

Eighteenth Series, Vol. I No. 3

Wednesday, June 26, 2024
Ashadha 5, 1946 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Eighteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 7)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER*

Shri Om Birla

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS**

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

Shri T. R. Baalu

Shri Radha Mohan Singh

Dr. Faggan Singh Kulaste

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri Utpal Kumar Singh

* Elected on 26 .06.2024.

** Nominated on 20.06.2024.

The following two separate orders were issued by the President of India on 20.06.2024.

1. Whereas the office of the Speaker will become vacant immediately before the commencement of the first meeting of the House of the People on June 24, 2024 and the Office of the Deputy Speaker is also vacant.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the power conferred upon me by clause (1) of Article 95 of the Constitution of India, I hereby appoint Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, a Member of the House of the People, to perform the duties of the office of the Speaker from the commencement of the sitting of the House of the People on June 24, 2024 till the election of the Speaker by the said House.

2. I hereby appoint Shri Suresh Kodikunnil, Shri Thalikkottai Rajuthevar Baalu, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste and Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay to be the persons before any of whom Members of the House of the People may make and subscribe the oath or affirmation in accordance with provision of article 99 of the Constitution of India.

**Droupadi Murmu,
PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, June 26, 2024/ Ashadha 5, 1946 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[The Speaker *Pro Tem* Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN – Contd.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Secretary-General will now call the names of the hon. Members who have not taken oath or affirmation.

SECRETARY-GENERAL:

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Shri Abdul Rashid Sheikh – Not present

KERALA

Shri Shashi Tharoor – Not present

PUNJAB

Shri Amritpal Singh – Not present

WEST BENGAL

Shri Sk Nurul Islam – Not present

Shri Adhikari Deepak (Dev) (Ghatal)– Oath - Bengali

Shri Shatrughan Prasad Sinha – Not present.

11.03 hrs

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER *PRO TEM*

Election of Speaker

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received 16 notices of Motions for Election of Speaker. All the Notices are in order.

11.03½ hrs

MOTION FOR ELECTION OF SPEAKER

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up the Motions for Election of Speaker of the Lok Sabha. I call upon the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to move the motion.

[Translation]

PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ; AND MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH): Sir, I beg to move: -

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN (BAGHPAT): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI JITAN RAM MANJHI): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AYUSH; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAV): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE (RAIGAD): Sir, I second the motion.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI JOYANTA BASUMATARY (KOKRAJHAR): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES; AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI H. D. KUMARASWAMY): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (MACHILIPATNAM): Sir, I second the motion.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KINJARAPU RAMMOHAN NAIDU): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[English]

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): Sir, I second the motion.

SHRI INDRA HANG SUBBA (SIKKIM): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRI PHANI BHUSAN CHOUDHURY (BARPETA): Sir, I second the motion.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): Sir, I second the motion.

[English]

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Sir, I beg to move:

“that Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House.”

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I second the motion.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND BHADAURIA (DHAURAHRA): Sir, I beg to move:

“that Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House.”

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Sir, I second the motion.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Sir, I beg to move:

“that Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House.”

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI):

Sir, I second the motion.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Sir,

I second the motion.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES,

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING; AND MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (PROF. S. P.

SINGH BAGHEL): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY): Sir, I second the motion.

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI): Sir, I beg to move:

"that Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House."

SHRIMATI KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT (WEST DELHI): Sir, I

second the motion.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I now put the Motion moved by Shri Narendra Modi and seconded by Shri Raj Nath Singh to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“That Shri Om Birla, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Speaker of this House.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The motion is carried and Shri Om Birla is declared elected as the Speaker of this House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Since the first Motion moved by Shri Narendra Modi has been adopted, the Motions moved thereafter have become infructuous.

I invite Shri Om Birla to occupy the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND
MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU):**

They have not made division force, therefore ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: We have already crossed that stage.

I invite Shri Om Birla to come up and occupy the Chair.

(Shri Om Birla was conducted to the Chair by the Leader of the House, Shri Narendra Modi; the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Rahul Gandhi; and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju.)

11.15 hrs

(Shri Om Birla, Hon. Speaker, *in the Chair*)

11.16 hrs

COMPLIMENTS TO HON. SPEAKER *PRO TEM*

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND
MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU):**

Hon. Speaker, Sir, before the business could begin, I would like to thank Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, who has discharged his duties as Speaker *Pro Tem*. He has completed entire proceedings of oath/affirmation very smoothly within two days and till the election of the hon. Speaker this morning. I profusely thank him on behalf of the Government and the hon. Prime Minister also.

I also thank the Panel of Chairpersons for their valuable contribution.

I also thank the Secretary General of Lok Sabha and staff of Lok Sabha Secretariat who have completed the work within the time frame under the guidance of the Speaker *Pro Tem* and the Panel of Chairpersons.

On behalf of the entire House, I thank all of them.

Once again, I thank all the Members for their cooperation.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

11.17 hrs

FELICITATIONS TO THE SPEAKER

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI): Hon. Speaker, this House is fortunate enough to have you in this Chair for the second time... *(Interruptions)* I congratulate you and the entire House. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, I extend my best wishes to you on my behalf as well as on the behalf of the entire House. ... *(Interruptions)*. You have been entrusted a very big responsibility of assuming this Office in this momentous period of Amrit kaal. Your experience of 5 years as well as our experience of five years under your chairmanship, we all believe that you will guide us through the coming five years and also play a pivotal role in this House to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the country. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, as per our scriptures humility and diplomacy make a person successful and keeps him calm and you have also been gifted with a sweet smile. ... *(Interruptions)* The pleasant smile on your face also keeps the entire House vibrant. ... *(Interruptions)*

I believe that you always set new standards and new records at every step. We are seeing a new record being created by you by assuming the office of the Speaker for the second time in the 18th Lok Sabha. Shri Balram Jakhar ji was the first Speaker who had the distinction of holding

the office of the Speaker again after completing a tenure of 5 years. After him you have been given the opportunity to assuming the charge again after completing 5 years' term. The last two decades have been unique in the sense that most of the Speakers have either not contested elections after completing their term, or have not been elected to the House. You can understand how difficult the Speaker's job is that it becomes difficult for him to win the General Election again. You have won election another time and this way you have created history.

Hon. Speaker Sir, most of our hon. MPs in this House are familiar with you and are also familiar with your life. Last time I had said many things about you in this House. I do not want to repeat those things today, but as an MP and all of us as MPs, the way you work as an MP is also worth knowing and there is a lot to learn. I am sure your style of functioning as a Member will definitely inspire the MPs elected to the House for the first time and our young MPs.

The commitment with which you have worked in your parliamentary constituency in the Suposhit Maa Abhiyaan or well-nourished mother campaign for healthy mother and healthy child, and the way you have involved yourself by giving priority to this campaign, is really inspiring. You have started 'hospital on wheels' in rural areas of Kota which is also a great service to humanity in addition to the political activities and this in itself, is helping to reach out to people in the rural areas. You provide clothes, blankets, and depending upon the weather, if required umbrellas, shoes etc. and many such facilities to the poor and the poorest of the poor on regular basis, by looking for such persons and ensure that it reaches them. You have taken it as a priority to encourage the youth of your constituency in sports.

In the 17th Lok Sabha, during your last tenure many historic decisions were taken in the Parliament, a number of improvements were made in your chairmanship, that was the golden period in the history of Parliament, that in itself is the legacy of this House and also yours. In future, when an analysis of the 17th Lok Sabha would be done it will be recorded that the 17th Lok Sabha chaired by you had a very important role in giving a new direction to the future of India.

Hon. Speaker Sir, in the 17th Lok Sabha, Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Bill, Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, Bhatiya Sakshya Vidheyak, Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Samajik Suraksha Sanhita, Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, The Transgender Persons (Protection Of Rights) Bill, Consumer Protection Bill, Direct Tax Vivaad se Vishwas Bill etc., many such important historical legislations of social, economic and national importance have been passed by this House having you in the Chair in the 17th Lok Sabha and a strong foundation has been laid for the country. The work which has not been done in 70 years of independence, this House has done it under your chairmanship.

Hon. Speaker Sir, there are many stages in the odyssey of democracy. There are some occasions when we get the chance of setting records. I am confident that the country will be proud of the achievements of the 17th Lok Sabha even today and in the future. Today, when every effort is being made to modernize India to fulfill its aspirations, I believe that the New Parliament Building will also work to script the future of the Amrit Kaal and that too under your guidance. We all entered the New Parliament Building under your leadership and you took many effective and important decisions to make the parliamentary functioning system

effective and accountable, which has helped in strengthening democracy. Today, in the Lok Sabha we are working through a paperless digital system. It has been for the first time ever that you have made arrangements to give a briefing to all the Hon. Members. This provided necessary reference material to all the Hon. Members. Because of that, the discussion in the House became more vigorous and this was a good initiative of yours, which also created confidence among the MPs that 'yes, they can also say something, they can also give their arguments.' You developed a good system.

Hon. Speaker Sir, G-20 is an important page of the success achieved by India, but the less discussed topic in it is P-20. All the presiding officers and Speakers of G-20 countries attended a conference under your chairmanship and in all the P-20 conferences held so far, representatives from most of the countries across the world came to India on your invitation and some significant decisions were taken at the summit and it played a major role in highlighting the glory and prestige of India's democracy in the world.

Hon. Speaker Sir, this House is not a mere building. Our Parliament is the center of hope for 140 crore countrymen. The proceedings of Parliament, responsibility and conduct further strengthen the loyalty that our countrymen have towards democracy. Having you in the Chair, the productivity of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha was 97%, the highest ever over the last 25 years. For this all the hon. Members deserve thanks, but you deserve special thanks.

In the difficult times like Corona, you personally talked to every MP over phone and enquired about their health. If there was a news of any MP's illness, you personally got concerned about him as the Speaker of

the House. When I used to hear this from Members across the parties, I felt very proud that you were personally concerned about every MP even during difficult times like Corona as the head of the family of this House.

Even during the Corona period, you did not let the functioning of the House hamper. The Members also accepted your every suggestion with due respect. When someone was asked to sit on the top, he went and sat there, when someone was asked to go and sit at another place, he also acceded to it, but no one let the country's work stop. The result of these decisions that you took is that we were able to work even in that difficult period. It is a pleasure that the House achieved 170 percent productivity during the Corona period. This in itself is a very big news for the world.

Hon. Speaker Sir, we all want a code of conduct should be followed in the House and the rules should be abided in the House. You have taken decisions with great precision and sometimes even with strictness. I know that you too feel aggrieved while embarking on such decisions but notably, to you, the dignity of the House always took precedence over personal grief and you tried to uphold the traditions of the House. Hon. Speaker Sir, you also deserve appreciation for this courageous work.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I am confident that you will be successful in your efforts and under your guidance, this eighteenth Lok Sabha will also very successfully fulfill the dreams of the citizens of the country.

I once again convey my heartfelt wishes and congratulations to you for this important responsibility and for presiding over this House which will take the country to new heights of development.

[English]

SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (RAEBARELI): Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to congratulate you on your successful election as the Speaker for the second time. I would like to congratulate you on behalf of the entire Opposition, on behalf of the INDIA Alliance.

Mr. Speaker Sir, this House represents the voice of India's people, and you, the Speaker, are the final arbiter of their voice. Of course, the Government has the political power but the Opposition also represents the voice of India's people. And this time, the Opposition represents significantly more the voice of the Indian people than it did last time.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the Opposition would like to assist you in doing your work. We would like the House to function often and well.

Mr. Speaker Sir, it is very important that cooperation happens on the basis of trust. It is very important that the voice of the Opposition is allowed to be represented in this House. I am confident that you will allow us to represent our voice, allow us to speak, and allow us to represent the voice of the people of India.

Mr. Speaker Sir, the question is not how efficiently the House is run. The question is how much of India's voice is being allowed to be heard in this House. So, the idea that you can run the House efficiently by silencing the voice of the Opposition is a non-democratic idea. This election has shown that the people of India expect the Opposition to defend the Constitution, the Samvidhan, of this country. And we are confident that by allowing the Opposition to speak, by allowing us to represent the people of India, you will do your duty of defending the Constitution of India.

I would like to once again congratulate you Mr. Speaker Sir, and also, all the Members of this House, who have won in election.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (KANNAUJ): I congratulate the newly elected Speaker of Lok Sabha and convey my best wishes to him. While the Prime Minister and our colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, have congratulated you, I would also like to join them in congratulating you. You have been re-elected as the Speaker of this House. You have had five years of experience; you have had experience of the old as well as the new House. I congratulate you on my behalf and on the behalf of all the Members of this House. The office being held by you has many glorious traditions attached to it. We all believe that this will move forward without any discrimination and as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, you will give equal opportunity and respect to every Member and every party. Impartiality is the key responsibility of this great office. You are sitting like the Chief Justice of democratic justice. We all expect from you that the voice of any public representative should not be suppressed nor should any action like expulsion hurt the dignity of the House again. You have control over the opposition, but you should also have control over the ruling party.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the House should function as per your instructions, this should not be reversed. We stand by your every just decision. I once again congratulate you for occupying this position of Speaker.

I have come to this new House for the first time. I thought that the Speaker's Chair would be very high, because the Chair of the House, I have left is very high.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, who should I ask to make this Chair even higher? I can see behind you that the stones have been placed properly in this new House, everything looks good, but I can still see some cement in that crack.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I hope that you will respect the opposition as much as you respect the ruling party and will give us an opportunity to present our views. I congratulate you and wish you all the best. We are with you in every way. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Sougata Ray ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay ji.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Sir, I congratulate you on your becoming Speaker of the House for the second time. My first entry in this Parliament was in the 12th Lok Sabha. I have gathered a long experience.

What my impression is, if there is no Leader of the Opposition officially the House does not run properly. We are glad that our country has now got a Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament.

Sir, the parliamentary democratic system, upon which we are the firm believers, depends upon secularism, communal harmony and unity of the country. It is my firm belief that somehow the floor of the House always depends on the attitude of the Treasury Benches. So far as the parliamentary democratic process is concerned, the House belongs to the Opposition. This attitude is to be adopted by the ruling party itself.

Sir, you may have your good wishes and your good intention. But sometimes, you are to bow down to the ruling party's pressure. My experience says this. Suspension of 150 MPs in one day has happened in this House. It is not desirable.

The hon. Prime Minister has mentioned about the introduction and passing of so many Bills in the House. We appreciate that. But it has also happened that so many Bills had been passed without any discussion. I would humbly submit to you that let some positive decisions be taken so that the Bills be tabled and discussed in a proper manner. We, from the Opposition side, assure you that we will extend all sorts of cooperation so that the House can run properly and smoothly.

The Opposition has now got a better strength in this House. So, it should not be the attitude of the Treasury Benches to neglect the Opposition. I would request the hon. Prime Minister and the Treasury Benches to come up and cooperate so that the House runs smoothly and the country of 140 crores of people can actually get some guidance and some hopes that Parliament can contribute for the welfare and benefit of the country.

This should be our motto. We want to see that the 18th Lok Sabha runs smoothly and creates a history of reaching its target by running smoothly in the interest of the nation while keeping secularism and communal harmony intact. Our Constitution should be upheld and the situation should never ever be allowed to be disturbed. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is a great occasion to felicitate you once again in this Parliament. On behalf of my leader Dr. Thalapathy M.K. Stalin, an illustrious son of an illustrious leader Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, and on behalf of my party and my party in Parliament, I wholeheartedly congratulate you on this occasion.

In fact, when you occupied the exalted Chair, I am overwhelmingly enthused to appreciate and shower love and affection on you, Sir. You might have been elected on the lotus symbol; the lotus always floats in the water but it would not allow the water to stick. It is a natural thing. Likewise, you might have been elected by my BJP friends but hereafter there should be no politics between you and this House. You do not have any colour also. There is no colour at all. You have to treat the Opposition as well as the Ruling Party in the same way. So, I would only like to request you to be kindly impartial, impartial, and impartial. Thank you.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET):

Sir, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, Chandrababu Naidu *gaaru*, fellow Members of Lok Sabha, five crore people of Andhra Pradesh, and on my own behalf, I congratulate you on being elected as the Speaker of this House.

It is a rare opportunity as a Speaker being elected and nominated for the second term. There were five members before you, and two were from Andhra Pradesh. They are, Neelam Sanjiva Reddy *gaaru* and Balayogi ji *gaaru*. All these five members were nominated and elected for two terms but somehow, they did not finish their five-year term but you have this opportunity to complete this ten-year term.

There were some coincidences between both of us, Sir, you being the first-time Speaker of this House and me being the first-time Member of this House in the 17th Lok Sabha. In the last five years, there were some groundbreaking things that happened, starting from moving from the Old Parliament Building to the New Parliament Building. There were new Bills being passed starting with abrogation of Article 370, the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill, the Triple Talaq Bill which empowered the women, and also the IPC Bill. You have also encouraged the youth, the first-time Members, who came to this House, to rise up and speak on various issues in Question Hour. You have given us opportunities to ask supplementary questions, and during the Zero Hour also you encouraged us to speak as much as possible. Also, the digitalisation of the whole proceedings along with the research facilities that are available in library has been vastly improved in the last five years. I hope, it will continue in the next five years in your second term.

With regard to the Question Hour, the vigour with which you used to conduct it, you used to make sure that most of the Questions get answered in this House. You used to tell the Ministers to be crisp and answer in a pointed way. You also used to give the Members enough time to ask their questions. I hope that tradition will continue. I also remember that during the times of COVID when everyone was worried how this House would function, you made sure that it proceeded in a safe way. You had also ensured that most of the Members could express their views and raise the problems of their States.

So, I conclude by once again congratulating you, Sir, and wishing you best of times in running the House. I assure you that the Telugu Desam Party will support you in the smooth running of this House in the next five years.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH (MUNGER): I heartily congratulate you on being elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha. We saw your working style as the Speaker of the seventeenth Lok Sabha. You set a new record of parliamentary traditions and democracy in the seventeenth Lok Sabha. You established high democratic values during the 17th Lok Sabha. You gave opportunity to the first time elected Members of Parliament to speak by running the House till midnight, and developed skills in them so that they could participate in the proceedings of Parliament as an efficient MP. For several days in Parliament, you gave the opportunity to speak to women Members only during Zero Hour so that they could express their views, it's a record in itself. You set a record in the 17th Lok Sabha. You have become the Speaker again, you will set new benchmarks in the record in the 18th Lok Sabha too, with this hope and belief I conclude my speech by congratulating you once again.

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Speaker Sir, I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart. I have five years' experience to work with you in old House and in new House. You have again been appointed to this seat of judgement, and I heartily congratulate you.

Hon. Prime Minister had said that some laws were passed, in that a law regarding Election Commission was also passed, that law was passed when we were suspended. In which there is a process of delivering justice, we are the ones who make the law, when the same law is changed, then

the question of Constitution comes up. INDIA Alliance was formed to protect the Constitution. I expect from you, especially when the ruling party speaks, the words should carry some meaning and similarly they should also be dignified. Whatever promises we have made, should be fulfilled. We have seen that even in the times of crisis, when we do not get help from the Government, one feels quite bad. Now we all expect, the term secular, the terms equality, freedom have been given by the Constitution. I have one expectation, what we need is harmony and not hatred. We want harmony, we do not want hatred. The walls we are building should be broken in the name of humanity. If an accident happens in Manipur and no tears are shed, one feels bad. Farmers die, such a big movement takes place, yet no condolences are expressed. Condolences should be expressed in this House, if they are not expressed, then it feels bad. The unemployed are roaming on the streets and even then the House is unable to give them justice, then it feels bad. Farmers are committing suicides but still the House is unable to give them justice.

HON. SPEAKER: Speak these things on the President's address.

SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT: I want that this time the House should function keeping all these things in mind, our voice will reach you. We expect that you will give us permission, this House must run, there should be no second opinion about it.

This House should run and the common people should get justice, this is what I expect. You are very experienced, so I expect that you will

give us justice by showing sympathy and whenever we stand up to protect the Constitution, you will support us. Jai Hind, Jai Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Sir, I take this opportunity on behalf of the Nationalist Congress Party and the original founder and our beloved leader Shri Sharad Pawar ji and all of us to congratulate you on your second innings. I still remember the first day when I met you with my colleague and friend Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, *[Translation]* That was the first time I met you. After this, ever since you assumed this Office, you have always taken care of all of us. In the last five years, the way you took care of the opposition along with the treasury benches during Covid, you called each of our Members and enquired about their well-being. The work done by your entire team during Covid, the way the House was run, *[English]* I must take this opportunity to congratulate the entire parliamentary staff and team who really supported us in serving at that time. The entire transition from the old building to the new building happened. A lot has been done in the last five years.

[Translation] You have done excellent work in these five years. I never go to the well, but a bad thing happened that 150 of our colleagues were suspended. We were very saddened by this. We will try that in the next five years you do not even think about suspension, we can discuss, we are always ready for a dialogue. We did very good work for five years with Meghwal ji and Prahlad Joshi ji. My only request to the new Members is that we all get elected here after working very hard, but when it is lunch time in the noon, hard work has to be done from both sides for completing the quorum. *[English]* So, it is a great opportunity.

I have been here a little more than most of you. I would like to request each one of you very humbly that people really look up to us – and a very few of us are blessed to be here – that we convert this opportunity into a great advantage for this nation, and deliver superior results from here, whichever side we sit on. The common goal is to serve the nation.

If we all spend more time here together to deliberate more, to argue more from both sides, that is to make sure that we serve India and make it a good nation, a brighter nation, because India is one of the largest democracies in the world, and any little thing that happens here affects globally. And, democracy is looked as a dark life. We did that mistake last time. I urge the hon. Treasury Benches that we are here to work, we are here to serve, and I have a hope that we have a much better and a warmer relationship. *[Translation]* Running the House is not our responsibility, it is the responsibility of the Treasury Benches. I think that we all have a lot of expectations from the new Minister who has come and has been our friend. Thank you very much.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE (MAVAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, my party Shiv Sena, which works on the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray ji and is the party with the oldest alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party, is led by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, hon. Eknath Shinde ji. I would like to congratulate you on behalf of my party Shiv Sena and Shinde sahab.

Every greeting in Hinduism begins with Om and Om is considered auspicious. Your name also begins with Om. I wish you all the best. This House is representing the world's largest democracy through 140 crore people. I come from Maharashtra, the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The first Speaker of this House was from Maharashtra, Hon. Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar ji.

12.00 hrs

The second was hon. Manohar Joshi ji. Sumitra Mahajan ji and Shivraj Patil ji from Maharashtra also served as Speaker. I got the experience to work with Hon. Sumitra Mahajan in the 16th Lok Sabha and to work with you in the 17th Lok Sabha. This House represents the world's largest democratic country. I believe that the work done by you as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha in the 17th Lok Sabha was the best work. I also want to say that the work done by the hon. Prime Minister in the last decade is commendable.

Hon. Speaker Sir, you started with the organization. I also want to tell you that whoever gets elected to the Parliament, reaches here by facing great difficulties and working hard. You too have reached here by working very hard. I am of the view that in the last 17th Parliament, you gave the maximum number of chances to raise the issues to new MPs.

This time 281 new MPs have got elected. You should run as many Zero Hours as possible, so that everyone gets a chance and work can be done with full confidence in the coming days.

I wish you all the best on behalf of my party, Shiv Sena. You are very experienced and will work for uniting everyone. The area I come from is the land of Jagat Guru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Ji. You work as hard as you are soft. I want to recite some lines of Sant Tukaram Maharaj Ji in Marathi.

Sant Tukaram Maharaj has said, we Vishnu bhakts are very kind and liberal, but when the time comes, we can also be as hard as a thunderbolt. We are always ready to help good people and do not hesitate to punish the bad people.

Thank you, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you so much. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on behalf of my party - Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas).

[Translation] Sir, we are delighted to see you in this Chair again. You have again got this responsibility in the 18th Lok Sabha. We all have our own experience of the 17th Lok Sabha. At that time, you encouraged women, youth and those MPs who were elected for the first time. You openly gave them chances to speak. This time, there are women and youth in abundance in my party too. I hope that you will give them opportunities

* ...* Hindi translation of this part of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

to express their views in the same way. Our party is moving forward having the ideas of my father and leader hon. Ram Vilas Paswan ji. In the last 5 years, you gave us the opportunity to present all these ideas in this House. I have no hesitation in saying that the decisions taken by you in the last 5 years have worked to increase the dignity of the Constitution and strengthened democracy further.

Sir, we have reached here after winning the elections. I would like to request all my colleagues that we have fought the elections wherever we had to. Now it is the responsibility of all of us to put forward the issues of our respective constituencies here and try to work here with the responsibility of taking our country forward. Today we have stood up only to congratulate you. Many times when the opposition says some things, in this regard, I would request that when you point one finger at someone, the other fingers also point towards you. When you expect good conduct from the ruling party, we also expect the same from you. I have examples of many states, which I do not want to quote, but when you talk about the post of Speaker and the post of Deputy Speaker, there are many states where your party has the post of Speaker and Deputy Speaker at the same time, where no constituent party of the NDA is running the Government and the opposition parties are running the Government.

With the hope that in the next five years, we will continue to work under your leadership and will get your guidance as beautifully as we got in the last five years, I conclude.

I once again welcome you on behalf of my party, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas). I congratulate you for the work done by you in the last five years and wish you all the best for the coming five years. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI P. V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET): Sir, thank you.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of YSR Congress Party, to congratulate you for being elected to this esteemed position.

Sir, in your previous term you conducted yourself with a lot of dignity, and I must really appreciate your dedication to uphold the values of our democracy. We wish that even in this term it is marked with success and you continue the same initiatives like you encouraged the newcomers in the last term and you gave a fair chance to everybody in this House.

We assure you our full cooperation. All the best for this tenure for you. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI ABHAY KUMAR SINHA (AURANGABAD): Thank you Sir. First of all, my salutations to you and the entire House. I thank and congratulate you from the bottom of my heart on my own behalf and on the behalf of my party Rashtriya Janata Dal on being re-elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha. I have hope and expectation from you.

Sir, I have been elected to the House for the first time. When you were the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha, I used to see you on TV and today I have had the fortune of seeing you so closely. I have hope and expectation from you that the new Members will definitely continue to receive your patronage.

I once again congratulate you heartily. Thank you very much.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL): Hon. Speaker, first of all, on behalf of my party 'Apna Dal', I heartily congratulate you and wish you all the best for occupying the Chair of Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha for the second time in a row.

Hon. Speaker, today seeing you occupying this Chair for the second time in a row, I am reminded of a famous song from a film of 1963 named 'Bandini' -

"O Jane Wale, Ho Sake to Laut Ke Aana,
Ye Ghaat Tu Ye Baat Kahin Bhool Na Jana."

Seeing you here today, the relevance of this song seems even more. I am remembering the last day of the 17th Lok Sabha, when we all bade you farewell with a heavy heart. But, by weaving it into our words, we had put our feelings in front of you at that time - "O Jaane Wale, Ho Sake to Laut Ke Aana" and you have returned. We all congratulate you very much. We are delighted and proud to see you among us again on this Chair.

Hon. Speaker, out of the 18 Speakers before you, there have been only five Speakers who got the opportunity to become the Speaker of the Lok Sabha for the second time. M.A. Ayengar ji, Dr. Gurdayal Singh Dhillon ji, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy ji, Dr. Balram Jakhar ji and G.M.C. Balayogi ji got this opportunity, but none of these Speakers completed the tenure of 10 years.

We are proud that you have been elected Speaker for the second time in a row, who will set a record of completing the tenure of 10 years. This will be a permanent legacy of yours in the history of Lok Sabha Speakers. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, we all Members represent only our constituencies here, but you represent the ruling party and the opposition and this entire House and along with the dignity of this House, you are also a symbol of its strength. Your tenure in the 17th Lok Sabha has been full of many achievements.

Hon. Speaker Sir, you have carved your image as an impartial Speaker and you have had many achievements in that tenure, which my preceding speakers have also mentioned. I hope that during this tenure of yours, new chapters of achievements will be added under your able guidance. Under your guidance, we all, opposition and the ruling party will get another golden opportunity to strengthen the democracy. Once again, many congratulations and best wishes to you.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Sir, on behalf of Indian Union Muslim League and myself, I wish to express my heartiest congratulations to you on becoming the Speaker again.

The position of the Speaker, of course, is a unique position. The Speaker is a protector of the House and a guardian of the Members, irrespective of caste, creed or any other divide. We have to ensure justice by all means. Impartiality should be the mantra of this House. On various past occasions, the Opposition was oppressed and depressed. We all know that. That should not be repeated. The voice of the Opposition, as correctly mentioned by the Leader of Opposition, Shri Rahul ji, should be honoured by all means.

Sir, I would like to say that we all should ensure justice, irrespective of party. Whether it is a big party or a regional party, all of them should be taken into proper consideration.

This House has given a very good message, not only to India but to the entire world. We hope that this House will again spread the message of togetherness. Let the glory of the past be maintained and secular democracy be preserved by all means.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, one of our Members is speaking.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL (BATHINDA): Sir, on behalf of my Party, Shiromani Akali Dal, I rise to congratulate you on your successful election as Speaker for the second term.

[Translation]

Sir, I am the only Member of a small regional party from a small state, who has reached here for the fourth time. I stand in this House and worry about this, where I have seen in the previous elections that there are many parties which have big differences of opinion with each other in the state, they fight, but they have compromised to reach here.

HON. SPEAKER: You can make a speech like this on latter occasion.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, there are many people who were on the other side for a long time, but now they have come here for the sake of the Chair. What I mean to say is that when I am here, the only woman Member of a regional party, I am worried that we are neither on this side nor on that side, but when I stand here to raise the voice of my Punjab and Punjabis, I expect from you that you will treat alike the small parties, small communities, minorities, as you treat big parties. You will also protect us as well as give us a chance, you will keep the 'principle of democracy' alive, a little more than you used to do earlier. Whether it is a small party, or a single Member, but the fight is as tough as it is for the big parties, maybe even more than that. *... (Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Have you not been given chance earlier?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, this time I am requesting you to give me a little more chance than before, because being a woman, I have come here for the fourth time, so please take care of us. I wish you all the best and also hope for your protection and patronage. Best wishes to you.

***SHRI SUNIL DATTATREY TATKARE (RAIGAD):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak in Marathi.

I would like to congratulate you on behalf of our original Nationalist Congress Party of hon. Ajitdada Pawar.

Hon. Speaker Sir, this 18th Lok Sabha has got a historical importance. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar ji had given us this Constitution. In the year 1962, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru ji had become the Prime Minister of India for the third time.

Now, Shri Narendra Modi ji has also become the Prime Minister of India for the third time, and we are very happy. You have also become the Speaker of the House for the second consecutive term, and that is why, I want to congratulate you.

I belong to Raigad where Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was coronated, and today the 13th Scion of him is seating next to me in this House.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

You extended your co-operation for the last five years, when I used to sit there on that side. I hope your kind support will continue to be given this side also.

I am sure we will get the opportunity to echo the voice of the people of Maharashtra.

I am quite hopeful that the Classical Language status would be accorded to Marathi language during your second tenure.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, several hon. Members want to express their views, but there is a long list, so please express your views during the President's address. I will give you all enough time, enough opportunity.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (PURNIA): Sir, at least single Members should be given chance ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You will be given opportunity.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister, hon. Members of the Union Council of Ministers, leaders of all political parties, honourable Members, I feel privileged to be the presiding officer of this august House...

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, I will give chance to all of you.

..... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Owaisi ji, please.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please speak only for one minute each.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will give chance to everyone.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude in one minute each.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You all please be seated.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I would like to inform all the hon. Members that when the Speaker stands up from his seat, you should all sit down. I am saying this for the first time today and should not be made to say this in five years again.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, I congratulate you on my behalf and on behalf of the entire nation and I am sure that the Members of this Parliament are proud that you have become the Speaker of this House for the second time.

Sir, you are the repository, the custodian of this House. But the reality is that the party in majority has the numbers, but they do not have the power of the majority. The opposition also has the voice of the majority. Therefore, I request you to give a chance to the smaller parties and I am sure that the way you showed kindness to me in the 17th Lok Sabha, you will show kindness to us, to the smaller parties. I belong to a community which is only four percent in the House, so please allow us to raise our voice. In the end, I want to say that I am sure that when you are sitting there, this House will shine like a precious diamond not only

among the people of this country but also in the world and this Government will reduce your burden by electing a Deputy Speaker. So much burden should not be put on you.

Sir, I congratulate you. This is the House of the opposition and small parties as well and you will give us a chance to raise our voice. The character of this House has changed. Now BJP will not be able to steamroll. We congratulate you again. Thank you Sir.

[جناب اسدالدین اویسی (حیدرآباد): ، سر، میں آپ کو اپنی جانب سے پورے ملک کی جانب سے مبارکباد دیتا ہوں اور مجھے یقین ہے کہ آپ کی پارلیمنٹ کی عوام اس بات پر فخر کر رہی ہے کہ آپ دوسری مرتبہ اس ایوان کے اسپیکر بنے ہیں۔

سر، آپ اس ہاؤس کے ریپوزیٹری ہیں، کسٹوڈین ہیں۔ مگر حقیقت یہ ہے کہ اکثریتی جماعت کے پاس نمبر ہے، مگر ان کے پاس اکثریت کی طاقت نہیں ہے اپوزیشن کے پاس اکثریت کی آواز بھی ہے۔ اس لئے میری آپ سے گزارش ہے کہ آپ چھوٹی پارٹیوں کو موقع دیجیئے۔ اور مجھے یقین ہے کہ آپ 17 لوگ سبھا میں جس طرح سے شفقت کا نظارہ مجھ پر کیا، ہم چھوٹی پارٹیوں پر کیا۔ میں اس طبقہ سے آتا ہوں جو ایوان میں صرف 4 فیصد ہیں۔ اس لئے ہمیں اپنی آواز اٹھانے کی اجازت دیجیئے گا۔ آخر میں، میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ مجھے یقین ہے کہ آپ وہاں پر بیٹھے ہیں تو یہ ایوان ایک قیمتی ہیرے کی طرح نہ صرف اس ملک کی عوام میں بلکہ دنیا میں چمکے گا اور آپ کو بوجھ کو یہ سرکار ڈپٹی اسپیکر بنا کر کم کرے گی۔ اتنا بوجھ آپ پر نہیں ڈالنا چاہیے۔

سر، میں آپ کو مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔ یہ ایوان اپوزیشن اور چھوٹی پارٹیوں کا بھی ہے اور ہم کو آپ آواز کا موقع دیں گے۔ اس ہاؤس کا کیریئر بدل چکا ہے۔ اب بی-جے-پی۔ اسٹیم رول نہیں کر پائے گی۔ ہم آپ کو پھر سے مبارکباد دیتے ہیں۔۔ شکر یہ۔]

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Speaker Sir. I, on behalf of my Party, Revolutionary Socialist Party, extend hearty congratulations on your assuming the highest office of democracy, that too in the largest democracy in the world.

With your 30 years of experience in Parliament and the Legislature, that is in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly as well as three terms in the Parliament and also five years as Speaker of this House, I firmly believe that the expertise in leadership will give fruitful results to the 18th Lok Sabha in running the House.

I would like to make some quotations. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru referred to the Speaker as “the symbol of the nation's freedom and liberty”. Kaul and Shakhder referred to the Speaker as “the conscience and guardian of the House”. The Speaker is the soul and spirit of Indian democracy and the custodian of the House. Further, I would like to say that while the Government has its way in the House, it is incumbent upon the Speaker to ensure that the Opposition has its full say. I would like to urge upon the hon. Speaker Sir that the Opposition’s legitimate demands and rights have to be protected so as to have a healthy democratic practice in our country. The independence of the Parliament has to be protected at any cost. We know that separation of powers – Judiciary, Executive and Legislature – is the essential ingredient, the basic character of the Constitution.

I would like to give one historic example. In 1647, King Charles I entered into the House of Commons and demanded relieving of five MPs from the House as they were guilty of treason. The then Speaker of the House of Commons, William Lenthall said and I quote: “May it please

Your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see, nor tongue to speak in this place, but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here, and I humbly beg Your Majesty's pardon that I cannot give any other answer than this to what Your Majesty is pleased to demand of me." The Speaker of the House in 1647 did not even succumb to the pressure of King Charles I who had never cared about the Parliament.

I hope and believe that your expertise and experience can bring back the glory of our Parliament, the traditions and customs, and thereby protect the independence of the Parliament.

Once again, I extend my hearty congratulations on your assuming the post of the Speaker after Balram Jakhar ji for consecutive two terms. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Today is a good day for the House. Pappu ji, please do not stand up again and again. You are a senior Member. Hon. Members, I would like to request everyone that today is a good day. Please keep your points in brief. Whatever political points you have to make, you will get enough time and enough opportunity for that in the President's address.

Shri Amra Ram ji.

SHRI AMRA RAM (SIKAR): Hon. Speaker, you have become the Speaker of this august House for the second time. I express my heartfelt gratitude to you on my behalf and on behalf of my party – Communist Party of India (Marxist) and hope that occupying this seat of justice you will definitely give your time to listen to the voice of the people from the side of the opposition in this supreme House of this country. You had earlier raised the voice of people in the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan and now you are a Member of this House for the third time. You have occupied the highest position in this House, so I once again express my gratitude to you on behalf of myself and my party.

Thank you. Jai Hind.

***DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM):** Hon. Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. On behalf of Viduthalai Siruthaigal Party and on behalf of the INDIA bloc, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, Hon Speaker Sir, for having been elected to this exalted position for the second consecutive term. There is a *Sengol*, the Sceptre on the right side of your Chair. *Sengol* is a symbol of power stressing the need that you should be impartial on your actions having a balanced approach. It stands as a symbol for upholding justice.

Sir, you have in the past proved to be an experienced and distinguished Speaker of this august House. Everybody is aware of the fact that you have taken ...** viewpoints with a ...** approach towards the ruling and the opposition sides. As always, the ruling party is a stronger

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

one with lots of powers vested in it. This is the reason why the Opposition leaders have demanded from you today to be impartial. Several Bills were introduced by the ruling dispensation earlier. Hon Speaker Sir, only you have the power to decide on whether a Bill is a money Bill or not. But the ruling party of the previous term had misused this power. They may once again try to do so. Therefore, you should not yield to such pressure from the ruling side. I put before you as my submission that you should not bend.

Sir, by using the powers of the Lok Sabha Speaker, the statues of great leaders including Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi and Mahatma Jyotirao Phule were relocated to a less significant place inside the Parliament House complex. I request you that those relocated statues of our national leaders should be shifted to their original places of installation. I once again congratulate you on your becoming the Lok Sabha Speaker for the second term. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Raj Kumar Chabbewal ji.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not advocate any Member.

... *(Interruptions)*

***DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL (HOSHIARPUR):** Thank you, Sir. I felicitate you on my behalf and on behalf of my party. People have elected a strong opposition in this House. Sir, I am grateful and today, I fondly remember 'Bharat Ratna' Babasaheb Shri Bhimrao Ambedkar ji. It is due to his efforts that today; we all are here in this august House. We are because he was. Due to him, I have got this opportunity today to represent the people of my constituency.

Hon. Speaker Sir, it would have been better if the election of hon. Speaker would not have taken place like this. The hon. Speaker should have been elected unanimously and the hon. Deputy-Speaker should also have been elected in a similar manner. If I remember, during the tenure of late P.M., Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, Shri G.M.C. Balyogi ji, who was from the TDP, was the hon. Speaker.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL: Sir, I would like to thank you...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I will conclude in one minute.

HON. SPEAKER: Read the law, as to when the election for the post of Deputy Speaker is held.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

DR. RAJ KUMAR CHABBEWAL: Sir, whether it happens or not, he should have been elected, it would have been a big thing and people would have congratulated you more. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Dr Rajkumar Sangwan ji.

DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN (BAGHPAT): Sir, I heartily congratulate you for being re-elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. I not only hope but have full faith that during your tenure there will be positive discussions in the House for nation building and the country will move forward on a new path of development. I assure that all the hon. Members of the House will cooperate in running this House smoothly under your guidance. I once again congratulate you and wish you all the best.

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. Chandra Shekhar ji.

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR (NAGINA): Sir, the mike is not working.

HON. SPEAKER: Please wait for a second, the mike will start after a second.

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Okay, Sir.

Sir, first of all I congratulate you that you have been elected to the highest position in the Lok Sabha. Sir, many Hon. Members have praised you. I have met you personally. When I faced a problem, you protected me. Sir, our party is new. I am the free voice of my people. I appeal to

you for protection. I hope that you will protect us. Sir, I also pray that you are the protector of democracy. May Nature give you the strength to protect democracy! Today is the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, the father of reservation. I congratulate the entire House on this occasion. I request you that our people are in very bad condition there, if we do not get a chance, we will not be able to present our views here, so I appeal to you for protection. I once again congratulate you and all the Hon. Members. Thank you.

SHRI AGA SYED RUHULLAH MEHDI (SRINAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I congratulate you on being elected as Speaker on behalf of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference. I request you that from today onward you are neither from BJP, nor from Congress, nor from Samajwadi. From today onward you belong to only one party and that is the Constitution of India. I expect that from today onward you will be its custodian. This House is called the biggest institution of democracy, there will be examples of democracy. In this House you will be remembered for whether you forced the Treasury Benches to listen to the Opposition or you silenced the Opposition. You will not be remembered for P-20. You will be remembered for calling an hon. Muslim MP ...*in this very House because his being a Muslim. You will be remembered as to how you silenced those voices, that illegitimate voice, or you allowed those voices to be raised. If an Hon. MP who is an elected representative, if he is called *... in this House, in this big institution of democracy, then those Muslims can be called ...* on the streets too. ...(*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: One minute, please, sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is the very First day of the House. Please take care of what you are saying. First observe this term and then comment.

SHRI AGA SYED RUHULLAH MEHDI: I would like to request that this is the biggest institution of democracy, such an example should not have been set here and you were its custodian. When the Bill related to Article 370 was brought in a minute and passed in half an hour...*(Interruptions)* It was passed in half an hour...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He does not have information. There was a discussion for nine and a half hours on that. You sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. Francis George.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. Francis George ji, do you want to speak? You please speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

ADV. FRANCIS GEORGE (KOTTAYAM): Sir, on behalf of the Kerala Congress Party, I join the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Opposition Leader and all the other leaders in congratulating you on assuming this high post of Speaker of Lok Sabha.

In fact, you have got re-elected. We are all happy about it. We have a lot of issues to discuss in the coming days. The hon. Prime Minister said that the last five-year period under you was a golden period. I do not know how it was a golden period. Suspending of Members *en masse* and passing the Bills without discussion took place in this period. How can we call it a golden period? Unfortunately, it was not so.

Due to paucity of time, I am not flagging many issues. We have a lot of issues to discuss in the coming days. We have issues relating to the farmers ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, let me complete. I would like to tell you one thing. There may be parties of one Member or two Members. Please do not show a neglecting attitude towards us. We should also get time to air our views ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni ji, you speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: If you speak maintaining decorum, I will let you speak. I will not give you a chance to speak indecently. The House will not function like this.

Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni ji.

[English]

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (MACHILIPATNAM):

Sir, on behalf of my JanaSena Party President, Shri Pawan Kalyan *Garu* and on my own behalf, I express my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to you on your election as Speaker of this prestigious House.

Sir, I am confident; my Party is confident; the House and the 140 crore people of this country are confident that you will accomplish a great deal as Speaker of this House.

This is my third term as Member of this House. I am here because of my leader, Shri Pawan Kalyan *Garu*. I sincerely thank and express my gratitude to him for giving me this opportunity.

Shri Pawan Kalyan *Garu* is a star in AP and as the hon. Prime Minister rightly said during the NDA meeting in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan that “*he is not wind but a storm*” It is true. He is a toofan in Andhra politics. Shri Pawan Kalyan *Garu* has made a record in the history of independent India. JanaSena Party is the only party in the county since Independence that got one hundred per cent strike rate both in the Lok Sabha and in the Assembly elections... (*Interruptions*) The JanaSena Party fought in 21 Assembly seats and two Lok Sabha constituencies. It won in all the 21 Assembly seats ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

Shri Rajesh Ranjan ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Balashowry ji, please sit down. Nothing of your speech is going into record.

... *(Interruptions)* ...*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajesh Ranjan ji, do you want to speak?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Balashowry ji, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (PURNIA): Hon. Speaker Sir, today you have again come to the best and most glorious and dignified Chair like a judge, as the guardian of all of us. You have come among us again as the Speaker to maintain the self-respect, honour and pride of the country and to maintain the autonomy of the Constitution. I congratulate you from the depths of my heart. I will say just one line. I am the independent voice of every society, class and community system of this country that is protected. I will always expect that you will protect the Constitution as well as independent voice along with Bihar. I will say just one line that I am a fearless, independent person of this country who lives without fear.

With strong leadership, this group, ... *(Interruptions)* please listen to me... *(Interruptions)* as an independent, fair and strong leader on the path of truth, as India Alliance, the voice of the opposition of this country within the strong leader of the opposition, hon. Rahul Gandhi ji and all the leaders of the NDA constituents is only for the protection of its democratic values. You are sitting on the best Chair of the values of morality. We hope that you will not let the values of morality decline.

* Not recorded.

You will protect the supreme Constitution of this country and you will also protect all of us.

Thank you very much.

SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT (BANSWARA): Sir, many congratulations to you for being elected on this post, many many salutations.

I am from Bharat Adivasi Party. My party, the entire tribal community and every section of my constituency, especially the people of Rajasthan are delighted at this development because they had hope, Rajasthan was expecting to see you again as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The people of the entire state are happy with this. I hope that our regional party which has come to this House for the first time. I had seen you when I was a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. At that time, I had wished that some day we would definitely go to Delhi and today I got this opportunity.

I would like to once again thank my party and the people of my constituency. On behalf of my party and the devotees of our Govind Guru Maharaj, Sant Surmal Maharaj and Mavji Maharaj, I congratulate you once again.

Thank you. Namaskar.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Prime Minister, all the Hon. Members of the Council of Ministers, Leaders of all the political parties and Hon. Members;

I express my deep sense of gratitude to all of you for giving me an opportunity to carry out the responsibility of the Presiding Officer of this august House.

I am thankful to the Hon. Prime Minister, Leaders of all the Political Parties and the Hon. Members of Parliament who reposed their faith in me.

Election to the 18th Lok Sabha was the festival of the largest democracy of the world. I on behalf of this House express my gratitude to the people of the country for the kind of gusto they have evinced and the manner in which over 64 crore electorates actively took part in the election and exercised their franchise despite geographical diversities, adverse weather conditions and other challenges being in place.

I also thank the Election Commission for conducting the elections in such a fair, and transparent manner without courting any controversy and making efforts to facilitate even a single electorate to exercise his/her franchise in the far flung areas of the country.

Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, NDA- led Govt has been formed for the third consecutive time. Over the last decade, the expectations, hopes and aspirations of the people have been on the rise. Therefore, it is our duty to collectively fulfill all those expectations and aspirations in an effective manner.

Hon. Members, the 18th Lok Sabha should be predominantly characterized by our new visions and new resolutions. The 18th Lok Sabha should be the House of our creative thinking and new ideas paving an

elbow room for the evolution of Parliamentary traditions of the highest order and for the graceful expression of consent and dissent from the Treasury Benches and the Opposition. There should be meaningful discussion and dialogue on the burning issues of the country and this House should work with the will to fulfil the resolution of a developed India.

Hon. Members, I also take this opportunity to recall my predecessor Presiding Officers, who, with their efficiency, tried their best to add dignity to the efficacy, prestige, tradition and decorum of this House. I also had this distinction as the Presiding Officer for five years.

I tried to ensure that all the Members get enough time and opportunity. During this time, the productivity of the House was also the highest and we also established a high standard of parliamentary traditions and practices.

I am happy to see that this time 281 Members have been elected for the first time in the Lok Sabha. I compliment on behalf of the House.

...(Interruptions)

I hope that the elected members will go through the rules, conventions and prevalent practices of the House in great detail and take advantage of the wealth of experience of their senior colleagues to follow good parliamentary practices.

Hon. Members, many historic laws have also been passed in this New Parliament Building. Historical decisions have also been taken, for which we had been waiting for years. The Nari Shakti Vandan Bill was passed and they decided to involve themselves in leadership. Along with it many issues were discussed and many other important Bills were also passed.

This year marks the 75th year of our journey towards the framing of our Constitution. I salute all those scholars who played a role in framing the Constitution, rising above party lines and personal ideologies and framed a Constitution after thoroughly studying, debating and discussing each and every point which serves as our guiding light even today.

I would like to urge all of you that in the 18th Lok Sabha too, remembering those great architects of the Constitution, we should formulate such policies and laws in the national interest and in the public welfare, that the exploited, oppressed and deprived sections of the society can be uplifted and socio-economic welfare can be brought in the life of the most backward person.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon. Prime Minister, under whose guidance the noble tradition of observing Constitution Day started in this country. The Constitution was discussed, debated and at the same time the Hon. Prime Minister started a 'Know Your Constitution' drive through the Presiding Officers of all the States so that our young generation knows the Constitution, understands the Constitution and contributes actively in the development of the country by discharging constitutional obligations and duties.

It will be my endeavour to give enough time and enough opportunity to all the hon. Members. This Parliament is the House where views of all parties are considered. Views of all parties should be presented here. Agreement and dissent are the strength of our democracy. We represent different ideologies, but despite having different ideologies, we hold the country as supreme. I hope that you will express your disagreement strongly on the issues and ideology of your respective parties. Wherever you give suggestions while discussing the Bill positively, my Government

will also expect to incorporate those suggestions. Both the treasury benches and the opposition are responsible for running the House. The strength of India's democracy is that everyone is heard and the House runs with everyone's consent. I would expect to run the House with the consent of all. Even the party with a single Member will get enough time and enough opportunity. I tried in the last tenure to give an opportunity to all the hon. Members. Those hon. Members who did not want to speak were also called with insistence and they put forth their views in the House. I will try that your views/opinions come to the House with the same feelings and I can run the House impartially, but I will expect that the House should run smoothly. This will be my expectation from all of you. We all come here after being elected and we come here with a lot of expectations from the public. That is why I repeatedly request that there should not be a deadlock in the House. There may be criticism, conveying of views and expressions in the House, but deadlock is not the convention of the House. Coming to the well is not the tradition of this House. You have given me the responsibility to uphold parliamentary decorum and I will abide by it. I never want to take any action against the hon. Members. You too want that high standards and conventions of the House to be upheld. For this, I have to make tough decisions. In this 18th Lok Sabha, I would expect you all to hold a very healthy and a high standard dialogue and discussion in the House according to the traditions of this House as held in the past. There should be a distinction between raising protests in Parliament and the one raised on the street. The people have elected us to the Parliament. Therefore, I expect that we adopt methods of protest in accordance with the decorum of the Parliament.

I once again express my gratitude to all the hon. Members. I especially request that all of you make collective efforts to enhance the glory of democracy and this House. We will make optimum use of the opportunity of public service that we have got.

I also thank our Hon'ble Protem Speaker, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji, and the Members on the Panel of Chairmen Hon'ble Radha Mohan Singh ji and Faggan Singh Kulaste ji for the smooth conduct of the proceedings of the House during this interim period of the 18th Lok Sabha.

I thank the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha and all the staff of the Secretariat for their dedicated service.

I hope that with the ideas you have expressed, we all together will enhance the dignity and prestige of this House in this 18th Lok Sabha.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.

12.55 hrs

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now the Hon. Prime Minister would introduce the Council of Ministers.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI): Sir, with your permission, I would like to introduce you and through you, to this august House the Members of the Council of Ministers.

CABINET MINISTERS

Shri Raj Nath Singh

The Minister of Defence

Shri Amit Shah

The Minister of Home Affairs; and Minister of Cooperation

Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari

The Minister of Road Transport and Highways

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda

The Minister of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan

The Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; and Minister of Rural Development

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| Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman | The Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs |
| Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar | The Minister of External Affairs |
| Shri Manohar Lal | The Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs; and Minister of Power |
| Shri H. D. Kumaraswamy | The Minister of Heavy Industries; and Minister of Steel |
| Shri Piyush Goyal | The Minister of Commerce and Industry |
| Shri Dharmendra Pradhan | The Minister of Education |
| Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi | The Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises |
| Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh | The Minister of Panchayati Raj; and Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying |

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| Shri Sarbananda Sonowal | The Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways |
| Dr. Virendra Kumar | The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment |
| Shri Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu | The Minister of Civil Aviation |
| Shri Pralhad Joshi | The Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of New and Renewable Energy |
| Shri Jual Oram | The Minister of Tribal Affairs |
| Shri Giriraj Singh | The Minister of Textiles |
| Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw | The Minister of Railways; Minister of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of Electronics and Information Technology |
| Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia | The Minister of Communications; and Minister of Development of North Eastern Region |

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| Shri Bhupender Yadav | The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change |
| Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat | The Minister of Culture; and Minister of Tourism |
| Shrimati Annpurna Devi | The Minister of Women and Child Development |
| Shri Kiren Rijiju | The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of Minority Affairs |
| Shri Hardeep Singh Puri | The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas |
| Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya | The Minister of Labour and Employment; and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports |
| Shri G. Kishan Reddy | The Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines |
| Shri Chirag Paswan | The Minister of Food Processing Industries |
| Shri C. R. Patil | The Minister of Jal Shakti |

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Rao Inderjit Singh

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Minister of State of the Ministry of Planning; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Culture

Dr. Jitendra Singh

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology; Minister of State of the Ministry of Earth Sciences; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space

13.00 hrs

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Prataprao Ganpatrao
Jadhav

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Ayush; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Shri Jayant Chaudhary

The Minister of State of the
Ministry of Skill Development and
Entrepreneurship; and Minister of
State in the Ministry of Education

MINISTERS OF STATE

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| Shri Jitin Prasada | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology |
| Shri Shripad Yesso Naik | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Power; and Minister of State in the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy |
| Shri Pankaj Chaudhary | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance |
| Shri Krishan Pal | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Cooperation |
| Shri Ramdas Athawale | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment |
| Shri Ram Nath Thakur | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare |
| Shri Nityanand Rai | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs |
| Shrimati Anupriya Patel | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers |

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| Shri V. Somanna | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways |
| Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications |
| Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj |
| Sushri Shobha Karandlaje | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment. |
| Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs. |
| Shri B. L. Verma | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. |
| Shri Shantanu Thakur | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways |

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| Shri Suresh Gopi | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Tourism. |
| Dr. L. Murugan | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. |
| Shri Ajay Tamta | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways |
| Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs |
| Shri Kamlesh Paswan | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development |
| Shri Bhagirath Choudhary | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare |
| Shri Satish Chandra Dubey | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Coal; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines |
| Shri Sanjay Seth | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence |
| Shri Ravneet Singh | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways |

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| Shri Durga Das Uikey | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs |
| Shrimati Raksha Nikhil Khadse | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports |
| Dr. Sukanta Majumdar | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region |
| Shrimati Savitri Thakur | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development |
| Shri Tokhan Sahu | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs |
| Dr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti |
| Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel |
| Shri Harsh Malhotra | The Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways |

Shrimati Nimuben Jayantibhai
Bambhaniya

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution

Shri Murlidhar Mohol

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Cooperation; and
Minister of State in the Ministry
of Civil Aviation

Shri George Kurian

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Minority Affairs;
and Minister of State in the
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal
Husbandry and Dairying

Shri Pabitra Margherita

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of External Affairs;
and Minister of State in the
Ministry of Textiles

13.06 hrs

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Proclamation of Emergency in the country on 25 June, 1975

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This House strongly condemns the decision to impose Emergency in the country in 1975.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: At the same time, we appreciate the strong power of all those who strongly resisted the Emergency, waged an unprecedented struggle and took responsibility to protect India's democracy.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The day of June 25, 1975 will always be remembered as a black chapter in the history of India. On this day, Emergency was imposed in the country by then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the Constitution drafted by Baba Saheb Ambedkar was severely attacked. India is known throughout the world as the 'mother of democracy'. Democratic values and debate have always been promoted in India, democratic values have always been protected, they have always been encouraged. Dictatorship was imposed on such an India by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. India's democratic values were trampled and freedom of expression was stifled.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: During the Emergency, the rights of the citizens of India were snatched and freedom was taken away from the citizens. The leaders of the Opposition were incarcerated and the entire country was turned into a prison. The then dictatorial Government had imposed several restrictions on the media and the independence of the judiciary was curtailed. That period of Emergency was a 'period of injustice' in the history of our country and it was a period characterized by darkness prevailing all around. At that time, the Congress Government took many decisions which served as a tool to crush the spirit of our Constitution. The cruel law the Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA) was amended by the Congress Party to ensure that our courts could not deliver justice to those arrested under MISA. The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Repeal Act, the Press Council (Repeal) Act and the Prevention of Publication of Objectionable Matter Act were brought to prevent the media from writing the truth.

It was during this dark period that the 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, and 42nd constitutional amendments were made in the Constitution. These amendments by the Congress Government were aimed at bringing all powers under the control of one person, having control over the judiciary and abolishing the basic principles of the Constitution. By doing this, the rights of citizens were suppressed and the principles of democracy were attacked.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Not only this, the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi talked about committed bureaucracy and committed judiciary,

which is an example of her anti-democratic attitude. Emergency brought with it anti-social and dictatorial cruelty that ruined the lives of the poor, downtrodden and the deprived.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: During the Emergency, people had to bear the onslaught of compulsory sterilization forcibly imposed by the Congress Government, the arbitrariness done on the pretext of removing encroachments in cities and of the repercussions arising out of Government's wrong policies. This House would like to express its condolences to all those people.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The period from 1975 to 1977 is a period in itself which reminds us of the principles of the Constitution, the federal structure and the importance of the independence of Judiciary. This period reminds us as how we all were attacked at that time and as to why it is important to protect those principles.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: At a time when we are entering the 50th year of Emergency, this 18th Lok Sabha reiterates its commitment to preserve, protect and safeguard the Constitution drafted under the chairmanship of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: We are committed to keeping the principles of democracy in India, preponderance of rule of law and decentralization of powers in the country intact. We admire the unprecedented struggle and faith of the people of India in constitutional institutions which led to the

end of the Emergency and the establishment of rule of Constitution once again.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It was on June 26, 1975, that the country faced the brutal realities of the Emergency. On this day in 1975, the then Cabinet had post-facto ratified the Emergency, approving this dictatorial and unconstitutional decision. Therefore, in order to reiterate our commitment to this second freedom won after countless sacrifices in our parliamentary system, it is necessary to make this reference today.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: We also believe that our young generation must know about this dark chapter of democracy. During the Emergency, countless people had to suffer due to illegal arrests and Government persecution.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Their families had to suffer immensely. Emergency had destroyed the lives of so many citizens of India, so many people had died.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: We observe two minutes of silence in memory of such dutiful and patriotic citizens of India who lost their lives at the hands of the dictatorial Government of Congress, during that dark period of Emergency.

13.14 hrs

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The proceedings of the House stand adjourned till half-an-hour after the Address by His Excellency the President on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

13.15 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till half-an-hour after the Address by the President on Thursday, June 27, 2024/Ashadha 6, 1946 (Saka).

INTERNET

The Original version, English version and Hindi Version of Lok Sabha proceedings are available on Parliament of India Website at the following address:

<https://sansad.in/ls>

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