

The media has been objective in its assessment and, by and large, it has appreciated our effort in this Session.

May be, the speech delivered and the statements laid on the Table by the hon. Prime Minister could be the longest ever delivered by any Prime Minister.

The debate surpassed many previous records.

An unprecedented 209 Members including Ministers took the floor.

One hundred three Members laid their speeches on the Table of the House which shall, of course, form part of the proceedings of the House.

Therefore, in effect 312 hon. Members participated in the debate. I know many hon. Members were keen to participate as has just now been demonstrated. I tender my apologies in not having been able to give time to all.

The debate lasted for six days with extended sitting and through two nights, spanning 64 hours and twenty nine minutes.

The previous record of debate which has now been surpassed was the debate on Railways, the Demands for Grants for Railways which lasted for five days from 6th to 13th March, 1997 spending 26 hours and five minutes.

Transaction of business was non-partisan and without political rancour or recrimination. Not a single minute of the House time was lost in interruptions or disorderliness. The level of thinking was quite high as reflected by the speeches of the hon. Members. In his famous "Tryst with Destiny" speech delivered on the midnight of 14-15 August, 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru observed and I quote :

"Freedom and Power bring responsibility. That responsibility rests upon this Assembly."

Without doubt, during this Session, we have risen up to the ideals of Panditji. Let this become the regular style of our work.

Let me thank everyone of you—the Leaders of the political parties, the Chief Whips of the political parties and the entire staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat—who have toiled for making this Session a success.

Let me also present my compliments to the Presiding Officers who shared my task by taking the Chair. Shri P.C. Chacko deserves our special compliment in having created again another history by presiding over the House continuously for 7 hours and 54 minutes.

Before we meet again for the Winter Session, we would have celebrated Durga Puja and Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Let me conclude by praying to God that the future of this House, the future of our people, the future of our country, be as splendorous as the Festival of Lights.

I will now put the Resolution to the House.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Before that, may we know about the voluntary contribution?

MR. SPEAKER : There has been a suggestion from a number of Members of Parliament. Since the Session has been a historic one and every Member has demonstrated his commitment to the nation, to the cause of the nation, as a token of our commitment to the welfare and the progress of this country, the Member could consider contributing their daily allowances of this one week Session to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. I hope that it has the approval of the whole House.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

14.15 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE : "AGENDA FOR INDIA"  
ON OCCASION OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE  
OF INDEPENDENCE**

MR. SPEAKER : I now present the Resolution before the House :

"We, the Members of Lok Sabha, meeting in a specially convened Golden Jubilee Session of both Houses of Parliament, to commemorate the completion of half a century of freedom;

Having remembered with gratitude the great sacrifices made and the salutary service rendered by our freedom fighters;

Having recalled with deep satisfaction and pride the maturity of our people in vigilantly preserving democracy and safeguarding the unity of the nation and the valour of our soldiers, sailors and airmen, including ex-servicemen, in service to the country;

Having reflected upon the state of the nation with the Preamble to the Constitution as the guide;

Having then, specifically deliberated upon matters concerning our current political life, state of democracy in the country, our economy, infrastructure, science, technology and human development;

Do now solemnly affirm our joint and unanimous commitment to the issues hereinafter mentioned, and we also do solemnly resolve and direct that they be adopted as minimum tasks, constituting our "Agenda for India" on this historic occasion:

That meaningful electoral reforms be carried out so that our Parliament and other legislative bodies be balanced and effective instruments of democracy; and further that political life and processes be free of the adverse impact, on governance of undesirable extraneous factors including criminalisation;

That continuous and proactive efforts be launched for ensuring greater transparency, probity and accountability in public life so that the freedom, authority and the dignity of Parliament and other legislative bodies are ensured and enhanced; that more especially, all political parties shall undertake all such steps as will attain the objective of ridding our polity of criminalisation or its influence;

That the prestige of Parliament be preserved and enhanced, also by conscious and dignified conformity to the entire regime of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Houses and Directions of the Presiding Officers relating to orderly conduct of business, more especially by—

- maintaining the inviolability of the Question Hour.
- Refraining from transgressing into the official areas of the House, or from any shouting of slogans, and,
- invariably desisting from any efforts at interruptions or interference with the address of the President of the Republic.

That a vigorous national campaign be launched by all political parties to combat economically unsustainable growth of population, recognising that such growth lies at the root of most of our human, social and economic problems;

That education at all levels be made employment-relevant, special attention being given to quality; that achievement of the constitutional mandate of universalisation of elementary education be closely monitored; and that universal primary education be achieved by A.D. 2005;

That the national economy be prudently managed, with emphasis on —

- efficient use of resources and avoidance of wastes;
- priority attention to development of infrastructure;
- generation of wealth as a sustainable means of achieving full, freely chosen and productive employment, of elimination of poverty and of securing equity and social justice; and
- Balanced regional development.

The continuous efforts be made for achieving, in a time bound manner, marked improvement in the quality of life of all citizens of our country with special emphasis on provision of our minimum needs — food, nutrition and health security at the household level; potable water; sanitation and shelter;

That gender justice be established in the spirit of the Declaration and Platform for Action of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women (1995) and be practised as a way of life, with particular emphasis on education of the girl child;

That constant efforts be made in terms of inculcation of values and adjustment of the life and working styles of our people to secure protection of environment and preservation of ecology and bio-diversity;

That science and technology be primarily anchored in the creation of a scientific temper, be developed by promotion of governmental as well as non-governmental efforts and be pressed into service not merely for economic development but human development in all its dimensions;

That, finally, the essence of participatory democracy be seen in the inculcation of our national spirit of self-reliance, in which our citizens are equal partners in all spheres of our national endeavour, and not simply the beneficiaries of governmental initiatives."

This is the Resolution that I present before the House. Shall I take it that this is unanimously passed?

*(Hon. Members thumped the desks in approval.)*

14.22 hrs.

*The Motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER : The Resolution is unanimously passed.

In the meeting of the political parties it was decided that this Declaration should be signed by Members of the House. It will not be feasible for every Member of Parliament to sign it before the House adjourns. So, it was decided that Speaker may selectively choose senior leaders as a token to sign it on the Table of the House and the rest of the Members after the adjournment of the House. They may kindly be seated in their respective seats. The signature slips will be distributed to each bench and they can sign them. \*But, before we adjourn, ceremonially I have chosen nine hon. Members including myself to sign it. It will be signed by the Speaker, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri G.M. Banatwalla, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala and the Deputy Speaker. After this, we will adjourn the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) :  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be one leader from each Party.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is only a token.

It will take five minutes for all the hon. Members to sign it because each bench will be given a slip.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (Parbhani) : I request you to compile all these significant speeches and should be distributed to all the members.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes. In fact, there will be two publications. The verbatim proceedings of the House of the entire debate will be brought out as a commemorative publication. It will be given to all the Members of Parliament. The second publication will be that each Member's points will be scrutinised thoroughly, all the good suggestions that they have made will be brought out separately. On each page one Member's important suggestions will be published. So, it is not only the verbatim report, but your selective concrete suggestion will also be brought out separately.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : If it is a bad speech, then there will be no points.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : We have to ensure the compliance of this Resolution as it is approved by all the Members and the nation. I suggest—I do not think that it is inappropriate—that there must be an all party committee to see that the Resolution and the terms of the Resolutions are quickly complied with. We cannot say that the Cabinet will do the whole thing.

The Cabinet cannot stop hon. Members from shouting; the Cabinet cannot stop hon. Members from rushing to the well of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : We have taken a Resolution unto ourselves to perform our responsibilities as political parties.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I suggest that an all-party committee should be formed to ensure strict compliance of this Resolution. (Interruptions)

SHRI I.D. SWAMY (Karnal) : It is very subjective. We should know which is good and which is bad.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (Guwahati) : On this historic occasion, a photograph would have been a memory for all of us. A photograph should be taken.

MR. SPEAKER : I thank you once again.

Hon. Members may now stand up for *Vande Mataram*.

14.26 hrs.

#### NATIONAL SONG

*The National Song was played.*

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

14.27 Hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.*