debates are being made in Parliament. Eminent speakers adorn Parliament by their oratory skills. Our Dravidian Leader, former CM of Tamil Nadu, Late Shri C.N. Annadurai who entered Rajya Sabha in 1962 made strong speeches on various subjects concerning common man. He insisted equal status to all languages spoken in the country and demanded official language status to Tamil at the Centre. The contribution made by our Late leader, Shri Murasoli Maran, as MP and also Minister was immense and he had also demanded the same status to Tamil language. Former CM of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

secured classical language status to Tamil and also fought for official language status to Hindi. As Tamil was one of the oldest six languages which had the history of more than 2,000 years, it should not be neglected and considering the long aspirations of the Tamil population, official language status should be extended to Tamil also. Our Parliament is awarding distinguished parliamentarians who have made enormous contribution to the House in upholding its customs and traditions by their eloquent speeches.

We are regarded as one of the best democratic countries in the world. However, I am sorry to state that of late Parliament is facing lot of disruptions hampering the smooth functioning of the House on trivial issues. With the result, the precious time of the House is wasted and fruitful discussions could not take place and it is pity to note that some Bills are being passed without discussion. The recurrence of such incidents during the visit of Parliament delegations from abroad casts bad impression on the functioning of our Parliament. It is the duty of all the elected representative of the Houses to ensure its smooth functioning.

With these words, I conclude my views on this unique occasion commemorating the sixty years of Indian Parliament and extend my warm greetings to all.

[Translation]

\*SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): I feel proud to take part in the 60th Anniversary celebrations of Parliament of India.

We as one of the most populous countries of the world have given ourselves parliamentary democracy with different tiers and layers of power structure and it adds to our glory. At this juncture, we must recall and pay rich tributes to our founding fathers. We now remember the Father of the Nation Gandhiji who strived for uniting the people leading them to the freedom struggle taking the path of non-violence. We also remember now the leader of the downtrodden masses who gave us the Constitution contributing his best. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar the architect of our Constitution has been included in the list of hundred great men of the world for this century. Our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru took efforts to include the words 'democratic, socialistic, republic' in our Constitution. At this moment, I now recall the memory of Smt. Indira Gandhi, the father of Parliament Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, Shri Hiren Mukherjee and

\*English translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

Shri S.K. Dange. I also remember Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee who fought for women's rights, Babu Jagjivan Ram who stood for the depressed sections of the society, Shri K. Kamraj, Shri C.N. Annadurai, Shri Muthuramalinga Thevar, Shri K.T.K. Thangamani and the leader of Muslim League, Quaide Milleth Ismail Sahib.

We can strengthen our unity and integrity of country by way of taking the benefits of social security measures even to the least of our brethren in the lowest of the rung in the social order. We must wipe-out the tears and improve their lot. Our country has developed. But it is not a uniform development benefiting all the people. The new economic policy which we started adopting from 1991 is more tilted towards the corporate sector. It has driven our agriculturists to their wits end. The plight of our agricultural labour is in a pitiable condition. They have to face starvation. They are landless, homeless and they do not have education facilities. This comes in the way of our taking forward the country as one with parliamentary democracy. In the hill regions and in the forest areas, the Scheduled Tribe people are being stripped of their traditional rights to have their traditional livelihood. Forest officials and mafias exploit them. This causes disaffection in the minds of those helpless people. Extremism increases because the extremists make use of the conditions of the poor people deprived of even the basic amenities of life. Scheduled Caste people are very much affected at the hands of casteists. Atrocities against them go on and untouchability is still a problem. This condition needs to be changed.

In the same manner as we have the Departmentally Related Standing Committees our Parliament has got several forums. I would like to suggest through our Parliament let us have a Forum for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Chairmanship of Hon. Speaker for all time to come. This should be different from the SC/ST Commission and the Parliamentary Committee and Standing Committee on SC/ST. This Forum must be empowered to study and suggest measures to attend to the problems faced by the depressed sections of the society.

Ours is a country of many languages. Apart from freedom to express everyone must be encourage to nurture the love for their respective languages in our Parliament all the members must have the equal opportunities. Apart from English and Hindi, all the Members of Parliament must have the facility both to speak and listen in their respective

languages the entire proceedings of the House. We have accorded the classical language status to Tamil but the opportunity to speak in this august House is less. As such there is only one interpreter for every language for which interpretation facility available. Instead we must have facility both to listen and speak in our respective language throughout the proceedings of the House. In order to provide continuous interpretation facility both ways, more number of interpreters may have to be appointed and hence I urge upon the Hon. Speaker to safeguard our rights to have continuous interpretation facility. Hence, you may kindly appoint at least three more Tamil interpreters. Language is part of us, and occupies whole being of us like our father and mother. So we cannot wish away and ignore one's feeling for his or her language. When this right is denied to Hon. Members in this august House without giving equal treatment to all the languages thereby meting out equal treatment to all the Members, it would be like treating certain Members as second-rate members and representatives of second-rate citizens. This would be unfair. Hence, I urge upon the Hon. Speaker to accord equal status to all the languages in this august House.

On this occasion we must resolve to provide to our people at least the minimum living standards. Reservations for deprived sections must be increased. Our Constitution may be further amended to provide for reservation well above 50 per cent. The available reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribe people must be increased further. Minorities among them must also get the reservation benefit.

Multi-Party Parliamentary Democracy has got no alternative. We must strive to see that all the sections of the society are involved in that democratic process. There must be minimum guaranteed social security measures for labour class with their rights remaining intact. They must be spared from exploitation. We must resolve to see that our people get a better deal from now on.

\*SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): I would like to congratulate all the hon. Members of Parliament present here on 60th Anniversary of Indian Parliament. As a Member of Lok Sabha, my experience is just of 8 years now. Taking inspiration from other senior members, Shrimati Vasundhra Raje in particular, I also entered politics with the objective of serving the people and was elected to 14th Lok Sabha for the first time and I am before you in the 15th Lok Sabha as well.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



During my tenure as a Member of the biggest Panchayat of India, I saw many dreams about the complete development of my Parliamentary Constituency Jhalawar- Baran. When I was elected for the first time on the strength of slogan like 'Har hath Ko Kam, Har Khet Ko Pani' at that time the biggest challenge before me was to work for fulfilling my promise. During my first tenure as Member of Parliament several schemes were made in the areas of irrigation, drinking water and electricity for my Parliamentary Constituency and efforts were made for their speedy implementation with the support of the then B.J.P. Government of the State.

Today I won't hesitate to state political discrimination is having an upper hand in matter of development in this biggest democratic country of the world even today. Several schemes approved in Rajasthan by the previous BJP Government were put on hold. I feel that politics should be restricted till elections, thereafter all should work together to fulfill the resolutions for the development. However, it is unfortunate that we have failed to mould our mindset on these lines during the last 60 years.

Now I come to my Constituency, the work is much behind the schedule in respect of starting rail traffic upto Jhalawar on Ramaganj mandi-Bhopal rail line. This work should have been completed two years back. Though we made continued efforts for restoration of lease for opium in the area, yet Central Government did not hear us, although that was a reasonable demand from the farmers. Now the hon. Finance Minister does not deem it fit to invite us for the meetings. What type of democratic practice is this. The much awaited Parwan Irrigation Scheme of the area is hanging fire merely because forest and environment clearance is yet to come. I would say on this occasion that Parliament should take effective steps for ensuring coordination among various agencies.

Despite tireless efforts, our country is not able to come out of the whirl pool of the inflation, unemployment, terrorism and corruption. On the other side, the tendency of committing suicide among the farmers, the food given is increasing continuously which is a matter of concern. Despite implementing right to education, it seems almost impossible to expect any miraculous change in the field of education because the whole system lacks will power, here I am not criticising anybody, I have full faith in democratic values. However, here this day, we should express our commitment to the effect that we would work together to fulfill the aspirations

and basic requirements of the people of Constituency, state and country in accordance with the spirit of Constitution.

*[English]*

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni) : We are now holding a commemorative session celebrating the 60th year of our Parliament. Our bicameral Parliament that has got about 800 Members representing 120 crores of people and 31 states and other Union Territories of the country symbolize the democratic will of the entire population of the country.

In this august House, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhiji, Rajivji, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, our beloved leader Soniaji, the veterans like Babu Jagjeevan Ram, Quide Millat Ismil Sahib, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Jai Prakash Narain and Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar were here. We have brought legislations like MNREGA, Right to Information Act, Right to Education Bill and other important historical legislations for the welfare of our country men. Though we brought liberation to our country from Britishers.

We have given all citizens right to speak, cast votes, right to raise voice etc. The Congress has given all the rights to the people of this nation with the sacrifice of many precious lives of freedom fighters like late Bhagat Singh, Kodi Kattha, Kumaranji who was in jail for 9 years when he was fighting against the Britishers for liberation. Our young and charismatic leader Rahul Gandhiji also participated in many importation legislations and given his valuable suggestions to the nation. Congress is the only party and its members of Parliament are all working for real nation building. Our Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee in the 14th Lok Sabha used to give good advice to the new comers in the Parliament. This is the only country where democracy exists. Even our Leader Sonia Gandhiji has set a record in history. She made a woman as Speaker of this august House in 15th Lok Sabha that too, a SC woman. I am really thankful to our great leader Soniaji for this endeavour.

Democratic form of governance both at the local level and at the provincial level have always had a cherished tradition in this country. The Uthiramerur copper plate inscriptions show to the world the 'kudavolai' form of electing the representatives of the people for the local bodies. This country of many princely states is now a nation. It has given

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

to itself a Parliamentary democracy where multi-party system is the order of the day. There were many invaders and looters who have desecrated this country in the name of aggression against us or occupying our territory. But it is only the Moghuls and the Britishers who brought about a sense of oneness in this country have brought us all together as a country called India. I earnestly feel that our love-hate for Islamic symbols or angrezi relics must go. More than the south, it is found more in the north. That is why we find more of communal hatred and frenzy in the minds of the so called ultra-nationalists. I believe that our Indian Parliament brings to table both the ultra-nationalists and the nationalists either for a meaningful dialogue or for the disposal of important socio-economic matters that matter more in society. So naturally our Indian Parliament is like a great Indian circus. We find unity in divergence. Even in divisions we find integration. This element of unity is the fabric of our national web of life. Hence, I salute the Indian nation and its great Parliament on the occasion of 60 years of Parliament.

In these 60 years our nation has met with several successes. We have brought down child mortality considerably in a big way. We have wiped-out certain epidemics that used to wipe-out our population in the form of small pox, polio, plague and so on. We have achieved self sufficiency in food production. We could achieve success in launching our own satellites and inter-continental missiles apart from two successful nuclear tests. Along with literacy, computer literacy has spread in the country in a big way making our youth a sought after group in many parts of the world due to their technological prowess and arithmetic skills needed in a computer professional. Right to Education is a mile stone enactment by our Parliament that was followed up with National Rural Employment Guarantee Act that provided for assured job opportunities to rural unemployment while adding to the national assets in the form of infra-structural facilities needed in the rural India which has got agriculture as its mainstay. All these social and economic progression were made as plans discussed on the floor of the Parliament along with various other enactments.

Our Parliament apart from being the supreme law-making body of the country has always been a forum where the problems vexing the people in several parts of the country used to be heard and addressed to. Hon'ble Members from the nooks and corners of the country representing the people

of various languages and cultures have enriched the knowledge of one another, the ruling coalition and the opposition groups and the erudite and not so educated, the urbane and the rural helping each other to see India through one another.

As a Member of Parliament in both 14th and 15th Lok Sabha, I can vouchsafe for myself that I could get a clear vision of problems galore in this country whenever they were spelt out by my colleagues. This could enhance my capacity to have a humane look at the problems faced by the under-privileged and the deprived sections of the society. I have always been an avid watcher and a fellow learner of Parliamentary practices and procedures.

In a nation's life 60 years is just a beginning but in an individual's life it could be the beginning of an end. Now, we have gathered in this august House to listen to the veterans and their experiences on the floor of the House that had led to some positive changes in the lives of the people. One great quality of our Parliament is that we have a well-regulated special mention session wherein we bring to light the problems that affect the people of our respective constituencies. Most often they were immediately attended to by positive minded Members in the treasury benches. Ours is a Parliament that in all probability might have created a world record in enacting so many well meaning social legislations. Since, we have diverse social groups, social legislation to ensure social security measures have always been upheld. That way our Parliament has remained a beacon light to other developing countries where the uplift of the people can be ensured by a Parliament which can feel the pulse of the people by way of listening to the sentiments of the people expressed by Members based on their ground experience. With a pride of passing several laws that will uplift the women and the downtrodden people of the society, our Parliament has enacted laws amending the Constitution to devolve powers to the people at the local level in the form of three tier Panchyati Raj System. The dream of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to have self-sufficient villages at our backyard has come true in many villages. Our UPA Government under the leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh have brought about several well meaning measures through this august forum. I wish this House continues with its yeomen service for many years to come. With this, I conclude.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur): I congratulate all my countrymen on this historic day, but it is regretted that even after 60 years, 95 percent educated Indian people have not been able to understand the meaning of Indian democracy. While the Government did not make any effort taking help from media, holding seminar, symposium to explain its real meaning today. This was not done as a result of which people fail to understand their accountability towards the system while the system does not understand its accountability towards the people. In fact, the democracy meant that system will work according to the wishes of the people in their interest and the way they like. But it was not done, and consequently the direction and state of democracy got changed. Our Parliament is simply following its traditions. Today is a day for introspection as to what extent we have achieved the objective for which our freedom fighters laid down their lives to make secure freedom for the country and what the Constitution makers visualised at the time of writing Constitution. If this has not been done, then by what time they will achieve this objective.

The freedom fighters had thought that in independent India, everybody will get employment, every field will get water, nobody will sleep hungry in independent India, nobody will roam about naked, no one will sleep in the open without any shelter, no one will remain illiterate, nobody will die for want of medicine. But, alas, nothing has changed. Today crores of people sleep hungry. Crores of them roam about naked. Crores of people are illiterate today. Crores of people are forced to sleep in open today. Crores of people die for want of medicine even today while school children recite on 26th January and 15th August in their schools to the effect that 'Sare Jahan Se Accha Hindustan Hamara'. This was the dream based on the fundamental rights described in the Constitution and the wishes of the freedom fighters who laid down their lives and the poet had written this song sensing their sentiments. But we have to resolve to make India the best in world. We should all strive to ensure that India becomes the best in the world. However, the Constitution makers had expressed certain doubts and that is being proved true today. They had said that how good Constitution may be it would depend on the intention of the enforcing agency. Constitution has seen more than 100 amendments so far but no improvement could be seen.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Today corruption flows in our blood. Country is progressing but nationalism is on the wane. This is the country of sages, Lord Buddha's land where saints and learned people had conceptualized of Basudhaib Kutumbakam "Sarve Bhavante Sukhina, Sarve Santu Niramaya, Sarve Bhavani Pashyanti Maa Kashchit Dukh Bhag Bhavet." That is to say Bharat had been the focal point of the world. This idea was of pre independent whole of India. But after gaining independence, it has achieved progress. Now we are exploring water on the moon. We have perfected our self in software and hardware . However our way of thinking has become mean, our thoughts have become narrow while badly involved in the mad race for development. Now leave aside the world concept, have the concept of Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, leave the country, the State, the district, Tehsil, block, village, community, Khandan, so much so that our way of thinking gone down to a stage whole, without exception, every House nobody sees in proper perspective his parents, his elder brother, elder sister in his house with his eyes wide open. Now all our thoughts and thinking are limited to my wife, my children. It has posed a great danger of breaking the fabric of the country and the society. We can avoid this situation only when we explain the real meanings of democracy in the Parliament. Now there is need for politics for public good by rising above party in power lines in which the objective must be justice with the people.

Let us join hands and resolve to make India prosperous what it used to be in ancient times. On this historical day, once again I congratulate the country men on behalf of the Parliament of the World's biggest democracy and conclude.

\*SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA (Davanageere): I feel I am very fortunate to take part in the discussion on the celebration to mark the 60th years of Indian Parliament. Great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Lal Bahaddur Shastri ji, Rajiv Gandhi ji, Atal Bihari Vajapayee ji, Deve Gowda ji have always been our inspiration. They all have set high standard of parliamentary debate and discourse by raising issue of national interests and significance as and when required. I would like to point out that it is very unfortunate that even after 65 years of independence our country is still reeling under the scourge of poverty and the backbone of the country that is our farmers are in great hardships. Let us take a pledge at least now, to work together

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\*English translation of the Speech originally laid on the Table in Kannada.

to build a very strong nation to ensure all round development of all the sections of the people of our country.

\* SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (Jalore): I warmly welcome the two members of the First Lok Sabha. I am feeling very happy in finding them amidst us. The first president of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad was- the first sitting of first Lok Sabha on 13th May, 1952 had stated in his address, this is the first time when the administration of the country has come under democratic system of Governance. This an exceptional moment in the history of the country. This republic could have Parliament only after independence. Therefore, it is the duty of every Indian to safeguard this independence. Our Republic's foundation are contained in our Constitution. History tells us about setting up of Republic in different parts of the country but its scope was limited. It is our strong wish that the standard of our countrymen may be high. We should remember that all this depend on our efforts towards the security of our independence. Our whole existence, be it social or individual, depend on this freedom. Being one of your colleague and a companion in the fight for freedom, I assure you that my first duty will be to see the people in general progressing. I pray to all my countrymen to consider me as one of them and keep encouraging me to serve them with full capacity and strength. May God give me strength to serve the one and all.

The democracy in Parliament got matured during these 60 years. If we leave some months of emergency. The biggest objective of democracy is to safeguard equality. Indian Parliament had achieved the right to equality in a big way as compared to so many countries of world during these 60 years. For India, there cannot be any other system of Governance other than this (democracy), if we talk about the development of democratic values, then we will again have to thank and decide impartially. The time on which the big mouth leaders of team Anna subjected our Parliament of indecent attack that this sort of freedom was accorded to them by this Parliament only. One example, you can find so many such examples when you will full freedom having granted by our Parliament.

Parliament has strengthened the foundations of democracy by passing several bills like Right to Information, though so many things remain to be done of these 60 years such as education for all, health for all.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Constitution bestows on us the fundamental rights of primary health, drinking water, primary education. However even after so much of time, we could not make available drinking water in many areas of Rajasthan. It continues to be the matter of grave concern. With these words, I conclude.

*[English]*

\*SHRI RAMEN DEKA (Mangaldoi): Sixty years before India resolved to be a parliamentary democracy. The rate of literature was very low in context of the West. Many thought around the world, it was an audacious idea that people of India chosen parliamentary democracy, which was doomed to fail.

But all said and done the people of India roses above all and Indian democracy kept its head high.

I come from Assam, an underdeveloped region. The people of Assam fought against British and part and parcel of freedom struggle Kanak Lata Baruah was brutally fired and killed by police when she was leading a procession of satyagrahis towards Gahpur Police Station in north bank of Brahmaputra in Assam. Mukand Kakaty was also killed on same day when he tried to keep the honour of Indian flag. Maniram Dewan, Kushal Konwar also punished and hanged by British administration for taking part in freedom struggle. The people of Assam had an active role during freedom struggle.

The people of Assam always preach democratic value.

Though we took parliamentary democracy sixty years before, if we see our history in India, we find great Ashoka, Chandra Gupta Maurya, Kumar Bhaskar Barman (Assam) always preach for welfare state and valued the opinion of common people.

Maryada Purushotam Shree Ram always valued the opinion of the common people and their welfare. Mahatma Gandhiji was also thinking to bring 'Ram Rajya' in Bharatvarsha.

The institution of parliamentary democracy and federal structure of India remains only because the common people want democracy.

We have seen up and down of Indian democracy and devaluation of institutions.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

We have seen emergency. During emergency the democratic institution was devalued, the fundamental right was cut. But the people of India bounced back and taught a lesson to those who imposed Emergency in the General Elections in 1977.

We have seen such judgment by the people in many elections in general elections and state assemblies elections.

Our neighbouring countries miserably failed to keep the democratic system in true sense.

Now is the time to introspect. Many forces are acting to destabilize our system and want to hit the federal structure. We must handle those issues with iron hand in the interest of the country. We must allow to keep going of federal structure with democratic system.

The corruptions in every level is frustrating and the people are fed up. A class of people are looting money for development and natural resources. We must stop this to keep the spirit of democracy; social imbalance created by unscrupulous people by unscrupulous means will hurt the basic fabric of the democracy.

Once again I would like to state that I feel great to be a part of the celebration of sixty years of parliamentary democracy in India.

Sri Shankar Deva Great Saint and Statesman of Assam said 600 years before:

“Bharat is great”, “Bharat is great”

I would like to add long live long live Indian democracy.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Raver): Today, I feel proud that the pious temple of democracy has completed 60 years today. It is the love of the public of my Constituency and love of democracy that I am present here on the occasion. We are discussing today the history of this pious House that is its past and present. No doubt our history is golden but the present as well as the future also is bright. Our freedom fighters, their sanskar and ideas are the strength behind it. Following those sanskari ideas, we will further add to the worthiness of this Parliament.

I am a farmer myself as such I feel that some time may be

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

reserved in future for raising matters/issues relating to rural areas and that of farmers in Parliament, I feel that it is high time that we provide an independent agriculture budget for farmers every year. We feel proud in saying ‘jai jawan, jai kissan’, if we are able to do something for them in Parliament in future, that will certainly, be glorious act.

I resolve that I will try to add to the dignity of this pious House by sanskari tradition and thought.

*[English]*

\*SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South) : I congratulate the people of India and all the Hon’ble Members of Parliament present here, on the occasion of the completion of 60 years of the Parliament.

The founding fathers of our Constitution led by Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had a long sighted vision to create the necessary template for ensuring the sovereignty of our nation and the creation of a vibrant democracy. The three pillars that have sustained the nation through these 60 years have been the executive, the legislative which is the voice of the people, and an independent and impartial judiciary. This has created the framework for making actionable the concept of equality and freedom, as envisaged in the Constitution, for the vast multitude who come from divergent linguistic and regional backgrounds.

The Parliament has through the years been responsive to the needs and aspirations of people and historic legislations have been passed taking both affirmative and corrective action. This is the definitive forum where the voice of the last man is heard as loudly as that of the first, and given equal respect. The Members of Parliament and our legislatures have, when the need arose, put aside all differences and stood as one for the delivery of social and economic justice and also against threats to our sovereignty.

But we must pause here to remind ourselves that there exist a number of challenges before the country today, some of which have continued from the beginning, such as eliminating social and economic inequality and poverty alleviation and inclusion of the last man in the growth story. In today’s world of globalisation and the breaking down of economic barriers, the marginalized sections of our society are becoming increasingly so. In this scenario, both the speed and extent of our ability to be responsive matters.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

On this day, we must also remember some bitter truths—the unfortunate 90 months in these illustrious sixty years when Parliamentary Democracy was subverted by the emergency imposed by a regime for the cause of an individual. I am sure that there can be no repetition of this, because in today's India, as on that day, the people of this country will rise as one to oppose any dictatorial regime.

Accountability of the executive to the Parliament remains the corner stone of a vibrant democracy. In recent years we have seen this question being raised increasingly both within and outside. The media has also come to play a significant role in this matter. The resultant clash of divergent views within the Parliament has made the common man cynical and critical of the style of functioning of the Parliament. The loss of a sense of belonging that the people feel is a dangerous situation, and common ground and corrective action needs to be taken by all concerned to remove the disconnect and restore the relevance of the Parliament in the functioning of the democracy.

On this occasion I also pay my tribute to the great leaders of India who have raised the prestige of this august House. There exist legends of people such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Pandit ji, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Shri Jagjivan Ram. The statesmanship and oratory skills of Sh. Piloo Modi, Sh. Jagannath Rao Joshi, Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Sh. George Fernandes will remain etched in people's memories.

I thank Madam Speaker and also leaders in the House such as Sh. Pranab Mukherjee, Sh. Advani ji, Smt. Sushma ji for upholding the highest traditions of Parliament and am sure that all of us consider it an honour to serve the country through this august House.

\*SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): I thank you for the opportunity to express my views on this historic day of 60th Anniversary of the Temple of Indian Democracy "The Parliament of India". In its long journey of 60 years, the foundation for freedom laid by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Maulana Azad, Bhagat Singh, Sarojini Naidu, Sardar Patel, Ambedkar, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Rajender Prasad and other Freedom Fighters. Our forefathers who laid their lives fighting against the British Raj to get freedom for the Nation. After 'azadi'

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

under the leadership of Father of our Constitution, Bharat Ratna, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar, the Constitution was adopted and implemented by the first Prime Minister, the architect of Modern India, Pandit Nehruji and followed by other Prime Ministers, Shashtriji, Indiraji, Rajiv Gandhiji and other Prime Ministers who worked very hard to strengthen the democracy and Indian Parliamentary System. The result is we proudly call it 'today' the world largest functional Democracy.

Those were the days when Politics meant for 'Public Seva' and people used to respect public servants wholeheartedly. Now, politics meant for best business and people have least respect for politicians. This has to change. We should take pledge on this historic day to regain, rebuild our image and fulfill the dreams of our forefathers to make our great country as a developed, inclusive, secular, social world power. Unless and until 300 million people who are living under poverty are not part of the India's growth engine and make –Minority, Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes part of decision making, we fail in our job as a Parliamentarians. Let us make a pledge to achieve this goal and ensure women empowerment, bring probity and transparency in public life and make judiciary, executive, bureaucracy and legislature are accountable to the people.

Though we achieve a lot in these 60 years, the expectations of the people are not met in the open economy. Poor has become poorer and the rich has become super rich.

As lawyer and Political Science student, I feel guilty to be part of the team who disrupt the House. As a Member of the Parliament from the backward, neglected, exploited Telangana region, when our 700 youths committed suicide, self immolated and died for the separate state and, 4 crores people are fighting for the last 50 years for separate State of Telangana, when the demand is not met, we are forced to disrupt the House to bring it to the notice of the Nation and Government. We continuously fight under democratic means to achieve the goal of separate state of Telengana.

It is a fundamental duty of every Member cutting across political parties to fight and strengthen our democracy as my leader, Smt. Soniaji, said fight for the 'Aam Admi' and 'Purna Swaraj' for those 80% of the population who belongs to Minority, Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes.

[Translation]

\*SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna): Today Parliament has completed its sixty years. On this occasion you gave me an opportunity to speak in this special session. For that I am grateful to you. Today the Parliament has completed its sixty years. During these years, the Parliament has seen several big leaders who added to the glory of this Parliament. Among them Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, Indira ji, Babu Jagjivan Ram, Hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee etc. have added to the lustre of Parliament. Today in that very Parliament we are sitting here. The questions this Parliament is facing today, did exist even earlier. In a retrospection we can see that there was fear, starvation and poverty but no education. That was rural India and even after a period of 60 years, there has not been a big change. The Parliament needs to think over it. We need to give justice to the Backward classes through the enactment of Stringent laws in the socio-economic areas. When this country got its independence, people of other countries had a fear as to how this country would be able to run the system of democracy? But the people of this country have shown to all the people of this world that we can run democracy in this country. Today India is popularly known as a democratic country in this world. Its credit goes to the crores of our people of this country. Today it is completing its sixty years. Even after it, this country will make progress in every field and will show to the entire world that we will continue with our progress and will add to the glory of our democracy.

[English]

\*SHRI PRAVEEN SINGH ARON (Bareilly) : Thanks for permitting me to submit my speech in writing as because of paucity of time, speech cannot be allowed on the historic occasion of 60th year celebration of the great Indian Parliamentary Democracy and the Parliament itself. My heartiest congratulations to the Nation and its great people on this great occasion. It is indeed a matter of great satisfaction and pride that despite being a nation of people of different culture, languages, socio-economic and religious background, we have been able to remain united in diversity and on the face of difficult challenges thrown to us from several quarters both internal as well as external.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

It pains me to point out at this auspicious occasion towards the disparaging fact that despite our 60 year long proud parliamentary democracy — the truth remains that in numerous instances we still continue to vote and elect our elected representatives (at all levels, be that panchayat, local bodies, legislative assemblies or Parliament) under the most undemocratic and rather unpatriotic influence of money, caste, religious or similar other questionable considerations.

I wish and most humbly but proudly appeal to the nation in general and present days' leaders of all political parties, social and religious leaders and 'Gurus' as well – to use this historic occasion to usher the Indian nation out of the totally messy state of misery, all pervasive corruption (moral, spiritual, social and economical) in which we have so unfortunately landed ourselves.

In my personal and considered opinion the only way out and the way forward is that leader of all political parties must identify, agree, codify and enact into 'laws' (both in the states as well as Central Legislatures — as applicable) to a minimum national or state level agenda and commensurate code of conduct ( and do's and don'ts) to eradicate all evils including those as enumerated here and above of corruption, socio-religious divisionary politics and action of each sections of the society including the political parties.

I think to achieve this all leaders must also agree to a common minimum programme of an affirmative action towards the imperative and all important goal of nation-building.

Further to what have I said today for the sake of brevity I would prefer to make my submissions pointwise which are as follows:—

We must concede to the fact of hover all prevailing idiosyncrasies in our apparently hippocratic, deplorable and unfortunate maladies in our very system of electoral administrative functions. If we continue to sweep these weaknesses under the carpet of excuses such as — that ours is a rather loud democracy; our democracy is young and in the process of evolving itself; we are multi-cultural, caste, religious or languages nation; prior to our attaining independence, the level of literacy, economic condition etc. of our people was worst; and that we must not compare ourselves with countries like China, South and North Korea, Malaysia, Siingapore, South Africa, Western Countries or even countries like Brazil for the reasons of their — either having lesser population, non-democratic

form of governance, not being multi-religious or multi-caste societies etc. as they are not having the pool of being a “unity in diversity” nation.

I would rather say that we must compare ourselves viz a viz countries like China in all respect and endeavour to improve the state of affairs in all areas be that economical, law and order, strategic or level of quality of life of the common man of our nation. We must endeavour to rapidly minimize the gap between the haves and have not in our country.

With the heavy heart, I am compelled to concede and say that we have rather messed up on all fronts of Nation-Building. There is an all pervasive degeneration in the moral, social, political as well as economical areas of our nation. It is high time that we start realizing and admitting it not for cursing ourselves but to identify the evil and then fight it out of finish. Unless we diagnose the disease and chart out course of remedial action, there is no way we can achieve the objectives and realize the dreams which our fathers have dreamt about. We have to make our nation a nation of dreams of great leaders and social revolutionaries of our nation such as Gautam Buddha, Mahavir, Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar, Rabindranath Tagore, Jyotiba Phule, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and various other great patriots and visionaries. We have to make good of the sacrifices made by Rani Laxmi Bai, Rani Jhankaribai Lodhi, Shaeed Bhagat Singh, Lala Lajpat Rai, Chandrashekar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil, Khan Bahadur Khan, Rohila Sardar and last but not the least, hundreds of others such as patriots like Ashfaq-ullah Khan.

Before I conclude I must underscore the urgent need of all of us rising above the petty partisan considerations, narrow social religious beliefs, vested interests and agree to a common minimum national agenda and objectives with a clear goal of betterment of our people and taking our nation among the top ranking nations, amongst the comity of nations.

May God bless our great nation and its parliamentary democracy and bring peace, satisfaction, tranquility and all round well being to our compatriots in particular and the entire humanity in general. We really take pride in the history and guiding principle for us which remains on the lines of ‘Vasudhev-Kuttumbam’.

\*SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY (Nalgonda) : To begin with, I would like to pay tributes to all those freedom

fighters and martyrs, whose sacrifice has secured independence to the people of India. I would also like to commend the Indian armed forces for their committed services in protecting the nation from eventualities.

As the Parliament witnessed 60 years of democracy, it was responsible for progressive legislations like nationalization of banks, abolition of privy purses, 73 and 74 amendments to the Constitution of India, Reservations to the Weaker Sections, Right to Information and Education Acts, Equal Property Right for Women and many more.

At this juncture, I would like to draw the kind attention of this House to the plight of the people of Telangana. When the whole country got Independence in 1947, People of Telangana were liberated in 1948. However, further developments saw the merger of Telangana with Andhra state in 1956, leading to formation of Andhra Pradesh against the wishes of people of Telangana. The then Prime Minister Pandit ji, assured the people that in case of injustice and deprivation a right of demerger may be invoked. Following the long standing demand for formation of Telangana, on 9th December 2009, the UPA Government announced the initiation of formation of Telangana. The same was proclaimed in both the Houses subsequently. However, the stand was changed later on leading to skepticism and depression in the people pushing them for suicides and self immolations. The number of such incidents has crossed 800 in the past 2.5 years.

Thus, I request the Hon’ble House and the UPA Government to keep up their promise of separation of Telangana, and thereby maintaining the dignity and credibility of this august House.

[Translation]

\*SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI (Samastipur): Today, this is the day of 60th Anniversary of Lok Sabha, a House of Parliament where people belonging to all sections of society find their representation. It is on account of Baba Ambedkar and the members of our Constituent Assembly that today we are the Members of Parliament. If there was no provision for reservation in the Constitution, I think that the people from Dalit community would not have been the members of this House. On this historic moment, I would like to mention it that Dalits were given reservation on economic, social and educational grounds. But even today their condition is not

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.



good. I regret to say that we do talk of the person on the lowest rung but even today we never talk of their social equality.

India is the largest democracy of this world. In order to maintain its unity and integrity, the fourth column of our democracy should discharge its duty honestly because our society has a deep faith in the Media but today a conspiracy is being hatched to disintegrate our democracy. Some people have been levelling allegations and counter-allegations against Parliament, this temple of democracy of ours and the members of Parliament and framing their own Constitution on the roads. I feel that these persons are anti-nationalists and against the Constitution. With these words, I conclude.

\*SHRI RATAN SINGH (Bharatpur): Our India is a very big country with its great democratic system which stands on the ground of the Lok Sabha — the Supreme Temple of Democracy. On this great historic day I pay my innumerable tributes to those great leaders of this country who got freedom for this country and established democracy. Today I pay my countless tributes to Late Bapuji, Late Panditji, Late Baba Saheb, Late Indiraji, Late Rajeevji, Late Babu Jagjeevan Ramji and all other great leaders. I also bow my head to all those people of India who made their direct or indirect contributions for the freedom of India. Our former great leaders established precious policies of peoples' welfare. I express my gratitude to Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji, Shri Rahul Gandhiji and present Hon'ble Prime Minister under whose leadership India has occupied a prominent place of significance in the world. On this holy day, I wish complete success of our democracy and give congratulations to everybody. Let us take a decision that we will take this country ahead on the path of progress by conducting the proceedings of this House peacefully and harmoniously.

[English]

\*SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL (Nashik): While expressing my views, I bow to the memory of the galaxy of parliamentarians whose prophetic words and pronouncements are still echoing in this grand temple of Indian democracy. Every time I address, Mr. Speaker Sir/Madam, one is conscious of the torrent cascading the House, where the veterans of the first Lok Sabha took the floor. Not to be weighted down by the deeds of the doyens of the

parliamentary crafts and statesmanship, we draw our courage and try to emulate and live up to their noble traditions and legacy. As I raise my humble salute to those founding fathers of our august House, the billion plus populace joins me in rousing, "ayes" in their memory.

I believe that the House would join me in remembering the prophetic words of John F. Kennedy, "if you enter into a quarrel between the past and the present, you are in danger to losing the future". The traditions and the legacy of the past need to be fine tuned and enriched with the realities of the present so as to meet the challenges of future. Everyone is aware that the future is already upon us, and gradually there is less space and time at our hand to seek measures and resources to meet the dynamic economic/social/political challenges. Here, I feel we are lucky to function in a House which has stood up to many a crises in its six decades of existence. We have not only conquered and sustained drought/floods/war or insurgency, but stood up to the bullets of the timid enemies of the state. I have no doubt that every decision taken in the House is enriched with the spirit and soul of the great traditions of the House will not only meet with National but International acclaim.

There is no denying of the fact that we have arrived as a power to reckon within the international arena. We shall have thus to lead despite pain and agony. As we try to go past the economic and political cobwebs woven by our friends and neighbours, the only instrument we have is our vibrant House which is the symbol of the World's largest democracy. We are aware of the internal and external forces which are constantly trying to divide and deviate us from our chosen path. I am sure if we act in unison, keeping the dangers in view, we shall achieve the impossible. We have often displayed a unique way of, "agreeing to disagree" and then converting the disagreement into a solemn pledge. As a nation of sixteen hundred dialects and hundreds of religions and cultures we know how to prosper despite diversity and seek peace/ prosperity from discord.

Abraham Lincon once said, "A House divided against itself cannot stand." I believe that if we have to reach out to the millions yet untouched by the nectar of an Independent India, the least we can do is network with each other across lines and benches and present as the formidable core, mind and soul of our billion people. We have done that successfully in the past sixty years and I pray and hope that we shall

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

overcome the challenges to our democracy through this vibrant synergistic dynamo seeking to live upto the slogan, "Incredible India."

Now, I close with a quote of the great British statesman – Edmund Burke.

*"Parliament is a deliberative Assembly of one nation, with one interest, that of the whole; where, not local purposes, not local prejudices ought to guide, but the general good resulting from the general reason of the whole."*

I hope we stand up to this simple but clear definition of our being the Member of Parliament.

[Translation]

\*DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA (Karnal): Today, at first, I congratulate on this 60th anniversary of Indian Parliamentary in the Lok Sabha after the independence of India and also give my good wishes personally to all my colleagues and distinguished persons on this auspicious occasion. Its credit goes to the Madam Speaker who herself chose to grace this celebration today and it was also not expected that all the programmes would be performed in that haste under her supervision and patronage.

Today this country is making progress in all the fields, be it that of education, health, transport, roads, transportation, infrastructure, science and technology, information and broadcasting, farming or agriculture etc. It is making an uniform progress in all the fields and under the leadership of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the UPA and the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Man Mohan Singh. The present Government is determined to take all the meaningful and positive steps to strengthen this country on the economic, social and scientific level. Everyday there is a change in the standard of living of our people and on the international level, India is going beyond the category of developing countries and is ready to join the category of developed nations. Entire world's eyes are on the Indian economy. Madam Speaker, besides all these things, today there are several big challenges in our country and on this happy occasion today, it is but natural that we make a mention of them. I wish that today, on this auspicious occasion, we will stand united to face all those challenges and to find out a solution of them.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

The population of this country is increasing continuously which is creating all sorts of problems. It is creating the problem of unemployment and lowering the level of education as the price level is going up everyday which is minimizing the number of opportunities for the poor and common men to improve their standard of living. Small children have been compelled to take up petty jobs in their childhood. Farmers have to take loans. Subsidy on every level is being abolished. The Government is providing all the facilities to the BPL facilities. They are providing for their good health, housing and education. Even Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had said there should be food, clothes and a house for every family in India. However, unemployment and corruption in this country has been increasing. The condition of farmers, labourers and traders is becoming miserable. Self-dependence in the field of energy is required.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to put a check on unemployment, corruption and rising prices by controlling the increasing population. More work is required to be done in the fields of health and education.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Thank you Madam Speaker, you gave me an opportunity to speak. I thank you for that. Madam Speaker, today this discussion which was initiated by respected Pranav Da on the occasion of 60th anniversary of the Parliament of India, has reached almost in its last stages.

Madam Speaker, India got her independence on 15th August, 1947 and became a republic on 26th January, 1950. The first Lok Sabha was constituted on 17th April, 1952 and its first sitting was held on 13th May, 1952. Therefore, actually today we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the first sitting of the first Lok Sabha.

Madam Speaker, this House is completing its journey like a traveller who treads his path with the pauses in between and resumes his journey. You are a witness to it that at times the proceedings of this House are also hampered in between as it gets entangled and comes even to a standstill but this House has an internal strength, so, even if it stops working, it finds certainly a way out and resumes its working. Therefore, this House has completed its 60 year journey with entanglements, solutions, haltings and resumptions. Madam Speaker, with the journey of this House, there has been a simultaneous journey of our social contemplation along with the journey of political as well economic contemplation.

Results of all these contemplations can be very clearly seen in this House. The process of social contemplation has increased the share of participation of different communities in this House. If we compare with the earlier House of Parliament, we will find that there was a time when the maximum number of the members of this House came from the elite and affluent sections of our society but that process created a feeling among the sidelined, deprived and backward sections that with their votes, they won't elect others to rule them and they wanted their participation in the system of governance. Madam Speaker, it is the result of that very process of contemplation that more than 40 per cent of the persons sitting here in this House are associated with the work of agriculture. Today, this House reflects our villages. It reflects the spirit of India and you will see that for that reason, even the topics of discussion in this House have undergone a change. Language of the speeches has changed, the tone of this House has changed. Today in this House, lines from the Ramayan and couplets of Kabir and Raheem are read out in support of their assertions. I remember the day when Raghuvansh Babu was asking here as to when he would get the time and one day he had read out a couplet from the Ramayan in support of his arguments and Hukmadeo Narain Yadav had also instantly recited another couplet. It is the result of that social contemplation while on one hand this House discusses the foreign policy of the Government, on the other hand, they make a demand of jute bags for the farmers. If this House holds a discussion on the logical issues like atomic energy, it also hears the story of agonies of safai karamchari arising out of their miserable conditions. It is the result of this social contemplation.

As regards the journey of political contemplation, it has changed the entire complexion of the House. Madam Speaker, for a period of 40 years this House saw the Government of one political party and even in the Opposition there were only a few parties but since last 18 years, here the coalition Government have been in power. These Governments are led by one national level party with a number of political parties as their partners. Today, out of a total of 28 States, there are about 17 States where there are Governments of different political parties. Emergence of regional parties is the outcome of this political contemplation of ours. Similarly, this House has changed the direction of economic contemplation. There was a time when we used to talk of the economy of control only, that means the economy with the interference of Government. We talked of the public

sector only. While in our present discussions, we also talk of public-private participation. We talk of an open market, World Trade Organisation and there are discussions on foreign capital investment in the retail market. Today, I am not saying whether it was right or wrong but I would like to stress that with this journey of the House, our economic thinking has also changed.

Madam Speaker, with this journey of this House, even the developmental journey of the media has also made a progress. There was a time when the people knew about their Member of Parliament through the newspapers and at the time of a parliamentary session, the main newspapers used to add two more pages in their edition and its title used to be 'Sansad Mein Aaj' means today in Parliament. All the important speeches used to be published on that page and the people used to know about the performance of their Member of Parliament. Then it was doordarshan era. Some important speeches were shown on the television. Then journey of media passed through different channels and came to a stage when each of the Houses of Parliament has its own TV Channel i.e. Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV respectively on which there is live telecast of the proceedings of the respective House which attracts the people of rural areas and countryside and these people came to know as to what was being said by their member in the Parliament and how they were giving voice to their problems. But I am sorry to say that there is one thing which has not changed i.e. the representation of women in this House which was 21 and sixty as per the figures stated here by you. That is right in itself. But it is also a fact that during the last 60 years, this representation has not gone beyond 10-11 per cent. Earlier it was 8, 9 or 10 per cent which has now reached the level of mere 11 per cent. In this very House, 73rd and 74th amendments had been passed to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in the Panchayats, Municipal Boards and Municipal Corporations but that level of reservation of women has not been achieved till date in our Vidhan Sabhas and Parliament. It is an imbalance. However, in this 15th Lok Sabha, they have removed one of the imbalances because before you, none of the fourteen Speakers of Lok Sabha was a woman to grace the seat of the Speaker and you are the first woman Speaker of this House and I hope that perhaps this 15th Lok Sabha will also be able to take care of the imbalance relating to the representation of women. That hope I want to express today in this House. ...*(Interruptions)* Even earlier, there were women who were Leader of Opposition in

this House. Smt. Sonia Gandhi has graced that seat for several years. Shrimati Indira Gandhi was also a Leader of Opposition. Madam Speaker, now I would like to speak on the maturity of this House. There have been a number of occasions when this House showed its maturity. At times this House has made the saying 'Vayam Panchadhikam Shatam', a reality. There is a popular anecdote from the Maharabharata. Once Kauravas and Pandavas were in their camps. The Pandavas were suddenly attacked by the Karavas at the time of midnight. Bheem came to Dharmraj Yudhishthir to tell him that the day Gandharvas have attacked Kauravas who would be killed in the night. Yudhishthir stood up and read the following Sanskrit couplet.

Parasparah Virodhe tu Vayam Panchchah Te Shatam  
Par Hi Paribhave Prapte Vayam Panchadhikam Shatam.

It means that when we fight among ourselves, we are five and they are hundred. But when somebody from outside attacks us, we stand united and become one hundred and five. Today, in the morning, you had made a mention of three years in your inaugural address. These were 1962, 71 and 75 when the dividing line between the Ruling and the Opposition had been eroded in this House and this House stood united as an integral whole like a united country.

There was one more challenge-ridden occasion when our eleven colleagues had been caught red handed and shown in a sting operation as taking money for asking questions. That was a matter of criminal jurisprudence as they could not be punished without a trial. But without going into the technicalities of the matter, we said that this House should expel those members without delving deep into technicalities of the issue, to maintain the trust of our people in this House. So, this House expelled those members and maintained our peoples' trust in it. That is the maturity of this House.

One thing of more maturity of this House I would like to tell you. Madam Speaker, we are proud of it that there was always the transfer of Power in this House not through the wielding of gun power but through votes. I am the witness of that moment when the Government had fallen just for one vote. Then we had dissolved Lok Sabha and had gone in for elections and had returned with a fresh mandate. We never tried to manage majority to keep our Government in power through manipulations. We are living in such a region where,

an our neighbouring country, former Prime Ministers were sent into exile, executed or kept under house arrest. But today India can claim it that here our voters change the Government through their votes and never choose to adopt other means of change. But I am sorry to say that in spite of this lower world ranking, we stand at the lowest rung in respect of the human concerns like education and health.

Poverty and malnutrition are our problems but if there is anything for which we can hold our head high in this world, it is the democracy of India. It is painful that people cast aspersions on our democracy and show their distrust in this Parliament. I would like to say that dictatorship is the alternative of democracy. We cannot think of Parliament without democracy and, without the Members of Parliament we cannot think about parliament. There are challenges, problems, systematic lacunae and other deformities but attack on democracy is not the solution of these things. We will sit together to find out a solution. But what is that solution of those ills? I had read a book in which there was a question. *[English]* What is the remedy of ills of democracy? The reply was more democracy. *[Translation]* Today, on this occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Parliament, I would like to conclude on this note that we should try to find out a solution of the ills of our democracy by using more democratic means and procedures. By way of an attack on democracy, we should not take any suicidal step.

*[English]*

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):  
Madam Speaker, I convey my warm congratulations to you, the Members of this august House and the people of India on this momentous occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the first Session of our Parliament.

Madam, the Lok Sabha is a true representation of the unique diversity and genius of the Indian people. Its Members have come from every region, community, religion and strata of society. Some of them have left their mark with their masterly rhetoric, others with their earthy wisdom. Whether from the Left or the Right, from the Government or Treasury Benches, this House has voiced the tribulations of ordinary Indians and provided succour to them by enacting laws that translated the social and economic ideals of our nation into practical reality. What the Constitution envisioned, Parliament translated into action.

Madam, as we look back over these years, we feel a sense of quiet satisfaction that this august institution representing the will of the sovereign people has indeed lived up to the ideals of the founding fathers of our Republic.

A number of countries in Asia, Africa and South America, who liberated themselves from the yoke of imperialism in the 1940s and 1950s, either succumbed to the scourge of military dictatorship or the tyranny of one party rule. India, on the other hand, has maintained an unbroken democratic tradition sanctified by 15 cycles of general elections and many scores of State and local body elections.

Madam, this august Chamber has scripted the development of our nation through debate and discourse tempered by the twin imperatives of idealism and pragmatism. The House has passed landmark legislation that have deepened the democratic roots of our polity and furthered our ideal of building a nation in which each citizen has an equal opportunity to social and economic fulfillment and cultural enlightenment.

In recent years, we have empowered our citizens by providing them the rights to information, education and minimum employment. We have taken affirmative measures to help the weaker sections of our society including the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and women. But I know, this is an unfinished agenda.

In times of calamity or crisis, our Parliament has always demonstrated the ability to reflect the collective resolve of our nation and show solidarity with the people and the Government. Be it the external aggressions of 1962, 1965, 1999 or the glorious moments of 1971, this institution surmounted political partisanship to reflect the common aspirations and sentiments of our people.

However, as we look ahead, this occasion should also become the moment for some candid and serious introspection. The manner in which we have conducted our affairs, especially over the past couple of years, has created a sense of frustration and disillusionment among the people. The daily routine of disruptions, adjournments and shouting in the House are leading many outside to question the efficacy of this institution and its place in public affairs.

If we are to restore the prestige of this institution, each and every one of us must lead by example. We need to

resolve that the Rules of Procedure and Conduct that we have collectively evolved would be honoured in letter and spirit. Unless we can find some ways to resolve the growing impasse in the functioning of Parliament, public disenchantment will only grow. The leaders of political parties should sit together to find ways and means to raise issues, small or big, and air differences in a manner that does not stall Parliament at every occasion.

Madam, I believe that we should also reflect on how we should conduct the affairs of the State in which each of us plays a responsible role. Democracy is based on the notion of a popular mandate but it should not be construed as a populist mandate. I believe that a mature democracy is one that balances the daily pressures of politics against the long-term needs of development. These conflicting demands between the here and now of electoral politics, and the requirements of the long run that development imposes, can be and must be balanced.

We all have a sacred and solemn responsibility to the people who have elected us. But equally we bear a moral responsibility to do what is right by the generations still to come. We must therefore always keep in mind that our conduct and the actions we take here today will determine the state of the nation we will bequeath to our children and grandchildren.

In conclusion, Madam, I wish to say that I am optimistic that the innate wisdom of our people and the strength of our democratic institutions will guide us on the right path to building a secure and prosperous India.

16.29 hrs.

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#### VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as we come to the close of this historic special sitting of Lok Sabha to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the First Sitting of Parliament, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation for the committed attendance and enthusiasm with which the hon. Members have approached the discourse on the topic "60 years Journey of the Indian Parliament".

The views expressed by our hon. leaders and Members, who participated in the discussion, have enriched the proceedings.

This was a time to reflect on our journey of 60 years and the House rose to the occasion by doing so. Progress is not about counting milestones left behind, nor about sitting on our laurels, it is about looking up to the journey and challenges ahead with courage and determination. The proceedings today bear testimony to this determination and resolve.

In the discussion that lasted about five hours and sixteen minutes, as many as 41 Members participated. About 90 Members laid their written speeches on the Table of the house and those speeches will form part of the proceedings of the House.

I take this opportunity to thank the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Leader of the House, hon. Leader of Opposition, hon. Deputy Speaker, hon. UPA Chairperson, hon. Advaniji, Leaders of all Parties and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen in making this Special Sitting exceptional and memorable.

**16.30 hrs.**

#### RESOLUTION

MADAM SPEAKER: I now place the following Resolution before the House:

“We, the Members of Lok Sabha, meeting in a Special Sitting of the Lok Sabha to commemorate the Sixtieth Anniversary of the First Sitting of Parliament:

Remembering with gratitude, the immense sacrifices made by our freedom fighters in the nation’s struggle for independence, and the stellar role played by the founding fathers of the Constitution in mandating equality, fraternity, justice, brotherhood of mankind and the uplift of under-privileged and down-trodden sections of society;

Acknowledging with satisfaction and pride, the maturity of the people of India, who have cherished the democratic values and worked ceaselessly for the unity and integrity of the nation;

Noting that in the last sixty years, the Parliament has, through epoch making laws, taken decisive

steps towards ensuring equity and justice in all matters and establishing an inclusive society in pursuance of our deep faith and commitment to the ideals enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution, and a lot more remains to be accomplished;

We do hereby solemnly reaffirm our total and binding commitment to the ideals cherished by our founding fathers, and resolve:—

- (a) To uphold and maintain the dignity, sanctity and supremacy of Parliament;
- (b) To make Parliament an effective instrument of change and to strengthen democratic values and principles;
- (c) To enhance the accountability of Government towards the people through the oversight of Parliament; and
- (d) To rededicate ourselves completely to the sacred task of Nation Building.”

I hope this has the approval of the House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM SPEAKER: The Resolution is unanimously passed.

*The Resolution was unanimously adopted.*

**16.33 hrs.**

#### NATIONAL SONG

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Vande Mataram.

*(The National Song was played.)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 14th May, 2012 at 11 a.m.

**16.34 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 14, 2012/Vaisakha 24, 1934 (Saka).*