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Title: Madam Speaker made references on International Day of Persons with Disabilities and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This occasion calls for sensitizing the society to the problems and special needs and aspirations of the differently-abled persons.

Let us on this day renew our efforts to promote the cause of the differently-abled persons with a view to ensuring that they achieve their rightful place in our society.

Hon. Members, today is also the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas tragedy. It was on this day, 25 years ago, that the country witnessed one of the most harrowing man-made tragedies in which thousands of people lost their lives, and many were blinded or otherwise physically disabled. The survivors of this gas tragedy are still suffering from the ill-effects of the MIC gas leaked from the Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal. Even after two decades and a half, the pain and anguish of the survivors continue to torment us.

Let us on this occasion express our solidarity with the victims of this terrible tragedy and reiterate our resolve to make our world free from such catastrophes and make it a better place for the coming generations.

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