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EDITORIAL NOTE

The year 1997 has been a landmark year in the nation's history being the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence. A Commemorative Function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on the midnight of 14-15 August 1997 as part of a year long Jubilee celebrations. The function commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Later, the distinguished invitees observed silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs. This was followed by a rendering of the National Song *Vande Mataram* by Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. Subsequently, excerpts from the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were played. After that, the patriotic song *Sare Jahan Se Achcha Hindustan Hamara* was sung by Lata Mangeshkar. Later, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed the gathering and the nation. The Hindi version of the President's Address was subsequently read out by the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral. This historic function, 'thronging with memories of the past and throbbing with significance for the future', concluded with the playing of the National Anthem. This issue of the *Journal* carries the text of the Address delivered by the President Shri K.R. Narayanan.

A Special Session of both the Houses of Parliament, as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Independence, was held from 26 August to 1 September 1997 to take stock of our achievements since becoming free, introspect on our inadequacies and set for ourselves an agenda for the future. This issue of the *Journal* presents a broad account of the Special Session which indeed was historic for several reasons. Opening the Lok Sabha Session, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma addressed the House, for the first time in the history under Rule 360 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the House. In the course of his Address, Shri Sangma stressed the need for a *second freedom struggle*-this time for *freedom from our own internal contradiction*, between our prosperity and poverty, between the plenty of our resource endowments and the scarcity of their prudent management, between our culture of peace and tolerance, and the current conduct sliding towards violence, intolerance and discrimination.

The entire six-day Session was devoted exclusively to a single motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and piloted by Leaders of all Parties and Groups together, to consider the state of our democracy and democratic institutions, economic situation, position of infrastructure and potential in the field of science and technology and the state of human development in the country. We include in this issue and texts of the Opening Address and the concluding observations by the Speaker, Shri Sangma and also

the Resolution unanimously adopted by both the Houses of Parliament during the Session. We also include in this issue an article titled "The Golden Jubilee Commemorative Session of Parliament" by Shri G.C. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, which discusses at length the historic event.

The office of the President of India is the highest office in our parliamentary democratic polity. On 14 July 1997, Presidential elections were held and subsequently, on 17 July 1997, Shri K.R. Narayanan was declared elected the President. On behalf of the *Journal of Parliamentary Information* and its worldwide readership, we extend our heartiest felicitations to the new President of India on his assumption of the highest office in India. Soon after he was sworn in on 25 July 1997 in the Central Hall of Parliament House, the new President assured the nation that it will be his endeavour to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution in every respect and would promote international peace and security. We include in this issue the text of the Address by the President as also a brief profile of Shri Narayanan.

Our readers would be aware that Shri K.R. Narayanan had served the office of the Vice-President of India from 21 August 1992 till he was sworn in as the President of the Republic on 25 July 1997. He was also *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha during this period. On 23 July 1997, Shri Narayanan was presented a Farewell Address by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla, on behalf of all the members at a function held in the Parliament House Annexe Auditorium. The text of the Farewell Address presented to Shri Narayanan also finds place in this issue.

It has been customary for members of both the Houses of Parliament to bid farewell to the outgoing President. On 22 July 1997, a function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House to bid farewell to the outgoing President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma presented a Farewell Address to the President on behalf of all the members of Parliament placing on record their respectful and affectionate tributes to Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. The Speaker also presented him a casket containing a scroll signed by all members of Parliament. The President then addressed the distinguished gathering. He also attended an 'At Home' given by the members of Parliament. We reproduce in this issue the texts of the Farewell Address presented to Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma by members of Parliament and the Address delivered by the outgoing President.

Shri Krishan Kant, an eminent parliamentarian, a fine orator, a staunch advocate of human rights and a prolific writer is one of those versatile leaders who has been consistently campaigning for promoting healthy democratic traditions in our country. Shri Krishan Kant who was elected the Vice-President of India on 16 August 1997 was sworn in on 21 August

1997. On behalf of the *Journal of Parliamentary Information*, we offer our heartiest felicitations to Shri Krishan Kant on his assumption of office as Vice-President. This issue of the *Journal* carries a brief life-sketch of Shri Krishan Kant.

The Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians, set up in 1992, aims to promote, coordinate and exchange experience among member Parliaments of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) viz. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, to supplement and complement the work of the Association and enhance knowledge of its principles and activities among parliamentarians; to provide a forum for exchange of ideas and information on parliamentary practices and procedures and for making suggestions; and to cooperate in international forums on matters of common interest.

The Parliament of India had the proud privilege of hosting the first ever Conference of the Chairman and Members of the Public Accounts Committees in SAARC Parliaments in New Delhi during 30-31 August 1997. The Conference coincides with the successful completion of 75 years of the Public Accounts Committee in India. The Conference was inaugurated by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant. The inaugural function was also addressed by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma and the Chairman of the PAC and the Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. We include in this issue the Addresses delivered by Shri Krishan Kant, Shri P.A. Sangma and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi.

An article titled "Members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha: A Socio-Economic Study", prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, also finds place in this issue. The study is basically an attempt to examine the direction of changes taking place in the composition of the Lok Sabha over the years. It concentrates on certain criteria, viz. educational, professional and previous legislative background and age and marital status of the members. The methodology used has been statistical and comparative and the source of the data has been information provided by members under the above specified heads. Hence, in this study a reader will not come across the class, caste, religion or income background of members that are presumably helpful in giving an incisive understanding of the socio-economic composition of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. With this limitation, the study attempted an overview of the socio-economic profile of membership of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from the available data.

This issue of the *Journal* carries the other regular Features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, a resume of the Session of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislatures, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and

Appendices. A comprehensive Index to Vol. XLIII of 1997 also finds place in this issue.

It has been our constant endeavour to make this *Journal* more useful and informative. We always welcome and appreciate suggestions for its further improvement. We would also welcome practice and problem oriented non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the realm of parliamentary political science.

We also take this opportunity to wish all our distinguished readers a very hearty and prosperous New Year.

—S. Gopalan
Editor

ADDRESS BY SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN ON THE ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Following the elections held on 14 July 1997, Shri Kocheril Raman Narayanan was declared elected the President of India on 17 July 1997. Shri Narayanan was sworn in as the President on 25 July 1997 by the Chief Justice of India, Shri J.S. Verma, at a solemn function in the Central Hall of Parliament. Soon after the swearing-in ceremony, the new President addressed the distinguished gathering in the Central Hall.

We reproduce below the text of the Address delivered by Shri Naryanan on his assumption of office as the President of India.

—Editor

Respected Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Honourable Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral, Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P. A. Sangma, Honourable Chief Justice of India, Shri J.S. Verma, Honourable Ministers and Members of Parliament, Honourable Governors, Honourable Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan and Excellencies Ladies & Gentlemen :

To be chosen to the high office of the President of India is an exceptional honour for any Indian. But to be chosen by such an overwhelming number of votes, by such willing consensus among the major political formations of the country, and by such spontaneous goodwill of the people, is for me a benediction and a boon. I wish to express my boundless gratitude to the people of India, to their elected representatives and to the political parties who have reposed their trust and confidence in me.

In doing so, they have risen above the barriers of religion, caste language and region that separate us and reached out to the essential unity underlying this land of immense diversities. That the nation has found a consensus for its highest Office in someone who has sprung from the grass-roots of our society and grown up in the dust and heat of this sacred land, is symbolic of the fact that the concerns of the common man have now moved to the centre stage of our social and political life. It is this larger significance of my election rather than any personal sense of honour that makes me rejoice on this occasion.

On this historic occasion, I recall with reverence and admiration the men of eminence who had preceded me as Heads of State: Shri C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General of free India,

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the Republic, and Presidents, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain, Shri V.V. Giri, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Shri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, Giani Zail Singh, Shri R. Venkataraman and Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.

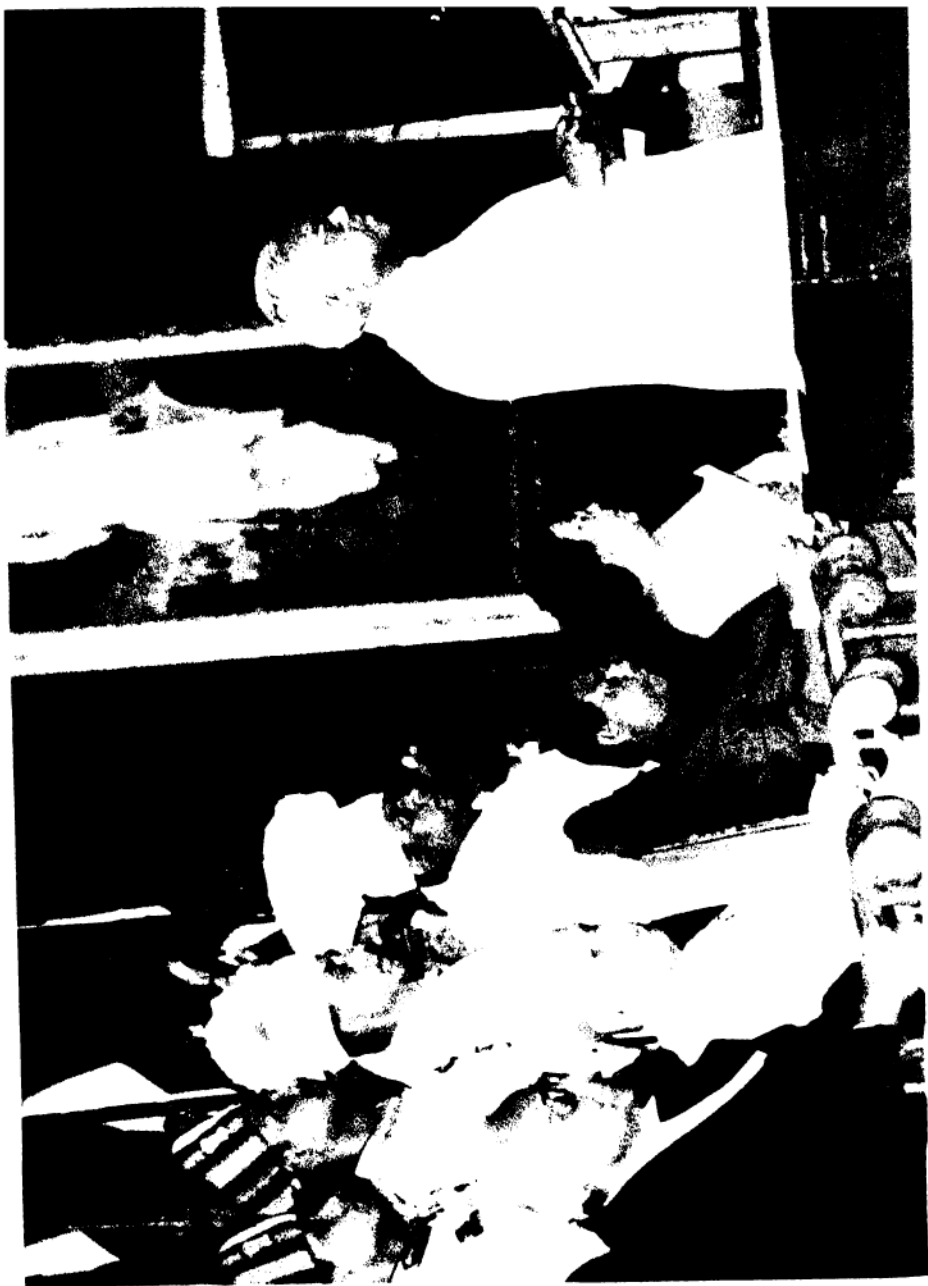
Each one of them has been an outstanding son of India either as a freedom fighter or as a scholar. Some like Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma have been both. Dr. Sharma's erudition, administrative experience and political sagacity and his fine sense of the appropriateness of things have stood the nation in good stead in critical moments of its recent history. May I wish him and the gracious First Lady Smt. Vimala Sharma, on behalf of all present here, and on my own behalf, many more years of happiness, good health and useful activity in the service of the people of India.

We are now in the 50th year of our Independence. I could hear the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, whose ambition was to "wipe every tear from every eye", and the founding fathers of our Constitution, who had assured the people of India of "justice, social, economic and political", asking us the question: "Are things better for our people than before?" We could report to them that we have made tremendous progress in all directions since Independence—in food self-sufficiency, in education and in the health of the people and that the country has become a considerable economic and scientific-technological power in the world.

These are substantial achievements. All these have taken place under the framework of democracy and through peaceful democratic means. India can take pride in its democracy which, I dare say, is not only the largest but the most vibrant in the world. It is also a democracy in which secularism, equal reverence of all religions and faiths, is enshrined in the Constitution. Gandhiji used to say that "true democracy is what promotes the welfare of the people". We have, therefore, the obligation to direct all our efforts to the task of abolishing poverty, ignorance and disease from among our people. Excessive obsession with the pursuit of pure politics has often overshadowed the social, economic and developmental needs of the people. Can we not sink our differences, as we have done in critical occasions in our history, even in the recent election of the President of the Republic, and devote our undivided attention, for a time, to the development of the economy and the welfare of the people? The economic reforms we have launched have produced a new dynamism in the economy. In the midst of these reforms, we have not neglected the special problems of these masses and the disadvantaged sections of society. It is imperative that we should provide for them an effective social and economic support. The under-privileged sections like the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, the backward classes, the minorities, and the women who alone constitute half of our population, and the poor of every strata of our society, irrespective of religion or caste, must be made to feel the sensation of participation and empowerment.



The Chief Justice of India, Shri J.S. Verma, administering the oath of the President of India to Shri K.R. Narayanan in the Central Hall of Parliament on July 25, 1997



Shri K.R. Narayanan delivering his maiden address as the President of India in the Central Hall of the Parliament House on July 25, 1999. Also seen in the picture are the outgoing President, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the Deputy Chief Justice of India, Shri J.S. Verma, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma and the Deputy

Indian civilization has had the unique honour of demonstrating to the world that man does not live by bread alone. Cultural, moral and spiritual values have always formed the fundamental underpinning of our society. Today, there are signs of the weakening of the moral and spiritual fibre in our public life with evils of communalism, casteism, violence and corruption bedeviling our society. On 26 January 1948, just a few days before his martyrdom, Gandhiji, as his prayer meeting, referred to "the demon of corruption", adding that "indifference in such matters is criminal". Since Gandhiji uttered these prophetic and cautionary words, corruption has become widespread, violence has been erupting in almost every walk of life, and values we have cherished are being eroded in an alarming manner. In this situation, the elders and the leaders in society have the responsibility of setting examples to our youth who today form nearly 60 per cent of our population, lest they become cynical about their own lives and callous about the future of the nation. We must realise that the future destiny of our nation lies in the hands of our youth.

I have today taken a solemn oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. That Constitution contains the quintessence of the Indian culture and civilization fashioned over the ages. It also contains the more modern conceptions of liberty, equality and fraternity. We owe a debt of gratitude to those known and unknown heroes and heroines whose lifelong struggle and sacrifices brought us freedom, and to those great personalities who bequeathed to us this Constitution. I should mention the name of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution, who pleaded with passion for the cause of social justice as much as he pleaded for the freedoms and liberties of the people.

Fellow citizens, India had entertained throughout its history a world vision. Our sages and seers had thought in terms of the happiness of the whole of humanity. And Jawaharlal Nehru had designed a foreign policy for India with a world outlook. We have a role to play in the world and a message to give to the world. We can do that effectively only if we are united and strong and in peace and friendship with our neighbours. As President of India, it will be my endeavour to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution in every respect, including the provision that India will "promote international peace and security". Likewise, it will be my privilege as Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces to reflect the nation's pride in the competence and professionalism of our armed forces. By guarding our frontiers, it is they who make possible the progress within. I shall endeavour to do all these with one goal, one prayer, that India, the land of many faiths, languages and a composite culture may be great, that India may become prosperous sharing its prosperity with all its sons and daughters in the spirit of equality and fraternity, and justice-social, economic and political.

Jai Hind.

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN AT THE COMMEMORATIVE
FUNCTION OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF
INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE**

A Commemorative Function to mark the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence was held in the midnight of 14-15 August 1997 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Function commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Later, the distinguished invitees stood in the silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs. This was followed by a rendering of the National song *Vande Mataram* by Pandit Bhimsen Joshi. Subsequently, excerpts from the speeches of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were played. After that, the patriotic song *Saare Jahan Se Achcha Hindustan Hamara* was sung by Lata Mangeshkar. The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan then addressed the distinguished gathering. The Hindi version of the President's Address was subsequently read out by the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral. This historic Function concluded with the playing of the National Anthem. The entire Programme was telecast and broadcast live throughout the nation.

A booklet carrying the proceedings of the Midnight Session of 14 August 1947, the sitting of the Constituent Assembly of 15 August 1947, the texts of the *Jana Gana Mana*, *Vande Mataram* and *Saare Jahan Se Achcha* and also a few select photographs capturing the historic moments of 14-15 August 1947, brought out by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, was distributed among the invitees.

We reproduce below the text of the Address by the President of India.

-Editor

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN**

Fellow Citizens, Sisters and Brothers, Friends:

This midnight hour, thronged with memories of the past and throbbing with significance for the future, is a golden moment in the history of India and the world. Fifty years ago, at this very moment, a new age of freedom dawned for India, and as Jawaharlal Nehru put it, "the soul of a nation, long suppressed, found utterance". It was also the beginning of the end of colonialism in the world.

On the fiftieth anniversary of this historic event, it is my privilege to extend to all Indians throughout the length and breadth of the motherland,

and to all Indian nationals living abroad, my heartiest greetings and felicitations. I also send my greetings to the brave soldiers of our armed forces who stand guard over the remote frontiers of our land. At this moment of the midnight, let us bow our heads to *Bharat Mata*, whose children we are, and take a vow to serve her and the people of India regardless of caste, class or creed, religion, language or region.

On this solemn occasion, we remember the countless men and women the peasants, workers and the youth of India, who suffered untold hardships and sacrificed their careers and even their lives for the freedom and independence of the nation. We pay our homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army and the great men like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and a galaxy of others. We also remember and pay our tribute to the founding fathers of our Constitution and the Chairman of its Drafting Committee, Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who championed the cause of the downtrodden and the most exploited classes of people in our society, and who reminded us in the Constituent Assembly that "social and economic democracy are the tissue and the fibre of political democracy".

As this moment we cannot forget the tragedy and the trauma of Partition that cast a shadow on the first Independence celebrations, but as Nehru said on the occasion "... the past is over and it is the future that beckons to us now". That future seems to have now arrived with India playing its part in co-operation systems in South Asia, Asia and the world.

It is pertinent to reflect and ask on this occasion what we have achieved as a nation during the half century of our Independence, and what have been our short-comings and failures. I have no hesitation in telling you, my fellow citizens, that our achievements have been impressive in spite of many failures. First and foremost, we have succeeded in maintaining the unity of the nation and kept this vast country together. It is for the first time in our history that we have been able to put an economic content into the dream of unity that has haunted the mind of India over the ages and establish economic ties of interdependence between the diverse parts of the country. It is by clinging to our cultural values and our traditions of tolerance, to our composite culture and secularism and to our economic and social development programmes, that we can maintain our unity. It is from this domestic base that our armed forces defended with valour the territorial integrity of the country during the last five decades.

The greatest achievement of India since Independence has been the establishment of a democratic system of government and politics. Indian democracy is the product of a complexity of factors. Several strands of thought and experience have gone into it: Western liberal and parliamentary

ideas, Socialist concepts, the deeply rooted traditions of India, both Hindu and Buddhist and the ideas and methods propagated by Mahatma Gandhi like the panchayat system and democratic decentralisation. In the inter play and inter-penetration of these ideas and methods, a distinctly Indian variety of democracy has been in the making that is not only important to India but relevant to the new world of pluralism that is emerging. Besides, the revolutionary implications of universal adult suffrage that we adopted are unfolding themselves today. The lower and poorer sections of society and the women are being drawn into the political system as active players. The time is overdue for meeting the aspirations of these sections of society, particularly the women, for their economic and political empowerment. Fellow citizens, we have every reason to be proud of our democracy. But we will have to strain our every nerve to purify our political, administrative and electoral processes and to remove the aberrations and distortions that have come into the functioning of our democracy.

It is in the area of economic, technological and social development that India, during the last fifty years, has had to face formidable challenges. Here, though we have registered significant successes, the fact of the matter is that we have not been able to abolish poverty, ignorance and disease from among our people. The massive programmes that we have launched in these fields have not yielded the desired fruits. But we ought not to underestimate our achievements. India is today a considerable industrial and technological power of the world, and promises to be an economic giant in the twenty-first century. The economic reforms that we launched six years ago with the liberalization and opening up of our economy have reached a decisive stage. The country has moved to a high trajectory of growth with a growth rate of 7 to 8 per cent of GNP envisaged for the next five years. This is a record breaking achievement. We have accomplished this by standing on the shoulders of our basic policies of self-reliance and social justice. In this context, I would single out two broad parameters of progress we have. One is the revolution in the production of foodgrains making the country self-sufficient in food and the other is the rise in the average expectation of life of an Indian which more than doubled since Independence. Notwithstanding all these, we have yet to provide for our people safe drinking water, basic health facilities, electricity supply and other basic necessities of daily life.

But obviously these rates of progress are not enough for us to take pride in or to be complacent about. Other countries have gone far ahead of us. We have to move faster without upsetting the delicate and complicated balance of our society. We have to put special emphasis on the development of infrastructure and on investment. But we have also to devote more serious attention to the question of equity and social justice thus releasing the energies of nearly 75 per cent of our population for productive purposes. We have to give the youth of the country new opportunities, new hopes and new challenges. All these



The President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, addressing the Nation, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence in the Central Hall of Parliament House, 14-15 August 1997.

Also seen in the picture (sitting L to R) are the Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai; the Speaker of the House of Commons, U.K., Ms. Betty Boothroyd; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P. A. Sangma; the Prime Minister of India, Shri I.K. Gujral; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla and the Union Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta



The Prime Minister of India, Shri I.K. Gujral, reading out the Hindi version of the Address by the President of India



Pandit Bhimsen Joshi singing the National Song, Vande Mataram



Lata Mangeshkar singing the patriotic song, "Sare Jahan Se Achcha Hindustan Hamara"



A view of the distinguished invitees in the Central Hall



Another view of the distinguished invitees

require hard work, discipline and unity of purpose and faith in the future of the country.

While I appeal to all the people of India to demonstrate such unity and faith, in this fiftieth year of our Independence, I am painfully aware of the deterioration that has taken place in our country and in our society in recent times. The traditional cultural and spiritual values which have been the mainstay of our civilization seem to be losing their grip over society and politics. Sheer opportunism and value-less power politics have taken over the place of principles and idealism that had been the hallmark of our social and political life. Violence has increased in the relationship between people, groups and parties. Social evils like the ill-treatment of women and the weaker sections like the Scheduled Castes, including atrocities against them, are on the increase, marring the fair name of India in the world. And corruption is corroding the vitals of our politics and our society.

Mahatma Gandhi, with prophetic insight, had observed on the growing phenomenon of corruption as follows: "Corruption will be out one day, however much one may try to conceal it: and the public can, as it is its right and duty, in every case of justifiable suspicion, call its servants to strict account, dismiss them, sue them in a law court, or appoint an arbitrator or inspector to scrutinize their conduct, as it likes". It seems the people have to be in the forefront of the fight against corruption, communalism, casteism and criminalization of politics and life in the country. A social movement or a widespread national movement is needed to cleanse the system. Such a social movement need not be merely negative but for positive purposes. Illiteracy, for example, has become a disgrace and the greatest obstacle against the progress of the country. Cannot we launch a mass movement for literacy involving the people, the students, the educated unemployed, the teachers, public servants, and the private enterprises? In the same way, social movements are required for fighting poverty, population growth and environmental degradation. In all this, I call for a new partnership between the government and the people.

India has always had a vision of the world and a message for the world. It has played a crucial role in the international relations and has every right to be in the central organs of the United Nations System. From the dawn of our civilization, we had believed the world is one and humanity is a single family. In the dark and bitter days of the Cold War, it was this vision that Jawaharlal Nehru projected to the world through his policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence. Cold War is fortunately over today, partly due to the refusal of India and other non-aligned nations to join up with one or the other bloc and their efforts to promote detente and reconciliation between the two. A new pluralistic world order has now emerged but there are still signs of the powerful developed nations trying to marginalise the weak and developing countries

which constitute two-thirds of the world. And real disarmament and a world without arms remain a distant dream. In this context, India entertains her vision of the world as an association of free and independent nations in an inter-dependent world. Let us, on this fiftieth anniversary of our Independence, dedicate ourselves to the welfare and happiness of the people of India, the peoples of Asia, and all humanity.

Jai Hind

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

A Special Session of both the Houses of Parliament was held from 26 August 1997 to 1 September 1997 to mark the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence. Technically, it was an extension of the Fifth Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha and the One Hundred and Eighty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha.

Opening the Lok Sabha Session, for the first time in the history of the Lok Sabha, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma addressed the House under rule 360 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

The entire six-day Session was devoted exclusively to a single motion. The motion was listed in the name of the leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (BJP) and 19 others. In his concluding observations made on 1 September 1997, the Speaker, Shri Sangma drew attention to the fact that the debate during the Special Session surpassed many previous records. The debate lasted six days with extended sittings and went through two nights spanning 64 hours and 29 minutes. An unprecedented 285 members spoke on the occasion. In addition, 82 members laid their speeches on the Table of the House. All the speeches that were laid formed part of the proceedings of the debate. Shri P.C. Chacko, a member on the Panel of Chairmen, created history by presiding over the House continuously for 7 hours and 58 minutes throughout the midnight of 31 August 1997. Not a single minute of the time of the House was lost in interruptions and disorderliness. There was unbroken live telecasting of the entire proceedings.

The Rajya Sabha started its proceedings of the Special Session with warm felicitations to its new Chairman and the Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant. The debates of the Special Session lasted 45 hours and 24 minutes in which 159 members, including the Prime Minister and six Ministers, participated. The Rajya Sabha sittings were also telecast live simultaneously.

At the end of the Special Session, both the Houses adopted unanimously a Resolution setting an "Agenda for India". The Resolution was signed by the Presiding Officers, Prime Minister, Ministers and members of Parliament.

On this occasion, a comprehensive document "Fifty Years of Indian Parliamentary Democracy" was brought out by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. This work is in the nature of a stock-taking of five decades of our successes and failures, of achievements and deficits. On 26 August 1997, the Speaker, Shri Sangma also inaugurated an Exhibition on '50 Years of Independence' in Parliament House Annexe. This Exhibition *inter alia* highlighted the salient features of the freedom struggle and the growth of parliamentary democracy since Independence.

We reproduce below the texts of the opening Address and the concluding observations by the Speaker, Shri Sangma and the Resolution unanimously adopted during the Session.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI P.A. SANGMA

Honourable Members,

Let me first place on record my deep gratitude to all of you in having granted me the indulgence of remaining in the Chair and taking the floor for the first time in the history of this House.

We are assembled in this Special Session organised as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of our Independence—to take stock of our achievements since becoming free, introspect on our inadequacies and set for ourselves an agenda for future.

POLITICAL LIFE

Popular elections and sustenance of democracy

Since Independence, we have had eleven General Elections and over 300 State elections. Transfer of power to successive Governments has been smooth and peaceful. This is no mean achievement. We can be proud of being a true democracy when the world, cutting across regions, is dotted with countries where access to power is often through military coups and revolutions. The voter turnout averaging at around 60 per cent since 1984 as against 45 per cent during the first General Elections of 1952 reflects the increasing political awareness of our people. Our style of practising democracy has also proved that political consciousness is not necessarily a function of literacy.

Conduct of business of the House

While universal adult suffrage has been a resounding success, the grass-root signals I have been receiving as the Presiding Officer of this popular Chamber about the conduct of our business indicate that generally the people are deeply concerned. They are highly resentful of frequent bouts of pandemonium in the House, members collectively rising to attract the attention of the Chair, repeated marches into the well of the House, cross-talk and interruptions of members' interventions, etc., and feel that the expenditure on Parliament of the order of about Rs. 7,000/- per minute of its time is a costly luxury that our country can ill-afford. It is quite understandable that the complexion of this Eleventh House is significantly different in that a large majority of them are the real sons of the soil in their constituencies and first timers as well, and that they are impatient to improve the lot of the masses they represent and hence their tumult and tempestuousness. Our political parties have a great role to play in

this context. They need to organise pre-electoral training for the aspirants, for positions in this House.

Accountability

The interface between the Parliament and the Executive has, no doubt, been by and large one of mutual understanding and complementarity. Nonetheless, of late, people have increasingly tended to seek adjudication in courts of law on issues of public grievance against holders of public offices through a spate of public interest litigation. The Presiding Officers of Legislative bodies of India went into this question in a Symposium towards the end of the last year. They found that the root cause of the problem concerns accountability. They observed, I quote: "The chain of accountability—of the civil service to the political executive; of the political executive to the Legislature; and of Legislature to the people has got snapped all the way. Accountability should be restored at all echelons." (unquote) So, let us collectively reinstate accountability, making it part of our style of working.

Probity and standards in public life

Accountability is also an issue of probity and standards in public life. This is not merely a problem of the political world. It is as well of the world of civil servants, professionals, holders of public offices and of those who interact with them, including non-governmental organisations. It is even a problem of the world of business. A group of our members, having taken the initiative proactively, are seized of this issue. My suggestion is that the term "holder of public office" be given a rather broad definition as Lord Nolan of the British Parliament has done in a report submitted to the House of Commons by a committee headed by him. All those who come within the ambit of such a definition should be held to be accountable in their respective domains through mechanisms that we should evolve to prevent errant behaviour.

Ensuring probity and standards in public life is needed for carrying credibility with the public, apart from its importance for its own sake. Credibility is to be carried by demonstrable action rather than public pronouncements. Actions such as the enactment of the Lok Pal Bill and securing exemplary conviction of a few errant holders of public offices through successful prosecutions in due process of law rather than blanket public self denigration are the surest ways to carry credibility, apart from being fair to quite a good crop of our leaders who have spent all their lives in selfless service to the public.

The problem should also be handled where it originates. Punitive action for devious behaviour is *expost facto* in nature. The Symposium of Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies of India about which I have made reference earlier kept this in view when they advised that the political parties should evince care in the right choice of candidates, including with

reference to their antecedents, their education and training. They also emphasised the need for the people themselves to exercise their franchise with great caution and return to the legislative bodies candidates reputed for their probity and aptitude for public service. Political parties have to take up the task as well of educating the electorate in this regard, organisation of electorates being one of their prime functions.

Societal peace, violence and insurgency

Societal peace is the basic requirement for bringing about socio-economic development. Having won our freedom non-violently under Mahatma Gandhi, known the world over as *Ahimsa Murthy*, we find violence, terrorism, insurgency and societal tensions surfacing in many parts of the country. We need to seriously introspect and go to the root of the problem, identify the motivations for these phenomena and eliminate them. Broad reviews of the present situation in the country have reflected the following causes for these phenomena:

- Social exclusion based on castes, communities and religions.
- Economic exclusion, attributes of which are seen as unemployment, under-employment, iniquitous income distribution, poverty and exploitation.
- Perceived political exclusion by denial of regional aspirations.
- Lack of adequate sensitivity in management of ethnicities.
- Frustration of the youth leading to political extremism.
- Demonstrable fall in standards in public life, i.e., of those in the establishment.
- Cross-border subversion.
- Disenchantment of the expatriates.
- Excesses by those wielding State power.
- Perceived denial of human rights.
- Imbalance in media projection.
- Inadequacies in strategic thinking and intelligence.
- Inadequacies in the system of rendering criminal justice.

The United Nations observed its Golden Jubilee in 1995 by organising the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen. The Summit called for social integration by basically addressing the problems of social, political and economic exclusion into which all the above factors are subsumed. India was a significant partner in the Summit. We would do well to follow up on the Summit Declaration and Programme of Action.

Empowerment of women

We need to remind ourselves that about two years back, at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, we were the first to subscribe, without

any reservation whatsoever, to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. We also made a commitment to establish a National Policy for Empowerment of Women. I would request the Government to bring before the House in this Golden Jubilee Year, the draft policy which seems to have evolved through wide-ranging and nation-wide consultations since the Beijing Conference. The Parliament, on its part, has already established a Joint Committee on Empowerment of Women.

ADMINISTRATION

We have a highly flawed system of management of administration. It is a highly centralised administration, away from the people. A billion people and a vast sub-continent that we are, there is no escape for us from our administrative management being meaningfully decentralised. That is the very spirit behind the Constitution 73rd and 74th amendments. Four years have passed by since these amendments. Can we claim that we have really shared power and made the Panchayati Raj system a reality on ground? We need to search our conscience.

Our administration, including the Police force, regrettably, has got significantly politicised. The Civil Service which is designed to be neutral being pressed into the service of political masters and use of the Police force for settling political scores have become facts of life today. This is not conducive to the Rule of Law. The administration should be de-politicised and made responsive to the public and responsible only to the Rule of Law.

POPULATION

Our country is rich. But our people are poor. This is significantly due to the unceasing population explosion. The route to finding solutions to most of our problems—food security, unemployment, under-employment, poverty, iniquities, in fact, management of our economy in all its social and political dimensions—is to be seen in successfully addressing this simple, but basic problem. If we can contain our population within the country's carrying capacity, we will turn it into a productive human resource, well nourished and insulated against morbidities. Let us take the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Group report on population from the shelves and do some hard thinking about implementing it.

EDUCATION

Employment orientation of education

The stock of the illiterate amongst us is a mind-boggling 460 millions. Speaking at the Chatham House, London, in October 1931, and lamenting the damage done to our educational system, Mahatma Gandhi said, I quote "I say without fear of my figures being challenged successfully that today India is more illiterate than it was fifty or a hundred years ago.....

I defy anybody to fulfil a programme of compulsory primary education of these masses inside of a century". (unquote). Gandhiji has proved prophetic. He also suggested a solution—that of *Buniyadi Shiksha* or Basic Education. The philosophy behind it is simply that education should be relevant to the world of work. So long as this underlying issue of employment relevance is not addressed at all levels of education—primary, secondary and tertiary—and people do not have faith in the worthwhilenss of education, universalisation of elementary education and access for people to employable skills and employment will remain a mirage, whatever be the quantum of financial resources deployed for education.

Resources for higher education

The National Policy on Education adopted by this House over a decade ago concludes, I quote:

The main task is to strengthen the base of the pyramid, which might come close to a billion people at the turn of the century. Equally, it is important to ensure that those at the top of the pyramid are among the best in the world. Our cultural well-springs had taken good care of both ends in the past; the skew set in with foreign domination and influence; it should now be possible to further intensify the national effort in human resource development with education playing its multifaceted role. (unquote)

In order that this sound policy is implemented equitably, even while earmarking resources liberally for universalisation of elementary education from the public exchequer, for strengthening the apex of the educational pyramid, can we raise internal resources in the higher education sector by adopting a de-politicised strategy of rationalising the fee structure which would stipulate cost recovery from the well-to-do sections and scholarships for the poor?

AGRICULTURE

Food self-sufficiency and Green Revolution complacency

Through the Green Revolution we have not merely achieved food self-sufficiency since the 1970s, but have become a net exporter of food-grains. This revolution has been spectacular considering the phenomenal growth of population. But I am afraid that we are getting lulled into Green Revolution complacency. Application of the Green Revolution technologies has been feasible only in irrigated areas. Seventy per cent of culturable lands is situated in, and over forty-per cent of foodgrains production in the country comes from, arid and semi-arid regions. For farmers and people in these regions, life is still an ordeal. Technology has not come to their rescue yet, despite deployment of financial and physical resources in dry farming.

Plateauing agricultural growth rate

Agricultural growth rate has also plateaued at an annual compound rate of 1.7 per cent since 1990-91. The impact of population growth on the sizes of land holdings, the economic viability of intensive agriculture in suboptimal land holdings, and stagnation in productivity levels which are quite below international standards are disturbing and require deep investigation.

Inorganic cultural practices and their implications

Our agricultural lands receive about 33 million tonnes of chemical fertilizers, apart from 61,000 tonnes of pesticides a year. Long-term sustainability of intensive agriculture based on inorganic cultural practices would also need detailed scrutiny. Such agriculture also has implications for food quality, protection of environment and preservation of biodiversity. Environment protection, and quality and safety of food, apart from self-reliance, need to be seen as essential elements of food security.

Agriculture, civil supplies and farm exports

The interface of the agro-sector with domestic civil supplies sector and export front requires skilful management. The farmer has to receive remunerative prices so that the same would be a self-triggering mechanism for increasing private investment in agriculture. At the same time, the people need to access essential commodities at affordable prices. A stable export presence is to be ensured as well, if we are to exploit the enormous export potential of our agro sector. Can we relieve the farmers of strangulating controls on production, movement, marketing and prices of farm produce to ensure the economic viability of farming? How do we find the colossal resources required for public investment in agricultural infrastructure? How do we harmonise the interests of domestic consumption and export trade in farm products? These are crucial issues which need careful examination.

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Freedom from hunger

While we have achieved freedom from famine, freedom from hunger is not given to all. While our foodgrains production has quadrupled since 1950-51 and per capita net availability of foodgrains is about 500 grammes per day, food availability is not matched by food access for all—for sheer want of purchasing power of those living below the poverty line. At present, through the Public Distribution System, we are providing subsidised rations to those living below the poverty line and even to those above the poverty line. While targeted supply management at public expenditure to benefit those below the poverty line is appropriate and necessary, in the long run, or even in the medium term, lasting solution to the problem of food

security can be found only by vesting the weaker sections with purchasing power through gainful employment.

Delivery of services

Efficient and leakage-free delivery of services in the Public Distribution System, as long as it is run, is indispensable. Pilferage of essential commodities and tampering with their quality in the Public Distribution System should be construed as heinous crimes and met with drastic penalties.

INDUSTRY

Past and future

Since 1948, we have had six Industrial Policy Statements. Planned growth of industries, mixed economy with the Public Sector having the commanding heights, licensing regulations and controls, domestic industry protection, and protection of the small scale sector were the features of these policies. These policies were relevant to, and consistent with, the bygone years of a nascent economy. We have had positive as well as negative consequences. On the positive side, we have developed an infrastructure of basic industries and indigenous entrepreneurship. On the negative side, we have had to suffer fragmented production capacities, low technology levels, low inflow of foreign capital, monopolistic trends and lack of international competitiveness. To face the challenge of international market competition, we have had to liberalise since 1991: Delicensing and deregulation have had to be carried out; investment restrictions dismantled; private sector allowed access to areas previously reserved; and flow of foreign technology and foreign capital rendered easier. New corporate structures through mergers and amalgamations, modernisation and absorption of new technologies and new managerial styles seem indispensable. Our Corporations themselves are slowly becoming transnational and multinational. What should be our strategy to harmonise the cross-border thrusts of our Corporate Sector with protection for domestic industry built up on our own factor strength over the years, in the face of capital starvation and technological obsolescence? The House may like to go into this in some depth.

Rehabilitation of sick Central Public Sector Enterprises: Its inevitability and human dimensions

About sixty of our Central public sector enterprises are chronically sick. We need to take a hard look at them. We do, of course, have several proposals for rehabilitation and turn around of some of these Corporations. The process of decision-making in regard to the future of these Corporations has been marked by inordinate delays. Quick and bold decisions are needed in regard to this matter. Such decisions call for strong political will and support, apart from very patient and sustained

industrial relations exercises. Restructuring and rehabilitation of enterprises is always a very painful process. Liberal separation compensations and retraining and redeployment of redundant employees will have to be organised wherever feasible. Until conclusive decisions are taken one way or the other in regard to restructuring of public enterprises, labour payments cannot be allowed to fall into arrears. As on 31 July 1997, Central Public Sector Enterprises coming under seventeen Ministries of the Government of India had an outstanding labour payment arrears of Rs. 605 crore. Out of this, Rs. 435 crore are statutory dues under Provident Fund, ESI and Gratuity Laws. Some of these defaults also carry with them criminal liabilities. A demoralised and dehumanised work-force is likely to backlash on the very process of economic reforms.

Industrial sickness is not merely a problem of the public sector in our country. It has become endemic to the country's industry as a whole. The financial and economic dimensions of this sickness have been vividly presented in the working document for this Session. The Session may like to address this problem in its entirety.

A new work culture

There needs to be a sea change in the managerial and industrial relations styles in our country. As our veteran trade union leader Ramanujan has advised, bipartism as a means of industrial conflict resolution should replace tripartism as industrial relations tend to get politicised and impacted by extraneous factors under the latter modality. A new work culture for the managerial as well as other employees should be developed, the hall mark of which should be emphasis on productivity. We compare very poorly in productivity vis-a-vis some of our neighbouring countries. Beyond a level, wage enhancements may have to be linked to productivity linked wage structures negotiated with trade unions. We could make efforts to universalise this practice. Our working people, be they managers or others, need to come to terms with the truth that the surest social security for them is the commercial viability of their enterprises. Governments and trade unions also need to devote more attention than before to improving the lot of the unorganised workers who constitute 90 per cent of the work force of the country.

EXPORT SCENARIO

In the past, we had not necessarily opted for export led growth like some of the South-East Asian and East Asian economies. But we do have significant achievements in exports. Exports amounted to Rs. 108,478 crore in 1996 as against a mere Rs. 647 crore in 1951. In the 1950s, primary products accounted for 85 per cent of our exports. Now, manufactured products constitute more than 75 per cent of our exports.

However, some of the striking factors to be noted in respect of our export scenario are :

- Five products, gems and jewellery, ready-made garments, cotton yarn fabrics, marine products, drugs and pharmaceuticals, etc., constitute 40 per cent of our total exports in value terms. Sixty-nine other products constitute the rest of the exports.
- Since 1969-70, while the unit value index of our exports went up by eleven times, volume index went up by only five times.
- Nearly fifty per cent of our exports go to European countries and USA and Japan.
- Our share in world exports is less than one per cent.

The lesson to be drawn from these facts is that virtually we do not matter in world exports. Our export production base has to expand; our export products as well as their direction have to diversify; and exports in terms of volume also have to significantly enhance. In the phase of globalisation of economies, our economic survival and prosperity depend, to a significant extent, on the expansion of exports. This can happen only if there is an expansion of imports as well. This itself is one of the justifications for economic reforms and liberalisation.

ECONOMIC REFORMS

Wealth generation

Economic reforms is simply a matter of living within means. Means can be created only by generation of wealth. Wealth will not get generated unless our resources are deployed efficiently. Even the Peoples Republic of China has come to accept this position and hence their adoption of the socialist market economy. If we raise our resources through taxation and if their investments do not yield adequate returns, growth will only be stagnant or negative. Again, if our resources are distributed in terms of subsidies without consideration of their potential for stimulating wealth generation, the consequence will be the same, viz. stagnation and negative trends and growth. For the first time, a transparent and comprehensive presentation of our subsidy regime has been made by the Ministry of Finance. I hope the House will take the occasion of the Session to reflect on this presentation as well. May be, we can examine the scope for phased removal of at least non-essential subsidies. Of course, we can borrow domestically and from abroad. But, for servicing the borrowals and the repayment of loans, our investment policies should be prudent and capable of generating wealth. This has not been happening in the past. We should make it happen now, particularly because our external debt service ratio is twenty-six per cent of our GDP. Our per capita external debt is Rs. 3,286 which is 35 per cent of the per capita income of Rs. 9,321. We

are indeed in a debt trap. The State Governments also are caught in an internal debt trap, their revenue generations significantly getting absorbed by their debt service liabilities vis-a-vis the Government of India. The entire concept of foreign direct investment is based on the fact that it is non-debt creating. Corporate bodies receiving investments are expected to earn enough to give returns to the investor.

Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs)

People do have apprehensions that because of the so-called "over heating" of the economy due to large flows of foreign capital, we may be confronted with problems like those faced by Mexico and Thailand. So long as we ensure that the flow of foreign capital is channelled to priority sectors like infrastructure for the development of which we cannot find our own internal resources of any realistic scale for a long time to come, follow prudent investment policies and take adequate safeguards against fly-by-night operations of foreign investors and have a vigilant monetary policy, we will not go the way Mexico and Thailand have done.

We would also need to bear in mind that our country, as yet, does not attract as much flow of foreign funds as other countries like China and our South-East Asian neighbours do. Our share in foreign direct investment inflows into all developing countries is less than three-fourth of one per cent. The flow of foreign capital and their volatility will be as much favourable to us as the investment climate we generate in our country. We also need to significantly reduce the time gap between clearance of foreign investment proposals and commissioning of projects. My first hand information from China is that between clearance of investment proposals and *commissioning* of projects, the time gap is not more than three years.

Investments, like water, will flow by gravity. Gravity is towards areas where there is ready-built infrastructure. The bulk of our investments are flowing towards Maharashtra and Gujarat, particularly metropolitan areas. This does create problems of regional disparities and in-country economic migrations in search of employment. This problem of regional disparities is experienced intensely in the Peoples Republic of China where they have opened up coastal regions and certain Export Processing Zones for industrialisation. We would do well to learn from the experiences of other reforming economies as well in the context of analysing our experiences in this regard.

Our employment scenario since 1951 till now has been dominated by reliance on the agricultural sector. The ratio of employment in industry has remained stagnant, only services exhibiting increasing trend in employment. Casualisation of employment because of excess supply of labour relative to demand is also increasing. The impact of economic reforms on quality of employment is yet another aspect deserving serious examination. Nearly three decades have lapsed since the first National

Labour Commission gave its report. The employment scenario, labour standards, technology inflows and skill requirements have undergone a sea-change since. Establishment of the Second National Labour Commission is long overdue.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : INDUSTRY ORIENTATION

Science and technology services, like education, should also be relevant to the world of work. While pure science and laboratory based researches are important, they are primarily in the domain of the academic world—colleges and universities. A new thrust has to be given for industry and enterprise-based researches as a means of removal of technology obsolescence of our industries and of constantly updating the industrial technologies.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY : RESTORATION AND PROTECTION

Our agricultural and industrial practices, ever growing urbanisation, in-country migrations and life styles of the people have taken an incredible toll on our forests, environment and ecology. We have, no doubt, taken significant measures to handle this problem. Many of the environment and ecology restoration measures are capital intensive. Modalities of finding resources for rectifying the damages already done should be gone into. Protective measures for the future should stem from readjustment of our life styles and thinking processes.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Our country is reputed for its excellent track-record of honouring commitments made in terms of international Covenants and agreements, be they in the UN or in specialised agencies under the UN system. Before entering upon these commitments in international fora, no doubt, the widest possible national discussions and debates would be appropriate. But once commitments are made, we need to honour them. We can ill-afford to be seen as a nation reneging on our commitments. Such commitments should be properly and duly followed up by national legislative action, wherever needed. While even failure of such legislative action would be understood and appreciated by the world community as a matter of democratic compulsion, dithering and inaction in this regard would only project India as an untrustworthy customer in running international relations in a civilized manner.

The issues I have attempted to present, in essence, imply the need for a *second freedom struggle*—this time the struggle should be for *freedom from our own internal contradictions* between our prosperity and poverty, between the plenty of our resource endowments and the scarcity of their prudent management, between our culture of peace and tolerance and our current conduct sliding towards violence, intolerance and discrimination.

If we succeed in this second freedom struggle, there is no reason why in the ensuing millennium, we shall not be amongst the top nations of the world.

Thank you for your attention.

Jai Hind

**CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS BY THE SPEAKER,
LOK SABHA, SHRI P.A. SANGMA**

Honourable Members,

This Session, an extension of the Fifth Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, has been historic on several counts.

It was convened in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of our Independence.

I had the privilege of addressing the House for the first time in its history under Rule 360.

Again, for the first time in the history of this House, the motion for debate was piloted by Leaders of all Parties and Groups together.

There was no business of the Government or of Private members. The business was that of all, of the Government, the Opposition, of every member, of the nation as a whole.

Unbroken telecasting of the proceedings was watched by the people not merely during the day but nights also, as far as I have gathered.

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

Maybe, the Speech delivered and the Statements laid on the Table by the Honourable Prime Minister could be the longest ever delivered by any Prime Minister.

The debate surpassed many previous records.

An unprecedented 285 members, including Ministers, took the floor.

Eighty-two 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 367 Honourable members participated in the debate. I know many Honourable members were keen to participate as has just now been demonstrated. I tender my apologies for not having been able to give time to all.

The debate lasted six days with extended sittings and through two nights, spanning 65 hours.

The previous record of debate which has now been surpassed was the debate on Railways, the Demands for Grants for Railways which lasted days, from 6 to 13 March, 1997 spending 26 hours and 5 minutes.

The transaction of business was non-partisan and without political rancour or recrimination. Not a single minute of the House's time was lost in interruptions or disorderliness. The level of thinking was quite high as reflected by the speeches of the Honourable 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 deserved our special compliments in having created again another history by presiding over the House continuously for eight hours.

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 country, be as splendrous as the Festival of Lights.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE LOK SABHA AT THE SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE
GOLDEN JUBILEE OF INDEPENDENCE,
26 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER, 1997**

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 dignity of the 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 the 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.*

That 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 house-hold 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 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.

**FAREWELL ADDRESS PRESENTED TO
DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA, PRESIDENT OF
INDIA, BY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
ON 22 JULY 1997**

On 22 July 1997, a function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House to bid farewell to the outgoing President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shir P.A. Sangma presented a Farewell Address to the President on behalf of all the members of Parliament placing on record their respectful and affectionate tribute to Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. The Speaker also presented him a casket containing a scroll signed by all members of Parliament.

The President then addressed the distinguished gathering. He also attended an 'At Home' given by the members of Parliament.

We reproduce below the text of the Farewell Address presented to President Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma by members of Parliament and the Address by the outgoing President at the function.

—Editor

Revered Rashtrapati Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharmaji,

It is with immense sense of gratitude that we, the Parliamentarians, are assembled here to pay tributes to you on the eve of your demitting office as President of our Republic.

This is the golden jubilee year of our independence, our democracy. As we celebrate the jubilee, we shall also recall, with nostalgia and fond memories, the five decades of dedicated service you have rendered to the nation with distinction.

Your academic distinctions are highly diversified, rare. They encompass areas of Law, English literature, Hindi and Sanskrit. They were achieved both in India and abroad—at Allahabad, Lucknow, Cambridge and Harvard. With the enlightenment arising out of this background, you have been a Philosopher President, combining in yourself many of the attributes of the Philosopher King envisioned by Plato.

You were a child of Mahatma Gandhi's Non-violent Revolution which terminated the British colonial rule. You kept aside your professional aspirations and opted for imprisonment in the course of our freedom struggle and your battles against the feudal and authoritarian regime of the State of Bhopal. You made your contribution too, to the process of

integration of India, spearheading the merger of the State of Bhopal in the Union of India.

For nearly two decades since 1952, as the Chief Minister of the State of Bhopal initially, and as Minister in Madhya Pradesh, you distinguished yourself as a capable administrator. Holding several vital portfolios, you laid the educational, industrial and economic foundations of Madhya Pradesh.

Your political experience was shaped by steady service to your party from at the grass-roots, up its hierarchy at various levels. You are reputed to have instilled the values of inner party discipline and solidarity amongst the rank and file of your party. It is the value based practice of politics that led to your acceptance in all the crucial positions of your party including at the apex level.

Your membership in the Fifth and the Seventh Lok Sabhas and your service as Union Minister for Communications helped the country avail of your political and administrative experience and skills at the national level.

It is stated that a statesman bridges the gap between his nation's experience and his vision. You were part of our nation's experience. Your vision was one of preserving and promoting the composite culture of India subsumed in its colorful disparities. As a politician, a party worker, as a legislator, and as office holder in Madhya Pradesh and the Centre, indeed, you brought your personality to fill the gap between our nation's experience and your vision. You were demonstrably seen foremost as a statesman.

When you became the Vice President of India by national consensus, you had already served the nation as an impartial Governor in three major States of India. You established reputation of playing by the Rule Book.

Your tenure as Vice President witnessed a period of political crisis in our country. The country's governance came under four different Prime Ministers. The tribute paid to you, while demitting office as Vice President reflects the respect your commanded from the Elders, we quote 'when you occupied the Chair in the Rajya Sabha, you brought with you the excellence of an educationist, the wisdom of an eminent scholar and firmness of an administrator but besides these qualities what touched us most was your unassuming nature, your genial manners and your magnanimity.... you represent the best in our tradition, its catholicity, tolerance and secularism.' Unquote.

As well from 1992, when you were elevated as President, politics and governance in the country continued to be crisis ridden. Politics increasingly became a search for conflict resolution. And, your deft handling of constitutional situations by your impartial Rule Book approach facilitated smooth transfer of power through the hands of four Prime Ministers,

projecting India not merely as the largest democracy but a successful one at that.

You are our pride not merely as a freedom fighter, administrator and a statesman but as an intellectual of international renown in diverse fields, be it international relations, the rule of law, philosophy, comparative study of religions etc.

The saying that behind every successful man there is a woman may be a cliché. But, dear Rashtrapatiji, it is true in your case. Smt. Vimala Sharma carried herself about with the impeccable Rajasthani charm, adding to the splendour of your office and dignity of your personality. We wish you both long and healthy life.

We hope too, to continue to benefit by your sage advice as an elder statesman on matters of national concern.

Sir, at the time of your installation as the President, you advised, we quote 'we have to safeguard freedom and gains of freedom. Let us remember that freedom has little meaning without equality, and equality has little meaning without social and economic justice....' unquote. We shall remember this advice and assure you that we shall not rest on our oars until we achieve true social and economic justice.

*Parliament House,
New Delhi.
July 22, 1997
Asadha 31, 1919 (Saka)*

*We remain,
Sir,
Yours respectfully,
Members of Parliament of India*

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT, DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA

I am deeply touched and moved by the gesture of the Honourable parliamentarians who have assembled here to felicitate me. This is a rare honour, the memory of which I shall always cherish.

As the apex democratic institution of our nation, the world's largest democracy, our Parliament has a unique sanctity. It is my privilege and good fortune to have been associated in some manner with Parliament and with other Legislatures for over four decades., It is a special pleasure to see here many personal friends. I have deep admiration for the contributions of our eminent parliamentarians to the strengthening of our democratic processes. I thank the Honourable Speaker, and through him all members of Parliament, for his warm Farewell Address and for the kind words expressed towards me.

Our Parliament represents the creative diversity of our great nation. Equally, it is a symbol of collective striving for common goals. As I look around this august assembly, I see my compatriots from various parties,

regions and walks of life, some of whom were with me in Parliament when I became a member, about three decades ago. They represent the vibrance and splendour of our great civilization. Today, the rich pluralism of our country is reflected in the number of parties represented in this House. This is symbolic of the gradual enrichment and advancement of political processes in our democracy. As our society advances and progresses, new challenges emerge. Our system of cooperative federalism has proven to be resilient and flexible enough to adapt to the changing circumstances. Regional aspirations have always been harmonized with nationalist goals. We should pay tribute to the founding fathers of the Constitution for their vision and to our parliamentarians, who have discharged their responsibilities with sincerity and commitment. They have articulated the problems and concerns, not merely of their own constituencies, States or regions but of the entire nation. As Panditji said, every parliamentarian is a member not only for his or her particular constituency but a member for India.

As the repositories of the aspirations and yearnings, the hopes and dreams of the people, as their chosen leaders, parliamentarians have the task of strengthening our democratic ethos and taking our great nation forward. The path for progress has already been illumined by the great stalwarts of our freedom struggle who inspired millions of people throughout the world to strive for peace and harmony, equality, justice, dignity and secularism. During this Golden Jubilee year of our Independence, let us pledge to uphold these values and ideals and rededicate ourselves to work with a spirit of selfless service for the well-being and prosperity of our nation.

The last few years have been momentous years for our democracy. Complex political situations have been effectively dealt with by our democratic institutions. As the constitutional head dealing with political processes as they evolved, particularly over the last two years, three principles and one goal were foremost in my mind: these were impartiality, constitutional propriety and transparency, and the paramountcy of national interest. These determined my mission along with the oath I had been privileged to take. The words of advice I received from many of you were of immense benefit in the discharge of my responsibilities. I thank all of you for your support, assistance and friendship.

As I bid farewell, I wish you, and through you, our masters, the people of India, all success in our common endeavours to make our democracy ever stronger, vigorous and dynamic. This is our designated path as a nation and a people.

Our motherland has had a glorious past and shall have an even more radiant future. I have immense faith in the talents and creative energies of our people and the people's representatives. The future is in our hands.

Together, let us make it bright and luminous. Let us light a candle of hope and joy in every home. I conclude with this ancient *Upanishadic* prayer, for the salvation of individuals, society, nation and indeed, for human civilization :

असतो मा सद्गमय
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय

*(Lead me from untruth to truth
from darkness to light)*

Jai Hind

**FAREWELL ADDRESS PRESENTED TO
SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN, CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA,
BY MEMBERS OF THE RAJYA SABHA**

Following the Presidential elections held on 14 July 1997, Shri K.R. Narayanan was declared elected the President of India on 17 July 1997. On 23 July 1997, at a function held in the Parliament House Annexe Auditorium, the members of Rajya Sabha bid farewell to Shri K.R. Narayanan who was the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for five years. He was presented a Farewell Address by the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla, on behalf of all the members. We reproduce below the text of the Farewell Address.

—Editor

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,

We, the Members of Rajya Sabha have assembled here to bid you farewell. We are happy, Sir, that in this golden jubilee year of our Independence you would soon be adorning the exalted office of the President of the Republic of India. A person of your eminence would certainly add to the dignity of the office of the President of India.

After obtaining the post-graduate degree in English Literature from the University of Travancore, in which you stood First Class First, you did your B.Sc (Economics) from the London School of Economics and obtained First Class Honours and in that course you specialised in Political Science. You have the distinction of being the student of Prof. Harold Laski whose ideas on humanism have, no doubt a profound influence on you. We have very few people in Indian politics who can claim to have a distinguished academic career like yours. Though initially you started your career as a journalist but the visionary leader of this country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, felt that a person of your brilliance would be a right choice to hold important positions in the Indian Foreign Service. You have had important diplomatic assignments as a career diplomat and accomplished successfully the difficult task of serving as India's Ambassador first in China and later in the United States of America.

Your life has been a saga of struggle against adverse circumstances but this struggle also speaks of the triumph of democracy in India. A person born in a remote village in Kerala is soon going to grace the office of the President of the Indian Republic which indeed is a remarkable achievement for anyone. Gandhiji had said that India lived in her villages

and today, Sir, we see a person born in a village become the President of India and this brings hopes in the eyes of the millions of toiling peasants and teeming people of this country because they find in you their true representatives. From village to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, no doubt, it has had been a long and arduous path but this you could traverse successfully because of your wide-ranging experience as teacher, journalist, academician, diplomat, administrator, Member of Parliament, Minister and author. As Vice-Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University you have proved yourself not only as an able administrator but also as a great educationist. Your love for education can be seen from the fact that from 1954 to 1955 you took leave from the Indian Foreign Service and taught Economic Administration at the Delhi School of Economics and headed the Orientation Centre for Foreign Technicians. You were also awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru fellowship for your study of 'Nehru's Non-alignment' and, again, during this period you were teaching in the Jawaharlal Nehru University at the School of International Studies. Though you are a distinguished scholar, you never liked an ivory tower approach to the social problems. You had always been in touch with the people. It is because of this that you got elected to the Lok Sabha consecutively in 1984, 1989 and 1991. As Minister of State for Planning, Science and Technology, Atomic Energy, Space, Electronics and Ocean Development as also the Vice President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research your innovative ideas pushed the developmental programmes in the direction of modernising the nation but at the same time looking closely at the needs of the poor people. You had also served the nation as Minister of State for External Affairs between 1985-86. Because of your service to the country you were the natural choice of the nation to become the Vice-President of India in 1992. You have authored books on international relations, non-alignment and development and democracy which give an idea about your understanding of the dynamics of international relations and problems of developing democracies.

In 1992, when you became the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, we were greatly impressed by your erudition and scholarship. In your very first speech which you made in the House while replying to the felicitations offered to you, you reminded us about our great 'democratic heritage' and told us that we have been able to survive, cohere as a nation because we believe in "freedom which allows the expression of differences and discontents". "Parliament", you said, Sir, "is a kind of mighty bloodless substitute for violent revolutionary action. And, as long as we learn how to talk about our ideas, that will lead to wise and civilized action here as also outside in the nation as a whole. "You have always been considerate and full of warmth. We are greatly impressed by your patience and capacity to manage the House. Because of your intrinsic faith in democratic values you never curbed the dissenting voice in the House and provided fair opportunities to both the government party as well as the opposition. Your elevated sense of humour and unfailing sympathy

made it easy for us to offer you our loyalty and good behaviour that you always sought from us. Your humility and humane qualities inspire instant love and respect for you. You have always been courteous to us. Though we are all impressed by your gentleness, we also know that you have always been very firm in making decisions and handing down your rulings in the House. We are, indeed, happy to see you as the President of this great country when you assume that office on Friday, the 25th July.

You have always believed in dexterity of work, as the *Bhagwadgita* proclaims- योगः कर्मसु कौशलम्।

Your life is an abiding inspiration to all those who believe in building an egalitarian society. You have proved your actions and deeds according to what Tiruvallurvar has said in *Tirukkural*:

Living beings are all alike at birth,

The differences comes from acts of special worth.

While bidding you farewell need we assure you, Sir, that we shall cherish the memory of our association with you. We wish you godspeed and hope that as the President of the Indian Republic you would constantly strive to ensure the ideal of सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः—May all be happy.

Parliament House,
New Delhi;
July 23, 1997.

We remain
Sir,
Yours respectfully,

Members of Rajya Sabha

ADDRESSES AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE CHAIRMEN AND MEMBERS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES IN SAARC PARLIAMENTS

The Conference of the Chairmen and members of the Public Accounts Committees in SAARC Parliaments was held in New Delhi on 30-31 August 1997. The Conference, inaugurated by the Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant, was also addressed by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma. The Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts of Parliament and the Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi delivered the Welcome Address.

The texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion are reproduced below.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF PARLIAMENT AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI

Honourable Vice President of India, Shri Krishan Kant, Honourable Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, Honourable Chairmen and Members of Public Accounts Committees of SAARC Parliaments and Friends :

It gives me great pleasure in extending you all a warm welcome to this first ever Conference of Chairmen and Members of Public Accounts Committees in SAARC Parliaments being held in the Golden Jubilee Year of our independence which, incidentally, also coincides with the successful completion of 75 years of Public Accounts Committee in India.

The holding of this Conference in New Delhi is another dimension of the ever expanding scope for regional cooperation in South Asia. The collaboration among the sever SAARC countries has now reached a stage from where there is no looking back. The system of holding of Summit meetings of Heads of State/Government that was first started in Dhaka in 1985 has provided the much needed political direction to the whole concept of regional cooperation in South Asia. The formation of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliaments in 1992 and the subsequent Conference that was held in July 1995, also in New Delhi, were significant efforts in the pursuit of promoting people-to-people contacts with the ultimate objective of achieving mutual understanding, trust and friendship among the peoples of the region. The endeavours at the level of people's representatives are aimed at promoting contacts, coordination

and exchange of experiences among Parliaments and parliamentarians of SAARC countries. The holding of this Conference, you will all agree, will help in further promoting cooperation and exchange of experiences that will add strength to regional cooperation in South Asia, more particularly in the parliamentary context.

Friends, in a democracy, the Legislature is the embodiment of popular will and, as such, must be able to oversee the way in which public policy is implemented and public money is spent by the Executive. It does not come under the purview of Legislature to administer or interfere in the day-to-day administration. To quote J.S. Mill, "Instead of the function of governing for which it is radically unfit, the proper office of a representative assembly is to watch and control the Government; to throw the light of publicity on its acts; to compel a full exposition and justification of all of them which anyone considers questionable." However, the task of ensuring the accountability of the Executive has become very complex in modern times due to phenomenal proliferation in governmental activities. Indeed, this task is quite mind-boggling. Legislatures all over the world, therefore, have created, apart from other devices, a system of Committees so as to ensure effective surveillance over the Administration.

Administrative accountability to the Legislature through Committees has been the hallmark of our political system. The Public Accounts Committee enjoys the pride of place in our Committee System. It was set up in 1921 in the wake of the Montague-Chelmsford reforms. After the enforcement of our Constitution on 26 January 1950, it became a standing Parliamentary Committee under the control of the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The PAC has traversed a long way ever since it was first created in 1921. As in many other countries, the main function of our PAC is to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by the House for the expenditure of Government of India, the Annual Finance Accounts and such other Accounts laid before the House and the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General there on as the Committee may think fit. It is the function of the Committee to ascertain that the money granted by Parliament has been spent by the Government "within the scope of the Demand". If any money has been spent by the Government on any service during the financial year in excess of the amount granted by the House for that purpose, the Committee examines with reference to the facts of each case, the circumstances leading to such an excess and presents reports thereon to the House. The examination of the Committee extends beyond the formality of the expenditure. Since 1962-63, the Committee also started examining the Audit Reports on the Revenue Receipts of the Government of India. May I share with you that the Committee work is not necessarily limited to the investigation of points raised in the audit reports; it has the discretion, if it so chooses, to scrutinise and report upon almost any matter which has anything to do with the management of public finance. It also tries to focus light on

the lacunae in procedure or the deficiencies or shortcomings which may have given rise to a lapse or irregularity to obviate recurrence of such incidents.

The PAC of Indian Parliament, in practice, generally confines its detailed examination to the Appropriation Accounts and to a few Audit paragraphs so as to make the examination in-depth and comprehensive. However, we have evolved a system whereby the Ministries/Departments are required to take adequate remedial measures in respect of other paragraphs included in the Reports of the C&AG which have not been taken up by the Committee for detailed examination and report to the Committee through the C&AG. Earlier, such paragraphs used to miss attention.

I may add with utmost humbleness that from the very beginning the Public Accounts Committee in India has been held in high esteem and its recommendations implemented in most cases. The recommendations of the Committee have had far-reaching effect in toning up financial administration of the country even in the pre-Independence period. For example, in its report on accounts for 1921, the PAC had recommended that "if after the Accounts for the year are closed and the total grant under any demand has exceeded, the excess ought to be regulated by a vote of the Assembly". This procedure was accepted by the Governor-General in Council and has since then been in vogue. After Independence, the PAC acquired more respect and began to be looked upon as an effective watch-dog against public waste and leakage of revenue. During the last five decades, the Public Accounts Committee has made significant impact on the Executive by making the latter agree to conduct performance reviews, institute inquiries in cases of fraud and financial irregularities; investigate leakages of revenue; streamline the working of autonomous bodies; and generally to improve procedures and tighten financial control. More recently, i.e., during the last decade, the Committee has made a powerful impact on the administration by pointing out, through its Reports on Revenue Audit, the unsatisfactory functioning of taxation laws and procedures. Presently, we find that over 60 per cent of our recommendations are accepted by Government in the first instance.

Friends, having said all this, I do not want to convey an impression that were highly satisfied with what we are achieving. In fact, we have, in India, come across several factors which act as constraints in the effective functioning of the PAC. Firstly, there is the question of time-lag between occurrence of the financial irregularities and the actual examination of the same by the PAC. Then, because of the ever increasing volume of governmental transactions and the resultant large number of Audit paragraphs, it has become extremely difficult for the PAC to select a true representative sample of cases from the Reports of C&AG and complete their detailed examination in the limited time. Consequently, several important cases escape detailed scrutiny of the

PAC. Further, there is the all important aspect of the attitude of the Executive. Of late, there is a discernible tendency on the part of the Executive to avoid parliamentary control in one way or the other. We come across several cases where we find the Executive not responding to the Audit, delaying in furnishing the information sought by the Committee, tactics being deployed the Officers for delaying/avoiding personal appearance before the Committee for tendering oral evidence, delaying in conducting of inquiries, reluctance in fixing responsibility of officers for the lapses, etc. Above all, we find recurrence of similar irregularities despite the PAC's repeated recommendations which might prompt one to ask about the impact of the existence of the institution of PAC itself. I have no doubt that many of the other SAARC PACs might also be having such types of difficulties. I am sure that our deliberations in the next two days on the problems and challenges before the PAC will ponder some solutions in making the institution of PAC more effective in the enforcement of financial accountability of the Executive to Parliament.

When we talk about enforcement of accountability, we normally limit it to "Administrative" accountability alone. Is there not a heavy responsibility cast on the political "Executive" too? Therefore, I would like this Conference to deliberate on the question of Ministers appearing before the Committee. It is not customary for a Minister to appear before the PAC, though there is no bar if a Minister desires to so appear. We must look at the issue afresh and discuss the desirability of calling the concerned Minister to appear wherever found absolutely necessary as is being done in some countries.

The effectiveness of the PAC, to a great extent, depends on the assistance and cooperation which the Committee receives from the C & AG. A "Supreme Audit Institution", whose independence is guaranteed by law, is a functional necessity in a democratic set up as a major instrument to ensure accountability of the Executive. We all are from developing countries committed to achieve an accelerated pace of economic and social development. This makes it imperative that an effective Supreme Audit institution exists to minimise the loopholes, leakages and the mistakes in the implementation of the public programmes. Auditors-General all over the world today conduct audit from the viewpoint of economy, efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure programmes, besides the traditional regular audit. The audit reports, however, should be largely current and should be able to bring out the failures, drawbacks and deficiencies as quickly as possible so as to enable the PAC to scrutinise these and recommend taking prompt remedial measures. Moreover, the audit reports should be more and more performance oriented so as to ensure the real worth of money spent on various programmes. Therefore, we should discuss the various ways and means to further strengthen the Office of the C&AG so as to make the PAC more effective.

Considering the pivotal role of the Supreme Audit Institution in democracy, I am of the view that the process of selection of the C&AG needs to be made transparent and the control of the Executive in the matter should be minimised, if not eliminated altogether. I would, therefore, like this Conference to debate also on the kind of role the PAC should play in the appointment of the C&AG. Here I would like to make a mention that in the UK the appointment of the Comptroller and Auditor General is made on the address presented to the House of Commons by the Prime Minister acting with the agreement of the Chairman of the Committee of Public Accounts. Besides, he is also an Officer of the House of Commons.

There is now a body of opinion which wants the Committee proceedings to be made open to the public as in the case of USA. The question which is raised is that if the proceedings of the House can be made open, why not that of the PAC? The importance of the Press in a democracy is beyond debate. At present, the proceedings of the Committee are not open to the Press and the public. There is a need to have further discussion on the desirability or otherwise of opening the proceedings of the Committee to the Media.

Over the years, there has been an increase in the role and work of the PAC. The PAC of SAARC countries will have to shoulder a major responsibility, particularly in the realm of financial management in the context of liberalisation of our economies and the globalisation of world economy. At a time when there is a tremendous spurt in the volume of money in transaction, there is a need for more transparency and accountability.

The consciousness of the Administration that there exists a body which will scrupulously scrutinise what is being done by it will undoubtedly act as a deterrent against any tendency towards slackness, negligence or arbitrariness on the part of the Executive while spending from the public funds. The detailed examination of the accounts by the PAC thus achieves an important objective of enforcing accountability in the transaction of Government business and helping in the maintenance of reasonable standard of efficiency and financial propriety in the running of the administration. By their constant vigilance, the PACs everywhere have been able to introduce financial discipline not only in expenditure but also in the revenue side.

The PAC, in some form or the other, is functioning in the SAARC Parliaments and it will enriching to learn from one another's experience. I am sure the deliberations of the Conference will contribute significantly towards strengthening not only the legislative surveillance over the Executive but also to the cause of strengthening regional cooperation in our part of the world.

I once again thank the Honourable Vice-President and the Honourable Speaker for gracing this occasion and wish you all a fruitful stay in Delhi.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI P.A. SANGMA

Honourable Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Distinguished Delegates from SAARC Parliaments, Shri Shunglu, Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, Ladies and Gentlemen :

Many of you may be wondering what has the Speaker of the House of the People of India got to do with this distinguished gathering of the Public Accounts specialists from SAARC countries. I can only attribute it to Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi who, though an intellectual and scientist by his own right, is not without his cruel sense of humour. Though I am no financial expert of Public Accounts specialist, he has insisted on my presence here. I tried to quote my preoccupation with the on-going Golden Jubilee Session of the Parliament. But I could not resist the affectionate persuasion of Dr. Joshi. Of course, I do feel honoured to be amidst you. The best I could do is to share a few of my ring-side experiences in finance and accounts acquired in my earlier roles as the Union Minister in Government of India and the Chief Minister of my State, Meghalaya.

All over the world today, in political life, ensuring accountability seems to be the priority. Preparation of budgets on financially sound principles and authorisation of resource mobilisation and appropriation of funds for public expenditure through legislative processes are common features of all democratic societies. When these processes are gone through, people do expect those in positions of power to be accountable for acting on the budgets. This accountability also is secured by the Parliament itself with authority vested in them by the Constitution. Public Accounts Committees are the mechanisms through which this accountability is sought to be ensured. Usually these Committees are professionally advised and supported by the institution of the Comptroller and Auditor-General enjoying constitutional status.

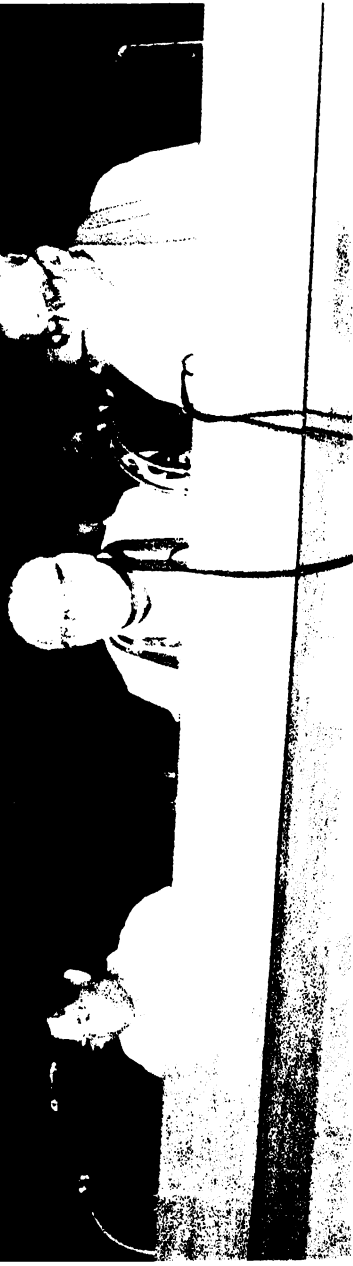
Parliamentary control over finance is basically anchored in the budget documents presented to the Parliament - that is, the Annual Financial Statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government. The items of expenditure are broadly categorised as "voted" and "charged". The charged items of expenditure like, for example, the emoluments and allowances of the President, Vice-President, the Speaker, Judges of the Supreme Court, Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, apart from certain other items, do not come under detailed scrutiny in the Parliament, they being charged to the Consolidated Fund. The Parliament can also legislate on other items to be so charged. Often, of late, concern is being expressed about expansion of charged items.

Preparation of the budget itself is largely a bureaucratic exercise, though extensive consultations do take place with various interests-industrialists, farmers' groups, trade unions, social scientists, economists, etc. Once the budget is presented in Parliament, its scrutiny gets involved

SAARC

सार्क संसदों की
लोक लेखा समितियों का सम्मेलन
**CONFERENCE OF
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES
IN SAARC PARLIAMENTS**

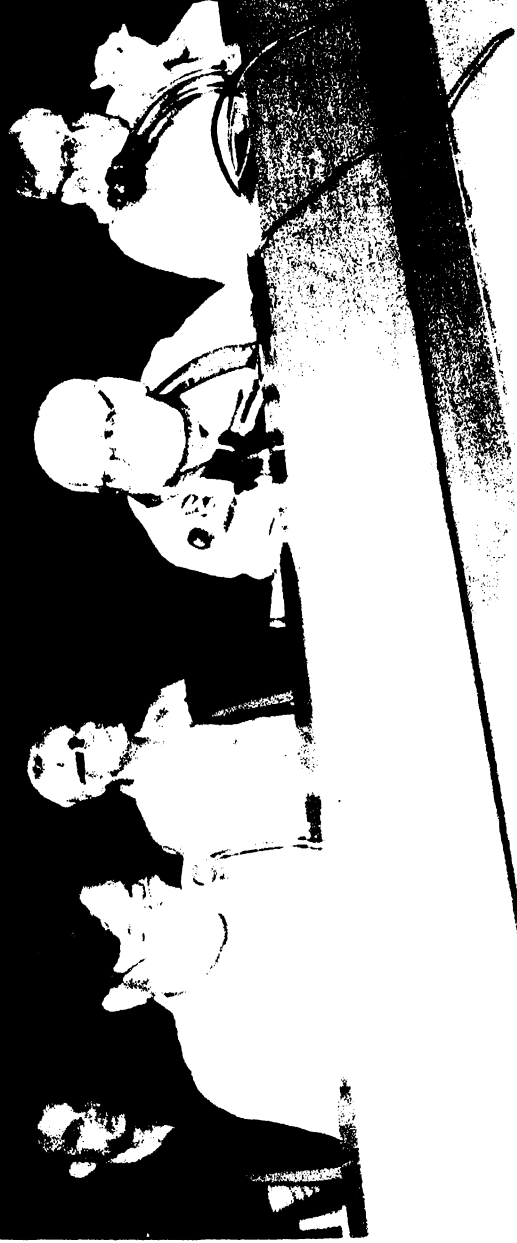
New Delhi, 30 - 31 August 1997



Welcome address by the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts of Parliament and the Chairman of the Conference. Dr. Murti Manohar Joshi

STATES COUNTS COMMITTEES PARLIAMENTS

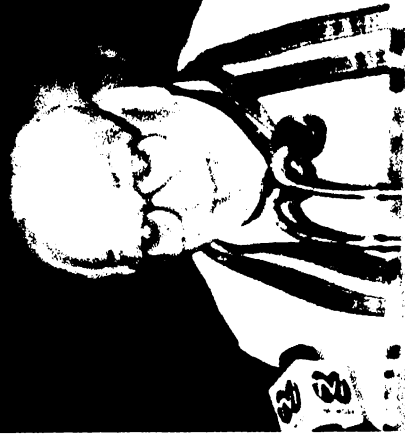
30 - 31 August 1997



The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P. A. Sangma addressing the Conference

IN SAARC PARLIAMENTS

New Delhi, 30 - 31 August 1997



The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant inaugurating the Conference



A view of the Conference in progress

in a lot of technical parameters. Cut motions on the basis of which the budget could be criticised are symbolic in nature. On a cut motion in regard to a demand for agriculture, for example there could be long winded statements and speeches about floods and droughts. The Parliament debate ultimately does not bring about any significant change as such on the size of the budget. Of course, we do have mandatory scrutiny of the budget by the Departmentally-related Committees. The Committee reports again do not immediately impact on the size of the budget though they may have implications for the future budget exercises in terms of allocation of resources or implementation of programmes.

The budget documents also tend, in certain circumstances, to reflect a vast gap between people's aspirations for development and ability to raise resources. The Planning Commission, while preparing the Five Year or Annual Plans, is confronted with disproportionately huge demands from the Ministers and State Governments, though broad indications are given with reference to expected resources about the desirable size of the Plans. The ultimate consequence is that the budget documents are full of token provisions for several activities which may or may not be enhanced midway through the processes of implementation of programmes. New programmes and activities are also taken up midway through financial years without having been planned out earlier at the time of budget preparation. The cumulative effect of budget practices of this nature is that resources get thinly spread. They also get sub-optimally provided. Many projects get implemented at a snail's pace over many years resulting in cost escalations, wastages and non-provision of adequate funds for the cost-effective implementation of a limited number of prioritised programmes.

Public spending has been described humorously as "the most delicious of all privileges : spending other people's money." The same prudence which is exercised in private life to avoid expenditure on avoidable activities is not exercised in the dispensation of public monies. Activities once undertaken become self-perpetuating and interminable.

As those involved in public expenditure scrutiny, you may be aware of the concept of zero-based budgeting. It was Jimmy Carter of the United States, as Governor of Georgia and a Presidential candidate, who pioneered it. The concept is simply that every government programme has to be justified afresh for each financial year.

Our financial experts and budgets specialists are never inadequate in acquiring modern tools in management. Some years back, when I was a Union Minister, I remember that Jimmy Carter's zero-based budgeting became a mantra chanted with professional perfection and wisdom in the corridors of all Ministers, the lead of course having come from the North Block where resources are to be found and from the Planning Commission where the resources are allocated. Dictats were given to all Ministers to analyse every activity to judge on the relevance of its continuance. And,

laborious exercises were indeed carried out. I am not aware of any activity having been discontinued. What continues is the concept of zero-based budgeting in the text books on public finance in schools of management.

Many economies go out of gear because of failures in balancing the budget. How is the budget balancing exercise done? Resources, whether they be of tax or non-tax origin, have to be raised as planned and expenditure contained therein. This does not often happen because neither resources are actually raised as planned nor expenditure contained within limits. Often, mobilised resources are also not deployed efficiently. This is even worse than failure to mobilise the planned resources because inefficient use of resource cuts into even existing resources. If a million rupees are invested in an enterprise the result of which is only earning of a loss, leave alone earning of any profit, the gap to the extent of the loss has to be filled by drawing on existing resources. In circumstances like this also, because Governments are not families, sophisticated tools of economic analysis are promptly pressed into service to justify failures. All of you would only be too familiar with the enigmatic tool of understanding called "cost benefit analysis". By handling, rather mishandling this tool, any economic or commercial loss could be proved to result in social benefit; that is, loss can be projected as an economic cost, justifying a social benefit.

We also have this interesting innovation called the Performance Budget. This is a document expected to be presented to the Parliament along with the Demands for Grants. I have always felt that this document is a misnomer. Though it is titled as Performance Budget, it often reads like a 'Doomsday Book' of non-performance. Usually it is authored by Financial Advisers who make it an uninspiring catalogue of shortfalls in achievement of physical targets. It was Shri. C. Subramaniam who, as Union Finance Minister, introduced of course, with the very good and laudable intension of speedy despatch of Government business - the system of the so called "integrated finance". Under this system, the Financial Adviser has a dual responsibility, that is, to the Minister-in-charge of the concerned portfolio as well as the Finance Minister. For the Minister-in-charge of the portfolio other than Finance, working "integratedly" with the Financial Adviser is like sleeping with the enemy. Each shortfall in achievement of the physical targets, chronicled by the Financial Adviser, would carry behind it a story from which rich lessons could be learnt for streamlining public expenditure.

As a practitioner of public finance with very limited experience, I may suggest the following for consideration by this Conference :

- Go into the rationalisation of charged items of expenditure.
- Scrutinise the scope for prescribing limits on thin spread of resources, particularly because inefficient provision of resources may not even come within the scope of audit and even if it does, audit is *ex post facto* because of which

responsibilities cannot be fixed in respect of defaults and inadequacies of earlier years.

- Examine modalities of effective and meaningful implementation of zero-based budgeting.
- Carefully scrutinise "cost benefit" justifications of executive.
- Streamline performance budgeting.

I am sure that this Conference will be a delightful experience for all of you under the guidance of Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi who is reputed for his scientific approach, thoroughness, objectively and fairness.

Thank you for your kind attention.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN, RAJYA SABHA, SHRI KRISHAN KANT

I am happy to inaugurate this Conference of SAARC Chairpersons and members of Public Accounts Committees (PACs). It is an acknowledged fact that PACs, especially in the context of the Indian sub-continent, are not just specialised parliamentary bodies on public expenditure and appropriations, but substantive instruments of public accountability. The Executive takes charge of public funding through the legislative act of passage of budget and the vote on accounts. The Legislature's control over the Executive in terms of economy of expenditure, proper utilisation of public funds, and achievement of objectives becomes quite widely spaced and is often general in tenor. Public funds are too precious to be left to the general legislative scrutiny. They need very close verification at each stage not only to ensure that the trends in outlays and expenditure are in conformity with the enshrined objectives, but to enable application of midway correctives, when they are not.

The PAC and the general audit and accounting mechanism that goes with its functioning, makes the accountability actual not only in generality, but also in specific details. I consider the evolution of the audit and accounting mechanism under the superintendence and the control of the Public Accounts Committee as one of the most significant developments in the evolution of parliamentary institutions in general and the parliamentary committee system in particular. Accountability of the Executive is made real through two simple but critical instruments - firstly, regularity of scrutiny of the process of public expenditure, and, secondly transparency. It is the second instrument, i.e. transparency, which activates the other instruments of public scrutiny which include the Press, the public platforms, the floor of the Legislature, and the Judiciary.

You must have followed, through the Indian media, how a PAC criticism of Executive action can trigger a chain reaction that can last for years. It can take, in its onrushing current, several executive and political heads and reputations. If politicians and the bureaucrats both fear the PACs, it is because both dread the prospect of pre-mature termination of their

careers. In that sense, the PAC contributes to the creation of an atmosphere of probity and morality in society. It helps enhance the ethical content in Executive action through its transparent, open and searching scrutiny of that action. You, ladies and gentlemen, are not just performing a job, you are discharging a moral obligation to the society and your respective countries. If your actions help save even small sums of public money, enhance consciousness towards frugality and economy in public expenditure, and help achieve budgeting objectives - in whatever measures of degree- you should consider yourselves fulfilled. The discharge of this duty will require your being sharp-eyed, alert like a sentinel, wise and knowledgeable like an elder statesman, tenacious like a soldier and, at the same time, sagacious, gracious and tolerant. Public duty is enhanced in value when commitment to that duty is deep and enduring.

In welfare economies, like the ones we have in our countries, the State's role is often crucial. With this, bureaucracies tend to expand and enlarge, and so does corruption, misuse of public funds, slow and delayed expenditures, postponement of project goals, increase in cost are some of its examples. Scrutiny by the PAC exposes the failures of the Executive as well as prevents its recurrence.

The evolution of the Public Accounts Committees in the Commonwealth countries has been part of the progressive expansion of the control of the Legislature over the Executive. In medieval England, the Committee on Public Accounts evolved through the conflict between the Parliament and Sovereign. In India, prior to Independence, the Public Accounts Committee functioned in all arrangements where representative institutions were formed. That Committee neither had the character nor the authority it enjoys today. For example, it did not develop the non-partisan functioning which the PAC has come to be distinguished for. In India, before Independence, the Finance Minister presided over the PAC which also had many non-elected members. This has materially changed. In India, now, the Public Accounts Committee is the Committee of the House of the People, the directly elected lower House. However, its members comprise the representatives of both the lower and the upper Houses with the larger share belonging to the lower House. The Chairman is never a member of the Executive. In fact, by convention he is one of the leading members of the main opposition party. The Committee's recommendations are invariably unanimous. No dissenting notes are ever appended. Its deliberations are on a non-party basis. In its composition and functioning, the PAC, represents and reflects the legitimate power of the people's representatives to control and scrutinise the utilisation of funds they authorise the Executive to spend through the passage of the budget. Old timers recall how, in the early years of our Independence, the then Executive, Ministers and civil servants alike, considered the functioning of the PAC as an encroachment on their functions and, more so, on their discretion. With the passage of time, the PAC acquired the present status and character which so clearly distinguishes it.

The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, who is also associated with its functions, is the principal source for the deliberations of the PAC. In our States, the Legislatures have their own Public Accounts Committees and the Accountant-General (AG) supplies, it with its agenda, compiled through painstaking audit over not one, but several years, of public expenditure. These traditions have become deeply entrenched and are evolving constantly. The authority and the status which the PAC enjoys and, I should say the fear it inspires in the Executive, is by virtue of its power to elicit the truth and to detect failures wherever they occur. This also means that an upright Executive has to fear nothing.

The PACs quite frequently take a liberal view of the matters before it. Its prestige is greatly enhanced by the generosity of its approach.

I know of several members of Parliament and of the State legislature who made their mark in the political arena through their active and dynamic participation in the deliberations of the Public Accounts Committee. Their painstaking research and public mindness enhanced their prestige and their respect in the eyes of the administrators, civil servants and the people. Shri Satyamurthy, popularly known in the Central Assembly before Independence as supplementary Satyamurthy, for his formidable power to pose difficult supplementaries on the floor of the House, made his mark as a parliamentarian, as a member of the early PAC. There were several like him who earned public esteem through their work in the PACs. I am sure the distinguished parliamentarians and legislators assembled here have made their mark and will continue to do so in the future. This shall certainly make our democracies richer.

I may take a minor liberty of sounding a word of caution, if I may. The audit and accounting function often involves interpretations of rules, strict interpretation of which lead to unusual, even hilarious situations. An officer who sent a semi private communication to the Accountant-General using service postage was asked to refund the cost of the stamp, which in those days was one paisa. Another officer who claimed that he had travelled a certain distance on official duty, when asked to produce proof of the journey, sent to the AG, at government cost, the mile stone of his last halt. He was the worse for it because the AG asked him to refund the cost of postage. Yet another officer who travelled to a hill station on a serpentine road and claimed actual mileage was ordered to restrict the claim for the distance "as the crow flies". He said in his reply: "I travelled by car and not by crow".

I hope the PAC in your country accepts the expenditure of your visits to this meeting even though you have not travelled on the crow!

I am sure you will have a purposeful and constructive discussion over the next two days.

Thank you ladies and gentlemen.

NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Shri Kocheril Raman Narayanan was sworn in as the new President of India on 25 July 1997 and Shri Krishan Kant was sworn in as the new Vice-President of India on 21 August 1997. We include in this issue brief profiles of the new President and Vice-President of India.

—Editor

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN

Shri Kocheril Raman Narayanan assumed office as President of India on 25 July 1997.

Shri Narayanan was born on 27 October 1920 in the village of Uzhavoor in Kottayam district, Kerala.

Education

Shri Narayanan received his education from the University of Travancore where he obtained an M.A. degree in English Literature standing first in the University. Later, he obtained B.Sc (Econ.) degree from the London School of Economics with First Class Honours specialising in Political Science.

Professional Career

Shri Narayanan started his career as a Lecturer in the University of Travancore (1943). Later he took to journalism and worked with *The Hindu*, Madras (now Chennai) and *Times of India*, Bombay (now Mumbai) 1944-45. While a student in London, he served as the London Correspondent of *Social Welfare*, a weekly from Bombay edited by Shri K.M. Munshi (1945-48).

Shri Narayanan joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1949 and served in Indian Embassies in Rangoon, Tokyo, London, Canberra and Hanoi and held different positions in the Ministry of External Affairs.

In between, he taught Economic Administration at Delhi School of Economics from 1954-55 and was also the Joint Director of the Orientation Centre for Foreign Technicians.

Shri Narayanan also served as India's Ambassador to Thailand (1967-69), Turkey (1973-75), the People's Republic of China (1976-78) and Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (1976).

Public Life

After retirement from the Foreign Service in 1978, Shri Narayanan was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in January 1979 and held the post till October 1980.

Shri Narayanan was sent as a political appointee to be India's Ambassador to the United States of America from 1980 to 1984.

After completing his term as Indian Ambassador to USA, Shri Narayanan entered politics and won three successive General Elections in 1984, 1989 and 1991 from his Parliamentary Constituency of Ottapalam in Kerala. He was member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from 1985 to 1992.

During this period, he was Union Minister of State for Planning (1985), External Affairs (1985-86) and Science and Technology, Atomic Energy Space, Electronics and Ocean Development and Vice-President, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (1986-89)

Shri Narayanan was elected Vice-President of India and served in this position from 21 August 1992 till he assumed the office of the President of India in July 1997. He was *ex officio* Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) during this period.

Shri Narayanan has been a Member of various Indian Delegations to : (i) United Nations General Assembly (1979); (ii) the UN Security Council in November 1985 on Namibian Independence; (iii) Conference of Non-aligned Nations at Harare (1986); and (iv) the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in May 1986 on the critical situation in Africa.

Shri Narayanan has been associated with several institutions in diverse capacities. He was President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations; President, Indian Institute of Public Administration; President Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Cultures, Calcutta; and Patron of the International Award for Young People- India.

Shri Narayanan has also served as Chairman of (i) The Jury of the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding; (ii) The International Jury for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development; (iii) The Advisory Committee for the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award; (iv) the Jury for International Gandhi Award for Leprosy; (v) The Jury for Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar; (vi) The Jury for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections; (vii) The Jury for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Award for Social Change; (viii) The Jury for G.D. Birla Awards for Humanism, India's Heritage and Culture and Rural Upliftment and (ix) The Jury for Communal Harmony Awards.

Academic Distinctions and Pursuits

A scholar and writer, Shri Narayanan has authored three books, *viz.* (i) *India and America : Essays in Understanding* ; (ii) *Images and Insights*;

and (iii) *Non-alignment in Contemporary International Relations* (Joint Authorship). He has also contributed a number of articles on social, political, international and literary matters in various magazines and periodicals.

Shri Narayanan is a Member of the Universal Academy of Cultures, Paris; Honorary Fellow of London School of Economics; Honorary Fellow Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore; and Honorary Fellow of Centre for Development Studies, Kerala. He was awarded the Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship in 1970-72 for study of Pandit Nehru's Non-alignment.

Shri Narayanan has received several degrees and honours. These are : Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa), University of Toledo, USA; Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa), Australian National University; Australian National University has instituted an annual "K.R. Narayanan Oration". Honorary Professor of Bishkek Humanities University (Kyrgyz Republic); and Vachaspati (D. Litt) (Honoris Causa), Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi.

Shri Narayanan is the Visitor of Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and several other Central Universities. He has also been the Chancellor of Delhi University, Punjab University, Pondicherry University, Assam University, North Eastern Hill University and Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University); Visitor of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University Institute of Journalism, Bhopal and Visitor of Madras School of Economics.

Shri Narayanan has delivered Convocation Addresses at several Universities in India and abroad.

Special Areas of Interest/Hobbies

Political thought and international affairs, education; philosophy of science and social applications of science and technology; Poetry, Literature and the fine arts; Folk and Classical Music; and Walking. Shri Narayanan is Patron of various social, cultural and sports organisations.

Shri Narayanan is married to *Smt. Usha Narayanan*, who has a Masters Degree from the Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi University.

The Narayanans have two daughters, Chitra and Amrita.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT

Shri Krishan Kant was born at Kot Mohammed Khan village in Taran Taran tehsil in Amritsar district of Punjab on 28 February 1927 in a family of freedom fighters. His father, Lala Achint Ram was a member of the Constituent Assembly and subsequently a member of Parliament.



Shri K.R. Narayanan, President of India



Shri Krishan Kant, Vice-President of India

After completing M.Sc. (Technology), from the Banaras Hindu University, Shri Krishan Kant worked as a Scientist with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi.

Shri Krishan Kant was greatly inspired by his father Lala Achint Ram who was a prominent leader of the Congress Party in Punjab and a true Gandhian. Lala Achint Ram was also a pillar of the Bhoodan Movement in Punjab. Besides, he was one of the first three Life Members of the Servants of the People Society. Taking inspiration from his father, Shri Krishan Kant took active part in the Quit India Movement of 1942 while he was a student at Lahore and was arrested with the other members of his family.

The parliamentary career of Shri Krishan Kant began in 1966 when he was first elected to the Rajya Sabha. Within a short span of time, he made his presence felt in the Parliament as an able parliamentarian. As a member, he took an active part in the proceedings of the House and made significant contributions in the fields of foreign policy, defence policy, land reforms, freedom of the Press and electoral reforms. He was the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the first legislation on Environment in India known as the Prevention of Water Pollution Bill. He was also the Chairman of the Committee of Railway Reservations and Bookings from 1972 to 1976. He was also the Secretary of the Indian Parliamentary and Scientific Committee of which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the President and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Chairman. He remained a member of the Rajya Sabha till 1977 and subsequently a member of the Lok Sabha till 1980.

Immediately after entering the Parliament, Shri Krishan Kant was associated with radical politics and the Socialist Forum. The main thrust of his work was to rid party politics of the influence of big money. In the All India Congress Committee (AICC) Session in Ahmedabad in 1971, he made a strong plea for linking political parties with the people and their basic problems. All these, in turn, led to the espousal of the cause of land reforms and the cause of Naxalites for land restructuring though he totally disagreed with their methods of resorting to violence.

Shri Krishan Kant has been actively involved in various activities of political parties. A versatile leader and fine orator—popularly known as a 'Young Turk'— he held important offices in the Congress Party and later in the Janata Party. He was a member of the AICC, Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party as also a member of its Executive Committee for a number of years.

In the year 1975, when the Emergency was declared, Shri Krishan Kant was expelled from the Congress on account of his open vocal support and advocacy of the issues raised by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan through his movement against corruption and need for revolutionising all aspects

of national life - economy, politics and society. During this period, he organised a National Seminar against the 49th Amendment of the Constitution brought forward by the Government during the Emergency. From 1977 to 1988, Shri Krishan Kant was a member of the National Executive of the Janata Party. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Janata Parliamentary Party.

His close association with various shades of political opinion helped him in organising a Consensus Document of all the political parties (Congress, Janata Party, CPI, CPI(M) and BJP) at the time of the Non-aligned Summit in New Delhi.

Closely associated with various organisations, Shri Krishan Kant has been consistently striving to build a national consensus on major national and international issues. Many years back, he exposed the nexus between black money and elections through a letter to the then Congress President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. Since 1971, he has been advocating radical election reforms to reshape the electoral process for the sake of healthy democracy in the country. With this in view, he enlisted the support of leaders of all the political parties, including Shri Kamalapati Tripathi, Shri C. Rajeswara Rao, Shri E.M.S. Namboodiripad and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee to highlight the criminalisation of politics and a consensus approach document was agreed upon to fight the evil. His proposal to have a provision of a 'negative vote' in the election process was widely appreciated.

A staunch advocate of human rights. Shri Krishan Kant was the founding General Secretary of the People's Union for Civil Liberties and Democratic Rights, founded in 1976, of which Shri Jayaprakash Narayan was the President. He was instrumental in the release of Naxalites after the formation of the Janata Government in 1977, when the CPI (ML) General Secretary Satyanarain Singh came overground after the Emergency at Shri Krishan Kant's residence in New Delhi.

When the Punjab problem was threatening the unity and integrity of the country, Shri Krishan Kant moved around the State and mingled with the masses. He was instrumental in organising the Guru Gobind Samagam to bring to the fore the essential unity of the Punjabi culture and how the Gurus were an integrating force in the Hindu society, rather than symbols of separation as being presented by some. He also took pains to meet the extremists in the State so as to ascertain their points of view. He was one among the first to raise the issue of Pakistan's interference in Punjab and as such stressed the need for a national approach to solve the Punjab tangle.

A strong protagonist of India going nuclear, he has been a member of the Executive Council of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA)

Shri Krishan Kant has been an advocate of integrating science and spirituality and was a member of the Committee founded by the Sarva Seva Sangh. He is a Life Member and President of the Servants of the People Society. He is also a member of the Board of Management of the Gandhian Institute of Studies, Varanasi, founded by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan.

Water being one of the basic needs of human life for survival, Shri Krishan Kant has consistently pleaded for arousing the consciousness of the people on water. In line with this, he has repeatedly stressed the need for rational utilisation and management of our water resources.

Shri Krishan Kant is a prolific writer and has contributed profusely to prominent dailies and periodicals on issues relating to national and international politics, culture and society. He was the Editor of a quarterly journal, *Science in Parliament*. He is a connoisseur of Urdu poetry which he has inherited from his upbringing at Lahore.

His wife, Shrimati Suman Kant, is a prominent social worker. She is a champion of women's rights and is the President of the *Mahila Dakshita Samiti*.

GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMEMORATIVE SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

—G.C. MALHOTRA

The six-day Special Session of Parliament—technically part of the Fifth Session of the Lok Sabha and the One Hundred and Eighty First Session of the Rajya Sabha—began on 26 August 1997 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence and came to an end on 1 September 1997.

Agenda for India

At the end of the Special Session, both the Houses, sitting separately, adopted unanimously a Resolution setting an "Agenda for India". The Resolution called for bringing about electoral reforms; transparency, probity and accountability in public life; maintaining the authority and dignity of Parliament; and launching of a vigorous national campaign by all political parties to rid the polity of criminalisation and checking population growth. The members expressed their solemn commitment to make education employment-oriented and to achieve universal primary education by the year 2005. They also called for prudent management of the national economy and a time-bound effort to achieve basic minimum needs like nutrition, health, potable water, sanitation and shelter. The Resolution was signed by the Presiding Officers of the two Houses, the Prime Minister, Ministers and members of Parliament.

LOK SABHA

During the Special Session of the Lok Sabha, new records were created while many previous ones were broken. For the first time, the entire Session was devoted to discuss exclusively a single motion. The motion itself was, for the first time, piloted by Leaders of all Parties and Groups together. For the first time again in the history of the Lok Sabha, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma took the floor while remaining in the Chair and addressed the House under rule 360 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha setting the tone for the debate on the motion and giving it a direction.

Unprecedented Participation

Table 1, which contains data about members' participation in the special debate, shows that an unprecedented 209 members, including the Speaker, Lok Sabha the Prime Minister and nine Ministers of the Union Government spoke on the occasion. In addition, for the first time, as many as 103 members, including five Ministers, were allowed to lay their

TABLE 1
Lok Sabha Special Debate-Party-wise Participation of Members

Party	Strength	Spoke	Laid	Total	% of	Party's % of
				Participated	Participation	Participation
				(3+4)	(5/2×100)	(5/Total×100)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>(Brackets contain figures showing women members)</i>						
BJP	163 (14)	58 (8)	47 (4)	105 (12)	64.41 (85.71)	33.65 (48)
Congress	139* (15)	52* (5)	26 (2)	78* (7)	56.11 (46.67)	25 (28)
JD	45 (4)	19 (-)	11 (1)	31 (1)	68.89 (25)	9.93 (4)
CPI(M)	32 (1)	11 (1)	1 (-)	12 (1)	37.50 (100)	3.85 (4)
TMC(M)	20	4	-	4	20	1.28
DMK	17	4	2	6	35.29	1.92
Samajwadi Party	17 (2)	7 (-)	3 (2)	10 (2)	58.82 (100)	3.20 (8)
TDP	17 (1)	4 (1)	2 (-)	6 (1)	35.29 (100)	1.92 (4)
Shiv Sena	15	9	1	10	66.67	3.20
CPI	12 (1)	6 (1)	3 (-)	9 (1)	75 (100)	2.88 (4)
BSP	11	6	2	8	72.73	2.56
SAD	8 (1)	3 (-)	-	3 (-)	37.50 (-)	0.96 (-)
Samata Party	5	3	2	5	100	1.60
RSP	5	2	1	3	60	0.96
AGP	5	2	-	2	40	0.64
Parties with strength of less than five members	23	13	1	14	60.87	4.49
Independents and Nominated	11 (1)	5 (1)	1 (-)	6 (1)	54.55 (100)	1.92 (4)
Total	545* (40)	209* (17)	103 (8)	312* (25)	57.25 62.50	- -

*Including the Speaker, Lok Sabha

speeches on the Table of the House. The Prime Minister too availed of this opportunity and laid some parts of his speech on the Table. All the speeches that were laid formed part of the proceedings of the debate. The total number of members who took part in the debate thus came to 312 which accounts for 57.25 per cent of the total strength (545) of the House. Among the individual parties, the Communist Party of India (CPI) topped with 9 of its 12 members (75 per cent of its strength) having taken part in the proceedings. Party-wise, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) scored first position with its 105 members, out of the total of 312 having participated, thus accounting for a percentage of 33.65. As regards participation of women, of the total of 40 women members in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, 25 participated accounting for 62.50 per cent of their total strength. Of these, 12 belonged to BJP, which alone accounted for 48 per cent of the total.

Another unique feature was the significant contribution to the special debate by the new and young first-timers and back-benchers. Nearly 50 of the total of 312 participants were new and young first-timers, who took the opportunity of making their maiden speeches, while approximately another 100 were from among the backbenchers. Their contributions were the outcome of a lot of research inputs and deep study and were, therefore, rich in quality and content. The House benefited considerably, first by their valuable contributions and secondly by the discovery of many new, potential, but hitherto, latent talents.

Longest debate

Another landmark, as may be seen from Table 2, was that the debate lasted six days with extended sittings and went through two nights spanning 64 hours and 29 minutes. Party-wise, the maximum time of the debate was taken up by BJP, since it is the largest party in the House. The six days' debate ran into 1788 typed pages.

The Speaker paid special compliments to Shri P.C. Chacko, a member on the Panel of Chairmen, for having created history by presiding over the House continuously for 7 hours 58 minutes through the midnight of 31 August 1997.

The transaction of business was non-partisan and without political rancour or recrimination. Not a single minute of the time of the House was lost in interruptions and disorderliness. There was unbroken live telecast of the entire proceedings.

Second Freedom Struggle

In his inspiring address, delivered on the opening day of the Special Session, the Speaker, Shri Sangma lauded the holding of eleven General Elections and over 300 State elections in the country after Independence and the smooth and peaceful transfer of power to successive Governments. Shri Sangma emphasised that while ensuring of probity and standards in public life was needed for carrying credibility with the public, the

TABLE 2
Lok Sabha Special Debate - Party Wise Time Taken

Party	Strength	Proportionate Strength of Party (%)	Time Taken Hours	Minutes	Proportionate Time Taken (%)
BJP	163	29.90	16	57	26.29
Congress	139*	25.50	16	42	25.90
JD	45	8.26	7	13	11.19
CPI(M)	32	5.87	3	27	5.35
TMC(M)	20	3.67	0	51	1.32
DMK	17	3.12	0	45	1.16
Samajwadi Party	17	3.12	2	48	4.34
TDP	17	3.12	0	54	1.40
Shiv Sena	15	2.75	2	24	3.72
CPI	12	2.20	1	48	2.79
BSP	11	2.02	1	44	2.69
SAD	8	1.47	1	35	2.46
Samata Party	5	0.92	1	17	1.99
RSP	5	0.92	0	33	0.85
AGP	5	0.92	0	44	1.14
Parties with strength of less than five members	23	4.22	3	44	5.79
Independents and Nominated	11	2.02	1	03	1.63
Total	545*	100.00	64	29	100.00

*Including the Speaker, Lok Sabha

credibility was to be carried by demonstrable action rather than public pronouncements. He said that the electorate must be educated to exercise their franchise with great caution and return to the legislative bodies candidates reputed for their probity and aptitude for public service. Shri Sangma said that our administration had regretfully got significantly politicised. It should be depoliticised and made responsive to the public and responsible only to the Rule of Law. Our country was rich, but our people were poor. This was due to the unceasing population explosion.

The route to finding solutions to most of our problems lay in successfully addressing this simple but basic problem. Making a general review of the events of the past 50 years, Shri Sangma identified several issues of public importance that needed close focus to complete India's tryst with destiny. He called for a Second Freedom Struggle - this time, a struggle for freedom from our own internal contradictions between our prosperity and poverty, between the plenty of our resource endowments and the scarcity of their prudent management, between our culture of peace and tolerance and our current conduct sliding towards violence, intolerance and discrimination. Concluding, the Speaker said that India would be amongst the top nations of the world in the next millennium if this Second Freedom Struggle became successful.

Motion

The Motion that this House do consider the state of our democracy and democratic institutions, the economic situation, the position of infrastructure, achievements and potential in the field of science and technology and the state of human development in the country was drawn up in very wide terms and had a large canvas. It was listed in the name of the Leader of the Opposition and former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (BJP) and 19 others.

At the outset, the Speaker, Shri Sangma appealed to all members for free and frank expression of the views with constructive criticism as well as appreciation, wherever it was called for.

Moving the motion, Shri Vajpayee called for introspection into the gains and failures of the last fifty years. He said India had disproved the prophets of doom by remaining united and strong as a Republic. Democracy had survived and there had been change of governments through elections. Criminalisation of politics was a danger to democracy and political parties should ensure that people with criminal record did not get election tickets. Another threat to democracy was the increasing expenditure in contesting elections. Serious consideration should be given to the option of public funding of the elections. Another way of reducing expenditure was that 50 per cent of the members be directly elected from the constituencies while the remaining 50 per cent of the seats could be filled through the List System, i.e. the system of proportional representation. Shri Vajpayee emphasised the need for checking corruption effectively so as to save the honour of the country and suggested that politicians should not only give complete details of their property but also that of their relatives. He said that the House must be run with grace. There should be no disturbance during the Question Hour and no member should be allowed to enter the well of the House.

Shri Madhavrao Scindia (Congress) said that the venom of criminalisation, corruption, casteism and communalism has permeated into our society. He endorsed the call for a fight against corruption. Ther

was a need to take steps to instill a sense of security amongst the minorities. The policy of economic liberalisation should be implemented in certain fields like infrastructure, communication, power, transport and ports, etc. Shri Scindia called for amendment of electoral laws and empowerment of women through devolution of power. He said that no compromise should be made in safeguarding India's frontiers in the face of external aggression.

Shri Sharad Yadav (JD) said that the country was facing the problems of poverty and unemployment. Although the natural resources, including water resources, were abundant in the country, their proper utilisation was not there. People should come forward and raise their voice against corruption. Population growth needed to be controlled immediately. Training institutes for artisans needed to be established with the provision of financial and marketing facilities made available to them. Shri Yadav wanted the shackles of caste system to be broken away to remove social inequalities and that 50 per cent reservation be made for the persons opting for inter-caste marriages.

The veteran CPI (M) leader Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that the quasi-federal administrative set-up has not served the country well. In spite of the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission, decisions for giving more powers to the States were not taken. Some parts of the Indian Constitution were found to be woefully wanting in protecting the rights of the State. Expressing concern over the misuse of article 356 of the Constitution relating to imposition of President's rule in States, Shri Chatterjee said that this provision was almost a blot on the Indian Constitution. Stating that the very basis of the Constitution was Executive's accountability to the House and the accountability of the House to the people, he called for enforcing this accountability fully. State funding of elections was necessary and all political parties must commit to put up candidates against whom there were no allegations. The commitment to secularism should not be given up at any cost. Shri Chatterjee further stated that this was the right occasion for having a national agenda for population control, eradication of poverty, removal of unemployment, provision of health care and compulsory education and solution of women's problems.

The Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra, (CPI) said that necessary steps should be taken to check corruption at the earliest. He pleaded for ending the nexus between criminals and politicians and suggested that no party should give tickets to any person with a criminal record. Political parties must go for regular intra-party elections. All efforts in the direction of bringing the Muslim community to the national mainstream must be encouraged. Even the Hindu society was witnessing a change as the *dalits* (the downtrodden) were demanding a share in power. More funds should be allocated for agriculture, and research and development and the farming community should be treated properly.,

The Forward Bloc leader, Shri Chitta Basu pleaded for taking action against the increasing trend of criminalisation of politics. Having regard to the vastness of the country, its pluralism and its culture, parliamentary democracy was more suitable and it should be further strengthened.

Shri P. Kodandaramaiah (JD) called for a consensus in the House on some national issues. Speaking on the enormity of the population problem which was more than neutralising the rate of growth of the economy, he pleaded that the country had to aim at achieving a zero rate of population growth by the year 2025 and a minus rate by the year 2050.

Shri George Fernandes (Samata Party) observed that even after Fifty years of Independence, the country has not been able to provide a right place to Hindi and other national languages. Unemployment and poverty were the reasons for violence and criminalisation in many parts of India. Had there been sufficient employment opportunities, the demand for reservation in services would also not have surfaced. Shri Fernandes demanded that the House should look into the question of the flow of narcotics and transmission of AIDS in to the country. He was critical of the United Front Government for blindly following the liberalisation policy of the previous Congress Government. He called for launching a national movement to eradicate corruption from public and political life. Demanding immediate constitution of an 'Ethics Committee', Shri Fernandes emphasised the need to muster courage and show the will power to remove the black sheep from the membership of the House. Referring to the Indian land which was still under Chinese occupation since the 1962 war, he said that no concrete steps had been taken by the Government to recover that land.

The former Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, (Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)) participating in the debate on 27 August 1997, took pride that India was the only country among many Third World nations that got freedom along with us, where democracy was still continuing. However, there was a need to understand the psyche of the minorities and have a tolerant and sympathetic approach to their problems. The leadership had defaulted on crucial issues like poverty, hunger, basic education and provision of drinking water. All the girl children must be educated to solve the burning problem of population explosion. Shri Chandra Shekhar was of the opinion that corruption was not a major issue before the nation as only five percent of the people were involved in it. The real issue before the nation and the Parliament was that of effecting social changes. There was a need to recognise the latent power of the country.

Shri Sharad Pawar, the leader of the Congress Party in the Lok Sabha, welcomed the suggestions of Shri Vajpayee that under no circumstances a member would go to the well of the House and that there would be

no interruptions during the Question Hour. He expressed concern over the increase in non-plan expenditure in administration. Pointing out that population explosion was the biggest problem facing the country, Shri Pawar stressed the need for launching a crusade against it by evolving a proper programme involving all political parties and the media.

Calling for strict measures to control population growth, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee (CPI) said that the target group must be men and not women as it was not the women who determined it. She demanded implementation of the programme of action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development held at Cairo in 1994 and agreed upon by the Government of India. Since development was closely related with empowerment of women, she demanded that the question of reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies be discussed and placed for vote of the House in the next Session.

Participating in the debate, Shri Kanshi Ram of the Bahujan Samaj Party made a strong attack on the country's record of dealing with the scheduled castes. Many promises were made and resolutions passed by various Governments to protect the interests of the oppressed and the downtrodden, but they were never implemented. For restoring political democracy in the real sense, there was an urgent need to bring about electoral reforms and changes in social and economic fronts.

The former Prime Minister and Congress leader, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the first Speaker of the day in the continued debate on 28 August 1997. He said that the most important aspect of our existence, at the confluence of two millennia, was nuclear disarmament which was a *must* for the survival of the world. This was acknowledged but not acted upon. The Cold War was over and it was hoped that there would be international peace and co-operation. However, the nuclear weapon states believe that there would be a cultural confrontation, and thus the dream of peaceful world has been punctured. India must keep up the tradition of saying what is right and going alone, if necessary. She must play a crucial role in the doing whatever was possible for nuclear disarmament all over the world. All the dualities, which we call *dwandhwads* that were created between the individual and the society; the public and the private; the *status quo* and pro change; the orthodox and the liberal, etc., had been subsumed in the Indian philosophy by following a middle path. Non-alignment was a child of the middle path. The middle path was the freedom to stick to one's ideas. Shri Rao was sceptical of the gigantism being pursued in industrialisation. He, however, clarified that he was not in favour of primitivism. He suggested the harnessing of the wind and water energy to meet the demand for electricity and advocated more attention towards the Indian systems of imedicine.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj (BJP) dealt at length on the subject of human resource development. Giving a grim picture of the primary level education

in the country, she expressed concern at not achieving the goal of universalisation of education. Smt. Swaraj was critical of the present system of aimless and directionless education which not only led to employment but also pictured nationalism as communalism and sacrificed morality in the name of secularism. For the development of a nation, it was essential that there was dignity of labour and empowerment of women. Girls must be educated to take decisions and prevent their exploitation. There had to be an agenda for improving the lot of the artisans and farmers. The youth of the country constituted a prominent human resource and their energies must be harnessed and developed in the proper direction. Unemployment was to be removed as it generated dejection and despair in the youth. Making a reference to what was said earlier that 95 per cent of the population was honest whereas only 5 per cent people were corrupt, Smt. Sawaraj said that the problem lay in the fact that 95 per cent of the people had accepted the 5 per cent part as their ideal. She called for building national character and discipline based on humanity purely in an Indian style.

The Minister of Defence, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav (Samajwadi Party) said that India was poor because it did not raise the economic standard of the farming community. The prosperity of the cities was based on that of the villages. There was no need for bringing in and depending upon heavy machinery for the manufacture of day to day petty items. The entire caste system needed to be changed. Social change, instead of social justice, was the need of the hour. Minorities had made significant contribution in the development of the country, but their condition was pitiable. There was a need to check the tendency of suspecting the minorities. Students and intellectuals must be awakened for launching another freedom struggle. He pleaded for reservation for the poor belonging to all communities and castes, including the higher castes. He clarified that his party was not against reservation for women. However, it could not support the Women's Bill in the present form as it did not contain any provision for the deprived women in the society who would continue to be neglected. The Election Commission should derecognise political parties if these failed to provide a fixed percentage of reservation for women. The criminalisation of politics must be stopped. Indian languages needed encouragement. The Defence Minister said that India was not for an arms race, but was ready to give a befitting reply whenever attacked.

Participating in the discussion, the former Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil (Congress) advocated the strengthening and expansion of the Committee System. The Constitution should be amended to ensure that the Executive remained reasonably stable. The Judiciary was to be modernised so as to dispose of cases quickly. There were millions of scientists and technologists in the country. India had made achievements in the fields of space, atomic energy and defence technology. However, there were paucity of funds and misconceptions that the use of advanced

technology would kill employment potential. This had to be removed. Planning was essential for economic development. Technology and medicine must be developed to control the population. There was a need to develop technology to harness solar energy, wind energy and wave energy to solve the energy problem. Space and ocean resources needed to be explored to meet the demands. Science and spirituality taken together would result in a new culture that would give a holistic approach to the problem which was being faced by the humanity.

Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala (Akali Dal) alleged that article 356 of the Constitution was being misused against those States which did not fall in line with the Centre. Calling for decentralisation of the Indian Union and implementation of the Sarkaria Commission Report to safeguard federalism, Shri Barnala sharply criticised the army action against militants in the Golden Temple at Amritsar and the alleged inaction of the Centre over the massacre of Sikhs in the Capital in 1984. Such episodes damaged the minority psyche and led to feelings of insecurity amongst them. Shri Barnala stressed the need to forcibly restrict the population growth. He also called for taking concrete measures to check the criminalisation of politics.

The Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who was the first to take the floor on 29 August 1997 said that the caste system had deprived dalits, backward classes and women of their genuine rights. A determined fight had to be carried out against religious hypocrisy and a consensus evolved for wiping out corruption.

The BJP leader, Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi lamented that the House had shown very little interest in science and technology since it had not devoted even 45 hours on the subject during its entire tenure of 45 years from 1952 to 1997. Lauding the progress made in this field by various scientific laboratories, he said that commendable work had been done by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). He wanted the budgetary allocation for research and development to be increased. Expenditure incurred on research should be classified as investment and not subsidy and there was a need to change the mind-set of bureaucracy in this regard. Dr. Joshi said that development of atomic energy had become essential from the viewpoints of medicine, power, agriculture and defence. Dr. Joshi felt that English language was the greatest hindrance in the development of science and technology.

Shri P. Upendra (Congress) said that the benefits of the poverty alleviation programmes did not reach the poor. Funds were diverted for other schemes. Judiciary was independent and impartial but the common people did not get justice. Judicial activism was a matter of worry. There was also a need for administrative reforms to ensure accountability of the Executive. Electoral reforms needed top priority, observed Shri Upendra.

Speaking on 30 August 1997, Shri Rajesh Pilot (Congress) demanded paying of more attention towards the rural areas and the farmers as well as on reducing the rich-poor and urban-rural gaps. He attributed many ills facing the country to a fall in political character in the post-Independence period. He also advocated the recognition of the right to work.

The Minister of Home Affairs and senior CPI leader, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that corruption in public life and criminalisation of politics were two diseases which had spread throughout the society. The Minister proposed a resolution to make an undertaking in the House by all political parties not to give ticket to any person who was connected in any criminal case during the last ten years or was chargesheeted or challanned in any criminal case, or was a history sheeter in the criminal records of the police or was otherwise publicly known as an anti-social or criminal element. Governments, both at the Centre and in the States, should come up speedily with suitable legislation on the above lines, including other aspects of electoral reforms, he said.

On 1 September 1997, the Chief Whip of the Congress, Shri Sontosh Mohan Deb conveyed his party's consent to the suggestions made by the Home Minister, Shri Indrajit Gupta.

The Minister of Tourism and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Srikanta Jena observed that coalition politics had already come and would stay in the country because no party was in a position to get a clear mandate. Regional imbalances had to be eradicated to preserve national unity and integrity. Declaration of assets by the elected representatives would pave the way for brining in probity in public life.

Shri Jaswant Singh (BJP) said that it was the moral infrastructure of the country which in the last fifty years had got enfeebled rather than strengthened. It was the bounden duty of those assembled in the House to restore to the nation a sense of ethics in the cultural, social and political conduct. Economic liberalisation outside a moral universe was not liberalisation. Similarly, education out side a clear understanding of culture was not education, observed Shri Singh.

Intervening in the debate, the Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral said that the discussion had been useful, educative and thought-provoking. He said that the unity of diversities was the flag that must continue to fly high on the strong mast of Indian liberation. Shri Gujral called upon the youth to shoulder the responsibility of strengthening the nation. Backwardness must be removed and new ideas must be welcomed. The armed forces would be given the latest technology that was required for the security of the country.

Referring to the issue of corruption, Shri Gujral said that a revised Lokpal Bill would be introduced during the Winter Session of Parliament. A special

effort had been made to speed up the issue of sanction for prosecution in respect of public servants involved in corruption cases. Measures to improve the quality of investigation and follow-up of corruption cases in the courts were being finalised and steps were being taken in consultation with the States to ensure that corruption cases were disposed of expeditiously in a time-bound manner. He further stated that the Government would introduce the Right to Information Bill in the next Session of Parliament to bring transparency in government functioning. The Prime Minister also expressed his commitment to bring about electoral reforms. Touching upon various aspects of Indian foreign policy, Shri Gujral said that India had always sought to have good relations with not only Pakistan but with all her neighbours based on trust, friendship and co-operation.

Earlier, replying to the debate, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee asserted that stringent action was called for to tackle criminalisation of politics and corruption in public life. The sincerity to root out corruption should not be merely reflected by words but by action as well. Shri Vajpayee wanted the members to maintain the dignity of the House. He suggested that opportunities may be provided to the back benchers to show their brilliance. He also wanted the Government to be more responsive in responding to the points raised by the members. No delay should be allowed in the matters of redressal of public grievances.

After a 64-hour 29-minute marathon Session, the Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on 1 September 1997. The debate surpassed the previous record which was on the debate on the Demands for Grants for Railways which had lasted five days from 6 to 13 March 1997, spanning 26 hours and five minutes.

RAJYA SABHA

The Rajya Sabha started its proceedings of the Special Session on 26 August 1997 with warm felicitations to its new Chairman and the recently elected Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant. The Session concluded on 1 September 1997 after the House adopted unanimously a Resolution which was identical to the one passed by the Lok Sabha.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla listed the achievements of the country in the last five decades. She said that while accomplishments were impressive, there were several shortfalls as well. She appealed to the private sector to join hands with the Government in the process of nation-building. Dr. Heptulla proposed that the House may adopt a Resolution in the course of the special sitting.

The Rajya Sabha chose four topics for discussion during the Special Session. These were : Human Development and Science & Technology; Economy and Infrastructure; India and the World; and Parliamentary Democracy. The debate on the first three topics lasted one day each, while the last three days were devoted to discuss the fourth topic, viz., Parliamentary Democracy.

Massive Participation

In all, the discussion lasted for 45 hours and 24 minutes (See Tables 3 and 4) in which 158 members, including the Prime Minister and six Ministers, took part. The total participation account for 65.02 per cent of the strength (243) of the Rajya Sabha. So far as party-wise participation is concerned, the CPI topped (100 per cent) with all its five members taking part in the debate. Being the largest party in Rajya Sabha, the Members of the Congress accounted for maximum participation (30.38 per cent of the total) taking proportionately the maximum time (35.87 per cent) in comparison to other parties.

TABLE-3**Rajya Sabha Special Debate - Party Wise Participation of Members**

Party	Strength	Participated	% of participation (3/2×100)	Party's % of participation (3/Total×100)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>(Brackets contain figures showing women members)</i>				
Congress	86 (10)	48 (4)	55.81 (40)	30.38 (44.44)
BJP	45 (2)	35 (2)	77.78 (100)	22.15 (22.22)
JD	15 (2)	9 (-)	60 (-)	5.70 (-)
CPI (M)	15 (2)	9 (1)	60 (50)	5.70 (11.11)
Telugu Desam	8 (2)	7 (1)	87.50 (50)	4.43 (11.11)
Rashtriya Janata Dal	8	5	62.50	3.16
AIADMK-I	7	5	71.43	3.16
AIADMK-II	7	2	28.57	1.27
Samajwadi Party	7	6	85.71	3.80
CPI	5	5	100	3.16
Parties with strength of less than five members	21	14	66.67	8.86
Independents and Nominated	19 (3)	13 (1)	68.42 (33.33)	8.23 (11.11)
Total	243* (21)	158 (9)	65.02 (42.85)	

*Excluding two vacancies.

TABLE-4
Rajya Sabha Debate-Party-wise Time Taken

Party	Strength	Proportionate Strength of Party (%)	Time Taken Hours Minutes		Proportionate time taken (%)
Congress	86	35.39	16	17	35.87
BJP	45	18.52	8	47	19.35
JD	15	6.17	3	48	8.37
CPI (M)	15	6.17	2	55	6.42
Telugu Desam	8	3.29	1	17	2.83
Rashtriya Janata Dal	8	3.29	1	21	2.97
AIADMK-I	7	2.88	1	16	2.79
AIADMK-II	7	2.88	0	19	0.70
Samajwadi Party	7	2.88	1	47	3.93
CPI	5	2.06	1	10	2.57
Parties with strength of less than five members	21	8.65	3	15	7.18
Independents and Nominated	19	7.82	3	12	7.04
Total	243*	100.00	45.24		100.00

*Excluding two vacancies

Of the total of 21 women members in the Rajya Sabha, nine spoke on different subjects of the special debate accounting for 42.85 per cent of the total.

The total special debate ran into 1403 typed pages. The Rajya Sabha sittings were also telecast live simultaneously.

Human Development and Science and Technology

Initiating the debate on Human Development and Science & Technology on 26 August 1997, the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht (BJP) expressed concern at the socio-political situation in the country. Ethics and morality were vanishing; political stability was on the decline; and the effectiveness of instruments of governance had since eroded while corruption was on the increase. There had been tremendous progress in various fields of science. However, human relationships were breaking up and there was loneliness in life, observed Shri Bakht.

The Congress leader, Shri S.B. Chavan said that the population explosion was a big problem and it might not be possible to control it, unless women were given education. There had been some success in the field of universalisation of education. To solve the employment problem, it was essential that a linkage was established between the requirement of industry and vocational education. He said that the scientists should be given encouragement to develop technology that could solve the various problems faced by the country.

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Prof. Yoginder K. Alagh, while lauding the achievements of Indian scientists in various fields such as space, nuclear power and agriculture, admitted that there was need for measures to check brain drain. He recommended provision of adequate incentives to the scientists.

The Human Resource Development Minister, Shri S.R. Bommai (JD) called for giving top priority to education in the Resolution to be adopted. Education of women could solve the problem of population explosion. Stressing the need for a national agricultural policy, he said that industrialisation and modernisation would be futile exercises unless purchasing power and employment are given to the rural farmers and the rural poor.

Shri V. Rajan Chellappa (AIADMK) said that unemployed youth was not only a colossal waste of manpower, but also created several problems like militancy, insurgency and other crimes. He appealed to the Government to formulate a scheme for the youth, both literates and illiterates, with sufficient funds to involve them in nation-building.

Participating in the debate, Dr. Karan Singh (Independent) said no nation could grow without universal primary education and the country had failed to give education to all its children. The definition of socialism and secularism had become anti-religious and the society was getting fragmented on the basis of different religions and castes. Dr. Singh suggested making the Fundamental Duties an integral part of the educational curriculum.

Economy and Infrastructure

On 27 August, the Rajya Sabha discussed the state of the Indian economy and infrastructure and most of the members underlined the urgent need for further strengthening food supply and improvement in the power sector. Initiating the discussion, senior Congress leader, Shri Pranab Mukherjee observed that even though India had achieved self-sufficiency in food production, the performance of the Indian economy was not so significant as compared to the economies of South-East Asia. A national consensus must be evolved on economic policy. He stressed that India had to depend substantially on her own strengths and resources rather than on investment from abroad. He expressed concern over the emergence of regionalism in the global economy.

Dr. Ashok Mitra of the CPI(M) felt that the policies framed in the last fifty years benefited only the elite and the rich. Development in education is a must if the country is to achieve economic progress. Only an effective implementation of land reforms can lift the condition of the poor and the downtrodden.

The former Finance Minister and the architect of the liberalisation policy, Dr. Manmohan Singh (Congress) expressed optimism that India would emerge as the third or fourth largest economic power in the world if the country made good use of the opportunities available globally. He allayed the apprehension of the IMF or the World Bank or the WTO dictating terms to India.

Shri Ved Prakash Goyal (BJP) said that there should be unhindered inflow of funds and technology from all sources. He also emphasised the need for an integrated approach towards transport.

India and the World

On 28 August, initiating a discussion on 'India and the World', the Prime Minister Shri Inder Kumar Gujral said that the purpose of diplomacy was to transform, not to transact. India had succeeded in transforming the world's outlook and succeeded in extinguishing the forces of oppression and power. The shadows of Cold War in South Asia made it difficult for India to build good neighbourly relationships. The Prime Minister regretted that the most difficult test for India's foreign policy continued to be its relations with Pakistan. He made it clear that while New Delhi was willing to go more than half way, the sovereignty of the country or its borders would not be open to any negotiations. He said that the two countries should learn to respect each other's sovereignty with regard to borders. Shri Gujral declared that the country would never be let down for want of defence technologies.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee (Congress) expressed concern over manufacture of the most sophisticated lethal weapons in the world. He said that the United Nations should take effective steps to check cross-border terrorism. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra (BJP) said the country should be strong enough to repulse enemies even while continuing with its efforts to promote peace and friendly relations with other countries. Dr. Biplab Dasgupta (CPI (M)) said India's foreign policy should be reinforced by a strong economic policy aimed at self-sufficiency. He suggested a broad alliance of non-aligned countries which could force the western countries to renegotiate the World Trade Organisation Treaty. Shri Ram Gopal Yadav (SP) underlined the need for strengthening the country's defence. He further said that military technology must be developed to be able to run a free foreign policy. Shri K.M. Saifullah, (TD) emphasised the importance of stability and peace to attract foreign investment in the country.

Parliamentary Democracy

The Rajya Sabha debated the topic 'Parliamentary Democracy on three days—on 29 and 30 August and 1 September 1997. Several members called for effective steps to put an end to corruption and welcomed the Election Commission's order banning convicted politicians from contesting elections. Initiating the discussion, the CPI(M) leader, Shri E. Balanandan said money power and the nexus between politicians and criminals should be fought. The effect of unrestricted opening of the economy to foreign multinationals would be against development and would result in de-industrialisation. Shri Jitendra Prasad (Congress) too welcomed the Election Commission's order that convicted politicians would be barred from contesting elections. Members of Parliament should take a pledge to ensure that politics was not criminalised. The right to information should be made a statutory right. He called for taking steps to ensure that the funds earmarked for anti-poverty programmes reached the poor.

The CPI leader, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta said that the political system in the country during the past fifty years had utterly failed to root out unemployment, poverty, social atrocities and perversity in public life and unending corruption. He demanded that MPs should be recalled if they were not found fit to carry out the tasks that were assigned to them. Criminalisation of politics and politicisation of criminals, the rate of black money and the opportunistic ganging up of political parties were against the very spirit of parliamentary democracy. He also called for a total overhauling of the electoral system.

The former Prime Minister and Janata Dal Leader Shri H.D. Deve Gowda said parliamentary democracy had, to some extent, lost its importance and suggested the conveying of an all party meeting to discuss the various aspects of the system. He called for finding out a solution to revive the supermacy of both Houses of Parliament. He remarked that the coalition system of government might continue for some more years to come. Shri S.S. Bhandari (BJP) said Parliament should debate whether a comprehensive review of the Constitution should be undertaken to find out how effective and useful some of its provisions were in the present situation. Senior Congress member, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad said, politicians of the day should make an introspection and find out reasons for their receding stature. Shri T.N. Chaturvedi (BJP) too said that over the last five decades most of the democratic institutions had been denigrated and it was time for them to introspect why they had fallen in the eyes of the general public. Shri Ahmed Patel (Congress) regretted that parliamentary democracy was facing challenges because of criminalisation of politics. He suggested that political parties should not give tickets to criminals. Shri K. Karunakaran, also from Congress, wanted that the political parties should wage a war against corruption and devise ways and means to reduce election expenditure. Shri **V.P. Duraisamy** (DMK)

was of the suggested that technocrats should be allowed to have a say in shaping the policies and programmes of the nation.

On the concluding day on 1 September 1997, the Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral spoke on his Government's commitment to end corruption. He said that while framing policies on various subjects it must be ensured that the efforts to take the country into the era of science and technology got a boost. He assured the armed forces that the country would not let them down in respect of science and technology and technology would be upgraded.

Earlier, resuming the discussion on 1 September, Shri Ramakrishna Hegde said that the system of parliamentary democracy had failed in the country. Though much was being talked about the progress the country had made so far, the people in the villages continued to be denied the benefits of economic development. If the present system had to continue for some time, then it was necessary to bring about drastic changes in the electoral system. Shri V.N. Gadgil (Congress) observed that the Legislature had failed in its primary duty of enacting legislations. He demanded a code of conduct for the members of Parliament. Criminals should be debarred from entering politics and there should be state financing of elections. M.Ps should be made to declare their assets and liabilities. There must be Ethics Committees for both the Houses to look into the norms and behaviour of M.Ps. Congress leader, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj regretted that Parliament had allowed its powers to be usurped by the Judiciary. Shri S.R. Reddy (TDP) said that any redrafting of the Constitution or switching to the Presidential form of government would further weaken the country. Miss Nirmala Deshpande (Nominated) advocated decentralisation of power, for democracy to succeed in the country. Shri Suresh Keswani (Independent) urged the reorganisation of States into smaller States.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla concluded the discussion. She said that it was a matter of regret that very few speakers referred to the status of women in the country. She said that many of the bills in the House were adopted without any discussion which was not a healthy trend for the survival of democracy in the country.

MEMBERS OF THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHA —A SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY

—LARRDIS

Ours is a nation of continental dimensions having a populace of about nine hundred million, that too with a diversity rarely seen elsewhere. Be it tradition, history, culture, language, even food or dress habits, one part of the country is different from that of the other. Still, this diversity has always been the mainstay of our unity. This is reflected most in the membership of the Lok Sabha. Members of this House are drawn from all parts of the country; they speak different languages, possess different educational backgrounds, represent correspondingly a wide spectrum of professions and form varying age groups, besides having different political affiliations. But they are all united by their most important objective of working for the progress and welfare of the people of India. And the Eleventh Lok Sabha, exhibiting a remarkable degree of heterogeneity, is not an exception.

The present study is basically an attempt to record the data about the socio-economic background of members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Analysis has been made on the basis of their age, education, occupation, political affiliations, marital status and past legislative experience. While presenting an account of the above factual details, a comparative assessment has also been made of the present House with the Tenth Lok Sabha as also the earlier Houses wherever necessary, to draw certain conclusions over the general trends of representation. The level of women's representation has also been analysed with a view to providing a helpful indicator for researchers.

Following the General Elections, the Eleventh Lok Sabha was constituted on 15 May 1996. Since no single political party or alliance was able to secure a majority in the House, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, Leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party which emerged as the single largest Party, was invited by the President to form the Government with the stipulation that he would prove his majority on the floor of the House by 31 May 1996. Shri Vajpayee and his Council of Ministers were sworn in on 16 May 1996. The First Session of the new House was convened on 22 May 1996. Earlier, as per accepted practice, the President appointed Shri Indrajit Gupta of the Communist Party of India, the senior most member of the House, the Speaker *pro tem* with effect from 22 May 1996 and he administered the oath or affirmation to the members. The former Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, a member and leader of the

Congress Party (which had emerged as the second largest party) in the House, was recognised as the Leader of the Opposition. The election of the Speaker of the House was held on 23 May 1996. Shri Purno Agitok Sangma of the Congress Party was elected as the Speaker of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, the first time in the history of the Lok Sabha when an Opposition member was elected as the Speaker, and that too unanimously.

It was perhaps for the first time that the House met in an air of uncertainty, especially on the question of survival of the Government. Even though we did face similar situations earlier also, once in 1989 and again in 1991, never before was it that the debate on the Motion of Confidence became the trial of strength for the Government. The Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers was taken up on 27 May 1996 and the discussions thereon continued till the next day, *i.e.*, 28 May 1996. At the end of the debate, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee announced that he was going to tender his resignation to the President. Subsequently, the Leader of the United Front, Shri Hardanahalli Doddegowda Deve Gowda was invited by the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, to form the next Government and prove his majority in the House by 12 June 1996. The new Government was sworn in on 1 June 1996. The Motion of Confidence in the newly formed Council of Ministers was taken up for discussion on 11 June 1996. The discussion concluded the next day after the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda replied to it and the Motion was adopted by the House.

The members of the present House represent diverse political parties. The number of parties touched an all time record of 28 in the present House. (Table 1 indicates the detailed party position in the Eleventh Lok Sabha as on 21.3.1997). Following the changed political equations, the BJP was recognised as the Opposition Party and its leader, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee, was appointed the Leader of the Opposition in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Shri Vajpayee had the privilege of being the Leader of the Opposition in the Tenth Lok Sabha as well.

Shri Suraj Bhan of the BJP was elected the Deputy Speaker on 12 July 1996.

The Constitution provides that subject to the provision for nomination by the President of two members from the Anglo-Indian Community,* the House of the People (Lok Sabha) shall consist of not more than five hundred and thirty members chosen from different territorial constituencies in the States and not more than twenty members from the Union territories. As per the existing delimitation of constituencies, there are only 543

*Article 331 of the Constitution provides that notwithstanding anything in article 81, the President may, if he is of opinion that the Anglo-Indian community is not adequately represented in the House of the People, nominate not more than two members of that community to the House of the People. Shri Nell Alloysuis O'Brien and Smt. Hedwig Michael Rego are the nominated members of this House.

TABLE 1
STATE-WISE PARTY POSITION
(As on 21.3.97)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union territory	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Seats	B.J.P	Indian National Congress	Janata Dal	Janata Dal Congress	CPI(M) Marila Congress	DMK Congress	Samajwadi Party	T.D.P.	Shiv Sana Party	Bahujan Samaj Party	CPI	Other Parties	Indep- endents	Total	Vac- ancies
I. STATES																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	-	21	-	1	-	-	-	17	-	-	2	1(a)	-	42	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
3.	Assam	14	1	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6(b)	1	14	-
4.	Bihar	54	18	2	22	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	7 (c)	1	54	-
5.	Goa	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (d)	-	2	-
6.	Gujarat	26	16	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	-
7.	Haryana	10	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 (e)	1	10	-
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
10.	Karnataka	28	6	6	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-
11.	Kerala	20	-	7	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4 (f)	-	19	1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	40	28	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1 (g)	1	40	-
13.	Maharashtra	48	18	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-	48	-
14.	Manipur	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
15.	Meghalaya	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union territory	Seats	B.J.P.	Indian National Congress	Janata Dal	CPI(M)	Tamil Nadu Congress	DMK	Samajwadi Party	T.D.P.	Shiv Sena	Bahujan Samaj Party	CPI	Other Parties	Independents	Total	Vacancies	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
16.	Mizoram	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
17.	Nagaland	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
18.	Orissa	21	-	17	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (h)	-	21	-	
19.	Punjab	13	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	8 (l)	-	13	-	
20.	Rajasthan	25	13	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (l)	-	-	25	
21.	Skidum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (k)	-	1	-	
22.	Tamil Nadu	39	-	-	-	-	20	17	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	39	-	
23.	Tripura	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	85	52	4	2	-	-	-	16	-	-	6	-	4 (l)	1	85	-	
25.	West Bengal	42	-	9	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	7 (m)	-	42	-	
II. UNION TERRITORIES																		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
2.	Chandigarh	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
4.	Daman & Diu	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
5.	Delhi	7	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	
6.	Lakshadweep	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
7.	Pondicherry	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Total		543	162	139	45	32	20	17	17	17	15	11	12	46	8	541	2	

- (a) AIMIN-1.
- (b) Asom Gana Parishad - 5; and Autonomous State Demand Committee - 1.
- (c) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha - 1; Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) - 1; and Samata Party - 5.
- (d) Maharashtra Gomantak Party - 1; and United Goa Democratic Party - 1.
- (e) Haryana Vikas Party - 3.
- (f) Kerala Congress(M) - 1; Muslim League - 2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1.
- (g) All India Indira Congress (I) - 1.
- (h) Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) - 1.
- (i) Shiromani Akali Dal - 8.
- (j) All India Indira Congress (I) - 1.
- (k) Sikhim Democratic Front-1.
- (l) All India Indira Congress (I) -2; Bharatiya Kisan Kamgar Party - 1; and Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya) - 1.
- (m) All India Forward Bloc - 3; and Revolutionary Socialist Party -4.

elective seats in the House. The actual strength of the elected members in the House, as on 7 October 1997 is 543 (including Speaker, Lok Sabha) as there are two vacancies, in Karimganj and Barasat parliamentary constituencies.

Although the bio-data of 532* members constitute the basis of this study, in some cases all the necessary particulars in respect of date of birth, educational qualifications, occupations, etc. are not available. It is thus with certain limitations that the article seeks to discuss the nature of the composition of the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

Age Profile

The Constitution lays down no age limit for membership of Parliament. But it prescribes a minimum age of 25 years to contest elections for membership of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and 30 years for membership of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha).

Age-wise, the present House has the average age of 52.82 years (calculated on the basis of the information furnished by 516 members), as against 51.45 years in the Tenth Lok Sabha and 51.3 years in the Ninth Lok Sabha. In the first two Lok Sabhas, the percentage stood at 46.5 and 46.7, respectively. The average age of members in the various Lok Sabhas is indicated in Graph 1. It may be seen from the Graph that in terms of averages, the Present Lok Sabha becomes the 'oldest House' thus far (52.82 years), followed by the Sixth Lok Sabha with the average age being 52.1 years.

For the sake of a detailed analysis, the members have been classified into 13 different age-groups with a span of 5 years each, beginning with the age group of 25-30 years and ending with 86-90 years (Table 2 and Graph 2). As has been usually happening, the composition of the Eleventh Lok Sabha also shows more inclination towards the middle-aged members. As the largest representative group in the House, they (i.e., age group 41-55 years) constitute about 46.31 per cent (out of 516 respondents). The highest representation of this age group was 53.2 per cent in the Fifth Lok Sabha and the lowest was 42.1 per cent in the Eighth Lok Sabha. The age group of 51-55 years alone accounts for 15.50 per cent in the present House.

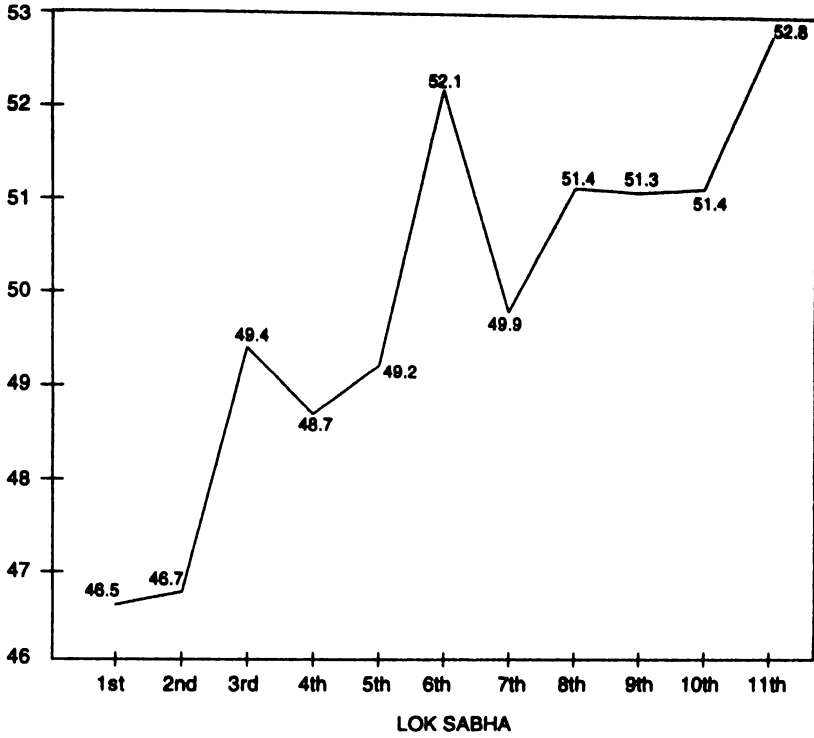
Members who are either 35 or below, have about 6.39 per cent representation in the present House which is lower as compared to the previous Lok Sabha where it stood at 7.92 per cent. A noticeable increase in the representation of the very young members in the age group of 25-30 years, from 1.58 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha to 2.13 per cent is seen in the present House. Members who are 56 years of age or above have 38.93 per cent representation in the present Lok Sabha. There is about 3 per cent increase in their representation in this House as against 36.04 per cent in the previous House.

*Including two nominated members.

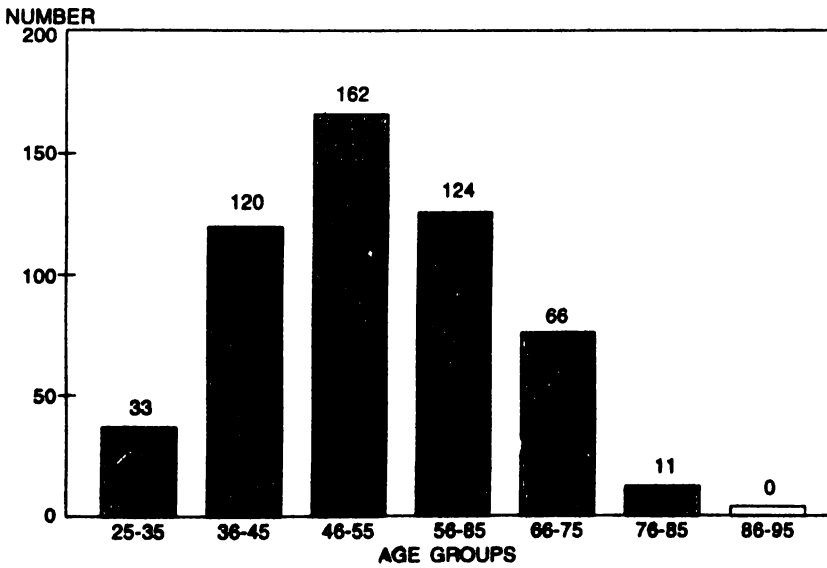
TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHA BY AGE GROUPS

Age Group	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok Sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha	
	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age
25-30 years	28	6.0	13	2.6	11	2.3	22	4.4	16	3.1	18	3.5	9	1.7	7	1.3	14	2.68	8	1.58	11	2.13
31-35 years	54	11.6	60	12.3	34	7.1	37	7.5	28	5.5	26	5.0	43	8.3	36	6.8	17	3.25	32	6.34	22	4.26
36-40 years	58	12.5	91	18.7	64	13.7	68	13.7	62	12.3	62	11.9	71	13.7	60	11.3	55	10.53	50	9.90	43	8.33
41-45 years	68	14.7	71	14.6	79	16.6	84	17.0	76	15.0	69	13.3	75	15.5	73	13.7	76	14.55	75	14.85	77	14.92
46-50 years	74	16.0	64	13.1	73	15.4	85	17.0	99	19.6	94	18.1	70	13.5	77	14.5	92	17.62	87	17.23	82	15.89
51-55 years	93	20.3	76	15.6	69	14.5	69	14.0	94	18.6	94	18.1	84	16.2	74	13.9	82	15.70	71	14.06	80	15.50
56-60 years	47	10.1	70	14.4	58	12.2	55	11.0	57	11.3	66	12.7	87	16.8	80	15.1	68	13.02	65	12.87	65	12.59
61-65 years	29	6.2	25	5.1	58	12.2	39	7.9	35	6.9	41	8.0	41	7.9	74	13.9	63	12.06	66	13.07	59	11.43
66-70 years	10	2.0	12	2.4	21	4.4	25	5.0	25	4.9	33	6.4	24	4.6	30	5.7	41	7.85	32	6.34	47	9.10
71-75 years	1	0.2	4	1.0	6	1.2	10	2.0	9	1.7	11	2.1	11	2.1	11	2.1	12	2.29	14	2.77	19	3.68
76-80 years	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.4	4	0.7	3	0.6	6	1.1	1	0.19	4	0.79	8	1.55
81-85 years	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.02	3	0.6	—	—	1	0.20	3	0.58
86-90 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.19	—	—	—	—
Total number of members who have supplied information	462	486	475	496	504	519	519	531	522	505	516	516	519	544	544	529	508	543	516	516	516	516
Total number of Seats	499	500	503	523	521	544	544	544	544	544	544	544	544	544	544	544	529	508	543	516	516	516

GRAPH 1 : AVERAGE AGE OF MEMBERS FROM 1st TO 11th LOK SABHA



GRAPH 2 : AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF MEMBERS 11th LOK SABHA



As regards the representation of members in the age group of 81-85 years, the Eighth Lok Sabha registered the highest representation so far at 0.6 per cent. The first two Lok Sabhas and the Ninth Lok Sabha had no representation in this group. The remaining Lok Sabhas (except the present House) had a lone representative each in this group; their number in this House is 3, i.e., 0.58 per cent. While Shri Ishwarbhai K. Chavda (84 years) is the oldest member in the present House, Smt. Vijayaraje Scindia (77 years) is the oldest female member. The youngest male member in the present Lok Sabha is Shri Nihal Chand Chauhan (26 years) and the youngest female member is Smt. Divya Singh (33 years).

Educational Background

Though our Constitution does not stipulate any formal educational qualification for being a member of Parliament, it would be observed from Table 3 that the members elected to the eleven Lok Sabhas possess high educational qualifications. The Table indicates an upward swing with successive Lok Sabhas.

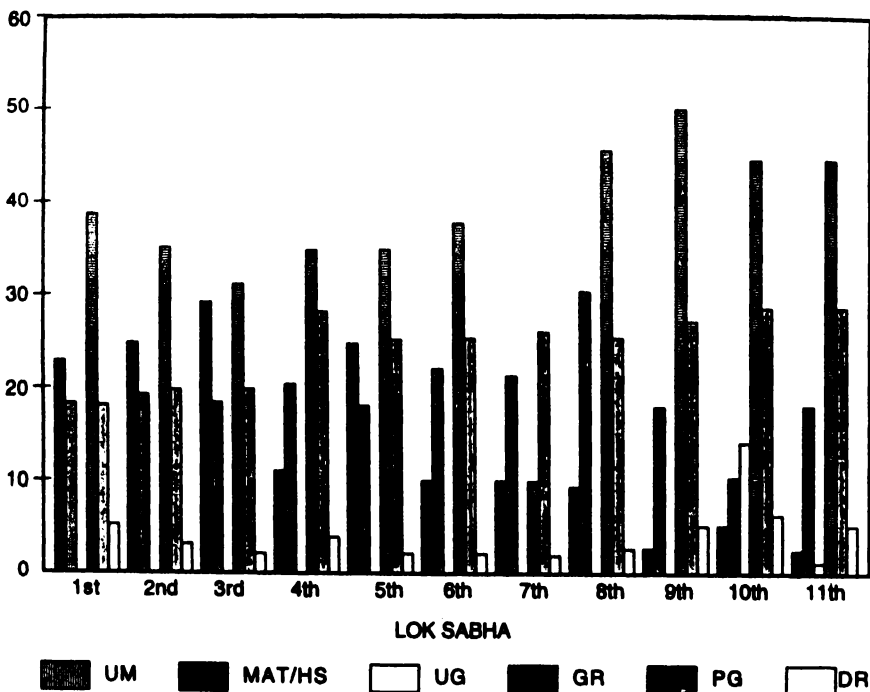
In order to have an overall view of the educational standards of the members of the present House, they have been classified into six categories according to their educational qualifications, viz. (i) Under matriculates; (ii) Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders; (iii) Under-Graduates; (iv) Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualifications); (v) Post-Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualifications); and (vi) Doctoral degree or other high academic qualification holders. Table 3 shows the number and percentage of members of all the eleven Lok Sabhas falling into these categories. Graph 3 indicates the educational background of members, percentage-wise, from the First to the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Graph 4, however, confines itself to a study of the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

With 77.36 per cent of its members having educational qualifications of the level of graduation and above, this Lok Sabha comes next only to the Ninth Lok Sabha which is the highest educated House so far (78.23 per cent) in terms of academic qualifications. Going by any single category, Graduates (including those having equivalent technical qualifications) in the present House account for 42.94 per cent, about 5 per cent lower than the highest percentage for the category, i.e., 48.74 recorded so far in the Ninth Lok Sabha, while the lowest till now is that of the Third Lok Sabha (32 per cent). They were 43.65 per cent in the previous Lok Sabha. The Eleventh Lok Sabha, however, has the distinction of having the maximum number of members with Post-Graduate and Doctoral degrees (34.42 per cent). Individually, the Post-Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualifications) register 28.82 per cent in the present House. In the Tenth and the Ninth Lok Sabhas, the respective figures were 28.77 and 25.94 per cent. Interestingly, the First Lok Sabha

TABLE 3
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

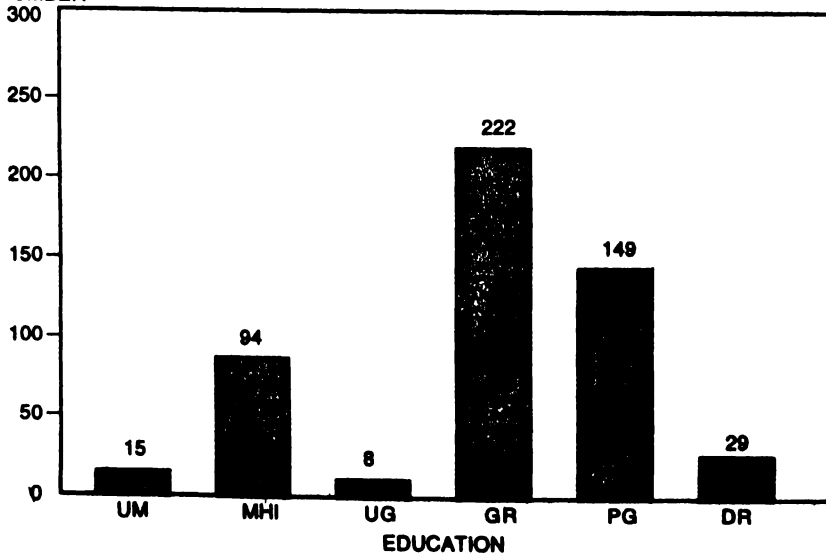
Educational Background	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok Sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha	
	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age
Under-Matriculates	112	23.2	120	25.4	141	28.7	54	11.5	119	23.1	52	9.8	53	10.0	42	7.9	10	2.09	18	3.57	15	2.90
Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders	88	18.4	90	19.1	87	17.7	101	22.1	82	16.0	132	24.9	118	22.3	112	21.0	94	19.66	44	8.73	94	18.18
Under Graduates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Graduates (including those with equivalent technical qualifications)	177	37.1	160	33.9	157	32.0	172	35.4	178	34.6	205	38.7	213	40.3	238	44.6	233	48.74	220	43.65	222	42.94
Post-Graduates (including technical qualifications)	85	17.8	92	19.5	98	20.0	113	24.7	127	24.7	132	24.9	136	25.8	131	24.6	124	25.94	145	28.77	149	28.82
Doctoral Degree or other high academic qualification holders	15	3.5	9	2.1	7	1.6	17	3.7	8	1.5	9	1.7	8	1.5	10	1.9	17	3.55	20	3.97	29	5.60
Total number of members who have supplied information	477		471		490		457		514		530		528		533		478		504		517	
Total number of seats	489		500		503		523		521		544		544		544		529		509		543	

GRAPH 3 : EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM 1st TO 11th LOK SABHA IN %



GRAPH 4 : EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS 11th LOK SABHA

NUMBER



had the lowest ever representation in this category (about 17.8 per cent). Similarly, members with doctoral degree or other high academic qualifications constituting 5.60 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha register their highest ever representation in all the Lok Sabhas.

The Under-Graduates (i.e., members who have studied for Graduation without completing it) as a category was included in the study for the first time in the Tenth Lok Sabha. They stood at 11.31 per cent in that House. However, the present House records a marked decline in their representation to 1.54 per cent only.

The category of Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate Certificate holders has 18.18 per cent representation in the Eleventh Lok Sabha in comparison to the Tenth Lok Sabha record of 8.73 per cent, their lowest ever representation. In the category of Under-Matriculates, the Eleventh Lok Sabha has about 2.90 per cent representation which was 3.57 per cent in the previous House and 2.09 per cent, the lowest ever, in the Ninth Lok Sabha.

Occupational Background

It may be mentioned here that in the case of the first two Lok Sabhas, the category of political and social workers, as a distinct occupational category, was not taken into consideration. As such, this category is not shown in Table 4 against the First and the Second Lok Sabhas. Similarly, the occupational categories of diplomats, economists and pilots were included from the Ninth Lok Sabha onwards. The categories of businessmen, scientists and sportsmen were included for the first time in the study of the Tenth Lok Sabha. Two new categories, viz cooperative leaders and management consultants have been included for the first time in the case of the present Lok Sabha.

From the occupational point of view, as usual, members come from various walks of life. As would be seen from Table 4, the new House has as many as 207 agriculturists (i.e., 38.98 per cent out of 531 respondents) and about another 89 members with agriculture as one of their major areas of activities along with other professional interests. This figure of nearly 39 per cent members with proper agricultural background finding representation in the House is nearly 7 per cent more than the corresponding share in the Tenth Lok Sabha which had 32.09 per cent agriculturists among its members. This is the third highest representation of agriculturists in all the Lok Sabhas of which the Ninth Lok Sabha had the distinction of having the highest share of 44.14 per cent, whereas the Seventh Lok Sabha had 39.3 per cent members.

Next to agriculturists come political and social workers with 11.11 per cent and 8.47 per cent representation, respectively in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. The share of representation of this group taken together, as Table 4 indicates, remained more or less steady in all the Lok Sabhas with

TABLE 4
OCCUPATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

Prior Occupation	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok Sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		
	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	
Agriculturists/ Horticulturists	97	22.5	141	29.1	129	27.4	154	30.6	168	33.2	189	36.0	206	39.3	203	38.3	230	44.1	163	32.09	207	38.98	
Artists	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	5	0.9	4	0.76	5	0.98	7	1.31	
Businessmen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Civil, Police & Military Service	16	3.7	19	4.0	4	0.9	16	3.2	17	3.4	9	1.7	5	0.9	16	3.0	6	1.15	16	3.15	13	2.44	
Co-operative Leaders	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diplomats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0.57	4	0.79	4	0.75
Economist	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.19	—	—	1	0.18
Engineers and Technologist	—	—	—	—	4	0.9	7	1.4	6	1.2	5	0.9	6	1.1	4	0.8	11	2.11	7	1.38	9	1.69	
Former Rulers	5	1.1	7	1.4	10	2.1	7	1.4	2	0.4	3	0.6	1	0.2	3	0.6	2	0.38	3	0.59	—	—	
Industrial Workers/Trade Unionists	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	1	0.2	—	—	9	1.7	4	0.8	7	1.3	2	0.38	4	0.79	4	0.75	
Journalists/ Writers	45	10.4	50	10.2	27	5.8	24	4.8	32	6.3	11	2.7	15	2.9	7	1.3	14	2.68	11	2.17	8	1.50	
Lawyers	153	35.6	147	30.5	115	24.5	88	17.5	103	20.5	123	23.4	116	22.2	101	19.1	80	15.35	83	16.34	65	12.24	
Management Consultants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Medical Practitioners	21	4.9	17	3.5	14	3.0	14	2.8	9	1.7	10	1.9	10	1.9	21	4.0	18	3.45	25	4.92	16	3.01	

Prior Occupation	1st Lok Sabha		2nd Lok Sabha		3rd Lok Sabha		4th Lok Sabha		5th Lok Sabha		6th Lok Sabha		7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha		
	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	Num-ber	Per-cent- age	
Pilots	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Political and Social Workers	—	—	88	18.7	115	22.9	96	19.0	105	20.0	90	17.2	85	16.0	89	17.08	92	18.11	104	19.58	—	—	—
Religious Missionaries	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	2	0.4	—	—	—	—	1	0.2	1	0.2	—	—	—	3	0.59	1	0.18
Scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.20	—	—
Sportsmen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0.39	—	—
Teachers and Educationalists	43	9.9	55	11.3	27	5.8	33	6.5	36	7.1	44	8.4	35	6.7	41	7.7	41	7.86	49	9.65	43	8.09	—
Traders and Industrialists	52	12.0	50	10.2	50	10.3	39	7.5	35	6.8	17	3.3	33	6.3	36	6.8	19	3.64	16	3.15	14	2.63	—
Total number of members who have supplied information	432		486		470		503		506		525		523		530		521		508		531		—
Total number of seats	499		500		503		523		521		544		544		544		529		509		543		—

the highest share of 22.9 per cent in the Fourth Lok Sabha and the lowest figure of 16 per cent in the Eighth Lok Sabha; the present Lok Sabha has 19.58 per cent representation of this group.

With 12.24 per cent share of representation, lawyers are the third largest group in the House. There is, however, a noticeable decline in their representation in the Lok Sabha and their present strength of 65 (12.24 per cent) is the lowest figure so far as compared to 35.6 per cent, 30.5 per cent, 24.5 per cent, 17.5 per cent, 20.5 per cent, 23.4 per cent, 22.2 per cent, 19.1 per cent, 15.35 per cent and 16.34 per cent share, respectively, in the First to the Tenth Lok Sabha. The fact that they were the single largest group in the first two Lok Sabhas reflected the peculiar socio-political and educational trends of the society at that time.

Teachers and educationists as a group had the highest ever representation of 11.3 per cent in the Second Lok Sabha. In the Tenth Lok Sabha, their representation was 9.65 per cent but in the present House, it has come down to 8.09 per cent though it is higher than their lowest representation of 5.8 per cent in the Third Lok Sabha.

The category of traders and industrialists which showed a declining trend in the Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha has just 2.63 per cent representation so far. The highest ever representation of this group was in the First Lok Sabha (12 per cent).

Medical practitioners constitute 3.01 per cent of the respondent members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha which is considerably lower than the Tenth Lok Sabha figure of 4.92 per cent.

Likewise, the representation of journalists and writers in the Eleventh Lok Sabha has declined considerably—from 2.68 per cent and 2.17 per cent in the Ninth and the Tenth Lok Sabha, respectively, to 1.5 per cent, thus bringing their level of representation almost equal to that of the Eighth Lok Sabha which has 1.3 per cent representation. Their highest representation, 10.4 per cent, was in the First Lok Sabha.

Representation in the category of civil and military service had registered a decline from 3 per cent in the Eighth Lok Sabha to 1.15 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha. But this category improved its position to 3.15 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha. In the present Lok Sabha, their representation has marginally decreased to 2.44 per cent. In this category, also included are members with police service background who, entering the House for the first time, constitute separately 0.18 per cent of the membership.

Engineers and technologists had registered a decline from an all time high representation of 2.11 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha to 1.38 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha. They have improved their position slightly in the present House, receiving 1.69 per cent representation. This group,

however, had no representation in the first two Lok Sabhas. Similarly, industrial workers and trade unionists who doubled their representation to 0.79 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha from 0.38 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha, secured 0.75 per cent representation in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. They too had no representation in the first two Lok Sabhas.

Artists, including film artists and film producers, return with 1.31 per cent - their highest ever representation- in the Eleventh Lok Sabha as compared to 0.98 per cent and 0.76 per cent in the Tenth and Ninth Lok Sabhas, respectively. They did not have any representation in the first three Lok Sabhas.

These apart, other categories, like businessmen, pilots, diplomats and religious missionaries share 5.83, 0.37, 0.18 and 0.18 per cent, respectively, in the new House. It may be seen from the figures shown above that the category of businessmen which was included only in the previous Lok Sabha with a representation of 4.53 per cent has improved its representation in the present House by more than one per cent on its previous record.

The categories of management consultants and cooperative leaders are two new categories which open their accounts in this House with 0.37 and 0.75 per cent representation, respectively. But at the same time, it may also be noted that representation of two categories viz. scientists and sportsmen, which secured seats in the Tenth Lok Sabha for the first time, is missing in the present House.

Previous Legislative Experience

The complexion of the new House has changed considerably. The 543-member strong House wears a new look now with more than half of its total members being new entrants-the members having their previous legislative experience confined either to the Rajya Sabha or the State Legislatures or having no legislative experience at all. A break up of the figure would show that out of 290 new entrants to the Eleventh House, 14 members have experience of serving in the Upper House of Parliament, 106 members are with experience in State Legislatures and as many as 170 members are totally fresh and have no experience in the legislative arena. The last two categories taken together comprise those 276 members who do not have previous legislative experience in either the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha (51.01 per cent). The corresponding figure for the Tenth Lok Sabha was 183 (35.95 per cent) and for the Ninth Lok Sabha was 264 (48.01 per cent). Table 5 shows prior legislative experiences of members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. As would be evident from the Table, the House has no member with experience in the Central Legislative Assembly, or the Constituent Assembly or the Provisional Parliament. Besides having as many as 106 (19.59 per cent) members with past experience in the State Legislatures, the House also has 172 (31.79 per

cent) parliamentarians who have experience in the Lok Sabha or/and the Rajya Sabha for one or more than one term consecutively or otherwise. As would be seen from Table 6, 199 (36.78 per cent) and 134 (24.76 per cent) members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha were also members of the Tenth and the Ninth Lok Sabha, respectively.

TABLE 5
PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

Legislative Experience	Number of Members
Central Legislative Assembly	Nil
Constituent Assembly	Nil
Provisional Parliament	Nil
Lok Sabha	144
Rajya Sabha	14
Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha	158
Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha	14
Lok Sabha and State Legislatures	93
State Legislatures	106

TABLE 6
NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH, TENTH & ELEVENTH
LOK SABHAS WHO HAVE BEEN MEMBEERS OF EARLIER HOUSES IN THE
LEGISLATURE AT THE CENTRE AND NEW ENTRANTS

Legislature	No. of Members in				
	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha
Central Legislative Assembly (1942-46)	3	3	1	Nil	Nil
Constituent Assembly (1946-50)	3	3	1	1	Nil
Provisional Parliament (1950-52)	8	7	1	1	Nil
First Lok Sabha (1952-57)	12	11	3	2	1
Second Lok Sabha (1957-62)	22	17	7	5	5
Third Lok Sabha (1962-67)	33	22	7	9	5
Fourth Lok Sabha (1967-70)	66	39	23	24	13
Fifth Lok Sabha (1971-77)	119	73	45	34	18
Sixth Lok Sabha (1977-80)	143	63	91	52	41
Seventh Lok Sabha (1980-84)	—	237	131	118	71
Eighth Lok Sabha (1984-89)	—	—	162	149	78
Ninth Lok Sabha (1989-91)	—	—	—	249	134
Tenth Lok Sabha (1991-96)	—	—	—	—	199
Council of States (Rajya Sabha)	31	10	19	25	14
New Entrants	150	264	264	183	276

Apart from this, it may be noticed from Table 7 that no member of the present House has been a member of all the previous ten Lok Sabhas or even of nine Lok Sabhas. However, the distinguished parliamentarian, Shri Indrajit Gupta singularly holds the distinction of serving the previous eight Lok Sabhas consecutively since the Second Lok Sabha with a gap of one term only, i.e. of the Sixth Lok Sabha. Like its predecessors, this House also has the maximum number of members with the experience of one Lok Sabha only which comes to 95 (17.49 per cent)

Going by Ministerial positions, Speakerships or Deputy Speakerships or other parliamentary/public offices held at the Union and/or the State level prior to membership of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, as indicated in Table 8, one notices an increase in the representation of members who have held such high offices. As many as 76 members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha were Ministers in the Union Council of Ministers at one point of time or the other (including three former Prime Ministers). The corresponding figure in the previous House was 57. Members who held Ministerial position in State Cabinets account for 17.19 per cent. These apart, there are two former Governors, thirteen former Chief Ministers and one former Deputy Chief Minister. Besides, one former Speaker and three former Deputy Speakers of the Lok Sabha are among the members of the present House. A substantial number of members have experience at various local bodies.

In the Eleventh Lok Sabha, there are 40 women members (including one nominated). As regards their legislative experience, as many as 19 (out of 37 respondents) have been elected for the first time, i.e. they are without any prior legislative experience. In the Ninth Lok Sabha, out of 28 women members, 15 were new entrants whereas of the 36 women members of the Tenth Lok Sabha, 17 had no previous legislative experience. Table 9 indicates the position regarding the previous legislative experience of the women members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. As may be seen from the table, the House has one woman member with the experience of the Rajya Sabha and as many as 6 having experience in the State Legislatures. (Graph 5 shows their representation percentage-wise)

Tables 10 and 11 indicate the position regarding the previous legislative experience of the women members of the Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas. From Table 11, it may be seen that there are 17 women members in the Eleventh Lok Sabha having experience of earlier Lok Sabha(s). There are as many as 11 members with experience of one term in the Lok Sabha and this figure is more than that of the two previous Houses but less than what it was in the Eighth Lok Sabha.

Besides, the women members in the present House have the distinction of having among themselves one former Union Cabinet Minister, one former Minister of State, two former Deputy Ministers, four former Ministers in the State Governments and one former Chairman of a Panchayat Samiti.

TABLE 7
STATEMENT SHOWING PRIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHAS
(BY TERMS)

Membership of the Lok Sabha	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Per-centage	Number	Per-centage	Number	Per-centage	Number	Per-centage	Number	Per-centage
All the Ten Lok Sabhas (10 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nine Lok Sabhas (9 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eight Lok Sabhas (8 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0.18
Seven Lok Sabhas (7 Terms)	—	—	1	0.18	—	—	—	—	3	0.59
Six Lok Sabhas (6 Terms)	2	0.36	4	0.73	2	0.39	2	0.39	4	0.79
Five Lok Sabhas (5 Terms)	7	1.28	7	12.86	6	1.16	6	1.16	7	1.38
Four Lok Sabhas (4 Terms)	11	2.02	10	1.83	11	2.13	11	2.13	26	5.12
Three Lok Sabhas (3 Terms)	21	3.86	25	4.59	37	7.16	37	7.16	48	9.45
Two Lok Sabha (2 Terms)	58	10.66	57	10.47	75	14.51	75	14.51	89	17.52
One Lok Sabha (1 Term)	117	21.50	166	30.51	122	23.60	122	23.60	143	28.15
	216		270		253		320		245	

TABLE 8

MINISTERIAL POSITIONS OR OTHER PARLIAMENTARY/PUBLIC OFFICES HELD BY MEMBERS OF THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

Office/Position	Number
Assembly Speaker	10
Chief Justice	1
Chief Minister	13
Chief Wing	1
Chairman/President/Sarpanch Municipal Board/Municipal Council or Committee/Panchayat Samiti/Zilla Parishad/Gram Panchayat	—
Council Chairman	6
Council Deputy Chairman	—
Deputy Chairman (Rajya Sabha)	—
Deputy Chief Minister	1
Deputy Speaker (Lok Sabha)	—
Deputy Speaker (Assembly)	1
Executive Councillor, DMC	4
Governor	—
Leader of Opposition	—
Mayor	2
Municipal Councillor	4
Parliamentary Secretary to PM	2
Prime Minister	2
Speaker (Lok Sabha)	1
State Minister	3
Union Deputy Minister	1
Union Minister of State	93
Union Minister	11
Vice Chairman/Vice President	33
Panchayat Samiti/Taluk Development Board	32
	2

TABLE 9

PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS OF THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

Legislative Experience	Number of Members
Central Legislative Assembly	Nil
Constituent Assembly	Nil
Provisional Parliament	Nil
Lok Sabha	11
Rajya Sabha	Nil
Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha	11
Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha	1
Lok Sabha & State Legislatures	5
State Legislatures	1

TABLE 10

STATEMENT SHOWING PREVIOUS LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHAS IN CENTRAL/STATE LEGISLATURES

Legislatures	No. of Women Members				
	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha
Central Legislative Assembly (1942-46)	—	—	—	—	—
Constituent Assembly (1946-50)	—	—	—	—	—
Provisional Parliament (1950-52)	—	—	—	—	—
First Lok Sabha (1952-57)	—	1	1	2	—
Second Lok Sabha (1957-62)	1	—	1	1	1
Third Lok Sabha (1962-67)	2	2	2	1	1
Fourth Lok Sabha (1967-70)	4	1	—	2	—
Fifth Lok Sabha (1971-77)	6	4	3	2	1
Sixth Lok Sabha (1977-79)	4	5	1	—	—
Seventh Lok Sabha (1980-84)	—	19	7	5	1
Eighth Lok Sabha (1984-89)	—	—	11	9	3
Ninth Lok Sabha (1989-91)	—	—	—	11	7
Tenth Lok Sabha (1991-96)	—	—	—	—	14
Rajya Sabha	2	4	3	3	1
State Legislatures	9	15	8	16	5
New Entrants without prior Legislative experience	10	15	6	17	19

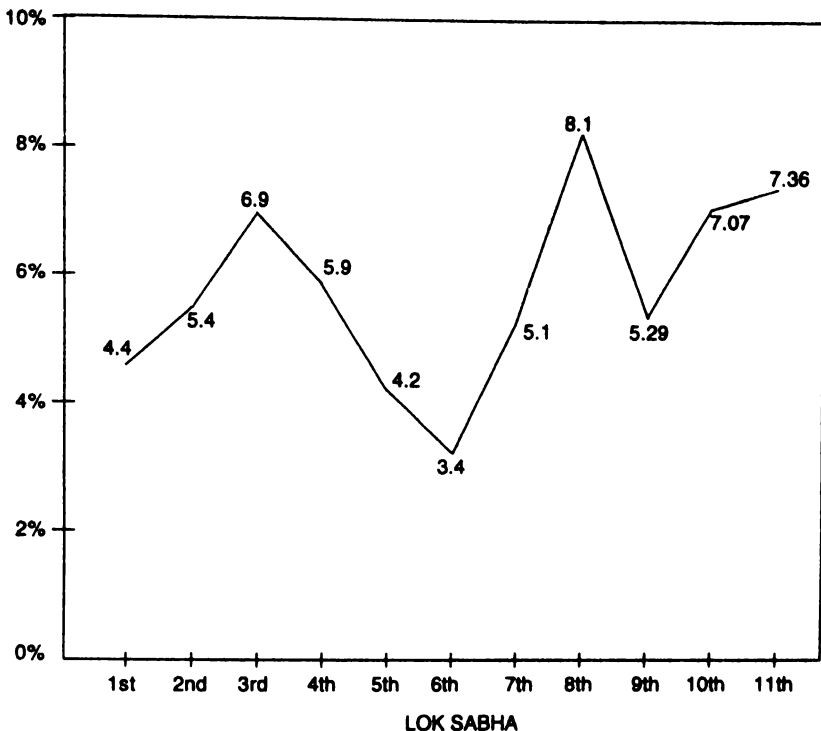
TABLE 11

STATEMENT SHOWING PRIOR LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHAS BY TERMS OF THE HOUSE

Membership of the Lok Sabha	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th
	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha	Lok Sabha
All the Ten Lok Sabhas (10 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—
Nine Lok Sabhas (9 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—
Eight Lok Sabhas (8 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—
Seven Lok Sabhas (7 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—
Six Lok Sabhas (6 Terms)	—	—	—	—	—
Five Lok Sabhas (5 Terms)	—	—	—	1	1
Four Lok Sabhas (4 Terms)	—	—	—	2	1
Three Lok Sabhas (3 Terms)	3	2	4	1	—
Two Lok Sabhas (2 Terms)	2	6	5	5	4
One Lok Sabha (1 Term)	4	13	4	9	11
	9	21	13	18	17
Total women members	28	44	27	36	39*

**including one nominated member*

GRAPH 5 : WOMEN MEMBERS, PERCENTAGE-WISE 1st TO 11th LOK SABHA



Marital Status

Most of the members in the Eleventh Lok Sabha are married, constituting 94.45 per cent of the total membership as compared to 92.91 per cent in the previous House. Most of the married members of the present House have children. Out of the married members, as many as 11 are widowed. In comparison to 6.89 per cent in the Tenth Lok Sabha, unmarried members account for 5.55 per cent in the Eleventh Lok Sabha, much lower than the highest ever representation of 6.9 per cent in the Seventh Lok Sabha. Of the 30 unmarried members of the present House, 24 are male and 6 are female.

Women Members

The Eighth Lok Sabha had the distinction of having the largest ever number of women representatives (44) whereas the lowest so far was in the Sixth Lok Sabha (19). The Seventh and the Ninth Lok Sabhas had an equal number of women members, i.e. 28 each. The Tenth Lok Sabha in the beginning had 36 women members but their representation subsequently rose to 40. The present House has 40 (7.36 per cent) women

members out of which 39 (7.16 per cent) are elected and 1 has been nominated*. Table 12 indicates the representation of women members from the First to the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

TABLE 12
REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE FIRST TO THE
ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha	Total No. of Seats	No. of Women Members	Percentage to the total
First	499	22	4.4
Second	500	27	5.4
Third	503	34	6.7
Fourth	523	31	5.9
Fifth	521	22	4.2
Sixth	544	19	3.4
Seventh	544	28	5.1
Eighth	544	44	8.1
Ninth	529	28	5.29
Tenth	509	36	7.07
Eleventh	541	40*	7.36

*including one nominated member

Table 13 tries to make a comparative assessment of the age profiles of women members from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards after classifying them into eleven different age groups.

A study of the age profile of women members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha reveals their average age to be 48.59 years as against 52.82 years for their male counterparts.

From the point of view of their representation also, the present House has a good number of young women members (i.e. members in the age group of 25-40 years). They constitute about 29.72 per cent of the women membership. A comparative study of the age profile of women members from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards reveals that the Eleventh Lok Sabha has no representation in the age group of 25-30 years, whereas the Tenth Lok Sabha had the highest representation so far, i.e., 11.11 per cent. The representation for the age of group of 71-75 years in the Tenth Lok Sabha had declined marginally to 2 from 3 in the Ninth Lok Sabha. The representation of this age group maintains the same status in the present House as well, with 2 members only. The House has a lone representation in the highest age group of 76-80 years also. The representation in the

*One of the two Anglo-Indian members nominated by the President to the Lok Sabha, under article 331 of the Constitution, is a woman.

TABLE 13
DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN MEMBERS, BY AGE GROUPS, FROM THE
SEVENTH TO THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHAS

Age Group	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha	
	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age
25-30 years	—	—	1	2.3	1	3.70	4	11.11	Nil	—
31-35 years	1	3.5	2	4.5	2	7.40	3	8.33	3	8.10
36-40 years	3	10.7	3	6.8	2	7.40	4	11.11	8	21.62
41-45 years	4	14.3	5	11.4	5	18.51	8	22.22	8	21.62
46-50 years	6	21.4	7	15.9	5	18.51	4	11.11	5	13.51
51-55 years	4	14.3	9	20.4	4	14.81	2	5.56	4	10.81
56-60 years	6	21.4	5	11.4	2	7.40	5	13.89	4	10.81
61-65 years	3	10.7	6	13.6	2	7.40	3	8.33	—	—
66-70 years	—	—	5	11.4	1	3.70	1	2.78	2	5.40
71-75 years	1	3.5	1	2.3	3	11.11	2	5.56	2	5.40
76-80 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2.70
Total number of women members who have supplied information	28		44		27		36		37	
Total No. of seats	544		544		529		509		543	

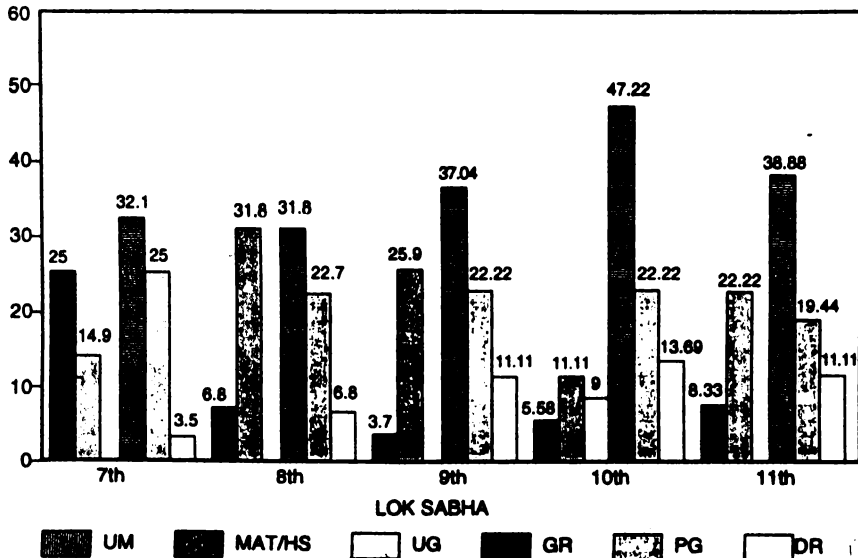
age group of 56-60 years accounts for 4 seats which is lower than that of the previous House which had 5 members in this group, but is more than that of the Ninth Lok Sabha.

A glance at the educational background of women members (Table 14 and Graph 6) in the present House would reveal that the general level of education of women members is on an upward swing keeping in tune with the increased trend in education of members that has set in from the Eighth Lok Sabha onwards. Graduates, Post-Graduates and Doctorate degree holders taken together account for about 69.44 per cent of women members. Taking each one as a single category, Graduates account for 38.88 per cent representation in the present Lok Sabha while in the Ninth and the Tenth Lok Sabhas, they constituted 37.04 and 47.22 per cent, respectively. Post-Graduates account for 19.44 per cent representation in the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Doctorate and other equivalent high academic degree holders have 11.11 per cent representation in the present House as compared to their 13.89 per cent representation in the previous House. While the Under-Matriculates and Matriculates/

TABLE 14
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHAS

Educational level	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Under-Matriculates	7	25.0	3	6.8	1	3.70	2	5.56	3	8.33
Matriculates/Higher Secondary or Intermediate certificate holders	4	14.3	14	31.8	7	25.92	1	2.78	8	22.22
Under-Graduates	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8.33	—	—
Graduates	9	32.1	14	31.8	10	37.04	17	47.22	14	38.88
Post-Graduates (including technical qualifications)	7	25.0	10	22.7	6	22.22	8	22.22	7	19.44
Doctorate Degree or other high academic qualification holders	1	3.5	3	6.8	3	11.11	5	13.89	4	11.11
Total number of women members who have supplied information	28		44		27		36		36	
Total No. of seats	544		544		529		509		543	

GRAPH 6 : EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF MEMBERS FROM 1st TO 11th LOK SABHA IN %



Intermediates taken together have 30.55 per cent representation, the House has no representation in the category of Under-Graduates (i.e. members who have studied for Graduation without completing it) - included for the first time in the previous Lok Sabha which had 8.33 per cent representation in this category.

Table 15 indicates the pattern of distribution of women members from the Seventh Lok Sabha onwards in accordance with their prior occupations. In this field, the general trend so far has been to have the maximum number of women members with political and social work as their major area of interest in contrast to their male counterparts among whom agriculturists form the majority. This trend has been maintained in the new House also in which the representation of the political and social workers is the highest ever, i.e., 48.64 per cent (out of 37 women

TABLE 15
DISTRIBUTION OF WOMEN MEMBERS FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE
ELEVENTH LOK SABHA BY PRIOR OCCUPATION

Prior Occupation	7th Lok Sabha		8th Lok Sabha		9th Lok Sabha		10th Lok Sabha		11th Lok Sabha	
	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age	Num-ber	Per-cent-age
Agriculturists	11	39.3	14	32.6	3	12.0	5	13.89	8	21.62
Artists/Film Artists	—	—	11	2.3	2	8.0	1	2.78	2	5.40
Business persons	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2.78	—	—
Civil & Military Service	1	3.5	1	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diplomats	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2.70
Former Rulers	—	—	1	2.3	—	—	1	2.78	—	—
Industrial workers/Trade Unionists	—	—	—	—	1	4.0	—	—	—	—
Journalists/Writers	—	—	—	—	1	4.0	—	—	—	—
Lawyers	—	—	—	—	1	4.0	2	5.56	2	5.40
Medical practitioners	—	—	1	2.3	—	—	1	2.78	—	—
Political & Social workers	13	46.4	15	34.9	11	44.0	14	38.89	18	48.64
Teachers & Educationists	3	10.7	8	18.6	5	20.0	10	27.78	5	13.51
Traders & Industrialists	—	—	2	4.7	1	4.0	1	2.78	1	2.70
Total number of women members who have supplied information	28		43		25		36		37	
Total No. of seats	544		544		529		509		543	

respondents). The next come the agriculturists with 21.62 per cent representation. Here a slight deviation from the previous House is seen. In the Tenth Lok Sabha, the second position, occupation-wise, was held by teachers and educationists with 27.78 per cent, but in the present House they constitute about 13.51 per cent of the women members. Apart from this, while in the present House, lawyers and artists (including film artists) have 5.40 per cent representation each, diplomats and traders and industrialists have 2.70 per cent representation each.

Conclusion

This study is basically an attempt to examine the direction of changes taking place in the composition of the Lok Sabha over the years. An attempt of such a nature was felt necessary to have a clear understanding of the role of the political institutions in the changing socio-economic conditions. The study concentrates on certain criteria, viz., educational, professional and previous legislative background, age and marital status of the members. The methodology used for the study has been a statistical and comparative method. The source of our data has been the information provided by members under the above specified heads which are in accordance with the classifications permissible under the Constitution. Hence, in this study a reader will not come across the class, caste, religion or income background of members that are presumably helpful in giving an incisive understanding of the socio-economic composition of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. With this limitation, the study has set forth before itself the task of making an overview of the socio-economic profile of membership of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from the available data. While from our available sets of data, education and occupational background of members are directly relevant to the socio-economic nature of composition of membership of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, the other sets of data like age, marital status, etc. will give an inkling of the general profile of membership.

In view of the fact that we have received the bio-data from 532 members only and that some of these are not complete in some respects, it may be presumptuous to arrive at a definitive conclusion regarding the representational dimension of the Eleventh Lok Sabha. Nevertheless, this study has been attempted to indicate the broad contours of change and continuity in the profile of members of the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

Synthesizing all facts and figures, the study reveals the following major interesting features of the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

As the relevance of age structure in any Legislature in deciding the quality of its deliberations can never be underestimated, the age profile of the members of the Lok Sabha has always been a major aspect of the socio-economic study. In the case of the present Lok Sabha, the middle aged members (41-55 years) continue to be the most favoured group of the Indian electorate, as in the earlier Lok Sabhas. In the category

of the youngest members (25-30 years), the present House has more representation as compared to the Tenth Lok Sabha.

Judging by educational background, the Lok Sabha over the last more than four decades has metamorphosed into a more 'educated House' with the gradual rise in the education levels of members. About 23.2 per cent of the first Lok Sabha comprised of persons who were Under-Matriculantes and in this House their percentage has come down to 2.90, a little more than the lowest of 2.09 per cent in the Ninth Lok Sabha. In the present House, about 77.36 per cent of the members have Graduation as their minimum qualification. The House has surpassed all previous records in having the highest number of Post-Graduate and Doctorate degree holders. The general trend in this regard shows that although the Constitution does not prescribe any minimum educational qualification for membership of the House, the elector has endeavoured to return those who have basic education and who are able to relate to their problems well.

By far, the most important issue relates to the occupational representation in the Lok Sabha, especially the nature of interests the House represents. But it is not always easy to find a person's actual profession, particularly in the Indian circumstances as here a person may engage himself in various occupations at different stages of his life or in several of them at the same time. While conducting the present study, many members have been found to be engaged in a variety of professions; for example, a member may be an agriculturist, industrialist and at the same time a lawyer or a medical practitioner. In such cases, the first preference indicated by the member has been taken into consideration. Keeping this factor in view, an attempt has been made to assess the emerging pattern of occupational character of the members.

One of the most significant developments in the occupational composition of the Lok Sabha between the First and the Eleventh Lok Sabhas, has been the gradual replacement of lawyer members by the agriculturists. From a position of being the largest professional group in the First Lok Sabha, lawyers as a group have now been pushed down to the third position. This shift reflects a profound change in the power configuration of the country. And also, if all the occupations are seen in isolation, then the Lok Sabhas and especially the Eleventh Lok Sabha would point to its heterogenous occupational make-up.

Another interesting feature of this House is that a record number of members (290) have become members of the Lok Sabha for the first time.

The drastic fall in representation of women in the Ninth Lok Sabha from their record level representation in the Eighth Lok Sabha, when contrasted with the satisfactory increase in their representation in the Tenth Lok Sabha and maintenance of the same level through the Eleventh Lok Sabha, tends to arouse a flicker of hope for the future participation and

representation of women in Indian politics and Parliament and would silence those who tend to view the fall in women's representation in the Ninth Lok Sabha negatively. In fact, it would relegate the substantially low representation of women members in the Ninth Lok Sabha to the background.

Briefly, the most important finding of the study is the continued transfer of political power from the urban political elite to the rural masses. With the agrarian and rural population, earlier inadequately represented, finding increasing representation in the House, it is increasingly becoming a microcosm of our nation today.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Commemorative function on the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence : A commemorative function on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence was held in the mid-night of 14-15 August 1997 in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

The function commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Subsequently, a two-minutes' silence was observed in the memory of the martyrs. Thereafter, Pt. Bhim Sen Joshi sang the National Song, *Vande Matram*. Later, select speeches of Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose were relayed. This was followed by Lata Mangeshkar singing *Sare Jahan Se Achcha*. This was followed by the Address by the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan*. The Hindi version of the President's Address was read out by the Prime Minister of India, Shri I.K. Gujral. The function concluded with the playing of the National Anthem.

A booklet containing the proceedings of the midnight session of 14th August 1947 and also the sitting of the Constituent Assembly of the 15th August 1947, compiled by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, was brought out on the occasion.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, UK, Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta; the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai were guests of honour at the function. Besides, the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament; foreign dignitaries; surviving members of the Constituent Assembly; and other distinguished invitees attended the function.

Special Session of Parliament : A Special Session of both the Houses of Parliament was held from 26 August to 1 September 1997 as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence. On the opening day of the Session in the Lok Sabha for the first time in the history of the House, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma addressed members under Rule 360 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha**. The Rajya Sabha started its proceedings of the Special Session

*For the text of the Address, see pp.364-368

**For the text of the Opening Address and concluding observations by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Resolution unanimously adopted by both the Houses of Parliament, see pp.370; for further details regarding the Special Session, see article "Golden Jubilee Commemorative Session of Parliament" by G.C. Malhotra, pp.410-427

with warm felicitations to its new Chairman and the Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant. At the end of the Special Session, both the Houses adopted unanimously a Resolution setting an 'Agenda for India'.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Post-Election Seminar, Lusaka, Zambia : The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Post-Election Seminar, jointly organised by the Parliament of Zambia and the CPA Secretariat, was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 1 to 3 July 1997. Shri I.P. Hazarika, MP attended the Seminar from the Parliament of India.

Wilton Park Conference : The 502nd Wilton Park Conference on "The Media, Democracy of Coverage of Election Campaigns" was held in Steyning, West Sussex, UK from 7 to 11 July 1997. Shri K. Vijayakrishnan, Joint Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, attended the Conference.

Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Group (CWPG) : A Special meeting of the Steering Committee of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Group (CWPG) of the CPA was held in London from 21 to 22 July 1997. Km. Selja, MP attended the meeting from the Parliament of India as a member of the CWPG Steering Committee.

International Conference on Governance for Sustainable Growth and Equity : A Parliamentarians' Forum took place at the International Conference on Governance for Sustainable Growth and Equity which was held in New York from 28 to 30 July 1997 under the joint auspices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

India was represented at the Conference by the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, MP.

The Forum discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

- (i) Challenges Facing Representational Governance
- (ii) Parliamentary Relations with the Executive and the Judiciary
- (iii) Gender Parity and Partnership in Parliaments.

Conference of The Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees in SAARC Parliaments : The first ever Conference of the Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees in SAARC Parliaments was held in New Delhi from 30 to 31 August 1997. All the SAARC countries except Maldives participated in the Conference.

The Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant inaugurated the Conference* on 30 August 1997 at a function in the main committee room of the Parliament House Annexe. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma presided over the function. The Chairman of the Public Accounts

*For the texts of the Addresses, delivered by dignitaries on the occasion, see pp.393

Committee of Parliament and also the Chairman of the Conference, Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi, welcomed the delegates to the Conference. He also read out the messages from the president of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Prime Minister of India, Shri I.K. Gujral and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The Chairmen of the PACs of other SAARC countries including Mr. S.M. Akram (Bangladesh); Mr. Hridayesh Tripathi (Nepal); Mr. M. Hamza (Pakistan); Mr. W.A. Wiswawamapala (Sri Lanka); and the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Bhutan) Mr. Y.T. Aum Wangchuk also spoke on the occasion.

58 delegates from SAARC countries, 9 members of the PAC from the Parliament of India and 18 Chairmen of the PACs in the State Legislatures in India attended the Conference as observers. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri V.K. Shunglu was the special invitee to the Conference.

At the outset of the Business Session, the Chairman of the PAC of the Parliament of India, Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi was elected the Chairman of the Conference.

The Conference discussed the following points pertaining to various aspects of the PACs :

- (i) PACs in SAARC Parliaments - Scope, Functions and their Relationship with the Executive.
- (ii) Supreme Audit Institutions in SAARC countries - their Role vis-a-vis PAC;
- (iii) PAC Proceedings and Media Coverage; and
- (iv) PAC for Enforcing Effective Financial Accountability.

The Vice-President of India, Shri Krishan Kant hosted a Lunch in honour of the delegates on 30 August 1997. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, hosted a dinner on the same day for the delegates. The Chairman of the PAC of the Parliament of India, Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi, hosted a Lunch on 31 August 1997 and a Dinner was hosted by the Prime Minister of India, Shri I.K. Gujral the same day.

The delegates were taken on a post-Conference tour to Agra on 1 September 1997.

98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference : The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference was held in Cairo from 11 to 16 September 1997. The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma. The other members of the Delegation were: the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; and Savashri Sontosh Mohan Dev; Ajit P.K. Jogi; Smt. Hedwig Michail Rego; and Smt.

Vasundhara Raje, all members of Parliament. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference mainly discussed and adopted Declarations/Resolutions on the following subjects :

- (i) Ensuring lasting democracy by forging close links between the Parliament and the People;
- (ii) Employment in a globalising world;
- (iii) The need to eliminate all commercial and other forms of sexual exploitation of children and for the establishment of uniform laws to prohibit this indefensible violation of human rights of children. (Placed on the agenda as supplementary item)

Besides, the Conference held the General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world in which 134 speakers took part.

43rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference : The 43rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in Port Louis, Mauritius from 18 to 24 September 1997. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Conference was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma. Besides, the Delegation consisted of the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht (Regional Representative for Asia Region in the CPA Executive Committee); the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; and Sarvashri K.L. Sharma; S.S. Ahluwalia; and Prof. (Smt.) Baharati Ray. all members of Parliament. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri. S. Gopalan, was the Secretary to the Delegation. Shri Anchal Das, MP and Dr. A.K. Pandey, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, also attended the Conference as observers.

The Delegation also included the following delegates from the State CPA Branches in India: the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Y. Ramakrishnudu; the Speaker, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Tako Dabi; the Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Ganesh Kutum; the Speaker, Bihar Legislative Assembly, Shri Deo Narain Yadav; the Speaker, Goa Legislative Assembly, Shri Tomazinho Cardozo; the Speaker, Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Shri Gumansinhji V. Vaghela; the Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly, Prof. Chhattar Singh Chauhan; the Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Kaul Singh Thakur; the Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Shri Ali Mohd. Naik; the Chairman, Karnataka Legislative Council, Shri D.B. Kalmankar; the Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri M. Vijayakumar; the Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Shri Dattaji Nalawade; (Alternate Regional Representative for Asia Region in place of the Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council, Shri J.S. Tilak); the Speaker, Manipur Legislative Assembly, Shri W. Nipamacha Singh; the Speaker, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri

Monindra Rava; the Speaker, Mizoram Legislative Assembly, Shri Vaivenga; the Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Shri Neiba Ndong (Regional Representative for Asia Region); the Deputy Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak; the Deputy Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly, Shri Bibhuti Bhusan Singh Mardaraj; the Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Shri Shanti Lal Chaplot; the Deputy Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, Thiru Prithi Ellamvazhuthi; the Speaker, Tripura Legislative Assembly, Shri Jitendra Sarkar; the Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi; the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim; the Speaker, Delhi Vidhan Sabha, Shri Charti Lal Goel; and the Speaker, Pondicherry Legislative Assembly, Shri Thiru V.M.C. Sivakumar.

The Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Tabit Derang; the Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council, Shri Inderjit Singh; the Secretary, Haryana Legislative Assembly, Shri P. Raghavendra Rao; and the Secretary, Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, Shri E.L. Lyttan were the four Secretaries from the State Branches who attended the Conference.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Leader of the delegation, Shri P.A. Sangma, was elected the Regional Representative for Asia Region on the CPA Executive Committee for a period of 3 years in place of Shri Sikander Bakht, the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha whose term expired in September 1997.

The Conference discussed the following subjects on the Agenda :

- (i) into the New Millennium : the Role of the Governments and the Parliaments.
- (ii) Trade, Investment and Development : the Road to Commonwealth Prosperity;
- (iii) Ensuring Ethical Standards for Parliamentarians, the Executive and the Public Service;
- (iv) How can the Commonwealth enhance and protect human rights;
- (v) Strengthening the partnership between men and women in political participation - the proper role of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Group within the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;
- (vi) How can the Commonwealth Parliaments and the Governments cooperate to protect the global environment, including the marine environment; and
- (vii) How can the Parliaments and the Parliamentarians take full advantage of modern communications technology.

Conference on "India's Democracy at Fifty" in Washington, USA : A Conference on "India's Democracy at Fifty" was held in Washington, USA on 24 September 1997, jointly organised by the International Forum for Democratic Studies and the Embassy of India in Washington. Shri Jaswant Singh, MP, attended the Conference from the Parliament of India.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by LARRDIS are also brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 July to 30 September 1997.

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, a function was held on 6 July 1997 in the Central Hall. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament; the Chief Minister of Delhi, Shri Sahib Singh Verma; the Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly, Shri Charti Lal Goel; members of the Delhi Vidhan Sabha and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a function was held on 23 July 1997 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena; the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai; the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra; the Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, a function was held on 20 August 1997 in the Central Hall. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Capt. Jai Narayan Nishad; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament; and Smt. Sonia Gandhi; and others paid floral tributes to Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Shri Dadabhai Naoroji : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Dadabhai Naoroji, a function was held on 4 September 1997 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Shri Dadabhai Naoroji.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS**PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA**

Kyrgyzstan : On our invitation, a 12-member Parliamentary Delegation from the Kyrgyz Republic, led by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament, Mr. U.M. Mukambaev, visited India from 25 July to 1 August 1997.

The Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena on 30 July 1997. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a Banquet in their honour on the same day. The visiting Delegation called on the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan and the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral on 31 July 1997. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla hosted a Lunch in their honour on 1 August 1997.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra, Jaipur and Mumbai.

Turkey : On our invitation, an 11-member Turkish Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, Mr. Mustafa Kalemli visited India from 11 to 15 August 1997. The Delegation called on the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena on 11 August 1997. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, hosted a Banquet in their honour on the same evening. The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla hosted a Lunch in honour of the Delegation on 14 August 1997. They also attended the commemorative function to mark the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence in the Central Hall on 14-15 August 1997.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

UK : On our invitation, the Speaker of the House of Commons, UK, Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd, visited India from 13 to 16 August 1997. During her stay in Delhi, she called on the President, Shri K. R. Narayanan; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a Banquet in her honour on 13 August 1997. She also attended the commemorative function to mark the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence in the Central Hall on 14-15 August 1997.

CPA : The Secretary-General, CPA, Mr. Arthur R. Donahoe, QC, visited India from 26 to 28 August 1997 to witness the Special Session of the Parliament.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION GOING ABROAD

Croatia : An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, visited Croatia from 4 to 8 July 1997. The other members of the Delegation were; Sarvashri Manoranjan Bhakta; Kashi Ram Rana; V. Rajan Chellappa; Sanjay Nirupam; Neil Aloysius O'Brien

and Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, all members of Parliament. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan, was the Secretary to the Delegation. Shri V.S. Negi, Under Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, also accompanied the Delegation.

UK and USA: An Indian Parliamentarians' Team, led by Shri P. Upendra, MP visited UK and USA from 5 to 13 July 1997 to study the standards and issues in public life and privilege-related matters. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri P. Kodandaramaiah; Sat Mahajan; B.S. Rawat; Madhukar Raghunath Sarpotdar; Syed Masudal Hossain; A.C. Jos; and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, all members of Parliament. Shri G.C. Malhotra, Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 July to 30 September 1997, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/Programmes:

Thirteenth Parliamentary Internship Programme for Foreign Parliamentary Officials: The Thirteenth Parliamentary Internship Programme for foreign parliamentary officials was inaugurated by the former Speaker Lok Sabha, Shri Shivraj V. Patil, MP on 29 September 1997. The Programme concluded on 10 November 1997. Participants from seven Afro-Asian countries, viz. one each from Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Zambia attended the Programme which was designed to meet the special needs of the officers of foreign Parliaments and to enable them to study the working of the parliamentary institutions, processes and procedures in India. The Programme also sought to provide the foreign parliamentary officials an opportunity to exchange their experiences in their Legislatures and to acquaint themselves with the environment, culture, traditions and the working of parliamentary institutions in India.

Computer Training Programme for Members of the Lok Sabha: A Foundation Course in computers was organised by the BPST in collaboration with the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd. (Et&T) for the members of the Lok Sabha from 1 to 3 August 1997 at the ET&T Training Centre, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

Appreciation Courses: The following Appreciation Courses in parliamentary processes and procedures were organised: (i) Probationers of Indian Forest Service (28 July to 1 August 1997); (ii) Probationers of Indian Ordnance Factories Service (26 to 27 August 1997); and (iii) Senior Audit Officers of Indian Audit and Accounts Department (21 to 25 July 1997).

Attachment Programme: An Attachment Programme for a Sri Lankan Parliamentary Delegation headed by the Deputy Minister of Education and

Higher Education, Mr. W.A. Wiswawarnapala, M.P. and five other prominent members and a senior officer of the Sri Lankan Parliament was organised from 28 to 29 August 1997.

Training Courses for Officials of Parliament and State Legislatures : A training programme for those Junior Stenographers eligible for appearing in the departmental examination for the post of Stenographer was organised from 30 June to 17 July 1997. Another Training Programme was organised for the Officers of the Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats to study the working of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees of Parliament from 8 to 13 September 1997. The Programme was attended by 41 officers of the level of Section Officer and above from 17 State Legislatures Secretariats.

Programme on Communication Skills for Managerial Effectiveness : Two officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Shri S.K. Sharma, Deputy Secretary and Shri M.K. Dubey, Deputy Director, attended the Programme on "Communication Skills for Managerial Effectiveness" held at the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad from 11 to 16 August 1997.

Short Duration Training Course for Security Assistants of the Lok Sabha Secretariat : Seven Security Assistants were nominated to attend the "Short Duration Training Course" for Security Personnel of Parliament House at CTC-I, CRPF, Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh from 8 September to 3 October 1997.

Study Visits : Twenty-two Study Visits were organised for the participants from various leading training/educational institutions.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instance when Speaker's concurrence re : convening of the Session was obtained through Fax : The Speaker's concurrence to the Government's proposal regarding the convening of the Fifth Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha was obtained through Fax as the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma, was away in Finland, heading an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to that country.

Instance when Adjournment Motion was admitted discussed and later converted into Motion under rule 184 : On 24 July 1997, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee moved the adjournment motion regarding the serious situation arising out of the passive attitude of the Central Government over recent developments in Bihar. After some discussion, at the end of the day, with the consent of the mover and the House, the adjournment motion was converted into motion under rule 184. The motion under rule 184 was discussed on 25, 28 and 29 July 1997 and was negatived.

Instance when members were permitted to seek clarifications from Minister : On 28 July 1997, on the Statement made by the Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan regarding the collision between the Karnataka Express and the Himsagar Express at Faridabad on 27 July 1997, some members sought clarifications and the Minister replied thereto.

Instance when the appointed hour for commencement of sitting after lunch was postponed under orders of Presiding Officer : On 8 August 1997, at the appointed hour for the commencement of the sitting of the House after lunch, there was no quorum even after ringing of the bell thrice. As a result, the time for the commencement of the sitting was postponed under orders of the Presiding Officer. Accordingly, members present in the House were informed of it by the Additional Secretary.

Instance when the Speaker addressed the House under rule 360 : On 26 August 1997, at the commencement of the Special Session of the Lok Sabha to mark the Golden Jubilee of Independence, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma addressed the House under provisions of rule 360. This was for the first time that the Speaker had addressed the House under this rule.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1997)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

-Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPEMENTS AT THE UNION

Sessions of Parliament : The Fifth Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha and the Hundred and Eighty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 23 July 1997. Both the Houses adjourned on 14 August 1997 and reconvened for a Special Session on 26 August 1997. Both the Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 1 September 1997 and were prorogued by the President on 2 September 1997.

*Commemorative Function on Golden Jubilee of Independence** : A commemorative function to mark the Golden Jubilee of India's Independence was held in the mid-night of 14-15 August 1997 in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

Developments in Janata Dal : On 1 July 1997, the Bihar Janata Dal Legislature Party decided to boycott the election of the President of Janata Dal while expressing faith in the leadership of Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav.

On 2 July 1997, the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav announced his decision to hold a convention of his party workers on 5 July 1997.

On 3 July 1997, the Janata Dal Presidential elections concluded. Five of the 14 Janata Dal members of the Union Council of Ministers were among the 23 Lok Sabha members who did not participate in the voting. Shri Sharad Yadav was elected the President of Janata Dal.

On 5 July 1997, the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav announced the formation of a new political party named 'Rashtriya Janata Dal'. Shri Yadav himself was elected its President the same day.

*New President of India*** : Following the elections held on 14 July 1997, Shri K.R. Narayanan was declared elected the new president of India on

* For details, see pp. 364-68

** Also see pp. 404-9

17 July 1997. Out of 4,471 valid votes, Shri K. R. Narayanan got 4,231 votes whereas Shri T.N. Seshan got 240 votes. The value of each vote of the members of Parliament was 708. Subsequently, Shri K.R. Narayanan was sworn in as the President of India on 25 July 1997.

*New Vice-President** : Following the elections held on 16 August 1997, Shri Krishan Kant was declared elected the new Vice-President of India on the same day. He secured 441 out of the 779 votes while Shri Surjit Singh Barnala got 273 votes. There were 19 absentees and 46 votes were declared invalid. Subsequently, Shri Krishan Kant was sworn in as the Vice-President on 21 August 1997.

Death of Member : Shri Dwarka Nath Das, a BJP member representing the Karimganj (SC) constituency of Assam in the Lok Sabha, passed away on 18 August 1997.

Resignation of Members : On 9 September 1997, Shri G.K. Moopnar and Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan of the Tamil Maanila Congress (TMC), both members from Tamil Nadu resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

Nominations to the Rajya Sabha : The following were nominated by the President of India to the Rajya Sabha on 27 August 1997: Sarvashri Kuldip Nayar, Kartar Singh Duggal, Mrinal Sen, Choudhary Harmohan Singh Yadav, Dr. Raja Ramanna, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Dr. P. Selvie Das, Smt. Shabana Azmi and Kumari Nirmala Deshpande.

Election to the Rajya Sabha : On 29 September 1997, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy of the Janata Dal was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh.

AROUND THE STATES

ASSAM

New Governor : Lt. Gen. S.K. Sinha was sworn in as the Governor of Assam on 1 September 1997.

BIHAR

Political Developments : On 15 July 1997, the Chief Minister, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav won a trust vote securing 168 votes to nil in the 325-member Legislative Assembly with the entire Opposition walking out of the House.

On 24 July 1997, a Division Bench of the Patna High Court rejected the anticipatory bail application of the Chief Minister, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav in connection with the fodder scam.

On 25 July 1997, an arrest warrant was issued against the Chief Minister, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav by the designated CBI Court.

* Also see pp.404-9

Subsequently, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav resigned from office and Smt. Rabri Devi was sworn in as the Chief Minister the same day. A 13-member Council of Ministers was also sworn in.

The Chief Minister, Smt. Rabri Devi won a Vote of Confidence in the Legislative Assembly on 28 July 1997.

On 29 July 1997, the Chief Minister expanded the State Cabinet. The Council of Ministers and their portfolios are as under :

Smt. Rabri Devi (Chief Minister) : Cabinet Secretariat and Coordination, Home (excluding prisons). Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Civil Aviation and other Departments which were not allocated to any other Minister.

Cabinet Ministers : Shri Raghunath Jha : Parliamentary Affairs and Agriculture; Shri Jagdanand Singh: Water Resources (excluding Minor Irrigation) and Tourism; Shri Mahabir Prasad: Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare; Shri Ilyas Hussain: Road Construction; Shri Shankar Prasad Tekriwal : Finance, Commerce and Taxes (excluding National Savings); Shri Tulsi Singh: Planning and Development Welfare; Shri Gowardhan Naik: Housing Welfare; Shri Avadh Bihari Choudhary: Rural Development; Shri Upendra Prasad Verma: Finance/Commercial Taxes and National Savings; Shri Tulsi Das Mehta: Forests and Environment; Shri Jai Prakash Narain Yadav: Secondary, Primary and Adult Education; Shri Brij Bihari Prasad: Energy; Shri Abdul Bari Siddiqui: Art, Culture and Youth; Shri Sitaram Das: Food Supply and Commerce; Shri Narayan Yadav: Urban Development; Shri Munshi Lal Rai: Public Health Department; Shri Ravindra Charan Yadav: Revenue and Land Reforms; Shri Surya Deo Rai: Cooperatives; Shri Ramvichar Rai: Relief and Rehabilitation; Shri Ram Chandra Purva: Higher Education; Shri Gajendra Prasad Singh: Production and Prohibition; Shri Devnath Prasad: Science and Technology; Shri Aklu Ram Mehta: Institutional Finance and Programme Implementation; Shri Sitaram Singh: Mining and Minerals; Shri Vijay Krishan: Water Resources (Minor Irrigation); Shri Basant Singh: Building Construction and Housing; Shri Radhvendra Pratap Singh: Suroarcane; Shri Vaidnath Pandey: Industry; Shri Abdul Malik: Information and Public Relations; Shri Raj Kumar Mahaseth: Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Shri Saba Ahmad: Home (Prisons); Shri Kamal Paswan: Labour and Planning; Prof. Lutfur Rahman: Minorities Welfare; and Smt. Shanti Devi: Transport.

Ministers of State : Shri Ramesh Prasad Yadav : Mining and Minerals; Shri Mahendra N. Yadav : Road Construction; Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav : Industry; Shri Sahdeo Prasad Yadav : Production and Prohibition; Shri Hari N. Prasad : Finance and Commercial Tax (excluding National Savings); Shri Lal Babu Prasad : Building Construction and Housing; Shri Ram Das Rai : Labour and Planning; Shri Shiv Shankar Yadav : Agriculture; Shri Udit Rai : Urban Development; Shri K.B. Prasad : Higher Education; Shri Rajendra Rai : Science and Technology; Shri Ramashray Sahni : Animal

Husbandry and Fishries; Shri Girinath Singh : *Public Health Department*; Shri Vikram Kunwar: *Planning and Development*; Shri Dilip K. Singh: *Relief and Rehabilitation*; Shri Mahesh Mandal: *Transport*; Shri Basawan Prasad Bhagat: *Law*; Shri Inderdeo Prasad: *Water Resources*; Shri Ramlakhan Mahto: *Food and Commerce*; Shri Shyam Rajak: *Energy*; Shri Surendra Ram: *Water Resources (Minor Irrigation)*; Shri Muneshwar Choudhary: *Sugarcane*; Shri Avdesh Kumar Singh: *Cooperatives*; Shri Suresh Paswan: *Transport*; Shri Jawaid Iqbal Anşari: *Minority Welfare*; Shri Ram Prasad Yadav: *Institutional Finance and Programme Implementation*; Shri Arjun Mandal: *Forests and Environment*; Shri Anand Mohan Singh: *Parliamentary Affairs*; Shri Ramchandra Chandravanshi: *Commerce and National Savings*; Shri Ram Chandra Rai: *Home Prisons*; Shri Sarfaraz: *Revenue and Land Reforms*; Shri Roop Narain Jha: *Raj Bhasha*; Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi: *Secondary Primary and Adult Education*; Shri Mansoor Alam: *Information and Public Relations*; Prof. Surendra Prasad Singh: *Health and Family Welfare*; Smt. Aabo Devi: *Village Development*; Smt. Sita Sinha: *Welfare (excluding Tribal Welfare)*.

HARYANA

Expansion of Cabinet : On 3 September 1997, the Chief Minister, Shri Bansi Lal expanded the State Cabinet by including two Cabinet Ministers and six Ministers of State. They are :

Cabinet Ministers : Shri Jaswant Singh: *Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development* : and Shri Ramesh Kaushik: *Labour and Employment*.

Ministers of State : Shri Harsh Kumar: *Irrigation*; Shri Ram Bhajan Aggarwal: *Tourism*; Shri Jagvir Singh Malik: *Horticulture and Marketing*; Shri Raj Kumar: *Architecture*; Shri Sat Narain Lather: *Housing*; and Smt. Kanta Devi: *Ayurveda*.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

New Governor : Smt. V.S. Rama Devi was sworn in as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh on 26 July 1997.

KARNATAKA

Resignation of Minister : On 12 August 1997, the Higher Education Minister, Shri. B. Somashekhar resigned from the State Cabinet following a judicial enquiry into allegations of copying by him during the law examinations of 1978.

MEGHALAYA

New Speaker : On 22 July 1997, Shri Monindra Rava of the Congress (I) was elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly following the induction of the earlier Speaker, Shri J.D. Rymbai in the State Cabinet.

Death of Minister : The Minister of Information and Public Relations, Shri P.G. Marbaniang passed away on 29 September 1997.

ORISSA

Expansion of Cabinet: On 18 August 1997, the Chief Minister, Shri J.B. Patnaik expanded the State Cabinet by inducting one Cabinet Minister, Shri Jagannath Patnaik who was given the charge of Revenue.

PUNJAB

Expansion of Cabinet: On 27 July 1997, the Chief Minister, Shri Prakash Singh Badal expanded the State Cabinet. The new Ministers are and their portfolios are :

Cabinet Ministers : Shri Harmel Singh: *PWD:* Shri Mahesh Inder Singh: *Medical Education, Research, Science and Technology and Environment:* Shri Manjit Singh Calcutta: *Higher Education and Language:* Shri Manoranjan Kalia: *Health and Family Welfare:* Shri Mohan Lal: *Forests, Legislative and Legal Affairs and Environment:* Raja Narinder Singh: *Public Health and Civil Aviation:* Shri Raghbir Singh: *Transport:* Shri Sarwan Singh: *Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes:* Shri Tota Singh: *Higher Secondary and Primary Education:* Dr. Rattan Singh: *Animal Husbandry Dairy Development and Fisheries:* and Smt. Jagir Kaur: *Tourism, Cultural Affairs, Social Security and Development of Women and Children.*

Ministers of State : Shri Ajit Singh Kohar: *Agriculture:* Shri Charanji Lal Garg: *Food and Supply:* Shri Gobind Singh Kanjla: *Youth Services, Grievances and Pension, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes:* Shri Inder Singh Zira: *Jails, Health and Family Welfare:* Shri Janmeja Singh: *Defence Services Welfare and Cooperation:* Shri Nusrat Ali Khan: *Sports and Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries:* Shri Sewa Singh Sekhwan: *Public Relations, Revenue and Rehabilitation:* Shri Sikander Singh Maluka: *Irrigation:* Shri Sucha Singh Langah: *Electricity and Industry:* Shri Surjit Kumar Jayani: *Rural Development and Panchayat:* Shri Surjit Singh Kohli: *Printing and Stationery, Housing and Urban Development:* and Shri Swarna Ram: *Higher Secondary and Primary Education.*

TAMIL NADU

Death of Minister: The Commercial Taxes Minister, Shri V. Thangapandyan passed away on 31 July 1997.

UTTAR PRADESH

Political Development : On 20 September 1997, the Chief Minister, Kumari Mayawati resigned after completing her six-month tenure, paving the way for the next Chief Minister. (The BSP-BJP coalition Government in Uttar Pradesh came into office under an agreement that the power sharing would be for one year and the BSP would get the Chief Ministership for the first six months and the BJP for the rest six months.)

On 21 September 1997, Shri Kalyan Singh was sworn in as the Chief Minister along with his Council of Ministers. They are :

Cabinet Ministers : Sarvashri R.K. Chaudhary, Kalraj Mishra, Sukh Deo Raj Bhar. Lalji Tandon, Naseemuddin Siddiqui, Om Prakash Singh, Sri Ram Pal. Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur, Ramveer Upadhyay, Ramapati Shastri, Qazi Mohammad Muhiuddin, Nepal Singh, Markandey Chand, Hari Krishna Srivastava, Aizaz Rizvi. Swami Prasad Maurya, Radhey Shyam Gupta, Veerendra Singh Sirohi and Smt. Prabha Dwivedi.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge) : Sarvashri Babu Lal Kushwaha, Baleshwar Tyagi, Sunder Singh Baghel, Bhola Shankar Maurya, Raveendra Shukla, Bhagwati Prasad Sagar, Buniyad Hussain Ansari, Ram Prasad Chaudhary, Vibhuti Prasad Nishad, Shiv Charan Prajapati, Ram Achal Rajbhar, Lal Mani Prasad, Ganga Prasad Pushkar, Matbar Singh Kandari And Radhey Shyam Kori.

Ministers of State : Sarvashri Ram Shanker Pal, Gorakh Prasad Nishad, Mahendra Nath Pandey, Dharam Pal Singh, Jai Pal Singh, Devendra Singh, Ashok Yadav, Raj Rai Singh and Banshidhar Bhagat.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

ALBANIA

New Prime Minister : On 25 July 1997, Mr. Fatos Nano was appointed as the New Prime Minister.

BANGLADESH

Resignation of Minister : On 11 August 1997, the State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Mr. Syed Abul Hossain resigned from Office.

BOLIVIA

New President : On 6 August 1997, Gen. Hugo Banzer was sworn in as the new President of Bolivia.

FIJI

Cabinet Reshuffle : On 7 August 1997, the Prime Minister, Mr. Sitiveni Rabuka effected a reshuffle in the Cabinet by appointing the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Jim Ah Koy as the new Finance Minister. Mr. Berenado Vunibabo was made the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

LATVIA

New Prime Minister : On 28 July 1997, Mr. Guntar Krasts was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

NEPAL

Induction of Minister : On 12 September 1997, Mr. Haridavesh Tripathy was inducted as the Cabinet Minister for Forest and Soil Conservation.

PAKISTAN

Expansion of Cabinet : On 11 July 1997, the Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif expanded the Cabinet by inducting thirteen more Ministers. The new Ministers are :

Cabinet Ministers : Mr. Raja Muhammad Zafarrul Haq: *Religious Affairs*: Mr. Shaikh Rashid Ahmed: *Tourism, Culture and Youth Affairs*: Mr. Raja Nadir Parvez: *Water and Power*: Mr. Sardar Yakub Khan Makhdoom: *Railways*: Mr. Javed Hashemi: *Health*: Mr. Sayed Ghoush Ali Shah: *Education*: Mr. Yasin Wattoo: *Parliamentary Affairs*: Mr. Majid Malik: *Kashmir Affairs*: and Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika: *Food and Agriculture*.

Ministers of State : Mr. Siddiq Kanju: *Foreign Affairs*: Mr. Makhdoom Mahmood: *Environment, Local Government and Rural Development*: Capt. Haleem Siddiqui: *Water and Power*: and Ms. Tahmina Daultana: *Women Division, Social Welfare and Special Education*.

THAILAND

Censure Motion : On 27 September 1997, the Prime Minister, Mr. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh survived a Parliamentary censure motion which charged him with economic mismanagement. The motion was decided by 212 votes to 170 votes.

TURKEY

Vote of Confidence : On 12 July 1997, the Prime Minister, Mr. Mesut Yilmaz won a Vote of Confidence in Parliament

YUGOSLAVIA

New President : On 23 July 1997, Mr. Slobodan Milosevic was sworn in as the new President of Yugoslavia.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

In the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, no security deposit was prescribed for candidates at the time of filing of nomination papers. The nomination paper of a candidate was required to be subscribed by the candidate himself as assenting to the nomination and by two electors as proposers and seconders.

In order to discourage frivolous candidates from filing nominations to the Offices of the President and the Vice-President, the Act was amended in 1974 to provide that in case of the Presidential election, the nomination paper should be subscribed by the candidate as assenting to the nomination and also by at least ten electors each as proposers and as seconders. In the case of the Vice-Presidential election, the nomination paper should be subscribed by the candidate as assenting to the nomination and also by at least five electors each as proposers and as seconders. The amendment also made it obligatory for a candidate for the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential election to deposit a sum of Rs. 2,500/- as security deposit.

Experience showed that the above amendments were not sufficient to discourage non-serious candidates. Accordingly, the Election Commission of India, in February 1997, suggested that the security deposit for candidates for elections to the Offices of the President and the Vice-President may be enhanced. The Government considered the suggestion and decided to enhance the security deposit to Rs. 15,000/-. It also decided to increase the minimum number of proposers and seconders to fifty each in respect of election to the Office of the President and twenty each in respect of election to the Office of the Vice-President.

As the Parliament was not in Session and the notification for the Presidential election was to be issued on 9 June 1997, the said amendment was effected by promulgating the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997. A Bill replacing the Ordinance was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and was taken up for consideration and passing along with a Statutory Resolution for disapproval of the said Ordinance on 7 August 1997. As there were dissenting voices, the motion for disapproval of the Ordinance was put to vote and the Resolution was carried. As a consequence, the Bill also fell. A similar bill was reintroduced in the Lok Sabha as the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997 on 12 August 1997. It was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 13 and 14 August 1997, respectively. The Bill received the President's assent on 29 August 1997.

We reproduce here the text of the above Act.

—Editor

**THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 1997**

An Act further to amend the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Forty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows :—

1. *Short title and commencement:* (1) This Act may be called the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Act, 1997.
(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 5th day of June, 1997.
2. *Amendment of section 5B:* In section 5B of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act) in sub-section (1),—
 - (i) in clause (a), for the words “ten electors” at both the places, where they occur the words “fifty electors” shall be substituted;
 - (ii) in clause (b), for the words “five electors” at both the places, where they occur, the words “twenty electors” shall be substituted.
3. *Amendment of section 5C:* In section 5C of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words “two thousand five hundred rupees”, the words “fifteen thousand rupees” shall be substituted.
4. *Repeal and saving.* (1) The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997, is hereby repealed.
(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the principal Act, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the principal Act, as amended by this Act.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA FIFTH SESSION

The Fifth Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, which commenced on 23 July 1997, was adjourned on 14 August 1997 and reconvened on 26 August 1997 for a Special Session as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence. The six-day Special Session* of Parliament, technically part of the Fifth Session of the Lok Sabha and the One Hundred and Eighty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha, was held from 26 August to 1 September 1997. On the opening day of the Session, in the Lok Sabha, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma addressed** the House under rule 360 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha. The entire six-day Session was devoted to a single motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and piloted by Leaders of all Parties and Groups together, to consider the state of our democracy and democratic institutions, economic situation, position of infrastructure and potential in the field of science and technology and the state of human development in the country. The Lok Sabha was adjourned *sine die* on 1 September 1997 after unanimously adopting a Resolution consisting an "Agenda for India"***. The House was then prorogued on 2 September 1997.

A brief resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 23 July to 14 August 1997 is given below :

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

Reference regarding the 53rd Anniversary of the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki : On 6 August 1997, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma made the following reference in the House :

Fifty-two years ago, on this day, the Japanese city of Hiroshima was destroyed by an atomic bomb.

Three days after, Nagasaki, another Japanese city, suffered the same tragic fate. Thousands of people were killed and millions maimed, depicting to the world how dangerous could be the wars and how harmful were the unbridled ambitions of human

* For details, see pp. 369-384

** For the text of the Address, see pp 370-381

*** For the text of the Resolution, see pp 382-384

beings and nations. To date, the after-effects of radioactivity released by the two atomic bombs continue to haunt the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki stand as reminders to the world's conscience that weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons should never be used. The dangers of the nuclear weapons and modern devices of war now have multiplied, if the nuclear arsenal that exists in the world today is not reduced and eliminated, the human race cannot become free from the fears of devastating destruction.

Since Independence, disarmament has been an important component of India's foreign policy. We have repeatedly emphasised that nuclear weapons must be eliminated from the earth. The principles that can be adopted to reduce and eliminate nuclear arsenal and other conventional weapons of mass destruction should be non-discriminatory and reassuring of prosperity and peace for all peoples of the world. The tragedy caused by the atom bombs should make us all compassionate, just and humane so that these qualities inform us in handling human affairs.

The House may now observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The members then stood in silence for a short while.

Reference regarding the 55th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement :
On 8 August 1997, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma made the following reference in the House :

This House observes in solemnity today, the 55th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

As you are aware, on 9th August, 1942, the leaders of the freedom struggle, under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, gave a clarion call to men and women, the young and the old, the rich and the poor from all parts of the country to launch the Quit India Movement to liberate the country from the yoke of alien rule and for ushering in *Swaraj* and sovereignty. Mahatma Gandhi exhorted them to 'do or die' for freedom. The entire nation rose like one entity and resolutely resisted the repression that followed. This unique struggle was characterised by non-violence. The twin tools of *ahimsa* and *satyagraha*, espoused by Mahatma Gandhi, were adhered to even in the face of grave provocation. This determination shook the foundations of the colonial rule and sounded its last post.

The sacrifices made by the freedom fighters ultimately led to the dawn of freedom on the horizon of India. It is our sacred duty to pay respectful obeisance to the memory of all those patriots. We can endeavour to repay our debt to them by strengthening the unity and integrity of the country.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while in memory of the martyrs of freedom movement.

The members then stood in silence for a short while.

Adjournment Motion regarding Serious Situation arising out of passive attitude of the Central Government over recent developments in Bihar :* Moving the motion on 24 July 1997, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the purpose of the motion was to draw the immediate attention of the House to the deteriorating situation in Bihar. According to the Patna High Court, if the evidence was to be believed, it was a clear case of systematic loot of public money over the years. Scams after scams had made the Government coffers empty. Panchayat elections had not been held for long. Private armies were being raised and people were being massacred openly. In view of all these, the Chief Minister of Bihar could have been persuaded to step down for sometime. Shri Vajpayee said that there could be no objection to creating a public opinion against corruption. No concrete scheme had so far been placed before the nation in that regard. A feeling was gaining ground in the country to leave everything on the Judiciary and shirk responsibility so that the burden to taking unpleasant decisions could be avoided. A crusade should be launched against corruption, he added.

Intervening in the discussion**, the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral said that any person in public life who was charged for corruption should step down voluntarily. Anybody who wanted to act and work in public life should keep himself above all suspicion. All Chief Ministers had been asked to set up special courts for expeditious actions. An independent machinery would be set up to see that all major purchases should pass through that machinery. The Prime Minister also said that both in private and in public, he had advised the Chief Minister of Bihar to step down from office; the latter, however, had not done it. Shri Gujral assured the House that the Government would take due cognizance of the matter and would not be found wanting.

* The Adjournment Motion moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 24 July 1997 was converted into Motion under rule 184 with the consent of the mover and the House on 25 July 1997.

**Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Tariq Anwar, Anant Gangaram Geete, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Pinaki Misra, Rajesh Ranjan *alias* Pappu Yadav, Sukh Lal Kushwaha, Nitish Kumar, Ramashray Prasad Singh, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Radha Mohan Singh, Ram Kripal Yadav, Lalmuni Chaubey, Pramothes Mukherjee, Virendra Kumar Singh, Anandrao Vithoba Adsul and Prof. Rita Verma.

Participating in the discussion on 25 July 1997, Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had failed charge-sheet against the Chief Minister of Bihar which had been accepted by the designated judge who had taken cognizance of it. Therefore, according to the judge, and also the High Court, there was a *prima facie* case, which had also been determined by the Governor of Bihar. In the fitness of things, the Chief Minister should have stepped down from his office.

Taking part in the discussion, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta said that the Chief Minister of Bihar had proved his majority on the floor of the State Legislative Assembly. If the Parliament were to discuss the issue in the present form, such a convention would not be good for future. If we discuss whatever is happening in State Legislative Assemblies and legislative bodies, it would be against the provisions of the Constitution.

Participating in the discussion on 28 July 1997, Shri Chitta Basu expressed the hope that the declaration made in the Common Minimum Programme regarding elimination of corruption would not only be adhered to but would also be strictly given effect to. There should be no compromise with corruption and also with communalism. The people of Bihar would have to develop political leadership; they would have also to fight in a democratic manner for the restoration of democracy which could ensure social justice which had become the main basis for people's awakening in the State. Democratic movements alone could rectify the shortcomings and the wrongs that had already been committed in Bihar, he added.

Taking part in the discussion on 29 July 1997, Shri George Fernandes observed that the economic situation in Bihar was causing much concern. The allocation for development of urban infrastructure was much lower than the allocation for other States. The per capita income in the State was also considerable lower in comparison to that of other States. The Governments of Bihar, though aware of the situation, had not taken any action in that regard. The Union Government too had not initiated any action. Article 160 of the Constitution provides that the Governor has to discharge certain functions in certain contingencies. There is also a provision of financial emergency under article 360 of the Constitution. In Bihar there was a complete breakdown of the financial machinery. Still the Government did not feel it fit to invoke the provisions of article 160 or article 360. The citizens of the country have every right to know about the public funds; they also have the right to ask for a proper inquiry by the Government. The Government should take some steps to restore the democratic rights of the people of Bihar, he added.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that anybody occupying an important position, be it in Government or in public life and

against whom serious charges of corruption are leveled, should step down. If the people in general become united against the corrupt elements and if no political party gives ticket in any election to any candidates who is found to be corrupt, then the malady could be remedied to a great extent. The Prime Minister had repeatedly stressed the need for the Chief Minister of Bihar to step down in the face of charges against him but he did not do so. The option was to take recourse to art. 356. The legal advice from the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitor General was that there was no possible ground for such action.

Replying to the discussion on 29 July 1997, the Leader of Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the CBI being the apex investigative agency, its autonomy should be protected. The discussion in the House would instill confidence in the people that there was still some hope. All major parties agreed to the proposition that a leader should resign from office once he had been chargesheeted and if there was *prime facie* case to take him to court.

The amendment moved by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 28 July 1997 for *substituting* the words "that this House express concern over the serious situation" for the words "Serious situation" in the motion was adopted. The motion, as amended, was negatived.

Atrocities Committed on Dalits in Mumbai, Nagpur and other places : On 29 July 1997, moving the motion, under rule 184 of the Rules of Procedure, Shri Sharad Pawar expressed concern over the situation which was created in Maharashtra and elsewhere in the wake of the desecration of an Ambedkar statue at Ghatkopar, which was predominantly inhabited by Dalits, especially the neo-Buddhists. Several people died in different parts of the State which had a chain reaction in Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly was also attacked. It was the responsibility of the State Governments to expose the persons and organisations involved in all these. The very Government which was supposed to protect the Dalits chose to act otherwise. As such, the State Government should be dismissed. The law and order situation in the State had totally collapsed. The Government should take a firm step in the larger interests of the nation and democracy, he added.

Participating in the discussion* on 30 July 1997, Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar said that we should not criticise anyone without full information. Giving the sequence of events in Ghatkopar and elsewhere, he said the

* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Parmod Mahajan, Pitambar Paswan, Hannan Mollah, Surendra Yadav, Kashi Ram Rana, Prithviraj D. Chavan, V.V. Raghavan, Ram Naik, *G. Vankat Swamy, Tarit Baran Topdar, Anand Mohan, P.R. Dasmunshi, Narayan Gajanan Athawalay, Pramothas Mukherjee, Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Mohan Rawale, Iliyas Azmi, Bhagwan Shanker Rawat, K.S.R. Murthy, Anant Gangaram Geete, Sukdeo Paswan and Dr. Satyanarayan Jatia.

police should have taken recourse to other methods than firing; however, the police claimed they did not have other arrangements and that firing was reported to control the mob.

Condemning the incident of firing, Shri Kashi Ram pointed out that social and economic changes should precede political changes. As Dr. Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly, political democracy cannot become successful without social democracy. If the dalits have to march forward, they will have to do it by themselves.

Participating in the discussion on 4 August 1997, Shri G.M. Banatwalla said that the act of desecration of Dr. Ambedkar's statue in Maharashtra should be condemned in the strongest possible words. The real culprit should be identified and stringent steps should be taken against him.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri Chitta Basu said that the recent years had witnessed waves of unrest, protest and awareness among the Dalits. Dalit consciousness was an aggregate of the consciousness of the Dalits, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward communities and the minorities. The Constitution of our country realised the very basics of historical dynamism. The desecration of the statue of Dr. Ambedkar was nothing but an affront against the dalits and an insult to the Constitution of our country.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that a Judicial Commission of Inquiry was appointed to probe into the firing incident. There was a lot of pressure to dismiss the State Government and resort to art. 356 to which the Union Government did not agree. As far as the desecration of statues was concerned, the best thing was to set up a small Committee of members of Parliament belonging to different parties. Whenever statues of eminent persons are there, they should be protected.

The motion was negatived.

Heavy Loss of Lives and Property due to Natural Calamities :
Initiating the discussion under rule 193 on 5 August 1997, Shri Prahlad Singh said that the entire division of Jabalpur, Mandla, Balaghat, Chimni, Chhindwara and Narsinghpur areas of Jabalpur district had been affected by the earthquake, apart from the Sagar division of Damoh district. The Government had not paid adequate attention to the priorities of the Central Relief Committee. Natural calamities occurred because of ecological imbalances; it was our duty to keep the appropriate checks and balances to ensure that nothing calamitous happened. The member urged the Union Government to formulate a long-term policy or an action plan to meet the natural calamities and demanded that the Union Government should declare the entire Jabalpur area as a calamity-prone area.

Participating in the discussion* on 6 August 1997, Shri Madhukar Sirpotdar said that the State Government should take urgent steps to provide relief to the affected, particularly the Adivasis. This should be done above party considerations. He urged the Government to take preventive measures and formulate some policy to deal with natural calamities. There should be a humanitarian approach towards the victims of natural calamities, the member added.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra said that we had to make ceaseless efforts to find a permanent solution to natural calamities. Since water is a national property, it should be made available to all parts of the country so that drought could be checked; for this, a national grid should be constituted. A proposal for crops insurance is awaiting clearance from the Finance Ministry. As regards earthquakes, the Minister said that earthquakes could not be checked completely and no precise forewarning could be given. Japan had laid stress on community awareness as a major thrust area. A translation of the Japanese Version of literature in this regard would be made available to people residing in all quake-prone areas. Besides, all homes in such areas should be made quake-proof. Appropriate measures were also being taken with regard to tackling cyclones, landslides, etc., the Minister added.

Streamlining of the Public Distribution System : Initiating the discussion under rule 193 on 7 August 1997, regarding the need for streamlining the Public Distribution System (PDS), Shri Sriballav Panigrahi stated that the PDS was a welfare measure of the Government to serve the poor people. The PDS had been strengthened from time to time. The Targeted Public Distribution System (TDPS) was supposed to target eradication of poverty but it seemed that no State had welcomed the move. He further stated that Orissa had been the worst-hit State in this regard. He appealed to the Government not to discriminate between States and to have a realistic and human point of view while addressing the issue.

Intervening in the discussion** on 8 August 1997, the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral stated that it is very important to have the PDS which could come to the rescue of the poor sections of the society. The new PDS sought to address some of the needs of the very poor at a highly

* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Iswar Prasanna Hazarika, Sukh Ram, Nitish Kumar, Uddhab Barman, Sunder Lal Patwa, B.K. Gadhavi, Nawal Kishore Rai, Surender Singh, Bhakta Charan Das, Harin Pathak, K.P. Singh Deo, Harivansh Sahai, Amar Roy Pradhan, C. Narayana Swamy, Ramendra Kumar, E. Ahamed, Joachim Baxla and Smt. Geeta Mukherjee.

** Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri V.V. Raghavan, Balai Ray, Harbhajan Lakha, Suresh R. Jadhav, Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Bheru Lal Meena, Nawal Kishore Rai, Badal Choudhury, Anant Gangaram Geete, Mahendra Singh Bhati, C. Narayana Swamy, Ram Kripal Yadav, Bachi Singh Rawat, N.K. Premachandran, P.C. Chacko, Sebastian Paul, Mohan Rawale, Dileep Singh Bhuria, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Smt. Jayawanti Navinchandra Mehta.

subsidised price. It had been brought to the notice of the Government that there were certain distortions in the system and these were being looked into. We can have subsidies only up to a certain extent not because subsidy is not needed but because subsidy has an adverse impact on the finances. The Government wanted to build a system where a better deal would be given to the poor. He assured the House that a scheme would be evolved in consultation with all concerned which would be more beneficial to the poor.

Shri Rambahadur Singh described the PDS as a step in the public interest.

Replying to the discussion on 12 August 1997, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs, Shri Raghuvans Prasad Singh said that a total subsidy of Rs. 9,200 crore would be given for providing foodgrains at subsidized rates. The revamped PDS is proposed to be introduced in backward and hilly blocks and also areas inhabited by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Instructions had been issued to set up monitoring Committees at various levels in every State, the Minister added.

Statement by the Minister of Home Affairs regarding : seeking of Army Assistance by CBI in Patna : Making a Statement on 1 August 1997, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta informed the House that following the rejection of the petition for anticipatory bail of the former Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav by the Supreme Court in the afternoon of 29 July 1997, the CBI took steps and made arrangements for executing the warrant of arrest issued by the Special CBI Court in Patna, which was to be done by 6 August 1997. The decision within the CBI was to effect the arrest on the morning of 30 July 1997 and instructions were issued by the CBI Headquarters to the local formations that the assistance of the State authorities should be obtained in the operation and the Chief Secretary of the State and other senior officers should be taken into confidence for the purpose. It appeared that the officers concerned with the case decided to execute the arrest warrant during the course of the night of 29/30 July 1997. Following their inability to establish contact with the Chief Secretary of Bihar and as the necessary arrangements would have entailed some extra time the Joint Director of the CBI at Calcutta who had been supervising the case, directed the Superintendent of Police, CBI at Patna to seek the assistance of the Army in the execution of the arrest warrant. The Army authorities at Danapur did not respond to the request as according to the established procedure, the assistance of the Army could be sought by the civil authorities strictly in accordance with law and where the assistance would be absolutely essential for the maintenance of law and order and essential services and in natural calamities, etc. The request made by the CBI officers to the local Army authorities at Danapur was in violation of the established procedure and also beyond their authority. Any deviation from

the established procedure would have the potential of leading to undesirable consequences. Government had taken a serious note of the conduct of the concerned CBI officers in seeking assistance of the Army without following the established procedures.

A high-level inquiry had been ordered into the conduct of these officers and appropriate action would be taken based on the findings of the inquiry. Government would appropriately reiterate the instructions regarding the circumstances and the manner in which the Army's assistance may be obtained by civilian authorities and would ensure that these instructions were scrupulously observed, he added.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Statutory Resolution regarding : Disapproval of Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997: Moving the Resolution on 13 August 1997, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy** said that he while supported the Bill, he felt that the minimum amount of security deposit should be raised to prevent non-serious candidates from entering the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections.*

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Shri Ramakant D. Khalap moved the motion to consider the Bill. In the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, no security deposit was prescribed for candidates at the time of filing of nomination papers. The nomination paper of the candidate was required to be subscribed by the candidate himself as assenting to the nomination and by two electors as proposers and seconders. In order to discourage frivolous candidates from filing nominations to the Offices of the President and the Vice-President, the Act was amended in 1974 to provide that in case of the Presidential elections, the nomination paper should be subscribed by the candidate as assenting to the nomination and also by at least ten electors each as proposers and as seconders. In the case of the Vice-Presidential election, the nomination paper should be subscribed by the candidate as assenting to the nomination and also by at least five electors each as proposers and as seconders. The amendment also provided that a candidate for the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential elections should have to deposit a sum of Rs. 2,500/- as security deposit. Experience showed that the above amendments were not sufficient deterrent to discourage non-serious candidates. Accordingly, the Election Commission of India, in February 1997, suggested that the security deposit for

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12 August 1997. The short title of the Bill was changed to the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1997 through an amendment to clause 1.

** Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Satya Pal Jain, Sontosh Mohan Dev, Sebastian Paul and Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

candidates for elections to the Offices of the President and the Vice-President may be enhanced. The Government considered the suggestion and decided to enhance the security deposit of Rs. 15,000/-. It also decided to increase the minimum number of proposers and seconders to fifty each in respect of election to the Office of the President and twenty each in respect of election to the Office of the Vice-President. As the Parliament was not in Session and the notification for the Presidential election was to be issued on 9 June 1997, he said amendment was effected by promulgating the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997. A Bill replacing the Ordinance was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and was taken up for consideration and passing along with a Statutory Resolution for disapproval of the said Ordinance on 7 August 1997. As there were dissenting voices, the motion for disapproval of the Ordinance was put to vote and the Resolution was carried. However, the Bill fell and hence it had to be reintroduced in the Lok Sabha as the Presidential and the Vice-Presidential Elections (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997.

Supporting the Bill, Shri George Fernandes said that anyone who is to be elected the President, the Vice-President or the Prime Minister of the country should be one who is a citizen of the country and also born in this country.

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Shri Ramakant D. Khalap moved the motion to pass the Bill.

The Resolution was negatived. The motion was adopted and the Bill, as amended, was passed the same day.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (Amendment) Bill 1997 :* On 13 August 1997, the Minister of State in the Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Shri Muhi Ram Saikia moved the motion to consider the Bill. The Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985 was enacted to establish and incorporate an open university at the national level for the introduction and promotion of open university and distance education systems in the educational pattern of the country and for the co-ordination and determination of standards in such systems. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) had thus been established.

However, during the last few years, IGNOU received a number of offers from countries like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mauritius and Seychelles to undertake their academic programmes in those countries. Such programmes were to be conducted by the University through its "Study Centres" which were to be established, maintained or recognised by the University within the existing institutions. Sub-section (2) of section

* The Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 12 August 1997.

3 of the above-mentioned Act provides that the headquarters of the University shall be at Delhi and it may establish or maintain colleges, Regional Centres and Study Centres at such other places in India as it may deem fit. In view of the limitation stipulated by the aforesaid provision of the Act, it was not possible for the University to extend its programmes abroad. It was therefore, proposed to amend the Act suitably so as to enable the University, with the prior approval of the Visitor, to establish Study Centres outside India and conduct its academic programmes through the distance mode in countries outside India.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri George Fernandes said that whenever institutions were created by the Government, they were named after some particular persons which created problems. He requested the Minister of Human Resource Development to look into the matter of changing the name of the University.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai said that the very purpose of the University was to give an opportunity to the people who were not able to get continuous normal education because of poverty, unemployment and backwardness. It had been giving distance and correspondence education. A number of NRIs had been demanding Indian degrees and Indian education. To help them, it was decided to open this University outside the country.

The Bill was passed.

C. OBITUARY REFERENCES

On the opening day of the Session i.e., 23 July 1997, obituary references were made on the passing away of Smt. Renuka Ray, member, Central Legislative Assembly, Constituent Assembly, Provisional Parliament and Second Lok Sabha. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of Sarvashri Deep Narain Ban Mahanth, Y . Ramakrishna, Anand Narain Mulla, Hari Krishna Shastri, Yamuna Prasad Shastri and Eraso de Sequeira, all former members.

On 29 July 1997, a reference was made to the passing away of Shri Mohammad Asrar Ahmad, former member.

On 31 July 1997, a reference was made to the passing away of Shri Bijoy Singh Nahar, former member.

On 14 August 1997, obituary reference was made to the passing away of Shri C. Ramasamy Mudaliar, former member. The Speaker also made reference to the loss of lives in flash floods in the Shimla and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh.

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Ramesh Chennithala, Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Samik Lahiri, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Prof. Om Pal Singh Nidar.

On 26 August 1997, the Speaker made references to the passing away of a sitting member of the Lok Sabha, Shri Dwaraka Nath Das.

On 27 August 1997, reference was made to the passing away of Shri Babunath Singh, former member.

On 1 September 1997, reference was made to the passing away of Shri Zulfikarulla and Kansari Halder, both former member.

After the references were made, members stood in silence for a while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Eighty-first Session on 23 July 1997, was adjourned on 14 August 1997. It was reconvened for the Special Session on 26 August 1997 and adjourned *sine die* on 1 September 1997. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 23 July to 14 August 1997 and 26 August to 1 September 1997 is given below* :—

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

Statement by the Prime Minister on the Nagaland Peace Talks :
On 25 July 1997, the Prime Minister, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral made a statement on the Nagaland Peace talks. He informed the House that the fratricidal confrontation amongst the various Naga groups and also their confrontation with the State authorities had, apart from loss of lives, seriously disturbed public order and thwarted economic development of the State. The Prime Minister said that he had reiterated the Government's willingness to hold talks with the underground elements during his visit to the North-Eastern States. During the talks with the Isaac-Muivah Group of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, it had been agreed to observe a cease-fire for three months with effect from 1 August 1997 and initiate discussions at political levels. The Government was also in touch with other insurgent Naga groups which had committed themselves to suspend their activities, he added.

Issue of Seeking Army Assistance by CBI for Execution of a Warrant of Arrest in Patna : Making a Statement on 1 August 1997, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that he had ascertained the position regarding the attempt to utilize the services of the Army in connection with the arrest of former Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav. He informed that following the rejection of the petition for anticipatory bail of Shri Yadav by the Supreme Court on 29 July 1997,

* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had taken steps to execute the warrant of arrest issued by the Special CBI Court in Patna. The decision of the CBI had been to effect the arrest on the morning of 30 July 1997 with instructions to the local formation to obtain assistance from the State authorities in the operation. The Chief Secretary of the State and the other senior officers would be taken into confidence for the purpose while exercising utmost tact and care.

The Minister said that it appeared that after having been unable to establish contact with the Chief Secretary of Bihar and having been given to understand by the Director-General of Police of Bihar that making necessary security arrangements would entail some extra time, the Joint Director of the CBI at Calcutta, who had been supervising the case, directed the Superintendent of Police (SP) of CBI at Patna, to seek the assistance of the Army in the execution of the arrest warrant. He added that the Army authorities at Danapur did not respond to the request on the ground that the Army would be able to come to the aid of civil administration only at the request of the notified civil authorities.

The Minister stated that according to the established procedure, the assistance of the Army could be sought by the civil authorities strictly in accordance with the law and in limited cases, where the assistance was absolutely essential, and in natural calamities, etc. The request made by the CBI officers to the local Army authorities at Danapur was in clear violation of the established procedure and also wholly beyond their authority. Any deviation from the established procedure had the potential of leading to grave and undesirable consequences.

The Minister stated that the Government had taken a serious note of the conduct of the concerned CBI officers in seeking assistance of the Army without following the established procedures. He said that a high-level inquiry was being ordered into the conduct of those offices and appropriate action would be taken based on the findings of the inquiry.

Diversion of Funds to Personal Ledger Account by West Bengal Government: On 6 August 1997, Shri Vayalar Ravi called the attention of the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment to the diversion of funds to the tune of Rs. 4,500 crore to the Personal Ledger Account by the West Bengal Government.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment, Shri K. Yerrannaidu said that the expenditure for a number of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation schemes implemented by the Minister was shared between the Central Government and the State Governments. The Centre's share was released in two instalments. The first instalment was released on an *ad hoc* basis and the second instalment was released after various conditions were fulfilled. These included utilisation of at least 50 per cent of the available funds; the release of State's share of funds; submission of Audit Report for the previous year;

and the Certificate that there were no major irregularities like embezzlement of funds.

The Minister said that in the case of West Bengal, the Comptroller and Auditor-General (C & AG) in two parts of its Reports had refused to diversion of part of the funds meant for the Employment Assurance Scheme and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. In this connection, the Minister pointed out that in West Bengal, the funds released under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) to the State were in turn placed with the Zilla Parishads. He said that the funds of the Zilla Parishads and those of the Panchayat Samitis were in turn, required to be credited to the Local Fund Account to be kept in the Treasury as per the West Bengal Zilla Parishad Act, 1973 and the West Bengal Zilla Parishads (Election Constitution and Administration) Rules, 1964. The Local Fund Account formed a distinct and separate category in the Public Account of the State and was different from the Personal Ledger Accounts opened in the name of individuals and institutions after following proper procedure. The Minister assured that if the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of West Bengal established any diversion or misuse of funds, appropriate action, including recoupment of the diverted amount, would be taken.

Failure of the Ministry of Finance to provide Funds for the payment of outstanding dues to labourers and workers of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs): On 11 August 1997, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta called the attention of the Minister of Finance in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the outstanding dues referred to were presumably in respect of wages and statutory dues, namely Provident Fund, Employees State Insurance dues, etc. The Government had been providing non-plan loans to the sick public sector companies mainly to make payment of the salaries and wages to their employees. In addition, the proposals for Supplementary Demands in the current year which were before Parliament included Rs. 267.87 crore for providing fresh non-plan support to certain sick PSUs under the Ministry of Textiles and the Department of Heavy Industry. In the case of companies which were fully or partly operating, he said, non-plan loan was intended as a support to increase their operational income for tiding over cash flow problems. He informed that the Government had been making provisions for write-off of loans and interest and conversion of loans into equity, besides fresh cash infusions under the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) approved revival plans for sick PSUs. As a part of the revival process of sick PSUs, the Government had also been providing grant assistance to the companies out of the National Renewal Fund (NRF) for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Schemes, etc.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that there was a need to evolve a policy of rehabilitation for sick industries and

workers employed therein. The Government was taking several measures to provide relief to those who were in sick or potentially sick public sector industries. The stated policy of the Government till April 1997 was not to provide budgetary support to the payment of statutory dues. The present Government had made an important policy change that when a company was not functioning, budgetary support would be provided for payment of wages and for clearing statutory dues. The Minister assured that the Government would try to find an answer to payment of statutory dues along with wages to those public sector companies which were functional and where the management had failed to provide those statutory dues.

Power Crisis in the country: On 12 August 1997, Shri S.B. Chavan called the attention of the Minister of Power to the power crisis in the country.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power, Shri Yoginder K. Alagh stated that the power shortage was primarily due to shortfall in capacity addition during the Eighth Plan period and decline in hydel power generation during the year 1996-97. The capacity addition during the Eighth Plan was only 16,423 MW compared to the capacity addition of 21,401 MW during the Seventh Plan period. The shortfall in the capacity addition was 46 per cent during the Eighth Plan period. While thermal and nuclear power generation increased by 5.8 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively, hydel power generation had fallen by 5.4 per cent. However, electricity generation in June and July 1997 had registered a significant increase of 8.2 per cent and 8.4 per cent, respectively, over the generation level during the corresponding months of the previous year.

The Minister informed about the measures evolved by the Ministry of Power for improving the power position in the country which included additional budgetary support to Central Sector generation projects for their accelerated commissioning; allocation of supplementary resources to the States for investments in hydel projects; setting up of liquid fuel based projects which have short gestation period; and the identification of additional projects for about 10,000 MW, by a Task Force constituted under the Chairman, State Electricity Authority (SEA) over and above the projects already identified for implementation during the Ninth Plan.

As a long-term strategy and option, the Minister said, legislative changes to establish an independent Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions had been finalised. Besides, measures like promoting private investment in power projects and effective utilisation of existing generation capacity by transfer of power from surplus regions to deficit regions through inter-regional transfer had also been proposed.

Special sittings of the House on the occasion of celebration of Fifty Years of Independence: On 26 August 1997, the Deputy Chairman,

Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla, set the theme for discussions during the Special Session. She said that it was also an occasion to make an appraisal of the last fifty years in the backdrop of the ideals and objectives of the National Movement. Referring to the developments that had taken place during the last five decades, she said that the Indian economy had been transformed into an industrialised economy. Sustained scientific research in agriculture had made the country self-reliant in food production. The country's space programme, nuclear power programme, industrial, medical and agricultural researches and biotechnology and ocean development projects had made impressive progress. She observed that India had the third largest scientific manpower in the world and invited the corporate and private sector to join the Government as partners in the task of nation-building.

The Deputy Chairman said that while the infant mortality rate had been lowered and the life expectancy had gone up from 41 years in 1951 to 61 years at present, the population growth rate had not been brought down to the required level. She observed that around 30 per cent of the people were still living under the poverty line, and 40 per cent women were still illiterate in the country. There were about 200 million illiterates in the country. She regretted that the goal of allocating 6 per cent of GDP to the education sector was yet to be fulfilled and that more than 60 per cent of the population were still unemployed. Despite self-sufficiency in food, the average Indian took lesser calories than the standard 2,400 calories per day. Women had remained deprived of the fruits of development and special provisions were, therefore, needed for their uplift. Assigning equal roles to women in the decision-making positions remained elusive as the national Parliament had only 7.2 per cent women members and that percentage was still less in the State Legislatures. Concluding, she said that though dissent, deviance, discontentment and corruption were on the increase, a new beginning for India could be made with a commitment to the common aspirations which bound everyone together.

Discussion on Human Development and Science and Technology: Initiating the discussion* on 26 August 1997, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Sikander Bakht, said the number of persons living above the poverty line were more at the time of Independence. During the last fifty years population had increased rapidly rendering much of the progress ineffective, there were a number of scientists in India, but they were branching off to other professions for better prospects.

* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri S.B. Chavan, Vayalar Ravi, K.R. Malkani, Sanatan Bisi, Pranab Mukherjee, Naresh Yadav, R. Margabandu, Rajan Chellappa, Jalaludin Ansari, Satish Pradhan, John F. Fernandes, Gandhi Azad, Md. Salim, Tara Charan Majumdar, Parag Chaliha, Dr. Shrikant Ramachandra Tichkar, Dr. Karan Singh, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Prof. (Shrimati) Bharati Ray, Shrimati Margaret Alva and Shrimati Malti Sharma.

Stating that the country had created a major scientific infrastructure since Independence, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power, Shri Yoginder K. Alagh, remarked that the country had the bio-technology and skills for producing cross-breed varieties of crop. There was a need for a cultural ethos which encouraged science and technology. He said that the Governments wanted to take a planned approach to some important sectors like basic minimum services, communications, infrastructure, transport and science and technology. More efforts were needed in R&D, in both the private sector and public sectors. In scientific education, if the basic structure and incentives were not there, then the best youngsters would not go into science. More fellowships should be given to the younger people to get them the science stream.

Appealing to the House for a mission oriented approach to science, he said that the country's scientists had to develop the linkages of science and modern technology with food production, health and family welfare programmes.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, stated that women's empowerment and male participation was required for population control and called upon the Government to remove the gender bias against the girl-child. Population control was not the responsibility of the Ministry of Family Welfare alone. Unless women were educated and empowered, population control would not be successful, she added.

The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai pointed out that education was the key to all the problems that the country was facing. As such, there was the urgent need for finding resources for education. He also stressed the importance of educating the girl-child to check population growth and also the association of women with the decision-making process.

Discussion on Economy and Infrastructure : Initiating the discussion* on 27 August 1997, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the country had to review its performance in the context of its own goals and achievements. He stated that food was an important aspect of economic development and the Indian economy revolved around the production, procurement and distribution of food. Its security, therefore, had to be ensured. He also stressed the need to evolve a consensus on the nation's economic policy.

* Other Participants in the discussion were : Sarvashri Ashok Mitra, Sanatan Bisi, N.K.P. Salve, Vedprakash P. Goyal, Prem Chand Gupta, Sushil Kumar Sambhajirao Shinde, Amar Singh, S.S. Ahluwalia, S. Muthu Mani, J. Chitharanjan, Suresh A. Keswani, Sanjay Nirupam, Raghavji, Dipankar Mukherjee, Brahmakumar Bhatt, Sanjay Dalmia, W. Angou Singh, Dara Singh Chauhan, Govindram Miri, Gopalsinh G. Solanki, Khan Gufran Zahidi, Prof. Nanunihal Singh, Prof. Ram Bhaksh Bhatt, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Ranbir Singh, Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar, Dr. Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil, and Shrimati Urmilaben Chimanbhai Patel.

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power, Shri Yoginder K. Alagh, stated that the Government had done well whenever it had tried to assess problems and prepared initiatives. The stage had come in the economy to consciously target a few major issues like basic minimum services, literacy and health of the girl child and women, general health, drinking water, communications, agriculture and science and technology. He argued for a restructuring of the economy and basing grant of assistance on the cutting down of public waste. He also emphasised the need for 30 per cent rate of savings that we needed to meet the requirements of the country in terms of the basic minimum services programme the infrastructure programme.

Discussion on India and the World: Initiating the discussion* on 28 August 1997, the Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral said the Non-alignment was not a camp of the neutrals but an alliance of all those who were the victims of colonial exploitation in the past. India had stood with Cuba, Vietnam, Korea, China and South Africa. The impact of Cold War in South Asia made it very difficult for India to build good neighbourly relationships. Tensions in the sub-continent had exposed India to wars and compelled it to buy arms to build up strength. He said that during all these years India had followed the doctrine of Jawaharlal Nehru which was to transform and not to transact. But, ultimately, a line had to be drawn in foreign policy where national interest demanded to safeguarding of security.

The Prime Minister observed that globalisation had become important. The Post-Cold War are still faced the challenges of more target-oriented nuclear weapons being fashioned with the help of some critical tests to avoid the aims of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

There was the need for a new orientation of India's foreign policy SAARC was a very important area for regional cooperation.

India had friendly relations with all the neighbours, except Pakistan with whom it would not negotiate its sovereignty and secularism. He said that the doctrine known by his name had some principles including giving respect to each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Our relationships with Iran and the Central Asian countries were extremely important. India's relationship with the USA was also improving. The Indian Ocean Rim and the Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC) had been added recently to India's foreign policy.

*Those who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Syed Sibtey Razi, Ram Gopal Yadav, K.M. Saifullah, Narendra Mohan, Som Pai, Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, R.K. Kumar, Ramdas Agarwal, S.M. Krishna, N. Rajendran, Gaya Singh, Banarsi Das Gupta, Satish Pradhan, R.N. Arya, Vishnu Kant Shastri, M.A. Baby, Yerra Narayanaswamy, N. Thaleval Sundaram, K. Rahman Khan, Vayalar Ravi, V.P. Duraisamy, Sharief-Ud-Din Sharif, Mohd. Masud Khan, Maulana Haibur Rahman Nomanli, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Dr. B.B. Dutta, Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav Ravi, Dr. Biplob Das Gupta and Shrimati Anandiben Jethabhai Patel.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that India's foreign policy always had a global perspective. He was of the view that it did not matter whether India had a permanent seat in the Security Council or not, as there were many other vital issues concerning India and the world. India was entering the phase of globalisation. Terrorism from across the national borders was one of the challenges facing the world today. Certain major initiatives taken in South Asia had been carried forward to their logical conclusions. India had to face a lot of restrictions from the developed countries with regard to maintaining peace, expansion of trade and availability of technologies. Regionalism, rather than multi-nationalism was going to be the order of the day. The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) had immense potentiality as it had market, natural resources, technicians and all the ingredients of industrialisation. He added that the developing countries would have to take on an aggressive diplomacy against the industrialised countries.

Discussion on Parliamentary Democracy : Initiating the discussion* on 29 August 1997, Shri E. Balanandan said that the Special Session provided an opportunity to make an objective analysis of our gains and the drawbacks that had to be overcome. He said that the Constitution was an instrument for economic growth and social change. Forty per cent of the population lived below the poverty line and only 10 per cent of the people formed the affluent section. The parliamentary system had led to economic inequality, he observed.

The Panchayati Raj was a very important aspect of India's federal and democratic set up; however many States had not taken it up seriously. Corruption was one of the greatest challenges at present. There was a nexus between criminals and politicians and the danger of increasing communalism and casteism. Arguing for better conditions for the lower strata of the society, he said that the only salvation for the country was socialism with democracy.

* Others who took part were : Sarvashri Jitendra Prasada, Gurudas Das Gupta, H.D. Deve Gowda, Sunder Singh Bhandari, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Triloki Nath Chaturvedi, Ahmed Patel, Nagmani, G. Swaminathan, K. Karunakaran, Bangaru Laxman, Suresh Pachouri, Tara Charan Majumdar, Ajit P.K. Jogi, Ram Deo Bhandari, H. Hanumanthappa, Kuldip Nayar, Wasim Ahmad, S.S. Surjewala, Rajnath Singh 'Surya', V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo, Manohar Kant Dhyani, Nilotpal Basu, Ramji Lal, Nabam Rebia, Narain Prasad Gupta, Govindrao Adik, Janardan Yadav, Ish Dutt Yadav, Nagendra Nath Ojha, Venod Sharma, Devi Prasad Singh, Gandhi Azad, Moolchand Meena, Anantray Devshanker Dave, Dara Singh Chauhan, Jagir Singh Dard, Satyanarayana Dronamraju, Ram Nath Kovind, V.N. Gadgil, Ramakrishna Hegde, Lachhman Singh, Ram Gopal Yadav, Shiv Charan Singh, Hansraj Bhardwaj, Solipoeta Ramachandra Reddy, Bratin Sengupta, Parmeshwar Kumar Agarwalla, Kartar Singh Duggal, Surinder Kumar Singla, Sanjay Nirupam, Akhilesh Das, Maheshwar Singh, Iqbal Singh, Suresh A. Keswani, Chunni Lal Chaudhuri, Ram Ratan Ram, Lakshiram Agarwal, Malulana Habibur Rahman Noman, Mohinder Singh Kalyan, Virendera Kataria, Prof. Ram Kapse, Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar, Dr. Y. Lakshman Prasad, Maulana Habibur Rahman Noman, Maluana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Kumari Nirmala Deshpande.

The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Janeshwar Mishra likened the Parliament to a mirror and said that tension among the people would be reflected in the Parliament. He argued for the rights of workers, farmers, employees and students to form unions. He advocated special status for women in the society. The issue *dalits*, he said, had to be discussed and a consensus evolved. Democracy and Panchayati Raj had two characteristics, *i.e.*, to make other people understand one's point and to have patience in understanding other's points. In a democracy a representative had some rights as well as duties and if all of us took a pledge not to cross our limits, not only corruption but the whole criminalisation process would end automatically.

On 30 August 1997, the Minister of Environment and Forests, Professor Saif-Ud-Din Soz said that India's performance in the last 50 years had been spectacular. Its democratic institutions were viable and progress had been made in the field of science and technology, foreign trade, communication and energy. India's scientific manpower was one of the largest in the world and the problems of poverty, illiteracy, pollution and population explosion were being looked into within the available resources. The Minister also expressed concern over the dwindling of the forest cover. He said that the concern for environment and wild life was a part of India's civilisation, culture, ethos and religion.

Participating in the discussion on 1 September 1997, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Shrimati) Najma Heptulla stated that there was a direct relation between population and poverty. The poorest, the uneducated and the most deprived of the population were women and since they constituted 50 per cent of the population, they had a right to participate in decision-making and sharing the responsibility in implementing all the decisions. She expressed the need for a second freedom, which was freedom from poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. Regarding criminalisation of politics, she said that it was for the electorate to reject people of any party who were of doubtful character. As regards judicial activism, she said that the Judiciary had come into the picture because neither the legislature nor the press could redress the people's grievances. She suggested the addition of two supplementary pages in the newspapers for carrying reports of member's speeches made during the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Sessions.

Concluding the discussion on 1 September 1997, the Prime Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral, said that there was a unity in diversity in India and that no attempt was to be made to turn that unity into uniformity. Our society's source of strength for change and continuity lay in India's culture as much as in its capacity to assimilate different cultures. The greatest challenge before the people today was whether there would be diversity in a new form. In the age of science and technology, it was important to evaluate India's position in this regard. The people owed it to the martyr's who gave India a bright future. T.V. Programmes had to be science

oriented and it was necessary to assimilate science and technology. The Prime Minister said directions had been issued that prosecution cases pending with the Government would be disposed of as early as possible. He also announced the decision to constitute a committee to go into the matter in detail and to see what steps had to be taken to stop the criminalisation of politics. Transparency was necessary to eliminate corruption, he added.

The Prime Minister said that education was a crucial factor in the development effort of integrating human rights. The Government had put a great deal of emphasis on women's literacy. As far as the population policy was concerned, it was a wholesome policy which also covered health. Emphasis had been given to infrastructure, the power sector, roads and highways. Massive investments were being invited from inside and outside India. Civil aviation being a very important segment of India's development, he said that a new Civil Aviation Policy would come soon before the House for discussion. The needs to telecommunication were also being looked into. Paying his homage to the Indian armed forces, The Prime Minister said that Indian security and technology, would always be updated and kept as modern as we could afford.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Indira Gandhi National Open University (Amendment) Bill, 1997** : Moving the motion for the consideration of the Bill on 11 August 1997, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai said that the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) had been working for the last one decade with centres throughout the country. Since there was no provision in the Act to open centers outside India, he said that the Government was seeking to amend the Act to enable the University to open its centres in other countries. He explained that the Act would go a long way in enhancing the prestige of the University and also in offering degree to students in other countries.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that the objective of the University was to help those people who, because of their poverty, backwardness and circumstances, were not able to continue their education further. The opening of centres outside the country had to be a self-financing proposition as there was paucity of funds. By opening centres abroad, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and other people who were also interested to have Indian degrees could obtain the same from IGNOU. They would also be the centres of Indian culture, the Minister added.

The motion for consideration of the Bill and the clauses, etc. was adopted and the Bill was passed the same day.

* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 29 July 1997.

1. *Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1977 (No. 13 of 1997) promulgated by the President on 5th June 1997 and The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1997** : On 7 August 1997, Shri Satish Agarwal moved a resolution for the disapproval of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997, promulgated by the President on 5 June 1997. The member argued that the tendency to govern through Ordinances had to be stopped. So far as the aspect regarding consensus was concerned, the Opposition was never consulted, he said.

The Prime Minister, Shri I. K. Gujral said that the entire process of selecting a Vice-Presidential candidate from the United Front's side had been delayed during the recent Vice-Presidential elections as a consensus had to evolve among a large number of parties. So far as Ordinances were concerned, the Prime Minister said that they had been issued by several Governments in the past.

Moving the motion for consideration of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill 1997, the Minister of State of the Minister of Law and Justice, (Independent Charge) Shri Ramakant D. Khalap said that the Ordinance was brought about as the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections were very near and there had been no time to consolidate it. He agreed that resorting to Ordinance was not proper. However, the Government could not always come with Bills in the very first instance, he added.

As there were dissenting voices, the motion for disapproval of the Ordinance was put to vote and the Resolution was carried and Bill fell.

The Bill was reintroduced in the Lok Sabha and was passed on 13 August 1997.

The Motion for consideration of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1997,** was moved again in the Rajya Sabha on 14 August 1997 by the Minister of State of Law and Justice, Shri Ramakant D. Khalap.

The Motion for consideration of the Bill, clauses etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed the same day.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the One Hundred and Eighty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha, 6,657 notices of question (6,196 Starred and 461 Unstarred) were received. Of these, 340 Questions were admitted as starred ones and 2,635 as unstarred. Four Short Notices Questions were received, out of which only one was admitted and answered on 14 August 1997.

* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 4 August 1997.

** For objects and reasons of the Bill, see pp. 475

Daily Average of Question : For all the days the lists of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions each. On an average, 2.8 Question were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Question orally answered on a particular day was 5 on 31 July 1997 and the minimum number of Question orally answered on any day was one on 25 July 1997. For all the days, lists of Unstarred Questions contained 155 Questions each.

Half-an-Hour Discussions : Out of the nine notices of Half-an-Hour Discussions received, none was admitted.

Statements Regarding Correcting Answer to Question : On 12 August 1997, a Statement was laid on the Table regarding correcting reply to the Unstarred Question 1505 answered in the Rajya Sabha on 10 March 1997.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of sitting members, Dr. M. Aram and Shri N. Giri Prasad, and the former members, Shri Anand Narain Mulla, Shrimati Ratan Kumar, Shri A. Nallasivan, Shri Rameshchandra Shankarrao Khandekar and Shri Vitharlbhai M. Patel.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Special Commemorative Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's Independence, which commenced on 18 August 1997, was adjourned on 21 August 1997.

Legislative business : During the Session, four Bills were passed by the House.

Obituary references : On 19 August 1997, obituary references were made to the passing away of some renowned personalities.

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Ninth Gujarat Legislative Assembly met for its Eighth Session on 14 August 1997; the House was prorogued by the Governor on the same day. A motion moved by the Chief Minister, which reaffirmed "to maintain the Unity, Integrity and Secularism and Sovereignty of the Nation" and paid "homage to the freedom fighters who had sacrificed their lives for achieving the Independence" was unanimously adopted by the House.

Obituary references : Obituary references were made to the passing away of the former Minister, Shri Karamshibhai Makwana; a sitting member; and seven former members of the Legislative Assembly.

*Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

**Material contributed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly Secretariat

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Karnataka Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Sixth Session on 26 July 1997, was adjourned *sine die* on 12 September 1997. The House had 30 sittings in all.

Legislative business : The following twenty-two Bills were considered and passed by the House during the Session : (i) The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (ii) The Karnataka Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes (Reservation of Appointment, etc.) (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (iii) The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health, Science (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (v) The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1997; (vi) The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1997; (vii) The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1997; (viii) The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 1997; (ix) The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997; (x) The Kudala Sangama Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xi) The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xii) The Karnataka Human Eyes (Authority for use for Therapeutic and Research Purposes) and other Law (Repeal) Bill, 1996; (xiii) The Kannada Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (xiv) The Karnataka Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xv) The Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xvi) The Karnataka Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xvii) The Karnataka Legislatures Salaries, Pensions, and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xviii) The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xix) The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Third Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xx) The Karnataka Pawn Brokers (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xxi) The Karnataka Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 1997; and (xxii) The Karnataka Education (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

Financial business : During the Session, the discussion on the Demands for Grants for the year 1997-98 was taken up. The Demands for Grants as well as the Supplementary Estimates for the year 1997-98 were passed by the House on 4 September 1997. The Demands for Excess Grants for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 were also put to vote and passed.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of thirteen eminent personalities.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Karnataka Legislative Council commenced its Eighty-fifth Session on 28 July 1997 and was adjourned *sine die* on 12 September 1997. There were 30 sittings in all.

*Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat

**Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Council Secretariat

Legislative business: During the Session, in addition to Bills at Nos. (i) to (xix) listed or under the Karnataka Legislative Assembly the following Bills were also passed by the Council: (i) The Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 1997; and (ii) The Karnataka Forest and Certain other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

Financial business: On 28 August 1997, the Supplementary Estimates (First) Instalment was presented to the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Noble laureate Mother Teresa, former Minister, Shri Y. Ramakrishna and a sitting member of the Legislative Assembly, Shri China Mangala. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of a few former members of the House, Jain Muni Acharya Tulasi and some other important personalities.

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA*

The Tenth Punjab Vidhan Sabha, which commenced its Thirteenth Session on 23 December 1996, was adjourned *sine die* on 24 December 1996. The House was then prorogued by the Governor on 1 January 1997. There were two sittings in all.

Election of Speaker: On 23 December 1996, Shri Dilbagh Sing Daleke was unanimously elected the Speaker.

Legislative business: On 24 December 1997, the following three Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Punjab Technical University Bill, 1996; (ii) The Punjab Lokpal (Repeal) Bill, 1996; and (iii) The Punjab Lokpal Bill, 1996.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Channa Reddy (who was also a former Governor of Punjab); a member of Parliament, Sardar Basant Singh Khalsa, a former Minister of Punjab; Sardar Gurbachan Singh Bajwa, a former Minister of erstwhile Pepsu State; Sardar Dara Singh; and a former member of Parliament, Sardar Ajit Singh. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of former members of the Legislative Assembly, Sardar Ajit Singh, Sardar Bachittar Singh and Master Babu Singh; a Victoria Cross Winner, Captain Gyan Singh; Smt. Sampuran Kaur, wife of late Master Gurbanta Singh, a former Minister; and also to the 980 victims of a cyclone in Andhra Pradesh.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Twelfth West Bengal Legislative Assembly commenced its Second Session on 24 January 1997 and was adjourned *sine die* on 4 July 1997 and prorogued on 8 July 1997. In between, the House was adjourned

*Material contributed by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

**Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

from 8 February to 12 March and from 11 April to 5 June 1997. There were 47 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor : The Governor of West Bengal, Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy addressed the House on 24 January 1997. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved the same day and was adopted by the House without any amendments on 6 February 1997.

Legislative business : During the Session, twenty-eight Bills were passed by the House.

Financial business : On 17 March 1997, the Finance Minister, Dr. Asim Kumar Dasgupta presented the Budget for the year 1997-98. The general discussion on the Budget was taken up on 19 March 1997. The Appropriation Bill (No. 2), 1997 was introduced in the House and passed after discussion on 1 July 1997.

The Supplementary Estimates for the year 1996-97 were presented on 20 March 1997 and passed after discussion on 26 March 1997. Thereafter, the Appropriation Bill, 1997 on the Supplementary Estimates was passed on 27 March 1997.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the former Union Minister, Shri Ashoke Sen; the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Channa Reddy; a former Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri S.M. Habibullah; the President of Guyana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan; the former President of Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen HW Tho; a former Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Biju Patnaik; and a member of the Constituent Assembly, Smt. Renuka Ray. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of a former Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Bijoy Singh Nahar; some former members of West Bengal Legislative Assembly; veteran trade union leader, Shri Datta Samant; eminent economist, Shri Bhabatosh Dutta; actor Shri Sambhu Mitra; dancer Smt. Sanjukta Panigrahi; and some other eminent personalities.

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APPENDIX I
STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED
DURING THE FIFTH SESSION OF
THE ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23 July to 1 September 1997
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	23
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	185 hours and 17 minutes
4. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	14
ii) Introduced	12
iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	1
iv) Reported by Select Committee	1
v) Reported by Standing Committees	3
vi) Referred to the Departmentally-related Standing Committees by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Chairman, Rajya Sabha	5
vii) Discussed	8
viii) Passed	7
ix) Withdrawn	1
x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	2
xi) Pending at the end of the Session	19
5. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	121
ii) Introduced	35
iii) Discussed	3
iv) Withdrawn	1
v) Negatived	1
vi) Part-discussion	1
vii) Removed from the Register of pending Bills	3
viii) Pending at the end of the Session	152
6. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
i) Notices received	74
ii) Admitted	3
iii) Discussions held	2
7. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 372 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	10
8. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	2
9. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
i) Notices received	26
ii) Admitted	2
iii) Moved	1
iv) Negatived	1

10. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
i) Notice Received	1
ii) Admitted	1
11. PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTIONS	
i) Received	6
ii) Admitted	6
iii) Discussed	2*
iv) Withdrawn	1
v) Part-discussed	1
vi) Lapsed	5
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
i) Notices received	180
ii) Admitted	49
iii) Moved	3
iv) Discussed	3
v) Adopted	1
vi) Negatived	2
13. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	12,236
14. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,021 passes on 29 August 1997
15. NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
i) Notices received	10
ii) Admitted	1
iii) Barred in view of Adjournment Motion admitted on the subject	2
iv) Consent withheld by the Speaker outside the House	7
16. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
i) Starred	340
ii) Unstarred	3,756

17. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 July to 30 September 1997	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
(ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	—	—
(iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	5	1
(iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
(v)	Committee on Petitions	6	1
(vi)	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	2	2
(vii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	11	2
(viii)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
(ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	2	—
(x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	—
(xi)	Estimates Committee	6	1
(xii)	General Purposes Committee	1	1
(xiii)	House Committee		
(a)	Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
(b)	Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
(xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	8	1
	(Working Group)	3	—
(xv)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
(xvi)	Rules Committee	1	—
JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES			
(i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	2	—
STANDING COMMITTEES			
(i)	Committee on Agriculture	6	2
(ii)	Committee on Communications	6	—
(iii)	Committee on Defence	3	1
	(Sub Committee-III)	1	—
(iv)	Committee on Energy	2	—
	(Sub Committee)	2	—
(v)	Committee on External Affairs	1	—
(vi)	Committee on Finance	7	—
(vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	—	—
(viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	3	—
(ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	—	—
(x)	Committee on Railways	—	—
(xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	7	—
	(Sub Committee)	3	—
(xii)	Committee on the Empowerment of Women	3	—
18. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE			3
19. PETITIONS PRESENTED			4
20. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATE			—

APPENDIX II
STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK
TRANSACTIONED DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND
EIGHTY FIRST SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	23 July to 1 September 1997
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	23
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	132 hours 47 minutes (excluding lunch break)
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	NII
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	23
	(ii) Introduced	13
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	5
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	NII
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	1
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	NII
	(vii) Referred to the Departmentally-related Standing Committees	10
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	NII
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	NII
	(x) Reported by the Departmentally-related Standing Committees	3
	(xi) Discussed	7
	(xii) Passed	4*
	(xiii) Withdrawn	NII
	(xiv) Negatived/Fallen through	1
	(xv) Part-discussed	2
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	2*
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	1
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	36
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	121
	(ii) Introduced	12
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	NII
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	NII

**including two money bills which were returned by the Rajya Sabha*

(v)	Reported by Joint Committee	NII
(vi)	Discussed	NII
(vii)	Withdrawn	NII
(viii)	Passed	NII
(ix)	Negatived	NII
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	NII
(xi)	Part-discussed	1
(xii)	Discussion postponed	NII
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	NII
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	NII
(xv)	Lapsed due to the retirement/death of member-in-charge of the Bill	2
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	131
7.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i)	Notices received	43
(ii)	Admitted	2
(iii)	Discussions held	2
8.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance) Statements made by Ministers	3
9.	HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	NII
10.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	5
(ii)	Admitted	(on two subjects) 5
(iii)	Moved	1
(iv)	Adopted	1
(v)	Negatived	—
(vi)	Withdrawn	—
11.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	1
(ii)	Admitted	(withdrawn) 1
(iii)	Moved	—
(iv)	Adopted	—
12.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Received	5
(ii)	Admitted	5
(iii)	Discussed	1
(iv)	Withdrawn	1
(v)	Negatived	—
(vi)	Adopted	—
(vii)	Part-discussed	1
(viii)	Discussion postponed	—

13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS		
(i) Notices received		Nil
(ii) Admitted		—
(iii) Moved		—
(iv) Adopted		—
(v) Part-discussed		—
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS		
(i) Received		9
(ii) Admitted		—
(iii) Moved		—
(iv) Adopted		—
(v) Part-discussed		—
(vi) Negatived		—
(vii) Withdrawn		—
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE		
(i) Received		Nil
(ii) Admitted		—
(iii) Moved		—
(iv) Adopted		—
(v) Negatived		—
(vi) Withdrawn		—
(vii) Part-discussed		—
(viii) Lapsed		—
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY.	One; Committee on Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill; 1996; 4.8.1997	
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED		1,197
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS		2,262
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED		101 on 29.8.1997
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE		228 on 31.7.1997
21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED		
(i) Starred		340
(ii) Unstarred		2,635
(ii) Short-Notice Questions		1
22. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES		Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 July to 30 September 1997	No. of Reports presented during the 181st Session
(i) Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
(ii) Committee on Subordinate Legislation	4	Nil
(iii) Committee on Petitions	4	1
(iv) Committee on Privileges	Nil	Nil
(v) Committee of Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi) Committee on Government Assurances	4	1
(vii) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	1	Nil
(viii) General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix) House Committee	1	Nil

DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES ON :

(x) Commerce	1	1
(xi) Home Affairs	6	Nil
(xii) Human Resource Development	3	Nil
(xiii) Industry	4	Nil
(xiv) Science & Technology, Environment & Forests	11	Nil
(xv) Transport and Tourism	4	2

OTHER COMMITTEES

(xvi) Ethics Committee	6	Nil
(xvii) Committee on Provision of Computer to the Members of the Rajya Sabha	2	Nil
(xviii) Committee on Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill, 1996	3	Nil
(xix) Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Board	15	Nil

24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

3

25. PETITIONS PRESENTED

Nil

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

Sl. No.	Name of members	Party	Date
1	2	3	4
1.	Dr. (Ms.) P. Selvie Das	Nominated	29.8.97
2.	Kumari Nirjala Deshpande	Nominated	29.8.97
3.	Shri Kartar Singh Duggal	Nominated	29.8.97
4.	Shri Kuldip Nayar	Nominated	29.8.97
5.	Dr. C. Narayana Reddy	Nominated	29.8.97
6.	Dr. Raja Ramanna	Nominated	29.8.97
7.	Shri Mrinal Sen	Nominated	29.8.97
8.	Choudhary Harimohan Singh Yadav	Nominated	29.8.97

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting member/Ex-member/dignitary
1.	Dr. M. Aram	Sitting member
2.	Shri N. Giri Prasad	—do—
3.	Shri Anand Narain Mulla	Ex-member
4.	Shri Ratan Kumar	—do—
5.	Shri A. Nallasivan	—do—
6.	Shri Rameshchandra Shankarrao Khandekar	—do—
7.	Shri Vithalbhai M. Patel	—do—

APPENDIX III

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD
1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1997**

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	21.7.97 to 30.7.97	9	11(11)	—	240(60)	(51) ^(a)	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	18.8.97 to 21.8.97	4	4(4)	—	178(175)	30(30)	3(2)
Bihar L.A.	14.7.97 to 28.7.97	8	4(4)	—	(464) ^(b)	(734)	(8)
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.	26.8.97 to 3.9.97	7	7(5)	—	140 ^(c)	161	1(1)
Goa L.A.	2.7.97 to 31.7.97	21	13(11)	2	761(614)	180(230) ^(d)	2
Gujarat L.A.	14.8.97 to 14.7.97	2	—	—	—	910(604)	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	28.7.97 to 12.9.97	30	22(20)	—	—	—	2(1)
Karnataka L.C.	28.7.97 to 12.9.97	30	5(20)	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.	23.6.97 to 29.7.97	21	3(3)	—	(2093)	(6332)	5
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	14.7.97 to 29.8.97	22	14(14)	—	4261(2642)	1912(2182)	6(1)
Maharashtra L.A.	7.7.97 to 23.7.97	10	8(7)	—	5,525 (444)	5(564) ^(e)	204(18)
Maharashtra L.C.	7.7.97 to 23.7.97	10	(11)	—	2,617(485)	23(350) ^(f)	32(6)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur L.A.	2.7.97 to 29.7.97	17	8(8)	—	350 (230)	5(2)	3(3)
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	10.9.97 to 26.9.97	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab L.A.	—	—	—	—	15(3)	4(2)	—
Rajasthan L.A.	8.9.97 to 8.9.97	6	7(8)	509(486)	552(532)	5	5 ⁹
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	—	—	—	—	(107)	(216)	—
Tripura L.A.	4.9.97 to 8.9.97	3	2(2)	—	286(161)	36(35)	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	17.7.97 to 13.8.97	18	17(21)	2	1,708(85) ^(h)	559(389)	131(345) ^(h)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	17.7.97 to 13.8.97	12	4(21)	—	1,100(1050)	240(215)	338(321)
West Bengal L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

**Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes: (a) Notices given as Starred Questions admitted as Unstarred Questions

(b) Total number of Notices received 1,943 and total number of Notices admitted 1,206

(c) Total Notices received: 523

(d) 50 Starred Questions converted into unstarred

(e) Questions which were originally tabled as starred questions but admitted as unstarred questions

(f) Questions which were originally tabled as starred questions but admitted as unstarred questions

(g) Non Session Period : Notices received 20

Notices admitted 20

(h) 990 starred questions were admitted as unstarred

(i) 345 short notice questions were admitted as starred questions and 492 short notice questions were admitted as unstarred questions

APPENDIX - III (Contd.)
COMMITTEES AT WORK/NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD
1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	1	7	10	—	5	6	6	21	11	2	—	6	12	1	—	28(a)
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	4	1	5(1)	—	4	—	9	5	5	1	—	1	10	1(1)	—	4(b)
Bihar L.A.	1	—	22	—	—	19	13	31	11	—	—	19	—	—	—	160(c)
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Business Advisory Committee																
Committee on Govt. Assurances																
Committee on Petitions																
Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions																
Committee on Privileges																
Committee on Public Undertakings																
Committee on Subordinate Legislation																
Committee on the Welfare of SC and ST																
Estimates Committee																
General Purposes Committee																
House/Accommodation Committee																
Library Committee																
Public Accounts Committee																
Rules Committee																
Joint/Select Committee																
Other Committees																

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	1	3	1(1)	1(1)	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	6	1(1)	4	2(0)
Goa L.A.	1(1)	2(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9(1)	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	6	1	—	—	6	5	12	8	2	2	—	7	—	—	13(0)
Haryana L.A.	—	14	1	—	3	16	11	9	12	—	5	12	21	13	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	3	4	8	2	5(1)	5	6	12	6	—	—	4	8(2)	—	—	25(1)(0)
Karnataka L.C.	4(4)	4	5	3(3)	—	5	6	12	6	—	—	4	8(2)	—	—	25(1)(0)
Kerala L.A.	2(2)	9	12(2)	7(2)	3	6(5)	9	13(1)	10(1)	—	8	5	10	—	—	50(16)(0)
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	4(4)	4(2)	4(1)	5(1)	1	12	3(1)	3(1)	9(1)	—	1(1)	2	6	3(7)	5	15(1)(0)
Maharashtra L.A.	3(3)	10	5	1(1)	4	15(1)	5(1)	16(1)	23(2)	—	1	—	16(2)	—	—	29(1)(0)
Maharashtra L.C.	6(3)	13	—	1(1)	—	15(1)	5(1)	16(1)	23(2)	—	1	—	16(2)	1(1)	—	30(1)(0)
Manipur L.A.	2(1)	3	4	—	4(1)	7	—	4	5	—	—	—	8	2	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	6(6)	7	7	—	—	6	9	6	8	—	6	6	15	—	3	14(0)
Punjab L.A.	—	15	11	—	5	18	6	14	7	—	2	8	14	—	—	1(m)
Rajasthan L.A.	3(2)	17(3)	21(1)	—	13(1)	—	17	34	49	—	16	20	18(3)	—	3(1)	73(m)
Sikkim L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	—	8	2	—	—	8	5	—	9	—	5	—	12	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	1(1)	2(1)	—	—	5(1)	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	3	1(1)	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	10(10)	5	—	—	—	24(9)	18	26	15	—	—	—	1	2	—	2 ^(o)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	189 ^(p)
West Bengal L.A.	(1)	9	9	—	8	9	9	7(1)	10	—	5	1	15(1)	—	—	34 ^(w)
UNION TERRITORIES																
Pondicherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

**Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes :

- (a) Committee on the Welfare of Backward Classes-16 sittings; Committee on the Welfare of Women and Children-10 sittings; and Committee on the Welfare of Minorities-2 sittings
- (b) Employment Review Committee-1 sitting; Act Implementation Committee-1 sitting; and Committee on the Welfare of other Backward Classes and more other Backward Classes-2 sittings
- (c) Internal Resources Committee-13 sittings; and Nivedan Committee-87 sittings
- (d) Question and References Committee-2 sittings
- (e) Committee on Panchayati Raj-2 sittings; Committee on the Welfare of Social & Educationally Backward Classes-2 sittings; Committee on Papers laid on the Table-3 sittings; and Ad-hoc Committee appointed by the House to enquire into the malpractices and corruption in the exemption of land during the year 1985 and 1986 under section 20 and 21 of Urban Land (ceiling and Regulations) Act, 1976-6 sittings
- (f) Papers Laid on the Table-4 sittings; Backward Classes and Minorities-6 sittings and 1 report; adn Departmentally-related Subject Committees-15 sittings
- (g) Papers Laid on the Table-4 sittings; Backward Classes and Minorities-6 sittings and 1 report; and Departmentally-related Subject Committees-15 sittings
- (h) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-8 sittings and 1 report; Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Committees-10 sittings; Committee on the Welfare of Women and Children-9 sittings; Committee on Environment-12 sittings and 5 reports; and Subject Committees (I to X)-11 sittings and 1 report

- (i) Women and Children Welfare Committee-5 sittings and 1 report; Question and Reference Committee-5 sittings; and Committee to examine the papers laid on the Table-5 sittings
- (j) Committee on the Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-6 sittings and 1 report; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-5 sittings; Joint Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension-1 sitting; Panchayati Raj-13 sittings; and Catering Committee-4 sittings
- (k) Committee on the Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-6 sittings and 1 report; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-5 sittings; Joint Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowance-1 sitting; Joint Committee of Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension-1 sitting; Panchayati Raj-13 sittings; and Catering Committee-4 sittings.
- (l) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-3 sittings; Subject Committee on Water Resources-1 sitting; Subject Committee on Rural Development-1 sitting; Subject Committee on Panchayati Raj-1 sitting; Subject Committee on Agriculture-1 sitting; Hosue Committee on Drought-4 sittings; House Committee on Lord Jagannath Temple Administration-2 sittings; and House Committee on Prawn Culture-1 sitting
- (m) Committee on Papers Laid/No be Laid on the Table-11 sittings
- (n) Women and Child Welfare Committee-20 sittings; Question and Reference Committee-22 sittings; Rules sub-Committee-12 sittings; and Sub-Committee on Public Undertaking-19 sittings and 4 reports
- (o) Parliamentary Research, Reference and Study Committee-2 sittings
- (p) Vithiya Evam Prashashyave Vilam Samiti-15 sittings; Ashwasan Samiti-12 sittings; Pradeshitye Vidyut Valvashta Samiti-15 sittings; Prashn Evam Sandarb Samiti-14 sittings; Vidhan Mandal Sadasyon Ke Awasiyev Parivad Sambandhi Janch Samiti-5 sittings; Vinishchay Senkalan Samiti-21 sittings; Lucknow Nagar Nigam Evam Vibhinye Vikaspradhikaran Se Sambandhit Samiti-11; Sansadiya Adhyan Samiti-20 sittings; Sansadiya Evam Samajik Sadbhav Samiti-22 sittings; Visheshadhkar Samiti-13 sittings; Prashnow Ke Kram Nirddharan Aur Prakriya Niyaman Samiti-22 sittings; and Karya Pramarshdatti Samiti-7 sittings
- (q) Committee on the Entitlements of the Members-1 sitting; Subject Committee on (i) Health and Family Welfare-10 sittings; (ii) Panchayat, Rural Development, Land Reforms and Animal Resources Development-10 sittings; (iii) Education and Information and Cultural Affairs and Sports and Youth Services-1 sitting; and (iv) Transport and Public Health Engineering-4 sittings

APPENDIX IV
LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE
PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD
1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Bill, 1997	18.8.1997
2.	The Indira Gandhi National Open University (Amendment) Bill, 1997	29.8.1997
3.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1997	29.8.1997
4.	The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1997	29.8.1997
5.	The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill, 1997	29.8.1997

APPENDIX V**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF
THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING
THE PERIOD 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1997****ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The A.P. Revenue Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The A.P. Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 1997
3. The A.P. Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 1997
4. The A.P. Public Employment (Regulation of Age of Superannuation) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
5. The Indian Stamp (A.P. Amendment) Bill, 1997
6. The Indian (A.P. Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
7. The A.P. Regulation of Reservation for Appointments to Public Services Bill, 1997
8. The Hyderabad Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 1997
9. The A.P. Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
10. The A.P. Public Examinations (Prevention of Malpractices and Unfair Means) Bill, 1997
11. The A.P. Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1997

BIHAR VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council (Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The Bihar Taxation Law (Amendment) Bill, 1997
3. The Bihar Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1997
4. The Bihar Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1997

DELHI VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Delhi Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The Delhi Nursing Council Bill, 1997
3. The Delhi Sales Tax (No. 13) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
4. The Delhi Council for Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Bill, 1997
5. The Delhi Sales Tax (No. 15) (Amendment) Bill, 1997

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 1997
- *2. The Goa Prohibition of Smoking and Spitting Bill, 1997
3. The Goa Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *4. The Goa Right to Information Bill, 1997
5. The Goa Salary, Allowances and Pension of Member's of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 1997

*Awaiting assent

- *6. The Goa Municipalities (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *7. The Indian Stamp (Goa Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 8. The Goa Buildings (Lease, Rent and Eviction) Control (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 9. The Goa Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 10. The Goa Salary and Allowances of Minister's (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 11. The Goa Public Men's Corruption (Investigation and Inquiries) (Amendment) Bill, 1997

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- *1. The Kudala Sangama Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 1996
- 2. The Karnataka Education (Amendment) Bill, 1996
- 3. The Karnataka Human Eyes (Authority for Therapeutic and Research Purposes) and other Law (Repeal) Bill, 1996
- *4. The Kannada Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1996
- 5. The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 6. The Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 7. The Karnataka Industrial Establishments (National and Festival Holidays) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *8. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *9. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 10. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Third Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 11. The Karnataka Pawn Brokers (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- 12. The Karnataka Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *13. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1997
- *14. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1997
- *15. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1997
- *16. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 1997
- *17. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *18. The Karnataka Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *19. The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *20. The Karnataka Stamp (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- 1. The Karnataka Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 1995

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- 1. The Kerala Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1997
- 2. The Kerala Finance Bill, 1997
- 3. The Kerala Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1997

MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA

- 1. Madhya Pradesh Rajya Bhoomi Vikas Nigam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997

*Awaiting assent

2. Gwalior Vyapar Mela Pradhikaran (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
3. Madhya Pradesh Bhoo-Rajasva Sanhita (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
4. Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
5. Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
6. Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No. 3) Vidheyak, 1997
7. Madhya Pradesh Mantri (Vetan and Bhatta) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
8. Rashtriya Vidhi Sansthan Vidheyak, 1997
9. Madhya Pradesh Vanijyak Kar (Second Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
10. Madhya Pradesh Prabhandhan Vidheyak, 1997
11. Madhya Pradesh Ke Sthania Shetra Me Maal Ke Pravesh Par Kar (Second Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
12. Madhya Pradesh Atyaawashek Sewa Sandharan Tatha Vichannta Nivaran (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
13. Madhya Pradesh Shram Kalyan Nidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997
14. Madhya Pradesh Visham Sashke Adhyaksh Tatha Upadhyaksh Tatha Neta Pratipakah (Vetan Tatha Bhatta) Vidhi Divetiya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 1997

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Bombay Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The Maharashtra Truck Terminal (Regulation of Location) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
3. The Maharashtra State Commission for Safai Karmacharis Bill, 1997
4. The Maharashtra Maintenance of Parents and Dependents Bill, 1997
5. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1997
6. The Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education Bill, 1997
7. The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1997

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Coroners (Amendment) Bill, 1996
2. The Maharashtra Employees of Private Schools (Conditions of Service) Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1996
3. The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 1997
4. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1997
5. The Bombay Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 1997
6. The Maharashtra Truck Terminal (Regulation of Location) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
7. The Maharashtra State Commission for Safai Karmacharis Bill, 1997
8. The Maharashtra Maintenance of Parents and Dependents Bill, 1997
9. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1997
10. The Maharashtra State Board of Technical Education Bill, 1997
11. The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1997

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Co-operative Societies (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1997
3. The Orissa Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1997

*Awaiting assent

4. The Orissa Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
5. The Orissa Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1997
6. The Provincial Small Cause Courts (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 1997
7. The Courts Fees (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 1997

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- *1. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1997
- *2. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1997
- *3. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 1997
- *4. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 7) Bill, 1997
- *5. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 8) Bill, 1997
- *6. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No. 9) Bill, 1997
- *7. The Rajasthan Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *8. The Rajasthan Ropeway Bill, 1996

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura Entertainment Tax Bill, 1997
2. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Tripura fourth Amendment) Bill, 1997

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The U.P. Trade Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The U.P. Higher Education Services Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1997
3. The U.P. Ministers and State Legislative Officers and Member's Amenities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997
4. The U.P. Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1997
5. The U.P. Public Services (Reservation for physically Handicapped, Dependents of Freedom Fighters and Ex-Servicemen) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
6. The U.P. Krishi Utpadan Mandi Samitis (Alpakalik Vyawastha) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *7. The U.P. Roorkey University (Amendment) Bill, 1997
8. The U.P. Rural Housing Board (Amendment) Bill, 1997
9. The U.P. State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *10. The U.P. Water Supply and Sewerage (Amendment) Bill, 1997
11. The Subordinate Services Commission Selection Commission (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *12. The Indian Stamps (U.P. Amendment) Bill, 1997
13. The U.P. State Commission for Women Bill, 1997
14. The U.P. Sri Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Amendment) Bill, 1997
15. The U.P. Land Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *16. The Indian Stamps (U.P. Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *17. The U.P. Motor Vehicles Taxation Bill, 1997
18. The U.P. Post Graduate Medical Education (Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes) Bill, 1997
19. The U.P. Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1997
20. The U.P. State Universities (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
21. The U.P. Appropriation Bill, 1997

*Awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1997

Sl. No.	Subject	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date(s) of Cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	16.9.1997	—	—	—
2.	The Finance Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	16.9.1997	—	—	—
3.	The Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	22.9.1997	—	—	—
4.	The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	24.9.1997	—	—	—
5.	The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	26.9.1997	—	—	—
STATE GOVERNMENTS					
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	The A.P. Prohibition of Ragging Ordinance, 1997	4.7.1997	22.7.1997	—	Replaced by legislation
2.	The A.P. Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	27.9.1997	—	—	-do-

3.	The A.P. Road Development Corporation Ordinance, 1997	27.9.1997	—	—	—	-do-
BIHAR						
1.	The Patna University (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1997	—	—	—	—	—
2.	The Bihar State University (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1997	—	—	—	—	—
3.	The Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1997	—	—	—	—	—
GUJARAT						
1.	The Gujarat Coaching Classes (Control) Ordinance, 1997	23.7.1997	—	—	—	Repromulgation on 22.9.1997
2.	The Bombay Primary Education (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	30.7.1997	—	—	—	Repromulgation on 22.9.1997
3.	The Gujarat Contingency Fund Amendment (Second) Ordinance, 1997	22.9.1997	—	—	—	—
4.	The Gujarat Coaching Classes (Control) (Second) Ordinance, 1997	22.9.1997	—	—	—	—
5.	The Bombay Primary Education (Gujarat Amendment) (Second) Ordinance, 1997	22.9.1997	—	—	—	—

MADHYA PRADESH					
1.	The M.P. Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1997	25.9.1997	—	—	—
MAHARASHTRA					
1.	The Maharashtra Tract Terminal (Regulation of Location) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	12.5.97	7.7.97	17.8.97	Replaced by legislation
2.	The Bombay Public Trusts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	26.5.97	7.7.97	17.8.97	—
ORISSA					
1.	The Orissa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	22.8.1997	15.9.1997	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	15.5.1997	15.9.1997	—	-do-
TAMIL NADU					
1.	The Indian Tolls (T.N. Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	17.7.1997	13.10.1997	—	Replaced by legislation
2.	The T.N. District Municipalities (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	29.9.1997	13.10.1997	—	-do-
3.	The T.N. Panchayat (Fifth Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	29.9.1997	13.10.1997	—	-do-

UTTAR PRADESH

1. The U.P. State Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	19.9.1997	—	—	—
2. The U.P. Land Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	19.9.1997	—	—	—
3. The U.P. Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	19.9.1997	—	—	—

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. Uttar Pradesh Vyapar Kar (Samshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1997	9.7.1997	17.7.1997	31.7.1997
2. Uttar Pradesh Lok Sewa (Sharirik Roop Se Viklang, Swatantrata Sangram Senaniyon Ke Ashrit Aur Bhutipurva Sakshikon Ke Liye Arakshan (Samshodhan) Adhyadesh, 1997	9.7.1997	17.7.1997	22.7.1997
3. Uttar Pradesh Bhumi Vidhi (Samshodhan) Adyadesh, 1997	19.9.1997	—	—
4. Uttar Pradesh Rejya Vishwavidyalaya (Samshodhan) Adyadesh, 1997	19.9.1997	—	—
5. Uttar Pradesh Anusuchit Jati Aur Anusuchit Janjati Ayog (Samshodhan), 1997	19.9.1997	—	—

APPENDIX VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA
(AS ON 10 OCTOBER 1997)

Sl. States No.	Seats	BJP	INC	JD	CPM	TMC	DMK	SP	TDP	SHIV SEN	BSP	CPI	SAD	SMP	ORS	IND	TOT- TAL	VAC- ANCIES
1. Andhra Pradesh	42	—	21	—	1	—	—	—	17	—	—	2	—	—	1(a)	—	42	—
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
3. Assam	14	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6(b)	1	14	1
4. Bihar	54	18	2	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	5	18(c)	1	54	—
5. Goa	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(d)	—	2	—
6. Gujarat	26	16	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
7. Haryana	10	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(e)	1	10	—
8. Himachal Pradesh	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
9. Jammu & Kashmir	6	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
10. Karnataka	28	6	6	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
11. Kerala	20	—	7	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	4(f)	1	20	—
12. Madhya Pradesh	40	28	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1(g)	1	40	—
13. Maharashtra	48	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	—
14. Manipur	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
15. Meghalaya	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
16. Mizoram	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17. Nagaland	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18. Orissa	21	—	17	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(h)	—	21	—
19. Punjab	13	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	8	—	—	—	13	—
20. Rajasthan	25	13	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(i)	—	25	—
21. Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(j)	—	1	—

22. Tamil Nadu	39	—	—	—	—	20	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	39	—
23. Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
24. Uttar Pradesh	85	52	4	2	—	—	16	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	—
25. West Bengal	42	—	9	—	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	42	1
UNION TERRITORIES																					
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
27. Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
29. Daman and Diu	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
30. Delhi	7	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
31. Lakshadweep	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
32. Pondicherry	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
33. Nominated	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
TOTAL	545	162	139	29	32	20	17	17	17	15	11	11	11	11	11	8	5	49	9	545	2

a) All India Majlis-e-Ittihad-ul-Muslims-1

b) Autonomous State Demand Committee-1; and Asom Gana Parishad-5

c) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-1; Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1; Rashtriya Janata Dal-16

d) United Goa Democratic Party-1; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-1

e) Haryana Vikas Party-3

f) Muslim League-2; Revolutionary Socialist Party-1; and Kerala Congress (M)-1

g) All India Indira Congress (T)-1

h) Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1

i) All India Indira Congress (T)-1

j) Sikdim Democratic Front-1

k) All India Indira Congress (T)-2; Bharatiya Kisan Kamgar Party-1; and Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1

l) All India Forward Bloc-2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-4

**B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA
(AS ON 7 OCTOBER 1997)**

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	JD	CPI (M)	Others	Unatt-ached	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
STATES										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	7	—	1	1	9 (a)	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
3.	Assam	7	4	—	—	—	2 (b)	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	22	4	3	5	—	10 (c)	—	22	—
5.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	11	5	5	—	—	—	1	11	—
7.	Haryana	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	3	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	—	—	—	3 (d)	—	4	—
10.	Karnataka	12	9	—	3	—	—	—	12	—
11.	Kerala	9	3	—	—	3	3 (e)	—	9	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	8	8	—	—	—	—	16	—
13.	Maharashtra	19	9	4	—	—	4 (f)	2	19	—
14.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
16.	Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	1 (g)	—	1	—
18.	Orissa	10	3	—	7	—	—	—	10	—
19.	Punjab	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20.	Rajasthan	10	3	5	—	—	—	1	9	1
21.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	1 (h)	—	1	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	18	—	—	—	—	15 (i)	—	15	3
23.	Tripura	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	34	4	15	—	—	11 (j)	4	34	—
25.	West Bengal	16	1	—	—	11	4 (k)	—	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES										
	Delhi	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
	Pondicherry	1	1	—	—	—	1(1)	—	1	—
	Nominated	12	3	—	—	—	—	9	12	—
TOTAL		245	83	44	16	15	64	19	241	4

(a) T.D.P.-8; T.D.-1-1

(b) Aom Gana Parishad - 1; Autonomous State Demand Committee-1

(c) C.P.I. - 3; Rashtriya Janata Dal-7

(d) N.C.-3

(e) M.L.-2; C.P.I.-1

(f) Shiv Sena - 4

(g) Nagaland People's Council - 1

(h) Sikkim Sangram Parishad -1

(i) AIADMK (I) - 7; AIADMK (II)-7; DMK-1

(j) Samajwadi Party - 7; Bahujan Samaj Party-3; R.J.D.-1

(k) R.S.P. - 1; C.P.I. - 1; F.B. - 2

(l) D.M.K.-1

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURES

State/Union territory	Seats	Cong. (I)	Janata Dal	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	Others Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A. (1.10.97)	295	26	—	3	14	18	221 ^(a)	11	293	2
Assam L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A. (1.10.97)	126	37	—	4	2	3	69 ^(b)	11	126	—
Bihar L.A. (30.9.97)	325	29	29	43	6	26	177 ^(c)	14	324 [●]	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A. (1.10.97)	70	17	1	48	—	—	—	3	69	1
Goa L.A. (1.10.97)	40	23	—	4	—	—	10 ^(d)	3	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.10.97)	182	44	—	69	—	—	53 ^(e)	15	181	1
Haryana L.A. (30.6.97)	90	12	—	11	—	—	55 ^(f)	10	88 [●]	1
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C. (1.10.97)	75	18	12	9	—	—	6 ^(g)	4	49 [●]	25

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kerala L.A.		141	37	4	—	40	16	52 ^(a)	5	138 ^(b)	2
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (30.9.97)		321	175	4	112	1	2	16 ^(b)	8	319 ^(b)	1
Maharashtra L.A. (1.10.97)		289	79	10	65	3	—	90 ^(b)	45	289	—
Maharashtra L.C. (1.10.97)		78	30	1	14	—	—	14 ^(b)	12	71	7
Manipur L.A. (1.10.97)		60	34	—	—	—	7	18 ^(b)	3	56	4
Meghalaya L.A. (1.10.97)		60	—	—	—	—	—	60 ^(b)	—	60	—
Mizoram L.A.**		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.**		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A. (1.10.97)		147	79	44	5	—	1	5 ^(b)	8	—	—
Punjab L.A. (1.10.97)		117	14	—	18	—	2	77 ^(b)	6	117	—
Rajasthan L.A. (30.9.97)		200	73	4	101	1	—	—	—	200	—
Sikkim L.A.**		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (1.10.97)		235	—	1	1	1	8	220 ^(a)	1	232	2
Tripura L.A. (1.10.97)		60	10	1	—	43	—	5 ^(b)	1	60	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (1.10.97)		426	37	7	175	4	1	364 ^(a)	13	426	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.10.97)		108	2	1	30	1	—	23 ^(b)	6	69	39

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
West Bengal L.A. (1.10.97)		295	81	—	—	150	6	54 ^(b)	2	293	2

UNION TERRITORIES

Pondicherry L.A.**

⊙ Excluding Speaker

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes:

- (a) Telugu Desam Party-216; Majlis Batchao Tahreek-2; AIMIM-1; N.T.R. Telugu Desam Party (LP)-1; and Nominated-1
 (b) Asom Gana Parishad-62; Autonomous State Demand Committee-5; and U.M.F.-2
 (c) Rashtriya Janata Dal-136; JMM (Soren)-16; Samata Party-8; CPI (Male)6; JMM (Mardi)-2; M.C.C.-2; J.P.P.-2; Bahujan Samajwadi Party-2; Jharkhand Party-1; Champaran Vikas Party-1; and Nominated-1
 (d) Maharashtra Gomantak Party-8; United Goan Democratic Party-4; and United Goan's Democratic Party (Arecio Group)-1
 (e) Maha Gujarat Janata Party-52; and Rashtriya Janata Party-1
 (f) Haryana Vikas Party-31; Samata Party-22; and Unattached-2
 (g) Separate Legislature Group of JD-6
 (h) Muslim League-13; Kerala Congress(J)-1; Kerala Congress-6; Kerala Congress(M)-5; Indian Congress(S)-3; Kerala Congress-13; J.S.S.-1
 (i) Bahujan Samaj Party-11; Samata Party-1; Chattisgarh Muktimorcha-1; Bharatiya Republican Party-1; Gondwana Republican Party-1; and Nominated-1
 (j) Shiv Sena-74; Peasants and Workers' Party-4; Samajwadi Party-4; Maharashtra Vikas Congress-1; Nagvidartha Andolan Samity-1; and Nominated-1
 (k) Peasants and Workers Party-1; Shiv Sena-11; Republican Party of India-1; and Akhil Bharatiya Maratha Mahasangh-1
 (l) Manipur People's Party-12; and Unattached-4
 (m) U.M.P.F.-42; Opposition-15; and Unattached-3
 (n) JMM-4; and JPP-1
 (o) Shiromani Akali Dal-75; Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann)-1; Bahujan Samaj Party-1

- (p) D.M.K.-164; T.M.C. (Moopnar)-39; Pattali Makkal Katchi-4; Indian National League-5; A.I.A.D.M.K.-3; A.I.A.D.M.K. (Thirunavukkarasu)-1; Devendrar Sangam-1; and Nominated-1
- (q) R.S.P.-2; A.I.F.B.-1; T.H.P.-1; and T.U.J.S.-1
- (r) Samajwadi Party-110; Bahujan Samaj Party-67; B.K.K.P.-8; Samata Party-2; Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1; and Nominated-1
- (s) Samajwadi Party-8; B.K.K.P.-1; Bahujan Samaj Party-8; Pragatishheel Dal-2; and Shikshak Dal (Non-political)-10
- (t) A.I.F.B.-20; Revolutionary Socialist Party-19; Democratic Socialist Party-2; Marxist Forward Bloc-2; Biplabi Bangla Congress-1; Socialist Party-3; Socialist Unity Centre of India-2; Gorkha National Liberation Front-3; Forward Bloc (S)-1; Jharkhand Party (N)-1; and Nominated-1

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