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Tuesday, September 19, 2023  
Bhadra 28, 1945 (Saka)

**LOK SABHA DEBATES**  
**(English Version)**

**Thirteenth Session**  
**(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XXVII contains Nos.1 to 4)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Tuesday, September 19, 2023/ Bhadra 28, 1945 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Fifteen Minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.

[**HON. SPEAKER** *in the Chair*]

## **NATIONAL ANTHEM**

*The National Anthem was played.*

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**13.17 hrs**

### **ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Today is a very important day in the democratic history of our country when we begin the first sitting of the Lok Sabha in the new building of Parliament. We are fortunate that we have got the opportunity to properly discharge our parliamentary responsibilities in both the old and new buildings of Parliament and we have got the opportunity to witness this historic occasion. On this auspicious occasion, I wish you all the best and congratulate you. Today is an auspicious day for all of us, I wish everyone a very happy Ganesh Chaturthi.

Hon. Members, today we remember and pay tribute to the founders and nation-builders of the country whose struggle and sacrifice led to our independence. They gave us a Constitution which ensures the progress of every citizen of the nation by keeping the people at the centre.

Hon. Members, we have the best parliamentary traditions, practices and experiences. In the new building, we will carry forward those best traditions and experiences which have been good for us and will abandon those experiences which have not been good for us. Let us maintain the high dignity and prestige of the Parliament, let us establish the culture of

democracy and the best traditions of discussion and dialogue with ideas in the new building. Let us put forth our views with decency and decorum in the House. Consent and disagreement are the basic mantras of democracy, but let us raise and discuss the issues with dignity and let our House become a centre of healthy discussion and dialogue.

We may have political and ideological differences, but we have made big decisions collectively in the interest of the country. I hope that we will carry on the same traditions in this House also. Hence I urge you to establish such standards in the new building, which will further strengthen the public's faith and trust in democracy and democratic institutions. Today, the entire country is watching the activities going on in this august House through information technology and advance technology; hence we should try to win the trust and confidence of the public in this new building in accordance with the expectations and aspirations of the country. Let us raise their issues and aspirations responsibly and in a dignified manner in the House.

Hon. Members, I have been continuously receiving cooperation from all the Hon'ble Members in the smooth functioning of the House. I hope that you will cooperate with me in implementing good traditions and conventions in the new Parliament House and in this Chamber also and will help me in running the House with well-established rules and procedures. Our spirit is a grand combination of spirit, our heritage, bravery and modernity. I heartily thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for ensuring the construction of this building in record time. I also heartily thank the Government of India, the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Shramveer Karmayogis for their contribution to the construction of the building. I am

confident that today on the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi, we will initiate the proceedings of Parliament with new energy, new zeal, new enthusiasm and new dreams.

Now I would request the Hon. Prime Minister to address the House.

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**13.21hrs**

**FIRST SITTING OF THE HOUSE IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE OF  
INDIA (NEW BUILDING OF PARLIMENT)**

[Translation]

**HON. PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI):** Hon. Speaker sir, this is the inaugural and historic session of the new Parliament building. I extend my heartfelt wishes to all Hon'ble Members of Parliament and to all the citizens of the country.

Hon. Speaker sir, I express my profound gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak first in the first session of the new House today. I wholeheartedly welcome all Hon'ble Members of Parliament in this new Parliament building. This occasion is unprecedented in many ways. It is the dawn of the 'Amrit Kaal' of independence and Bharat is moving forward with new resolutions and shaping its future in this new building. The monumental success of Chandrayaan-3 in the world of science fills every citizen with pride. The extraordinary hosting of the G20 under Bharat's presidency is an opportunity that will bring desired influence on the world stage. In this light, today marks the auspicious beginning of modern Bharat and our ancient democracy in the new Parliament building. It is a delightful coincidence that it falls on the auspicious day of Ganesh Chaturthi. Lord Ganesha is the deity of auspiciousness and success. Ganesha is also the god of wisdom and knowledge. On this sacred day, our inauguration is a journey from resolution to accomplishment with determination and newfound confidence. As we move forward with new resolutions in the 'Amrit Kaal' of independence, it is natural to remember Lokmanya Tilak, especially on

the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. During the freedom struggle, Lokmanya Tilak ji established the Ganesh festival as a means to awaken the spirit of self-rule throughout the nation. Lokmanya Tilak ji infused the concept of independent Bharat into the Ganesh festival, and today, on Ganesh Chaturthi, we continue to move forward with his inspiration. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the citizens on this occasion once again.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, today is also the festival of Samvatsari, which in itself is a remarkable tradition. This day is also considered a day of forgiveness. It is a day to say 'michhami dukkadam' when we express forgiveness from the heart to anyone we may have knowingly or unknowingly hurt through our actions, words, and intentions. I, too, offer my sincere 'michhami dukkadam' to all of you, to all the members of Parliament, and to all the citizens from my heart. As we embark on a new beginning today, we must leave behind the bitterness of the past and move ahead. With a spirit of unity, our conduct and our speech, our resolutions should serve as an inspiration for the nation and every citizen. We should make every effort to fulfil this responsibility with full dedication.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, this building is new, everything here is new, all the arrangements are new, and all the colleagues are in new attire. Everything is new, but amidst all this, there is also a symbol of a great legacy that connects the past and the present. It's not something new; it's old. It bears witness to the first rays of freedom which are present among us even now. It connects us to our rich history. And as we enter the new Parliament, it bears witness to the first rays of freedom, which will inspire future generations. It is the sacred Sengol which was first received by Pandit Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister. With this Sengol, Pandit Nehru

performed the ritual and initiated the celebration of independence. Therefore, this very significant past is connected with this Sengol. It is also a symbol of Tamil Nadu's great tradition, as well as symbolizing the unity of the nation. And today, the Sengol which adorned the hands of Pandit Nehru becomes the source of inspiration for all of us, Hon'ble Members of Parliament. What greater pride can there be than this?

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the grandeur of the new Parliament building also symbolizes the glory of modern Bharat. Our labourers, engineers and workers have put their sweat into this, and even during the Corona pandemic, they worked tirelessly. When the construction was going on, I often had the opportunity to meet these workers, especially regarding their health. Even during such challenging times, they fulfilled this grand dream. Today, I would like all of us to express our heartfelt gratitude to those labourers, workers, and engineers, because their contribution is going to be an inspiration for the generations to come. More than 30,000 workers have worked tirelessly and sweated to raise this magnificent structure, and this is going to be a tremendous contribution for many generations to come.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, while paying my respects to those workers, I would also like to tell you that a new tradition has begun, and I am extremely delighted about it. A digital book has been kept in this House. This digital book contains complete profiles of all those workers so that the future generations will know which worker from which part of Bharat came and how their sweat contributed to this magnificent structure. This is a new beginning, an auspicious start, and a proud moment for all of us. On this occasion, I salute these workers on behalf of the 1.4 billion citizens and on behalf of the great tradition of democracy.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is often quoted in our country: 'yat bhavo-tat bhavati' which means our intentions shape our actions. So, as our intentions are, so are the outcomes. We have entered the new Parliament with new intentions, and I have full confidence that the same intentions within us will continue to shape us naturally. The building has changed, and I would like to see our expressions change as well. Our feelings should also change.

Parliament is the highest institution of national service. It has been created not for the welfare of political parties but solely for the welfare of the nation, as our Constitution makers envisioned. In the new building, we all must lay emphasis on our words, thoughts and conduct in the spirit of the Constitution. Mr Speaker Sir, you said in both clear and veiled manner both yesterday and today regarding the behaviour of the MPs. I assure you that we will make every effort to live up to your expectations as the leaders of this House. We will follow discipline as the nation is watching us. We look forward to your direction. But Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the elections are still far away, and the time we have left in this Parliament will determine who is entitled to sit in the treasury benches and the opposition benches according to our behaviour. The behaviour will decide who will sit in the treasury benches and who will sit in the opposition benches. The country will see this difference in the coming months. And I believe that the behaviour of (the political parties) will be judged by the country. Hon. Speaker Sir, in our scriptures, it is said, 'samyachaha savrita bhutva vacham vadat bhadraya' meaning that we all should come together and engage in meaningful and productive dialogue with a shared resolve. Here, our thoughts may differ, our discussions may vary, but our resolutions are

always united. Therefore, we should continue to make every effort to maintain this unity. Hon. Speaker Sir, our Parliament has worked with this very spirit on all significant occasions related to the nation's welfare. No one belongs to any particular group; everyone works for the nation. I hope that with this new beginning and in this environment, we will strengthen this sentiment as much as possible and provide inspiration to the generations to come. We should all respect the parliamentary traditions and strive to meet Hon. Speaker's expectations. Hon. Speaker Sir, in a democracy, politics, policies, and power are important means to bring about effective change in society. Whether it's in space or sports, start-ups or self-help groups, the world is witnessing the strength of Indian women in every field. The G20 presidency and discussion on women-led development is being welcomed and acknowledged worldwide. The world acknowledges that mere talking about women's development is not enough. If we want to achieve new milestones in the journey of human development and reach new destinations in the nation's development journey, then it is necessary that we embrace women-led development. The world has accepted Bharat's perspective in the G20. Each of our plans for women's empowerment has taken meaningful steps towards women's leadership. Keeping financial inclusion in mind, we started the Jan Dhan Yojana, and more than the maximum beneficiaries among 50 crore are women account holders. This is a significant change and a new belief in itself. When the Mudra Yojana was launched, the country could take pride in the fact that loans without any bank guarantee of up to 10 lakh rupees were provided, and the majority of the beneficiaries were women. The entire nation witnessed a flourishing environment of women

entrepreneurs. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana also saw maximum registration of property papers in women, making them property owners.

Hon. Speaker Sir, in the development journey of every nation, there come moments when it can proudly say that today we have created a new history.

Hon. Speaker Sir, in the inaugural speech of the first session of the new House, I am saying with great confidence and pride that this moment today, this day of Samvatsari, Ganesh Chaturthi, is a time to make history. This moment is a moment of pride for all of us. There have been many discussions and debates on women's reservation for many years. There have been several attempts in Parliament regarding women's reservation. A bill related to it was first introduced in 1996. During Atal ji's tenure, the Women's Reservation Bill was presented multiple times, but we couldn't gather the numbers to pass it, and as a result, that dream remained unfulfilled. Perhaps God has chosen me for the noble task of giving rights to women, harnessing the power of women.

Once again, our Government has taken a step in this direction. Just yesterday, the bill regarding women's reservation was approved in the Cabinet. That's why today, September 19th, is about to attain immortality in history. At a time when women are rapidly progressing and taking leadership roles in every sector, it is crucial that our mothers, sisters, our women power contribute the utmost in policy formulation and policy-making. They should not just contribute, but also play significant roles.

Today, on this historic occasion, as the first order of business in the new Parliament building, we have called for a new era of change in the

country and opened new doors of entry for the women power of the nation. Let all the MPs open new doors. Commencing with this crucial decision, our government, while advancing its commitment to women-led development, is presenting a major constitutional amendment bill today. The objective of this bill is to expand women's participation in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. Through the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, our democracy will become stronger and more robust.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the mothers, sisters, and daughters of our country for the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. I assure all mothers, sisters, and daughters that we are committed to making this bill into law. I earnestly request all my colleagues in the House that as we embark on this auspicious beginning, this sacred initiative, when this bill becomes law, its strength will multiply manifold. Therefore, I express my gratitude to all Hon'ble members of both the Houses for helping the passage of this bill unanimously. Thank you very much.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):** At the outset, I express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Speaker for taking the initiative to make a new beginning in this new House today. I also congratulate every citizen of my country on Ganesh Chaturthi. Together we will take the country forward and further strengthen the country, because we believe that:

*“Manzil ko paar kar, nayi manzil ki talaash kar.*

*Tujhe agar dariya mil jaye, to samandar ki talaash kar.”*

India has not been built in a single day. Thousands and lakhs of martyrs shed their blood and sweat for the country only then we got independence.

Therefore, on behalf of the entire House, I bow to all those who shed their blood and sweat, worked hard, worked day and night to tread the country out of the bondages of British rule and took it on the path of freedom. This is your legacy, the legacy which we saw in the old Parliament and will carry forward the same legacy, we will make efforts and work together in the new Parliament also. We have entered into this Parliament with this intention. When we were entering the new building for first time, someone had asked me that let's go around and see the new House. I said, no we will go straight inside the House and after that gradually become familiar with every corner of the House.

Sir, the idea of a new Parliament Building is not new. Our former Lok Sabha MP, Shrimati Meera Kumar ji had also earlier raised this issue. She said that the Members do shed silent tearss to see the state of the old building, silently weeping. One more woman, Speaker of Lok Sabha Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan ji also used to plead that we need a new Parliament House because many shortcomings were surfacing. It is good that we have got a new Parliament building. As a result of the initiative taken by the Government which is in power today, a new House has been constructed. This House belongs to everyone and not only to any particular party or individual. Our former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru ji used to say that there should be no cultism in the country, and no person should be worshipped. This country belongs to everyone; it does not belong to just MPs. This Parliament is not of just MP's, but every citizen of India has a share in it so it is considered the common wealth of our country. Atal ji too used to say that this sequence of happening or not happening will continue like this. If we maintain this illusion in our minds that we will live forever,



then naturally if someone remains here or not, this tradition, this heritage will continue. As long as India remains, this legacy of ours will also continue, it will be taken ahead by one or the other.

Sir, first of all, I would like to submit in front of our Prime Minister and all of you that no matter what we do, the Constitution is paramount for us. For us, the Constitution is no less than the Gita, Quran and Bible. It is scripted in the constitution – Satyamev Jayate - truth always prevails. We also want to move forward on the path of truth and illuminate our country all over the world.

Sir, this is written in the first page of the Constitution, we call it preamble. It is written in the preamble - <sup>[English]</sup> "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; ... (Interruptions) <sup>[Translation]</sup> Sir, I am just concluding my speech. ...*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister has said enough ...*(Interruption)* Sir, let me also speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You will get permission from here.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Sir, I am reading the Constitution. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, you do read the Constitution.

[English]

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** "... 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 on this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do hereby adopt, enact and give to ourselves this Constitution.”

### **14.00 hrs**

[Translation] Sir, I read this because it says, ‘we, the people of India’. And not that Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Jains pass these resolutions separately. All of us together, 'We, the People of India', this means that, all over the country, Bharat, India, all the people together took this oath.

Sir, 395 articles were included in this. In the first article, it is written that India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States. That there is no difference between 'Bharat' and 'India'. 'Bharat' i.e. 'India', or 'India', that is 'Bharat'. It would be better that by force or under any pretext, no one tries to create a rift inside it. We often do hear about Hindutva in our country but people are apprehensive that will it also lead to the infuse of Hindutva in that also.

I want to bring it to everyone's notice that this issue will not be good for our country because there are 22 official languages, in our constitution, all of them are the languages of our country, so it will be better if no attempt is made to create a rift in it. I would certainly like to press this demand before you.

Sir, I want to say one more thing. The Prime Minister said about the G-20. He started with the President's address, then talked about No-Confidence in the Parliament, after that we are hearing about the G-20 thing every day. We heard it in the Lok Sabha and today in the Central Hall and now here as well. Every speech of the Prime Minister, let us assume is imprinted in our minds.

That's why I want to say this, Sir, we talk about the dignity of the House, but has the Government ever thought that there is a Speaker in the House, but why the Deputy Speaker is not there? For the first time after independence and after the Constitution was framed the Speaker is there, but the Deputy Speaker is not. Why is it so?

**HON. SPEAKER** Hon. Member, now you should conclude.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Sir, if you give me time to speak, I will speak.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now the time is for the commencement of Rajya Sabha.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Sir, that is our demand. The situation is same there as well as here. That's why we have to get our message across, so sometimes we have to make it more emphatic as the Chair seems to have become less accessible to us.

Sir, just now our Prime Minister has talked about the reservation, so I want to say that during the Year 1989, when Rajiv Gandhiji was the Prime Minister, he ensured one-third reservation for women in the local body's elections. Thereafter, the Congress governments continuously tried to get the Women's Reservation Bill passed and the law enacted. ... (Interruptions) To provide one-third reservation in Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies, government of Rajiv ji ... (Interruptions) The Prime Minister was saying that the conduct only will reveal ... (Interruptions) Hon. Prime Minister you can see yourself. ... (Interruptions) You people are insulting the Prime Minister. ... (Interruptions) The Prime Minister himself had taught you how to behave in the House. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, now you should conclude.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** The Government of Rajiv ji, Narasimha Rao ji, and of Dr Manmohan ji, all these Governments tried to get it passed at different times as per their capacity. Sometimes it was passed in Rajya Sabha, but not in the Lok Sabha. On another occasion it was passed in Lok Sabha, but dropped in Rajya Sabha. This bill, which came up during Dr Manmohan Singh's Government remains alive till date. That is still alive, which has been passed in the Rajya Sabha. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You should please conclude.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** The resolution that was passed in our Congress Working Committee meeting then, ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore this demand has been made. ... (Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRAS AND COOPERATION (SHRI AMIT SHAH):** Hon. Speaker, this is factually wrong. ... (Interruptions) This is not a reality. ... (Interruptions) Records of Lok Sabha should be referred ... (Interruptions) This is a factually incorrect statement. ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** In this special session, the women reservation bill should be passed. ... (Interruptions) This is very important. ... (*Interruptions*) This is Historical. ... (Interruptions) You are aware that former Congress President Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had also written a letter to our Prime Minister. (*Interruptions*) We again reiterate that demand with clarity. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, there are many things. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adhir ji, you may speak later. You will speak at the time of Women's Reservation Bill. You should speak only about the welcome in the House today.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDURY:** Sir, the Prime Minister was showing Sengol. ... (*Interruptions*) They were telling about the history of Sengol. Let me tell them about the history of Sengol. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You do not confine your speech to only talking about the building of the House.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** When India attained Independence from the British, the then Governor General Lord Mountbatten posed a question to the to-be Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. “What is the ceremony that should be followed to symbolise the transfer of power from British to Indian hands?” ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal ji.

... (Interruptions)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI):** Sir, the Hon. Home Minister wants to give clarification. Please allow them. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI AMIT SHAH:** Hon. Speaker, Hon. Adhir Ranjan ji has made two statements which are factually incorrect. ... (Interruptions) either he should withdraw them or table the facts in the House. ... (Interruptions) First, was the Women's Reservation Bill passed in the Lok Sabha? It was never passed. ... (Interruptions) Secondly, this bill is old and is pending in the Lok Sabha. ... (Interruptions) In the year 2014 itself, with the dissolution of Lok Sabha, this Bill lapsed. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, both these statements are factually incorrect statements. ... (Interruptions) For clarity about it, I expect you to seek clarification from them. ... (Interruptions) Either it should be removed from the record, or a statement should be placed on the Table in this regard. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal ji.

... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** All of you please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR):** Sir, it's the first day, please let him speak. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adhir Ranjan ji, please conclude. Today is the first day.

... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** All of you should take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adhir Ranjan ji, you please conclude.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** The then Governor General Lord Mountbatten posed a question to the to-be Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. “What is the ceremony that should be followed to symbolise the transfer of power from British to Indian hands?”

Nehru then consulted C. Rajagopalachari, commonly known as Rajaji, who went on to become the last Governor General of India. Rajaji identified the Chola model where the transfer of power from one king to another was sanctified and blessed by a high ruler. The symbol used was the handover of ‘Sengol’ or sceptre from one king to his successor.

A golden sceptre was crafted by Vummidi Bangaru Chetty, a famous jeweller in the Madras Presidency. The makers of the Sengol, Vummidi Ethirajulu and Vummidi Sudhakar are living in Chennai. Sir, I am telling about the history. On August 14, 1947, the deputy priest of Thiruvavaduthurai Adheenam, Nagaswaram player Rajarathinam Pillai and an Odhuvar, a person who sings devotional songs in Tamil temples, were flown to the Capital from the then Madras Presidency.

The ceremony was conducted as per Tamil traditions and the Sengol was handed over to Nehru at his house. <sup>[Translation]</sup> There is nothing new in this. Such an atmosphere is being created in this regard as if a new freedom is attained in our country , something new is happening.

Sir, I have an advice. I just want to say one thing. Don't think that this House is made of just bricks, garters and stones. <sup>[English]</sup> This building is not built

with bricks and mortar only. It is the soul of our India, the soul which was long suppressed, finds utterance in the wake of attaining Independence.

Again, I am saying their soul should not be suppressed again by any design. That is my view.

I am concluding my speech because I do not find adequate time to make my point further.

[Translation]

**SHRI AMIT SHAH:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I have a point of order. ... (Interruptions) What Hon. Adhir Ranjan ji said is factually incorrect that the old bill is still alive. ... (Interruptions) I have absolute information that the old bill has lapsed. ... (Interruptions) If Adhir Ranjan ji has any documents in support of what he said, then it should be placed on the table or he has to withdraw his statement.

Secondly, he said that this bill was passed by the Lok Sabha during the Rajiv Gandhi Government, but it never happened. ... (Interruptions) Both of these things ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR):** We were also Members, it happened at that time. ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI AMIT SHAH:** You should take your seat. ... (Interruptions) I will continue. ... (Interruptions)

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

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI AMIT SHAH:** You should sit down. ... (Interruptions) Let me conclude my speech. ... (Interruptions)



**HON. SPEAKER:** Kalyan ji, please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI AMIT SHAH:** Hon. Speaker Sir, if a bill is passed in the Lok Sabha, and not in the Rajya Sabha and and in the meantime the tenure of the Lok Sabha ends, then that bill automatically lapses. I think they should clarify this. ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** That is absolutely correct. ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI AMIT SHAH:** Hon. Speaker, if he has information other than this, then he should lay it on the Table of the House.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Arjun Ram Meghwal ji.

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**14.13 hrs**

**CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY EIGHTH  
AMENDMENT) BILL, 2023\***

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I also want to speak. ... (Interruptions) You look into supplementary list of business. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** The bill has been uploaded as new technology is introduced in the Parliament. You should check it there; the bill has been uploaded.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** The bill has been uploaded. ...  
(Interruptions)

Sir, I want to say something. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** New technology is introduced in the parliament, you should use it. The bill has been uploaded through it.

... (Interruptions)

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\* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 19.09.2023

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** The bill has been uploaded. ...

(Interruptions)

Sir, I want to say something. ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, the supplementary list of business has been withdrawn with your permission and this Bill is the part of it. ...

(*Interruptions*) it has been uploaded, please, you are asked to accept it. It is my request. ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** Sir, I want to say something. ...

(Interruptions)

Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important day. ... (Interruptions) It is uploaded. ...

(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Bill is uploaded there.

[English]

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** Shri Gaurav Gogoi, you can see the Bill. It is uploaded. ... (Interruptions) <sup>[Translation]</sup> Adhir ji, Bill is uploaded. ...

(Interruptions)

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** Sir, I would like to place before the House certain facts regarding the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-

eight Amendment), Bill 2023. ... (Interruptions) This Bill is regarding women empowerment. ... (Interruptions) Through this Bill we are making

so many amendments in the Constitution under Articles 239AA, 330A, 332A and 334A. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, 33% seats will be reserved for women in National Capital Territory of Delhi through 239AA. ... (Interruptions) Through Article 330A, seats are reserved for SC and ST in Lok Sabha. there will be 33% reservation for women in it. ... (Interruptions) Article 332A. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is uploaded there. I will tell you where it is.

... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is there.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, I would like to give a clarification to them. It is already uploaded in the Supplementary List of Business. ... (Interruptions) We are able to see it. ... (Interruptions) Why are they not able to see it? ... (Interruptions) Are they opposing the Mahila Reservation Bill? ... (Interruptions) Let them clarify that. ... (Interruptions) Sir, it is there... (Interruptions) Let them understand... (Interruptions) It is already there... (Interruptions) It is already there in List of Business. You can see it in the tab. ... (Interruptions) It is there... (Interruptions) You please try to understand the technology... (Interruptions) <sup>[Translation]</sup> Today, in India digital... (Interruptions) Gaurav ji, you can check.

**THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI):** It is in your digital console, please check. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** If it is appearing on my screen, it will also appear on your screen. You should check it.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** You check it in the Revised List of Business. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Arjun Meghwal ji, you should continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, this is a very important Bill regarding women empowerment. ... (*Interruptions*) Adhir Ranjan ji, you should listen for two minutes. ... (Interruptions) that's what I am saying. ... (Interruptions)

Speaker Sir, The Constitution 128<sup>th</sup> Amendment Bill, 2023, is a very important amendment. This is a very important bill. We are inserting Article 239AA in it and under which women will get 33% reservation in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. ... (Interruptions) After that, we are amending Article 330A, under which there is a provision for reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha, we are talking about 33% reservation for women in that as well. ... (Interruptions) There is an article 332, which is regarding reservation in Assembly, in that also the State Legislative Assembly is making arrangement for 33% reservation for women. ... (Interruptions) This is a very important bill and we are adding a new clause to Article 334A under which the women's reservation will be there for 15 years. After that, if the reservation needs to be extended, then the Parliament will have the right to extend it. ... (Interruptions) Adhir Ranjan ji, I want to convey to you that as of now there

are 543 Lok Sabha Members. ... (Interruptions) You can see in the Supplementary List of Business. ... (Interruptions) Balu ji, you can see it. ... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Today, only the bill is being introduced. We will have discussion on the Bill tomorrow, then you express your views.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** Adhir Ranjan ji, I would like to tell what is going to change with this Bill. The total number of Lok Sabha seats is 543. As soon as this bill is passed and the law is enacted, the number of women Members will increase from current 82 to 181. You see, we are taking this revolutionary step. Are you not in support of this? ... (Interruptions) Kalyan Banerjee ji, you listen to history also. ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR):** Why have you brought this Bill in Lok Sabha and not in Rajya Sabha? ... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** We will also bring it in Rajya Sabha. You should please listen. This bill was brought first in the 11th Lok Sabha at the time of Deve Gowda ji in September, 1996. Then in the 12th Lok Sabha during the tenure of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji in December, 1998. ... (Interruptions) Then came in the 13th Lok Sabha in December, 1999 again at the time of Atal ji's Government. What they are referring to is the Bill that came at the time of Dr. Manmohan Singh. However, it was not brought in the Lok Sabha, it was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in May, 2008. This is what reeks of conspiracy. ... (Interruptions)

After introduction in the Rajya Sabha, it was sent to the Departmentally related Standing Committee. ... (Interruptions) from there, when the report on this Bill came on 9 March, 2010, the Rajya Sabha passed it. The Rajya Sabha then communicated it to the Secretary General, Lok Sabha. Then it became the property of the Lok Sabha. As soon as the Fifteenth Lok Sabha dissolved on 18th May, 2014 the Bill also lapsed. ... (Interruptions) These people did not pass it intentionally. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, I will read the provisions of the Constitution for Adhir Ranjan ji. ... (Interruptions) Adhir Ranjan ji, please see Article-107. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, I feel immense joy and pride today in presenting the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill, 2023 on the floor of the new Parliament. ... (Interruptions) Today, this House will witness giving 33 per cent participation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to women power. ... (Interruptions) The vision of the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has always believed that women is a form of shakti. Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, today the country is taking quick strides from women development to women-led development. ... (Interruptions) today, in every field, be it Space, Army, Police, Sports, Entrepreneurship, Business, literature, Art, through their impressive leadership women are making the country proud. ... (Interruptions) Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi ji, we are going to present the Nari Shakti Vandan Bill and giving women power their rights in its true sense. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker Sir, women have always been considered as manifestation of power in our culture. ... (Interruptions) Our verses also say

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*Ya Devi Sarvabhuteshu Shakti Rupen Sansthita,*

*Namastasye Namastasye Namastasye Namoh Namah.*

Hon. Speaker Sir, I take this opportunity to present a quotation of Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution of India, someone asked Baba Saheb how do you measure the upliftment or progress of a society? What is the parameter that a society, a country, a nation is really progressing? Baba Saheb had once said that - [English] "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved." [Translation] If women are progressing in a country, I think that society, that nation is progressing. Baba Saheb had said this. ... (Interruptions)

Hon. Speaker, I take this opportunity to remember the architect of the Constitution of India, Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar ji, because in the same Central Hall in which the last function took place today in November 25, 1949, Baba Saheb had said that we are entering an era where there will be equality in the political arena but there will be no equality in the social and economic sphere. Who will remove it? ... (Interruptions) This will be the job of the Governments to come. ... (Interruptions) The Governments of the past could not do it. However, when Prime Minister Modi came in the year 2014, Jan Dhan account opened. A woman had an account, another woman didn't, it was inequality. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was introduced. One person had kaccha house and other person has a



pucca house, it was inequality. ... (Interruptions) One's house had a toilet, another person's house didn't, it was inequality. ... (Interruptions) One person's house had electric supply, another person's house didn't; gas connection was given in one house; another house didn't, tap water was given to one house, but not in another house. Under the Mudra scheme, as mentioned by the Prime Minister, under Stand-Up India, loans from one lakh rupees to ten crore rupees were given. If anyone has done the work of removing this inequality, it is by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. So, it will empower, uplift and give direction to women. So, I want your permission for this. ... (Interruptions)

Sir, this Nari Shakti Vandan Bill will determine the role of women power in India's development. The Amrit Kaal by 2047 will prove to be a milestone in the making of a developed India. Women-led development will lead women empowerment in a new direction, it will give a new identity to the historical women leadership in the making of a new India, it will prove to be an inspiration for the whole world, so I urge upon you to allow this Bill to be introduced.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.  
... (Interruptions)

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**14.25 hrs**

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now the papers will be laid on the Table.

Item No. 1, Shri Kiren Rijiju ji.

**THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU):**

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I lay the following papers: -

(1) A copy of the Indian Antarctic Environmental Protection Rules, 2023 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.592(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th August, 2023, under Section 57 of the Indian Antarctic Act, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10058/17/23]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.3508(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 7th August, 2023 establishing a Committee on Antarctic Governance and Environmental Protection consisting of the ex-officio Chairperson, ex-officio members and expert members, mentioned therein, issued under sub-section (1) of Section 23 of the Indian Antarctic Act, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10059/17/23]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.3509(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 7th August, 2023 notifying the 7th day of August, 2023, as the date on which the provisions of Indian Antarctic Act, 2022 shall come into force, issued under sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10060/17/23]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY):** Hon. Speaker Sir, I lay the following papers on the table: -

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975: -

(i) G.S.R.586(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd August, 2023, seeking to impose Anti-dumping Duty (ADD) on Dispersion Unshifted Single Mode Optical Fiber originating or exported from China PR, Indonesia and Korea RP for a period of 5 years in pursuance of final findings issued by DGTR.

(ii) G.S.R.634(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th August, 2023, seeking to levy anti-dumping duty on imports of “Fishing Net” from China PR and Malaysia up to and inclusive of 28th August, 2028.

(iii) G.S.R.661(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th September, 2023, seeking to extend the Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD) on imports of “Flat2Base Steel Wheels” originating in or exported from People’s Republic of China, imposed vide notification No. 46/2018-Customs (ADD) dated 13th September, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10061/17/23]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) Section 8 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975: -

(i) G.S.R.616(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th August, 2023, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, in the order to include Onions (HS Code 0703 10) with a tariff rate of 50%.

(ii) G.S.R.628(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2023, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Second Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, in order to include Rice, Parboiled (HS Code 1006 30 10) with a tariff rate of 20%.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10062/17/23]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

(i) G.S.R.617(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th August, 2023 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe an export duty of 40% on exports of Onions (HS Code 0703 10). This notification came into force with immediate effect, and will remain in force up to and inclusive of the 31st December, 2023.

(ii) G.S.R.629(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2023 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.796(E) dated 31st October, 2022.

(iii) G.S.R.643(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st August, 2023 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.69(E) dated 1st February, 2021.

(iv) G.S.R.653(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2023 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.785(E) dated 30th June, 2017.

(v) G.S.R.656(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th September, 2023 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.785(E) dated 30th June, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10063/17/23]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of Central Excise Act,1944: -

(i) G.S.R.600(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2023, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.584(E) dated 19th July, 2022.

(ii) G.S.R.601(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th August, 2023, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.492(E) dated 30th June, 2022.

(iii) G.S.R.646(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st September, 2023, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.584(E) dated 19th July, 2022.

(iv) G.S.R.647(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st September, 2023 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.492(E) dated 30th June, 2022.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10064/17/23]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.571(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 31st July, 2023 making certain amendments in Notification No. G.S.R.499(E) dated 19th July, 2021 under Section 69 of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT10065/17/23]

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**14.27 hrs**

## ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

**SECRETARY GENERAL:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I lay on the Table the following six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Twelfth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2023: -

- (i) The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (ii) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (iii) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (iv) The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (v) The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023;  
and
- (vi) The Mediation Bill, 2023. ... (*Interruptions*)

I also lay on the Table a copy each, duly authenticated by the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, of following seventeen Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:

- (i) The Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (ii) The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
- (iii) The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 2023;

- (iv) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023;
  - (v) The Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023;
  - (vi) The *Jan Vishwas* (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023;
  - (vii) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
  - (viii) The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
  - (ix) The National Dental Commission Bill, 2023;
  - (x) The Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023;
  - (xi) The Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
  - (xii) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
  - (xiii) The Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, 2023;
  - (xiv) The National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill, 2023;
  - (xv) The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023;
  - (xvi) The Inter-services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023; and
  - (xvii) The Pharmacy (Amendment) Bill, 2023. ... (Interruptions)
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**14.28 hrs****ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I would like to inform you that the Chamber, Lobby, Galleries referred to in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha shall mean the Parliament House of India. It shall mean the Chamber, Lobby and Galleries, which has been designated as the Parliament House of India.

Hon. Members, where we assembled this morning, the building will now be known as the Samvidhan Sadan.

... (Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, 20th September, 2023 at Eleven AM.

**14.30 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, September 20, 2023/ Bhadra 29, 1945 (Saka).*

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