

[English]

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Sir, I second the Motion.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) :
Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Sir, I second the Motion.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House."

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, I second the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House."

SHRI O P JINDAL (Kurukshetra) Mr Speaker, Sir, I second the Motion

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly)
Sir, I beg to move :

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House"

[Translation]

DR SATYANARAYAN JATIA (Ujjain) Sir, I second the Motion on behalf of Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) Sir I beg to move .

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House"

[English]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai North-East)
Sir, I second the Motion

MR. SPEAKER . Since there are a number of Motions moved, I will put the first Motion moved by Shri Sharad Pawar to the vote of the House.

The question is .

"That Shri Suraj Bhan, a Member of this House, be chosen as the Deputy-Speaker of this House"

The Motion was adopted.

MR SPEAKER . I declare that Shri Suraj Bhan has been chosen as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

12.33 hrs.

(Shri Suraj Bhan was conducted to his seat by the Prime Minister. Shri H.D Deve Gowda, the Leader of the House Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri Santosh Mohan Dev

12.34 hrs.

FELICITATIONS TO DEPUTY SPEAKER

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the leader of the House, I on behalf of the House, thank and congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan, who is a Senior Member of the Lok Sabha and is like my brother, for having been the post of Deputy Speaker. This is the democracy that despite all differences, we have always been respectful to the conventions and demands of democracy and have expressed our faith in Parliamentary democracy. The day Shri Suraj Bhan was nominated for the post of Deputy Speaker and as soon as my colleague, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Jena suggested his name to the Prime Minister, immediately the Prime Minister had expressed his satisfaction over it and said that this is very good and should be done.

We have had a long standing association. In 1977 when I first joined the Parliament, Shri Suraj Bhan was an experienced member even at that time. We got an opportunity to work together. We were members of Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Again we worked together in the Parliamentary Forum and wherever atrocities were committed on the poor, we went there together and worked for them. Even when he was not an elected M.P., the way he handled the work in the states was commendable. It is not because he belongs to the Scheduled Caste but I have seen that Shri Suraj Bhan is well-endowed with what we call talent. He is a very talented person. He is M A B L. He goes deep in the subject whatever it may be. Shri Suraj Bhan is a very capable person in this regard. He is a lawyer by profession and is well known as a social activist. I believe that the eminence of this post will rise further when he takes charge and on behalf of the Government and the

United Front Government, I would like to give an assurance that we will extend our full cooperation to our brother Shri Suraj Bhan. As a Deputy Speaker, Shri Suraj Bhan would not only be honouring this post with his presence but would also pay attention to the welfare of the poor and the underprivileged through Parliamentary democracy.

With these words, once again on my behalf and on behalf of my United Front Government, I extend my hearty congratulations and good wishes to Shri Suraj Bhan on having been elected to the post of Deputy Speaker.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself fully with the views expressed by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. These are rare occasions when we agree on a point but today that fortunate moment has arrived. Hon. Deputy Speaker has been elected unanimously. It also proves that in spite of differences, we have unanimous views on some democratic values.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you were also elected unanimously. After that when the question of hon. Deputy Speaker's election arose, we consulted the ruling party and when this matter was brought to the notice of hon. Prime Minister, he readily agreed to it. He also liked the name of Shri Suraj Bhan. Shri Suraj Bhan has been elected Member of Parliament for the fourth time. He is hard working, vocal, has been raising issues and has been contributing in an important manner to the move to bring change in the society by coordinating his activities in the House with those of outside the House. I am a bit concerned that a vocal and active Member from my side would engage himself in a bid to silence our voices but I am sure that Suraj Bhan ji, after holding the office of Deputy Speaker will follow your foot steps and will safeguard our rights and the dignity of the House and provide an opportunity to each and every Member to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in democracy
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not mind exchanging places with him.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in democracy the Government has to perform its responsibilities but the opposition has to ventilate its views. Just like we say in English that

[English]

Government must have its way, but the opposition must have its say.

[Translation]

The difficulty arises when the Government does not do its work in a proper manner and the voice of the Opposition is silenced but I do not want to indulge myself in this matter at this point of time.

[English]

DR. MALLIKARJUN (Mahabubnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not "say". Actually, it is "The Government should have the way, but the Opposition should play."

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Play what?

DR. MALLIKARJUN : Whatever you want to play
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan ji on my own behalf as well as on behalf of my party. I would also like to thank all the Members of the House because Members of all the parties proposed his name and also supported it. Now, he is not affiliated to us and for him now all the parties have equal status. I am sure that he will impart justice to all.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping with the traditions of the House, today we have elected the Deputy-Speaker of the House from the main Opposition Party. As far as I know this is the first time when the posts of the Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker have gone to the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste candidates. The days of Brahmins are over, it seems.
(Interruptions) We are very very happy, Sir.

As very rightly said by my friend Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Srikanta Jena rang me up sometime in the night - I do not know when he talked to others and said that this was their thinking. I rang up my leader and he immediately said, "Yes, that should be done", and it was accepted by all of us.

Shri Suraj Bhan is sitting very close to Shri Vajpayee. But his mind should be close to us and not close to Shri Vajpayee. In Shri Suraj Bhan we have seen a very active Member in 1980-85 when we were also Members. I have also seen him participating in the debates.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am quite sure that the combination of you and Shri Suraj Bhan will give a better chance to us who are neither on this side nor that side. We look forward to getting the same sympathy which we used to get in the past from Shri Mallikarjuniah. We remember today the former Deputy-Speaker Shri Mallikarjuniah. I do not know who selected him, whether it was Mr. Vajpayee or all of us, but he was a very good Deputy-Speaker. He

played a very useful role. Like Shri Shivraj Patil who will always be remembered as a very good Speaker, we remember and miss today Shri Mallikarjuniah who was a very good Deputy-Speaker. I am sure Shri Suraj Bhan will also prove to be a very good Deputy-Speaker. I am sure Shri Suraj Bhan will follow his policy, his decisions and his wisdom. He has seen what the Zero Hour is. I wish him all the best

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan as he is being elected unanimously today for the office of the Deputy Speaker. I am very happy that today such a member who has vast experience and who is an active person, has been elected for this post. He is known to us since 1980, when he was elected for the first time for the Seventh Lok Sabha. He is aware as to how the problems of the general people of the country have to be raised in Lok Sabha. He used to raise serious issue in the House as per procedure. At present, about half of the strength of Lok Sabha is of new members. Of course, they would like to raise here the problems of their respective constituencies. We hope that Shri Suraj Bhan will be impartial. Thus our convention will be maintained and the dignity of this House will further be strengthened after his election for the office of Deputy Speaker. Our party will give full cooperation to him. We hope that you will safeguard the convention of this House. I conclude my speech with greeting Shri Suraj Bhan.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr Speaker, Sir, today I feel happy that Mr. Surajbhan who has got faith in Maryada Purosotham has become the Deputy Speaker of this House. We are more jubilant because the entire House has elected him. I mean he is the unanimous choice of the entire House. Mr Speaker, Sir, you were also elected in the same way. I fully hope that the House will function properly with both of you at the helm of affairs. May be that we will fight among ourselves because of our problems but while you are presiding we expect justice from you and a balanced thinking. Whatever is our problem is a problem of our people. Mr. Surajban will run this House in the same way as you run the House in order to reach the common man and will try to render justice to our cause when called for. More than this 287 new members have been elected here this time. There is a need to take care of them all. What I see is that the members here felt tempted to raise their issues but they do not get opportunity to this effect. Gradually they will get this opportunity. As the days pass they will get opportunity to raise matters.

My humble request to Surajbhanji is that he is an old member of this House and he should take proper care of newly elected members. It will take

time to know each of them personally, but when names will be known, then I fully hope that new members will get opportunity to raise their issues and they will be given adequate opportunities.

I congratulate Shri Surajbhanji on my behalf and on behalf of my party and hope that he will do good things commensurate with the post of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha and do hope that he will get opportunities to do good things in future.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA (Sangrur) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I feel very happy on the unanimous election of Shri Suraj Bhan today, and I congratulate him. Earlier you were also elected unanimously. Now he has been elected in the same manner. It is a good tradition that is being established in the House. After his unanimous election, entire House expects him to be impartial. Everyone would be treated equally by him. Every Member has such expectations from him. Just as you preside over the House, we expect the same from him also.

Shri Suraj Bhan has been a Member of this House earlier also. This time he has been elected for the fourth time. He was a Member along with me in 1977. He is a very sober person. He weighs every word before speaking. He never talks unnecessarily. He talks less. Unlike you, he seldom laughs. In this connection we certainly have a minor complaint against him.

I know him also because he is my neighbour. He belongs to Ambala. Therefore I know his private life also. This is his fourth term in this House. His present materialistic condition remains the same as it was when he was elected Member of this House for the first time. I think that it is a great quality that a person even after being elected a Member for the fourth time remains unchanged—simple and honest. Such is his quality, his style of working and his decency that not only the people of the Backward Classes but everyone has faith in him.

I feel happy that he has been elected unanimously. I expect him to work in the House cheerfully and treat every Member equally. With immense congratulations, I take my seat.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan. I recall my experience of the Fourth Lok Sabha. At that time Shri Raghunath Rao Khandekar was the Speaker. During those days we used to wait for the moment when Mr. Speaker would leave the Chair and Deputy Speaker would occupy the Chair. The reason for this was because the Speaker has got vast powers and once he says 'no' means we cannot say anything after that. It has been noticed that how much light hearted he may be, how much sociable he may be but once he sits on the Chair, we have to be afraid of him but when the Deputy Speaker used to sit on the same Chair, we used to raise

those issues promptly that could not be raised in the morning. Though there was nothing like Zero Hour, but after lunch, the same process continued to be there for half an hour. With the Deputy Speaker in the Chair, we used to feel very easy in raising issues related to our areas.

I am recalling that. Just now Shri Santosh Mohan Dev has mentioned the name of the former Deputy Speaker, Shri Mallikarjunnaiah. He also managed to dispose the business of the House properly and efficiently.

Though, today he is not a Member of this House but I hope that he will return soon to this House and the entire House will get his contribution. I expect from Shri Suraj Bhan that he will maintain the dignity of the office of the Deputy Speaker for which he has been elected unanimously and will give his contribution to run the business of the House properly.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the spirit of unanimity in respect of election to the Chair of Deputy Speaker. On behalf of my Party, RSP, I rise to welcome Shri Suraj Bhan. I express my pleasure and greetings, and I believe that his elevation to the Chair of Deputy Speaker will add to the glory of this House.

SHRI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I also join all my hon. colleagues in expressing our joy at the unanimous election of Suraj Bhan Ji. About his ability, much has already been said, with which I fully agree. Coming from the backward section, I am sure that as Deputy Speaker, he will not only show care for every Member but will also show care particularly for women who are also among the backward sections.

Sir, I also join my friends who have expressed their appreciation of Mallikarjunnaiahji. He also had all these qualities. I am sure, Suraj Bhan Ji will add to the glory of this high position. With these words, I wish him all success to his Deputy Speakership.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I join the distinguished colleagues of mine in this House to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan Ji on this auspicious occasion of being unanimously elected as the Deputy Speaker of this august House. Sir, he is an old friend of mine. Not only I appreciate his friendship but also the cause he fights for. He belongs to the Scheduled Caste community and he has always been articulate in raising the issues which afflict his community. Broadly speaking, he is very articulate in raising the issues which relate to the under-privileged, the deprived and the lowest of the low. This is the new time which demands that those voices and hearts should be heard earlier and heard with sympathy and perception. Therefore, I feel when he sits there, he is as powerful as you are. Sir, as you have shown your ability or capacity to understand the feelings of

the Members in this House, likewise, I hope, there are aspirations that Suraj Bhan Ji would also appreciate the urges and feelings of the Members who represent the under-privileged and deprived section of the society.

13.00 hrs.

I am sure that he would offer opportunities to all irrespective of political persuasions and beliefs. I think his contribution will further strengthen the glorious traditions of this House and create new conventions and create new perceptions about the functioning of this House.

Sir, I join all of our colleagues in congratulating him on my behalf and on behalf of my party.

MR. SPEAKER : It is one o'clock now. With the permission of the House, we will dispose of this item. Shri G.G. Swell.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you, do not worry. Everybody will get a chance.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that Shri Suraj Bhan has been elected to the high office of the Deputy-Speaker. He has been a friend of long standing.

Many many years ago when we were younger, we travelled this country together. There was never more of a gentleman than Shri Suraj Bhan, there was never a warmer friend, there was never a more courteous person and what I liked about him most was his disarming smile. Ever since, whenever we met, whether he was the Member of this House or whether I was a Member of this House, he had always received me with warmness. I am sure that this personality of his will emanate and imbue the spirit of this House. I have no doubt that he will do his duty as well as efficiently as you have done and I am sure that his disarming smile will disarm many of us even when we are seized with temper over various issues.

I wish him well and as far as I am concerned, I will give him all the support and cooperation that he needs in order to run this House properly just as I have been giving you the same support and cooperation. The dignity and the authority of the Chair must be upheld at all times in order that this House will run to order.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : I associate myself with the sentiments expressed in felicitating the Deputy-Speaker by the leaders of the House and I avail of this opportunity on my behalf as well as on behalf of my party, the Indian Union Muslim League to congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan for having been elected unanimously as the Deputy-Speaker of the House.

Like you, Mr. Speaker Sir, the former Speaker and the Deputy-Speaker were also very much sensitive to the issues raised here, especially for the down trodden, particularly of the minority communities and I am sure that Shri Suraj Bhan — though I did have the opportunity to know him, our acquaintance with him is limited — will also follow the footsteps of his predecessors as well as you, Mr. Speaker.

I may also remind him of his predecessor Shri Mallikarjuniah. He had conducted the House with great dignity without fear or favour and also with affection and without ill-will to any of the Members. I am sure, that Shri Suraj Bhan will also follow much more than that Shri Mallikarjuniah had done.

On this occasion, I extend all the cooperation to Shri Suraj Bhan and I am sure that he will also take every member, especially the smaller parties into the active consideration in the disposal of the functions as the Deputy-Speaker.

I wish him all success in his new assignment.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) Mr Speaker Sir, at the outset I would like to thank all the Members of this House for following the healthy democratic convention of electing Shri Suraj Bhan as Deputy Speaker unanimously. Though Shri Suraj Bhan belongs to Bhartiya Janta Party but we had alliance with B.J.P in the state of Haryana several times. At present also there is a Government of BJP - Haryana Vikas Party in Haryana.

He has done commendable work in Parliament and also outside, for Party's programmes and public life as well. Therefore, I would like to make a submission to Shri Suraj Bhan as I had requested you also, that newly elected Members should be paid special attention because senior Members of the House are always given a chance to speak even if they raise their hand for once. Therefore, it is your responsibility to safeguard the interest of the newly elected Members. Shri George was saying that Members used to raise long pending issues before the Deputy Speaker. Mr Speaker, Sir, I would expect from you that under your leadership new Members should be given more chances.

I thank all Members of the House once again and congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan for his election as Deputy Speaker. I also thank the leaders of Bhartiya Janata party for introducing such a popular candidate who is accepted to the entire House. I also thank Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for this.

[English]

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) Sir, on behalf on my Party, the Kerala Congress, I would also like to extend all felicitations to the new Deputy

Speaker, Shri Suraj Bhan, who is known to all of us. He is a man of great character, a man of great principles, a man who could implement his principles and a person who has been working for a long number of years for the poor and the downtrodden. I congratulate him on this occasion.

I would like to add one more point. The job of a person, who sits in the Chair, at a time when the television is always looking on us in this electronic media, is going to be very tough. The people have seen the live telecast of two Motions which we had recently. There is a feeling amongst the people of India that this House, while transacting business, is always going beyond the limits when the Members are shouting at each other or when the Members are rising above the limits which are expected from the Members of Parliament.

Sir, I think, this is going to be a very great duty which the person who sits on the Chair will have to take up and we assure the Deputy Speaker, as Chairman of this House when he presides over, all our support and we also felicitate him for his glorious election in the most befitting manner by all sides together.

So, I also join on this onerous occasion to thank him and to thank the House.

DR PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (Guwahati) Mr Speaker, Sir, I also join the other learned Members of the House in felicitating Shri Suraj Bhan, the Deputy Speaker of this dignified House. The very manner in which Shri Suraj Bhan has been elected as the Deputy Speaker of this House speaks volumes of his integrity, of his great personality and also as a learned Member of this Parliament.

I, on my behalf and on behalf of the A.G.P., like to congratulate and felicitate Shri Suraj Bhan. I am hopeful that Shri Suraj Bhan will be able to maintain the dignity and honour of this onerous responsibility bestowed upon him.

I, as a new Member, will expect that Shri Suraj Bhan will give due facilities to express our viewpoints in this big and most dignified House of the People's representatives. Sir, small parties do not have scope to express their viewpoints. I do not know the logic behind it as to why the small parties get lesser time than the bigger parties. If this is the logic, then I think that this logic is illogical and I believe that a *modus operandi* or a rule should be framed by which these small parties will have equal amount of say to represent the viewpoints of the people they represent. That is why my urgent request to the new Deputy Speaker and also to the hon. Speaker will be that they give enough scope to the Members of new and small parties to represent their viewpoints. We are not very much conversant with the procedure and the *modus operandi* of the House and at times

we fumble. Whenever there is an agenda placed before the House, this agenda has been fluctuated very many different times. We come prepared for an agenda here in the House and sometimes it is not discussed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, do not go into all these issues now. This is about felicitation. Why are you going into all those things?

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, sometimes we see that the agenda is deferred. Therefore, we want that there should be a procedure by which we may come prepared.

We are thankful to the hon. Speaker that tomorrow and day after there will be an orientation programme.

MR. SPEAKER : Please, why are you bringing in all those things?

(Interruptions)

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, on behalf of myself and on behalf of my party, A.G.P., I extend our felicitations to the new Deputy Speaker.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur) : Sir, I on behalf of my party, congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan on his unanimous election as the Deputy Speaker from that caste which was considered as *mook* and *mum*, but by receiving good education and political rights with the great struggle of Babasaheb Dr. Ambedkar, he has reached to this very respectable position. I wish him success in life.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, I am not in the habit of often raising my hand. I will just show my hand. I have been adopted here in this august House. *(Interruptions)* I hope, Sir, you will kindly consider.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you speak.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I join with the feelings of this entire House in congratulating Shri Suraj Bhan who has been elevated to the post of Deputy Speaker of this august House. Of course, I do not know him personally well. But I want to make a little distinction on this. All the hon. Members of the august House have already expressed about the great qualities that Shri Suraj Bhan is having. I am now going to join all my friends sitting over here in congratulating Shri Suraj Bhan. Certainly these parties will appeal to the new Members who are elected to this House, to extend cooperation to the new Deputy Speaker.

As far as the dignity, decorum, conventions and traditions of this august House are concerned, all these things are certainly going to be upheld and these have been very much kept in tact by our predecessors also. Therefore, we will certainly give all the cooperation that is required, to Shri Suraj Bhan in the matter of conducting the business of this

august House. I join you, Sir, in congratulating Shri Suraj Bhan who has filled up that post and I am sure he will uphold the dignity and decorum of this august House and also keep in mind, as has been said earlier by some of our friends, that there are bigger and smaller and medium political parties and there are some hon. Members who do not belong to any political party and he may keep in mind these things. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji was saying this. I think he was touching that aspect yesterday. He just did that a little yesterday.

I congratulate Shri Suraj Bhan and join the entire House in wishing him all success in future.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I confer my felicitations profusely on Mr. Suraj Bhan for his having been elected as Deputy Speaker unanimously. This House has once again established its uniqueness of electing the Deputy Speaker from the Opposition side and the happiest part of this is that he hails from a suppressed community. Making use of this happy occasion of felicitating him, I would say that we, the new-comers, expect more chances for ourselves to speak, especially the youngsters as well as the backbenchers. We are sure that during your regime we will establish a new history and work for the welfare of this nation. Once again, we promise our fullest cooperation which the Members could give to the Chair and we expect the Chair to have a soft corner towards us - youngsters and new-comers.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I would like to join the whole House in congratulating Mr. Suraj Bhan on his unanimous election as Deputy Speaker of this august House. From the time I was elected as Speaker, I was thinking only about two things - how to conduct the business of this House and who was going to be a colleague of mine. Everyday, I was thinking about it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : In fact, I was very curious and even quietly wanted to know from this side and that side who was going to be the Deputy Speaker. When I ultimately came to know that there was only one name and that was of Mr. Suraj Bhan - the man who is so seasoned, who has a lot of experience in life - I was very happy.

I have known Mr. Suraj Bhan since 1977 when I came to this House for the first time in the Sixth Lok Sabha. I can tell you today that from now onwards, I am feeling very much relieved. Mr. Suraj Bhan will be a great strength, a big support to me. I look forward to working together and conducting the business of the House together.

Once again, I extend my heartiest congratulations to Mr. Suraj Bhan and wish him all the best and success.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before saying something on my election, I would like to quote an Urdu couplet :

"Pathar ki Bhi Takdir Badal Sakti Hai,
Shart Yeh Hai Ki Karine Se Tarasha Jaye"

Fortunately, I have got training from a reverend person like Shri Vajpayeeji and you have embellished me further. Whatever has been said about me for a while I was thinking as to for whom all this is being said. I would like to thank all of you. Despite difference of opinion in political matters, the precedent of the election of Hon'ble Speaker has been repeated once again, by electing me unanimously as Deputy Speaker in this august House. This in itself is a unique exposition of the dignity of the House. My heartiest thanks to all of you. This is a very great achievement of my political life. In this regard, motions have been moved by top leaders of the country which include the names of reverend Vajpayeeji, Rajmataji, Shri Chandrasekharji, Bhai Ram Vilas Paswan ji, Shri Balasubramoniyam ji, Shri Sharad Pawar Ji, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev ji, reverend Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala ji, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar ji, Shri George Fernandes ji, Shri Jai Prakash ji, Shri Om Prakash Jindal ji, Shri Nitish Kumar ji, Shri Pramod Mahajan ji, Shri Jagmohan ji, Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar ji and Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona.

All of you have given me this honour and have expressed your faith in me. I hope that you will cooperate and guide me in conducting the business of the House in discharging this responsibility. My unanimous election has awakened me to do my duty. I will consider it my duty to safeguard the interests of hon'ble Members while conducting the business of the House and for that I will sit on this Chair as your representative. I pray to the God to give me strength so that I can discharge my duties properly.

India is the largest democracy of the world. Sometimes doubts are raised about the existence of this democracy but the unanimous election of the hon'ble Speaker and Deputy Speaker has once again cleared these doubts and the democracy has been strengthened further. Thanks to all.

13.21 hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before we adjourn for lunch, the Prime Minister will kindly introduce one more

Minister to the House. The Minister was abroad when introduction was done last time.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to introduce my colleague Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, Minister of Steel and Mines, to the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an urgent issue regarding the safety of life of a person as the House will adjourn today for two days and will meet again on Monday.

CBI has filed a case in the court the witness of which is Shri Lakkhu Bhai Pathak. His life is in danger. It has been proved when he was being honoured by the institution working for anti-corruption. It is a question of a person's life. In this case, evidence of Chandraswami, who is in jail at present, is being recorded. It is but natural that people will be afraid due to unusual things taking place in the entire case. When he was being honoured, a bid to exchange blows took place there. (Interruptions) I would like to add one more sentence.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Fernandes, the whole matter is before the court. Why should we anticipate things in the House like that?

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Sir, on behalf of CBI that person is being asked to leave the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow that. Mr. Fernandes.

(Interruptions)

13.23 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) 93-94

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1993-94.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to introduce a Bill.