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EDITORIAL NOTE

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), among other things, has been promoting the ideals of parliamentary democracy, the Rule of Law and basic human rights for the last eight decades. 'The Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference for North-Eastern Region of India' was held in Kohima, Nagaland from 27 April to 30 April 1997. The Conference, which devoted its special attention to various issues of wider interest to the North Eastern Region, was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, on 29 April 1997. In his address, Shri Sangma observed that the need of hour was for the tribal interests to be harmonised and for the tribal rifts and rivalries to be transformed into healthy competition for the betterment of the people. The Legislatures should play a crucial role in this regard. Besides, he stressed that our Constitution envisaged a sound and sophisticated system of Separation of Powers. The relationship among the three organs of governance, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary, must be maintained. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal*, the text of the Inaugural Address by Shri P.A. Sangma.

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon was one of the chief architects of the Nehruvian policy to which India owes its modern polity and economy. He was a federalist, a prolific and eloquent speaker, an author and journalist, a diplomat *par excellence* and a firm believer in the Welfare State model. Shri Menon is reverentially remembered for his forceful articulation of India's cause in various world fora. On 6 May 1997, a function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House as part of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Late Shri Krishna Menon. The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, addressed the distinguished gathering on the occasion. The texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries at the function are included in this issue.

National Parliaments being the supreme bodies are the most legitimate and appropriate institutions to bring about partnership between men and women in politics. Our readers may recall that to advance the cause of a more balanced sharing of political responsibilities between men and women, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, together with the Parliament of India, organised an Inter-Parliamentary Specialized Conference on "Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics", in New Delhi from 14 to 18 February 1997. A study titled, *Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics: The Indian Scenario* was brought out during the Conference. With a view to giving wider publicity to this topical matter, the study is being reproduced in this issue of the *Journal*. The study

highlights perceptible change that has taken place in the status of women in India in the last few decades. It also discusses in detail the various steps taken by the Government of India as well as the State Governments to empower the women folk. Though gender equality is basic to the structure of the Indian polity and is enshrined in our Constitution, the participation of women in the decision-making process has been low. As such, law alone cannot bring out changes in a society. A societal reorientation is required to create a gender-just society. Since the biases that exist and the inequalities that prevail are not natural or biologically given, but are socially and politically constructed, sustained and perpetuated to maintain relationships of subordination, there is an urgent need for planning and implementation of a process to restructure the gender relations, the study concludes.

Our readers would recall that we did not carry in full the Sessional Review of the Fourth Session of the Lok Sabha and the One Hundred and Eightieth Session of the Rajya Sabha in our previous issue (Vol. XLIII, No. 2, June 1997) because of adjournment of the House to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments and report back to the House. The Sessional Review had thus covered only the period 20 February 1997 to 21 March 1997. For the same reason, we could not also carry the Statement of Work Transacted during the Fourth Session of the Lok Sabha and the One Hundred and Eightieth Session of the Rajya Sabha and obituary references. The outstanding period is now being covered in this issue. Besides, we carry in this issue of the *Journal* our other regular Features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest and Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest.

It has been our constant endeavour to make the *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome 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, media persons and all others interested in the practice of parliamentary democracy.

—S. Gopalan
Editor

**INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY SHRI P.A. SANGMA,
SPEAKER, LOK SABHA AT THE REGIONAL
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
FOR NORTH EASTERN REGION OF INDIA**

A Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of the North Eastern Region of India was held in Kohima, Nagaland on 27-30 April 1997. We reproduce below the text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma on 29 April 1997 at the Conference.

—Editor

Mr. Jamir, Chief Minister of Nagaland, Mr. Neiba Ndang, Honourable Speaker, Nagaland Assembly, Honourable Speakers of the State Assemblies in the North Eastern Region, Mr. Raja Gomez, Director, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I am honoured to be amidst you here for this inaugural of the Regional Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).

The CPA, as all of you may know, has to its credit over eight decades of service in pursuit of the ideals of parliamentary democracy, the Rule of Law and basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. Under the umbrella of the CPA, we are a family of 14,000 parliamentarians united without discrimination as between races, religions and cultures. The CPA, amongst its activities, facilitates Regional Conferences to devote special attention to matters of regional interest. I felicitate the CPA on this Conference in the North Eastern region of our country which is indeed an area of special characteristics in terms of its history, geography and people. I also felicitate Mr. Neiba Ndang for his initiative in the organisation of this Conference.

I find from the agenda of the Conference that important subjects are going to be deliberated on ethnic explosion in the North East, the Committee system, relationship between the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary and "How to be an Honourable Member in the estimation of the Public"

The Special significance of the North East in terms of its geographical location and special characteristics of its tribal population has been recognised by the framers of our Constitution. They introduced a Special Chapter in our Constitution to deal with the Scheduled and Tribal Areas. My reference is to Part X as well as the Fifth and Sixth Schedules of

the Constitution. Provisions have been made for special administrative arrangements in terms of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes, Tribal Advisory Councils, autonomous districts and autonomous regions. Consistent with local culture, tradition and practices, a hierarchy of village councils, districts councils and regional councils has been designed and provided for. This hierarchy stands vested with powers and functions for administration of law, exercise of executive authority, raising of resources locally and implementation of developmental programmes. The special constitutional dispensation for the North East is also based on a pragmatic recognition of diversities amongst the tribals themselves. There are about 200 tribes in the region speaking as many languages. The dynamics of the political aspirations of the people of the North East has also had its manifestation in the formation of new States in the region over the years.

The North East as a region has several strengths. These are :—

— The total population is about 32 million, about 3.44 percent of the total population of the country. This is larger than that of some of the individual States like Assam, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa and Punjab.

— Natural resource endowments are quite diversified and striking - forests, coal, natural gas, hydel potential limestone, dolomite, etc.

— The agro-climatic conditions hold out immense potential for a variety of annual and perennial crops, including horticultural and plantation crops.

— Literacy rates in many States are rather high-82 per cent in Mizoram, 62 per cent in Nagaland and 60 per cent in Tripura, as against the national average of 52 per cent.

—Women enjoy a higher social status than in other parts of the country because of matrilineal traditions.

—Women's work participation rate also is higher than the All-India average, ranging from 35 to 44 per cent against the All-India average of 24 per cent.

One of the significant trends of the day in the North Eastern region which is debilitating and, therefore, a matter of serious concern is the ethnic rivalries as between the tribes which get reflected in political life. More often, on account of the need for giving representation to a large number of tribes, the size of the Council of Ministers becomes rather large as a matter of course. This is not conducive to smooth and speedy transaction of business. This apart, strong tribal rivalries cause conflicts among decision-makers. Smooth and sound governance is fractured by frictions. The need of the hour is for the tribal interests to be harmonised

and for tribal rifts and rivalries to be transformed into healthy competition for the betterment of the people. Enhancing literacy where it is low, giving skill and employment orientation to education, reorganizing agriculture through diversification of crops, industrialisation by exploitation of natural resources endowments and gaining political strength through economic advancement are the concerns to which the energies of the people, without being dissipated in local political squabbles, need to be competitively channelized. The legislators have a very crucial role to play in this regard.

Sometime back, I remember, the Chief Ministers of North Eastern States assembled in Guwahati to witness a presentation made by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on a strategy for the economic uplift of the region. The strategy envisaged geographical and cultural integration of the region internally and with the rest of the country. Infrastructural development was the principal measure suggested. Development of surface transport through a network of inter-State, intra-State and link roads and rail routes; transformation of the Brahmaputra river into a vibrant commercial artery; creation of a network of airport and a grid of air-services to be provided by a mix of large and small aircraft and helicopters; expansion of border trade with Myanmar; and gaining access to Chittagong port and thereby to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) market by recourse to diplomatic and commercial dialogues through the Government of India were the specific CII prescriptions. There was general appreciation amongst the Chief Ministers that the CII blue print was worthy of consideration. The legislators assembled here, while playing their respective roles, would need to have an understanding of these concerns with a regional vision and a national perspective.

I have been urging the decision-makers and people in the rest of the country that they should take pro-active interest in getting insight into the lifestyles, problems and concerns of the people of the region, apart from facilitating their political participation at the national level, because that alone will help the process of cultural integration.

Now, the electronic media is taking increasing interest in projecting the North East. Programmes like the "North East File" and "North East Update" are being telecast. Cultural integration is a two-way process. Hence, the legislators of the region, on their side as well, should proactively get involved in the process, using the weight inherent in, and opportunities held out, by their offices.

The North East has a 4,500 Kilometres-long international border with four countries - that is, China, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Naturally, the people of the region are exposed to several cross-border impacts which have implications in the region for peace and political, economic and social life apart from people's behaviour patterns. The legislators of the region would need to help formulate appropriate strategies for the management of the problems arising out of these impacts.

Whatever be the area of our life, the problems that we face could be traced ultimately to the size of our population. In the political front, population size translates into huge constituencies and large size of Legislatures. The larger the size of a Legislature, the less is the time available for business transaction. The 'Welfare State' that we are, people's expectations from the legislators are high. So, Legislature have to develop their own institutional mechanisms for meaningful business transaction. The Committee system is one of such vital mechanisms. Committees provide decentralised fora, apart from less formal and cooler environment than the plenary of the Legislatures for consideration of business - the Budget, scrutiny of performance of Departments, legislative measures, etc. In the Parliament, we have 35 Committees. Some States like Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa and West Bengal already practise the Committee system. Some of the problems faced in practising this system are the tendencies for overlapping jurisdiction and expenses involved. Properly and cost-effectively designed Committees could function as powerful legislative and political engine room.

Our Constitution envisages a sound and sophisticated system of separation of Powers. The three wings of governance—the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary- are the creatures of the Constitution. The relationship among them is one of fine and delicate balance. The Executive is drawn from the Legislature and is clearly accountable to it. The Judiciary has the authority to review the executive actions of the state and the legislations enacted by the Legislature. People are driven to courts when there is arbitrary or colourable exercise of authority by the Executive or when there are wilful acts of omission on its part. The Judiciary, then, becomes active. Public Interest Litigation spurred by Executive failure, including in its accountability to the Legislature, adds yet another dimension to judicial activism. Sensitive decisions which are really in the realm of the Executive are sometimes referred by it to the Judiciary. The controversy of judicial activism is not special to our country only. The phenomenon is experienced in other countries as well. In the relationship among the three wings of governance, the issue is not of supremacy of one wing or the other. It is one of each wing playing its due and legitimate role within its own area of competence. But what is important to be realised is the primacy of the Legislature, the people being supreme and the Legislature being constituted by people's representatives.

Public perception of the legislators is not a matter of make-belief. Significant section of our people are educated. The illiterate are not uninformed. Our society is politically conscious as reflected by the results of repeated exercise of franchise at the hustings. With the electronic revolution which has overtaken the Media, the common man has the opportunity to monitor the performance of the legislator on an almost daily basis. The issue of conduct of legislator was gone into by the Conference of Presiding Officers of the country in October last. The consensus was

that the problem was to be addressed at the electorate level itself. The Conference called upon the political parties to nominate their candidates with discretion and the people themselves to exercise their franchise with caution and return candidates reputed for their aptitude for public service and for their probity.

I am sure, that this Conference, conducted in good altitude, in cool environment, and amidst the hospitable tribal communities, will be marked by elevated levels of introspection, interaction and sharing of experience, leading to a better understanding of this vital region, the dimensions of its political life and the dynamics of democracy. With these words, I have great pleasure in inaugurating the Conference. I wish it success.

Thank you.

ADDRESSES AT THE BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF LATE SHRI V.K. KRISHNA MENON

On 6 May 1997, a function was held in the Central Hall on Parliament House as part of the Birth Centenary Celebrations of Late Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. The President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, addressed the distinguished gathering.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

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

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Respected Upa-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Prime Minister, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It was three days back that we observed the 101st Birth Anniversary of Late Shri. V.K. Krishna Menon. He hailed from Kozhikode in the Malabar district of British Madras Presidency. On his father's side, he had a princely lineage. On his mother's side, he could trace his lineage to one of the most celebrated Dewans of the State of Travancore.

He had his education up to the pre-degree level in the modest but time honoured educational institutions of Kozhikode. Having taken History Major, naturally, he took keen interest in the British system of parliamentary democracy. He was fascinated by the political philosophies of John Locke, John Stuart Mill, Thomas Hobbes, Rousseau, Marx and Engels.

Having done his graduation in the Presidency College in Madras, he was attracted by the Theosophical Movement of Dr. Annie Basant and her Home Rule League. He also came to be associated with the Indian National Boys Scouts Association. In 1924, he went to U.K. with Dr. Arundale.

Thereafter, he lived there for 28 years. He started his life there as a teacher at the St. Christopher School, Letchworth, Hertfordshire. He did Political Science in the London School of Economics where he became a student of Professor Harold Laski. By 1934, he had taken M.Sc. Degree, after advanced studies in Economics, Politics and Psychology and also completed the law course and became Barrister, Middle Temple.

He came in contact with the great intellectuals of the day, Beatrice Webb, Sir Stafford Cripps and Bertrand Russell. He was also an active Labour Party worker, member of the Socialist League and participated in local government.

The struggle for India's Independence had to be fought both on the Indian and the British soils. On our land, the struggle was carried on for six decades commencing from the first session of the Indian National Congress in 1885 under the Presidentship of W.C. Bonnerji. The struggle on the British soil was spearheaded by Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. Having been initiated by Dr. Besant in the Home Rule Movement in India, he continued to work under the Commonwealth of India League in U.K. With untiring dedication, he shaped the minds of the British people, parliamentarians, intellectuals and decision-makers in the cause of India's freedom.

In 1930, the Commonwealth of India League was covered into the India League with the exit of Dr. Besant. This development was also brought about on account of Shri Menon's close cooperation with the Indian National Congress which passed the 'Poorna Swaraj' Resolution at its Lahore Session.

During Shri Menon's struggle for our Independence on the British soil, highlights after 1930 were the India League's Parliamentary Delegation to India in 1932 and his deputation to the World Peace Congress in Geneva in 1935. The report of the Parliamentary Delegation back in U.K. was a major milestone in creating significant awareness amongst the British about the validity of India's cause for freedom. Shri Menon also struck a bond of personal friendship with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru which later on developed into strong political partnership between them. He assisted Mahatma Gandhi during the First Round Table Conference. Having parted company with the Labour Party for a while on the issue of self-determination for India, Shri Menon joined the Party again in 1945. He was, thereafter, closely associated with negotiations on transfer of power. After the Second World War was over, he got the Labour Party to commit itself to self-determinations for India.

After India attained Independence, he became the first High Commissioner to U.K. from 1947 to 1952. He was the Chairman of the Indian Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly from 1953 to 1962. He made outstanding contributions in the United Nations. Termination of the Korean War, vacations of British, French and Israeli occupation of Egyptian territories, including the Suez Canal, repatriation of Korean Prisoners of War, termination of the Indo-China war, etc. were some of the more important matters on which Shri Menon's personal contribution was very significant. He projected to the world that whichever be the power or the nation, human rights violations were unacceptable and that self-determination was an inalienable right of colonised countries. He

established that Kashmir was an integral part of the Sovereign Indian Republic and by sheer perseverance shifted Kashmir out of the multilateral agenda of the United Nations and made it a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

As Defence Minister, from 1957 to 1962, he laid the foundations for the self-sufficiency of our defence forces. Laying stress on capacity utilisation of the Ordnance factories, production of heavy vehicles for the army and modernization of the Air Force and the Navy were his contributions. For him, the take over of Goa from the Portuguese was a simple issue of wiping out the last vestiges of colonialism in India.

Following upon Chinese aggression in 1962, Shri Menon had to lay down the Office of the Defence Minister. Several reasons have been attributed to the country's performance in the face of the Chinese aggression. But Shri Menon did demonstrate candour and intellectual integrity in admitting that he had banked on diplomacy rather than military measures in dealing with the Chinese.

Having been a member of the Rajya Sabha initially from 1953 to 1957, he was member of the Second, Third and Fourth Lok Sabhas from 1957 to 1962, from 1962 to 1967 and 1969-79, respectively.

Shri Menon looked upon the Constitution as an instrument for securing economic development, distributive justice and political pluralism. He saw no contradictions between individual liberty and socialist society, so long as the articulation of individual liberty did not result in exploitation. Shri Menon as a federalist, he believed that State autonomy was not a matter of condescending concessions but the cohesive force for ensuring national unity and integrity. He clearly saw the divisive and destabilising potential of religion, language, castes and communities and wanted these forces to be strongly discouraged.

The Constitution, the electoral laws, political parties and inner party-democracy within political parties, according to Shri Menon, were closely inter-related. He felt that democratic contours of political parties were not internal to the parties, but were a national matter.

Shri Menon cautioned about external assistance for economic development, including industrialisation. This caution was not based on any dogma, but on this basic concern for economic independence. He was immensely aware of our technology shortfalls and in fact wanted external technology and expertise without giving room for imperialism through the economic route.

Shri Menon was one the architects of the policy of Non-Alignment. He believed in national autonomy in decision-making, each country taking its decisions in its own national interest. Non-Alignment for him, therefore, was a means of reflecting nations policies in international relations. Joining power blocs, Western bloc or the Soviet bloc, according to him, would

have compromised national sovereignty and autonomy. Shri Menon viewed it as a policy of peace, steering clear of the military dependence. He did not have any pretensions that Non-Alignment was a mechanism for maintaining balance of power. But, then and now, Non-Alignment survives. It has survived through the politics of power blocs, through *detente*. It is alive today during unipolar trends. It is here to stay.

We have half a century of experience in trying to alleviate poverty. Shri Menon visualised that peace development, economic strength and respect in the world at large were not capable of being achieved by us unless the gap between the rich and the poor was eliminated. Social justice, according to him, was one of the motives for our Independence struggle and was the first pledge to the redeemed. He believed in the Welfare State model in which there would be social security for the masses.

Shri Krishna Menon was indeed a very colourful personality and a giant amongst Indian leaders. He symbolised intellectual integrity from which flowed the courage of his convictions. In India and abroad, it is that courage which spawned his detractors and made him friendless. His almost single-handed and incredible contribution to India's Independence with his base on the British soil and his phenomenal performance in international politics with his base in the United Nations were overshadowed by the developments of 1962. Cooler minds of later years will, however, not fail to assign him the place rightfully due to him in the history of our nation.

Thank you for your attention.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SHRI. I.K. GUJRAL

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Upa-Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen: We have gathered here today to pay homage to a great son of India, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon, one of the most fascinating personalities of our times. Krishna Menon was a patriot who waged a relentless battle for India's freedom in U.K.; a prolific and eloquent speaker; an author and journalist; a diplomat *par excellence* who articulated India's cause in various world fora; a member of Parliament in different periods from such diverse places as Mumbai, Midnapore and Kerala.

The year-long birth centenary celebrations of Shri Krishna Menon formally concluded on 3 May, 1997, his 101st birth anniversary. On that day, you, Honourable *Rashtrapatiji* led the nations in paying floral tributes at his Statue, in the *Krishna Menon Marg*. However, the passage of the centenary year does not mean that the celebrations have come to an end. Memories of grate leaders cannot be confined to a calender of activities. Hence, we are meeting here today to pay homage to one of our great predecessors who was also a master of parliamentary procedure.

Shri V.K. Krishna Menon was a man of penetrating intellect. He was known for his eloquence, quick-wittedness, his ability to marshal facts, his stubborn insistence and sheer power of endurance. His character was greatly influenced by his parents. Outside the family, he was most profoundly influenced by Dr. Annie Besant, Prof. Harold Laski and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. From Dr. Annie Besant, young Krishna Menon imbibed a deep faith in law and constitutionalism. It was Prof. Laski who implanted in him the Socialist ideas. With Pandit Nehru, he developed a friendship which was based on a commonality of thought and ideas and admiration for each other which lasted till the death of Pandit Nehru.

Krishna Menon worked for India's freedom from outside India from 1924 to 1947. He started the India League in London which soon became an important factor even in British politics. He was instrumental in creating public opinion in England for India's Independence.

Recognising the impact created by Shri Krishna Menon in England, Late Julius Silverman, a leading British Labour Party leader once said: "....Krishna Menon played a very considerable part in conversion of the Labour Party to a sense to duty that it had to perform by granting Independence to India....."

Krishna Menon was one of the chief architects of the Nehruvian policy to which India owes its modern polity and economy. He was the one who coined the word 'Non-alignment' to describe India's foreign policy. He worked tirelessly to secure a pride of place for India in the international community and it was largely he who became the foremost articulator of the Third World vision of global politics. A tall man in every sense of the word and a true statesman, Shri V.K. Krishna Menon has left an enduring impact on the Indian psyche and he will be remembered by the present and future generations with affection and respect.

Krishna Menon represented India at the U.N. General Assembly meetings and played a major role on the issue of Kashmir. It was his powerful presentation of India's case on the Kashmir issue which saw the end of that subject from the U.N.'s living agenda.

As Defence Minister, Shri Krishna Menon laid the foundation of defence production in India. A powerful advocate of the down-trodden, Shri Menon contributed intellectually towards a progressive, forward looking and Indo-centric vision.

Krishna Menon's career as a politician was varied and sometimes viewed by some as controversial. However, it would be fair to say that contemporaries are not always judges of a leader's role and place objectively. The correct assessment of Krishna Menon's role and contribution to India's freedom and its subsequent development as a free nation should emerge now to enable the posterity to evaluate and judge him in an impartial and objective manner.

Let us today pay respects to the great man whose every action and every spoken word was for the cause of his nation, who dedicated his life to ensure that his country and countrymen could live with their heads held high.

Jai Hind.

**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN,
RAJYA SABHA, SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN**

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Speaker, Honourable Ministers, Members of Parliament and Friends : Of the galaxy of men born in India over a hundred years ago, Krishna Menon was one of the towering and most provocative personalities. He used to say to himself, 'I am nothing, if not controversial'. Some of the lava of the ideas and phrases that erupted from his volcanic personality are still lying around, simmering on the slopes of national and international politics. Even after twenty-three years of his death, his name still evokes strong emotions of admirations as well as resentment in the minds of people. One could say that he was a man who thrived on controversy, on tea and antipathy, though in reality he was a warm and vulnerable human being notwithstanding his scorching intellect and scathing tongue.

Krishna Menon was a passionate nationalist and a child of the Indian revolution. From 1920s to 1947, his career as an expatriate in Britain was a long march-rather a lonely long march-to freedom. He could have easily carved out a bright and lucrative career for himself considering his academic achievements in London. He was one of the brightest students of Prof. Harold Laski. On obtaining a brilliant First Class, he applied for admission as a Ph. D. student in the London School of Economics (L.S.E.), but the Director of the School rejected his application on the ground that he was a trouble-maker. He had been organizing the Indian, African and English students of the school in favour of India's Independence. On this, Prof. Harold Laski threatened to resign from the Faculty of the L.S.E. if he was not given admission. Ultimately, Menon was admitted to post-graduate research course though he did not avail of the opportunity. He was caught in political activities and eventually established the India League in London which practically became a branch of the Indian National Congress.

The story of Krishna Menon's work with the India League is yet to be written and his role in converting British public opinion, especially public opinion in the British Labour movement to the idea of Indian Independence and the eventual peaceful transfer of power, is yet to be recognized. The India League became the centre of political activities for not only Indian but Asian and African students and attracted to it growing number of British sympathizers with the cause. Krishna Menon resorted to every manner of method, organizational, demagogic, publicity and cultural, in gathering

and widening support for India's cause and in making the cause part and parcel of the anti-colonial and anti-imperialist movement for Asian and African liberation. As an individual, Krishna Menon was instrumental, more than any other person, in undermining the moral and political basis of the British Empire by his corrosive logic, withering sarcasm and pungent phrases. He was in his own way an effective freedom-fighter and an empire-destroyer. It is appropriate for us to remember him and honour him in this fiftieth year of our Independence.

While one of the destroyers of the Empire, Krishna Menon, in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, helped in the process of reconciliation with Great Britain and in transforming the Empire into the free and equal association of the Commonwealth of Nations. It was his diplomatic ingenuity that invented the formula that enabled the Indian Republic to remain in the Commonwealth and that made it possible for every other nation emerging from British colonial rule to join the Commonwealth. His role in this also is yet to be recognized fully in Britain as well as in our own country.

Krishna Menon was a meteor in the firmament of international politics which got absorbed in the orbit of Jawaharlal Nehru. He could be considered a co-author of policy of Non-Alignment and a brilliant exponent of Nehru's policy in the international field. Besides, he became the spokesman of Asian-African causes in the United Nations, one who could articulate powerfully the mind of India and of the Third World. The absence of a personality like him is felt acutely in the world forum and the memory of him still remains as a haunting challenge in international politics.

Though one might find faults in the manner of his functioning in the United Nations and in the international field, his achievements cry out trumpet-tongued. He earned grudging respect for India and the Third World from the great powers and he aroused self-respect and a sense of challenge in the minds of the new nations. His achievements during the crises that faced the world—in Korea, in Indo-China and in the Middle-East over the Suez—are too well known to be recounted today. I would refer only to one crisis that of Indo-China. India was not a member of the Geneva Conference. But Krishna Menon was sent to Geneva to explain Nehru's proposals to the Conference Powers. As he put it, Menon stood "at the door step" of the Conference and tried to help. Mendes-France, paying a tribute to Menon and thanking Nehru for sending him to Geneva, described the Geneva meet as "a ten-power conference—nine at the table and India". Premier Zhou-en-lai thanked Nehru "for the assistance rendered in these negotiations by the good offices of Mr. Krishna Menon." Mr. Molotov privately appreciated Menon's role, and Mr. Anthony Eden, while referring with characteristic British sarcasm to "the aviatory Mr. Krishna Menon", acknowledged grudgingly his contribution in Geneva.

I do not wish to refer to Krishna Menon's role over the Suez crisis. I would only quote what the London *Times* wrote in its obituary on Menon

that "in retrospect the plan presented by Menon in August would have salvaged more for British interests that was eventually gained (or lost) by force." It is ironic that India and Menon had to face the revengeful ire of the British Government on the Kashmir question soon after for their Suez role in the United Nations. On Kashmir, Menon's contributions are on record. It was he who brought out to the world, and to the Indian people, the national and international implications of this questions. It was he who gave the quietus to the idea of a plebiscite in Kashmir, and it was he who pointed out the consequences of American military aid to Pakistan, ostensibly for defence against Communism, by his famous cryptic remark that a gun had yet to be invented that could be fired only in one direction!

Whether it was foreign policy or defence policy, Krishna Menon was driven by an intense sense of patriotism. But he had also a world vision. Far from being dogmatic, he was pragmatic in regard to the goals he pursued. In one of his speeches at the U.N. he once quoted Abraham Lincoln that "important principles may and must be flexible", and added "There are no great principles which are not flexible.... It is no denigration of principle if divergent points of view can be honestly reconciled without it." Years later he asked, "What is Non-Alignment if not flexible?" It is the flexible application of the policy of Non-Alignment, with originality and adaptability to new situations, that distinguished Krishna Menon's diplomacy and politics.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA,
DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA**

Shri K.R. Narayanan, Vice-President; Shri I.K. Gujral, Prime Minister; Shri P.A. Sangma, Speaker, Lok Sabha; Members of the Union Cabinet; Members of Diplomatic Corps; Members of Parliament; and Freedom Fighters :

It gives me immense pleasure to associate myself with this function in memory of the Late Shri V.K. Krishna Menon. I thank the Honourable Speaker for his thoughtful invitation to me. A few days back on 3 May, at the request of the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Bommai, I garlanded the statue of Shri Krishna Menon near Sena Bhawan, on his one hundred and first birth anniversary. It is appropriate that the members of Parliament are meeting here today to pay tributes to a man who strove with courage, vision and perseverance for the cause of freedom and in the task of building a better future for India and the world.

The most striking feature of Shri Krishna Menon was the force of his personality and the sheer brilliance of his intellect. No one could remain indifferent to him. He aroused strong feelings and emotions in all who came into contact with him. His qualities of head and heart, his staunch

patriotism, socialist ideals and anti-imperialist commitments led to the growth of a life-long friendship with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Panditji often used to refer to Krishna Menon as a 'kindred spirit'. Many of these qualities and attributes of Krishna Menon's personality were recognised early on in his youth by Dr. Annie Besant when he was associated with the Theosophical Society and Scouts Movement. She encouraged him to go to London for higher education. This marked the beginning of a long, eventful and illustrious career of public service.

Passionately devoted to the cause of freedom, a young and dynamic Krishna Menon spent long years in England, working assiduously and with determination to mould British public opinion in favour of India's Independence. Empowered by an unshakeable conviction in the righteousness of his cause—complete Independence and Sovereignty, not Dominion Status with fetters attached—Krishna Menon became the moving spirit and inspiration behind the India League. His speeches, articles, pamphlets, constant and intensive interaction with opinion makers and the forging of contacts between Indian leaders and British politicians, contributed to a growing awareness in Britain about the reality of the Indian situation. These efforts strengthened the opinion, specially among the Socialists and the Labour party that India's freedom was an imperative which could not be denied or even delayed.

Krishna Menon once referred to the work of the India League in these words : (I quote) :

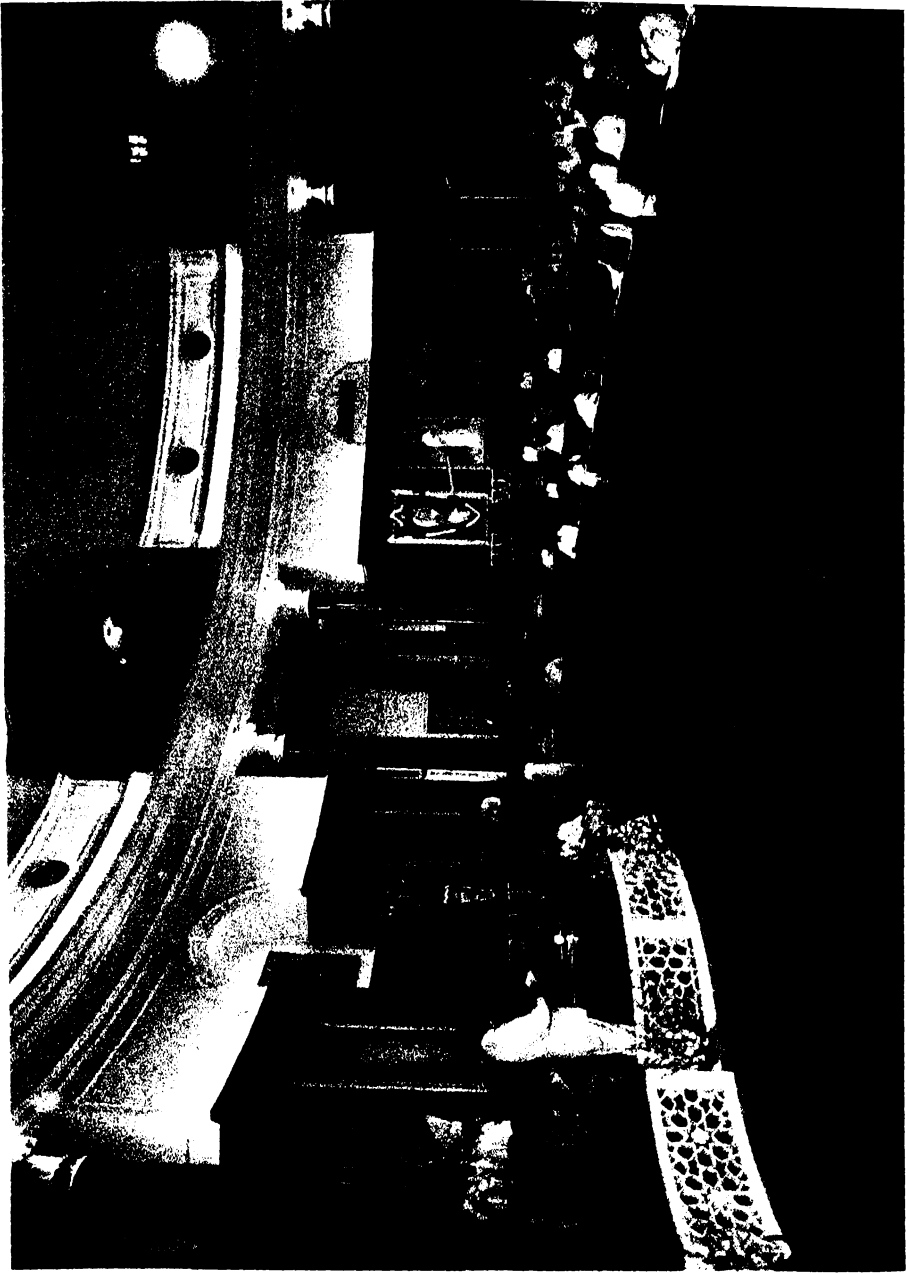
The India League was an organization in Britain to work for Indian freedom, The workers of the League were both British and Indian, mostly the former. Its appeal was directed to the British people who were then responsible for the Government of India. The greater part of the work was done by the British organizations, members of Parliament and societies. (Unquote)

He did not add that it was only through his own tireless activities that he turned passive supporters into active proponents for our freedom and neutralized the opposition to our cause. Among those associated with the India League were stalwarts such as Harold Laski, Bertrand Russell, Stafford Cripps and Pethick-Lawrence. Indeed, Bertrand Russell was the Chairman of India League at one time. Krishna Menon won the respect and admiration for his work. Harold Laski, the eminent Socialist Professor, friend and mentor of Krishna Menon who later became the Chairman of the Labour Party, spoke about Krishna Menon's role in these words, and I quote : "..... (Krishna Menon) played a very considerable part in the conversion of the Labour Party to a sense of duty that it had to perform."

The skills of debate, discussion, negotiation, forceful persuasion and conciliation honed in the boroughs of London and in the forums of the Labour Party, were put to effective and productive use by Krishna Menon, first as Independent India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom



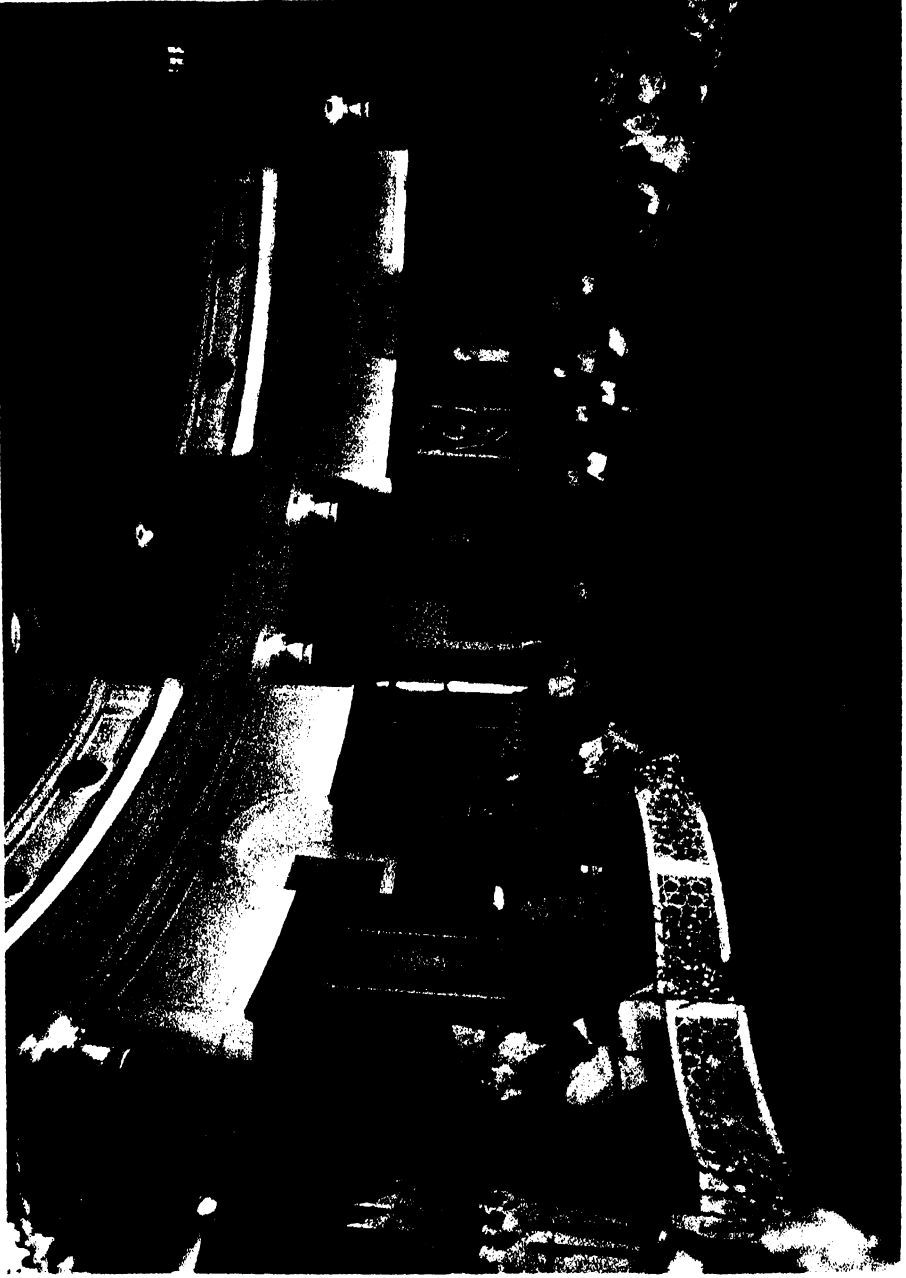
The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma addressing the gathering



Address by the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral



The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressing the distinguished gathering



The President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma delivering his Address

and later at the United Nations. His presentation and defence of our position on Kashmir at the United Nations, then the single most important issue for India, vital for her unity, Integrity and secular identity, won him encomiums from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

In a speech of Chennai on 31 January 1957, Panditji referred to his contributions thus, and I quote :

Our case was presented before the Security Council by my colleague Krishna Menon, and I want to tell you that he did this work brilliantly and most efficiently, and the line he took there represented completely our views on the subject. I say this although it was not necessary for me to say so. Nevertheless, I want to say it because there are some people in this country and some people in other countries whose job in life appears to be try to run down Krishna Menon, because he is far cleverer than they are, because his record of service for Indian freedom is far longer than theirs, and because he has worn himself out in the service of India.

In the United Nations, Krishna Menon emerged as one of the most creative, effective and successful practitioners of diplomacy. He championed the cause of national liberation and independence throughout the world. As an articulate exponent of India's policy of peace and Non-Alignment, he believed that solidarity among the developing countries was essential to safeguard and consolidate the gains of freedom and protect themselves from exploitation. Naturally, this policy attracted criticism from some quarters but invariably it was criticism tinged with admiration for an extremely capable individual who laboured against all odds, not only for his own country but for freedom, justice and equality for the people of the world.

Frequently, Krishna Menon's advice and intervention was solicited to assist in the resolution of knotty international issues. His contribution in the resolution of the Suez crisis and in the setting up of the United Nations Emergency Force together with his role on the Korean question is widely acknowledged. Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in her tribute to Krishna Menon on 18 November, 1974, had described his work in the field of international affairs in these words, and I quote :

He was known for finding solutions to any problem of any country; and if it was rejected, he had another solution straightaway from another angle - so that he was someone who was not only an advocate of India's freedom and India's independent thinking and action, but he was a friend of all those who were in a similar position, those who were newly becoming independent and those who had to chart a course. He was a friend, philosopher and guide to all those so-called developing countries.

V.K. Krishna Menon's role as the Union Defence Minister has been assessed variously. It is for historians to document and fully elucidate his contributions in the context of India's defence preparedness. However, it is an acknowledged fact that Krishna Menon was instrumental in laying solid foundations for the self-reliance in the sphere of defence production, crucial for safeguarding and defending our freedom. If today we have developed a well-diversified network of Ordnance factories and have made commendable strides towards our goal of self-reliance in the requirements of the Army, Navy and Air Force, we should be thankful to Krishna Menon for the vision and determination with which he worked.

I believe that Shri Krishna Menon's contributions towards our freedom as well as the important part he played in articulating and effectively implementing the foreign policy of independent India fashioned by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, require to be better understood and appreciated. I hope that friends and admirers of Krishna Menon would do full justice to his role in the shaping of India's destiny by creating a better and more informed awareness about Krishna Menon: the man, the activist, the leader, the diplomat and statesman.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the people, I pay tributes to the memory of this great patriot and noble son of India.

Jai Hind.

TOWARDS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN POLITICS -THE INDIAN SCENARIO-

S. GOPALAN

Women is the companion of man gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in the minutest details of the activities of man and she has the same right of freedom and liberty as he By sheer force of a vicious custom, even the most ignorant and worthless men have been enjoying a superiority over women which they do not deserve and ought not to have.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Introduction

Politics may be defined as involvement in the affairs of the state in pursuit of bringing about changes or for the preservation of the existing order. In this sense women have been involved in politics informally for many years, even though they have been excluded from the formal political bodies where they could participate in the decision-making process in pursuit of their own welfare and development. If one defines the political status of women in terms of the degree of equality and freedom enjoyed by them in the shaping and sharing of power and in the value given by society to this role of women, then it was precariously tilted in favour of men.

Participation of women in politics needs to be understood in its broader connotations. It includes a set of activities which have strong bearing on political group, decision-making processes as well as policies and actually altering the existing situations wherever they are disadvantageous. As woman constitute half of the population, it is important to have them in decision-making processes in the public domain such as political institution, administrative bodies, judiciary and educational and other socio-economic organisation. The obstacles which stand in their full participation must be removed to strengthen democracy.

At one point of time, it was thought that politics and women were mutually exclusive. However, after independence, the status of women in India and with it their participation in politics has increased. Today, women themselves are more actively and vigorously working for an effective involvement in the political affairs of the state. Their participation

has made the content of democracy rich. For democracy to be meaningful, it is essential that the political decision-making of the state is decided upon jointly by men and women with equitable opportunities and regard for the interest and aptitudes of both halves of the population.

Position of Women In India In Historical Perspective

In the early Vedic period, women were relatively more independent and were free to participate in social, economic and political activities of the time. They were respected, had access to higher education and their participation in various activities was considered valuable. Later on, towards the end of the early Vedic period and the beginning of the later Vedic period their position began to decline. As religion got ritualised, the various religious practices and personal laws that emerged, consigned women to a status inferior to men. This situation continued for centuries and further deteriorated in the medieval period. Women were assigned a low position as individuals. In fact, they were seen as adjuncts to men. Occasionally, women of character, personality and with individual identity arose in India. But, they were exceptions to the general pattern, and did not in any way change the overall scenario till the modern age.

Moved by the humanitarian and egalitarian impulses of the 19th century, the social reformers started a powerful movement to improve the position of women. While some reformers appealed to doctrines of individualism and equality, others declared that a true religion did not sanction the inferior status of women. Numerous individuals, reform societies and religious organisations worked hard to spread education among women, to encourage widow remarriage, to prevent child marriage, to bring women out to the *pardah* (veil), etc. The 19th century reformers professed concern for the low status of women, but their efforts were concentrated towards improving women's position within the family, for the purpose of strengthening the family as the basic unit of social organisation.

There was no separate autonomous women's movement in India in the 19th century. The struggle for the emancipation of Indian women was not exclusively a product of the actions and initiatives of women. The demand for change was made by men and largely focussed on the inequalities and repressions institutionalised by caste and religion.

Women and Freedom Struggle

The rudimentary form of women's movement can be traced to the last quarter of the 19th century when independent women's organisations drawn from within the Indian social reform movement were formed. Besides, the members of these organisations were drawn from among the small group of urban educated families whose male members had actively participated in social reforms.

The movement for the liberation of women received a great stimulus from the rise of the militant national movement in the 20th century. The years 1921-1947 saw hectic political activity all around with many women participating in the national freedom struggle. Women's participation in the freedom movement generated a sense of power at least among some Indian women who realised their own strength and organisational ability. In this period women's emancipation and nationalism were closely interlinked. They started many organisations and institutions for the purpose, such as the Women's Indian Association (later merged in the All India Women's Conference), the National Council for Women and the All India Women's Conference. A demand for women's franchise was initiated in 1917 when a delegation of Indian women led by Smt. Sarojini Naidu, presented to the British Parliament a demand for the enfranchisement of women on the basis of equality with men.

The Nehru Report which an All Parties Conference drew up in 1928 fully supported the demand for universal adult franchise and the principle of gender equality. The Indian National Congress at its Karachi session in 1931 adopted a Fundamental Right Resolution granting absolute equality to women, regardless of their status and gratifications. The Government of India Act of 1935 provided voting right to women subject to the fulfilment of the conditions of property and education.

Women and the Constitution

The Preamble to the Constitution of India mentions the nation's resolve to secure to all its citizens, justice—social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all, fraternity, assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation. To attain these objectives, the Constitution guarantees certain Fundamental Rights to all citizens. Again, the Directive Principles of State Policy enunciated in the Constitution embody the major policy goals of a Welfare State. These Directives concretize, together with the Fundamental Rights, the vision of a new socio-political order.

While the Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights and freedoms such as freedom of speech, protection of life and personal liberty that may be termed positive rights, there are certain indirect rights such as prohibition of discrimination/denial of equal protection. Through article 14, the Constitution confers equal rights and opportunities in the political, economic and social spheres on both men and women. While article 15 prohibits discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, etc., article 15 (3) makes a provision enabling the State to allow affirmative discrimination in favour of women. Similarly, article 16 provides for equality of opportunities in matters of public employment for all citizens. Article 39 further mentions that the State shall direct its policy

towards securing for all citizens, men and women, equality, the right to a means of livelihood and equal pay for equal work. Article 51A(e) imposes a fundamental duty on every citizen to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women. Thus the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles are important instruments for attaining the objectives of justice, liberty and equality.

By adopting the principle of adults franchise, the Constitution of India seeks to establish a democratic republic by giving the adult population direct or indirect share in the Government. The special attention given to the needs of women to enable them to enjoy and exercise their constitutional status and equality along with other special provisions aimed at their participative role in society, make the Constitution a social document aimed at facilitating social change. It clearly contemplates the attainment of a social order where all citizens are given equal opportunities and no discrimination takes place on the basis of race, caste, creed or sex.

To uphold the constitutional rights, the State has enacted several legislative measures, among others, to provide protection to women at the work place, against social discrimination, violence and atrocities, child marriages, dowry deaths, rape and practice of *Sati*, and making a provision of support services etc. The Equal Remuneration Act of 1976 provides for equal pay to men and women for equal work. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 has been amended to provide for the right of a girl to repudiate a child marriage before attaining maturity whether or not the marriage has been consummated. Besides, grounds common for both husband and wife to seek divorce, a woman has certain additional grounds to seek judicial separation or divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act as amended in 1976. One of such grounds is that the husband has, since the solemnization of the marriage, been guilty of rape, sodomy or bestiality. The 1956 Act for Suppression of Immoral Traffic of Women and 'Girls was amended in 1986 to make the sexual exploitation of females a cognisable offence. The amendment brought in 1984 to the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, made a woman's subjection to cruelty a cognisable offence. A second amendment to the Act in 1986 made the husband or the in-laws liable to punishment if a woman committed suicide within seven years of marriage and if it could be proved that she had been treated cruelly. A new criminal offence of "dowry deaths" has been incorporated in the Indian Penal Code. Amendment of Criminal Law in 1983 provided for punishment of seven years in ordinary cases of rape and ten years for custodial rape cases. The maximum punishment may go up to life imprisonment. The Child Marriage (Restraint) Act raised the age for marriage of a girl from 15 years to 18 years and that of a boy from 18 years to 21 years. Violation of these provisions were made cognisable offences. The Factory Act of 1948 (amended up 1976) provided for establishment of a creche where 30 and more women (including casual and contract labourers) were employed. The

medical Termination of Pregnancy Act 1971, legalised abortion by qualified professionals on humanitarian or medical grounds. The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 and the Commission of Sati (Prohibition) Act, 1987 have been passed to protect the dignity of women and prevent violence against them.

The right to equality is an individual right. However, the institutional forces that are pitted against it are powerful collectives that exert control on people's minds and behaviour—caste, class, community, religion, locality, family occupation, etc. These controls affect women as well as men, making them accept gender inequality as a value per se. Sometimes, it proceeds as an unconscious bias even among persons committed to progressive, secular, and egalitarian ideologies.

Personal law of the Hindus (the largest community in India) was overhauled to give women greater rights related to inheritance, adoption, divorce and to impose monogamy. Personal laws of other communities have generally remained untouched on the ground that the demand for legislative change must come from the respective community before the State intervenes.

National Commission for Women

To ensure that the legal safeguards actually reach women, the Parliament has enacted the National Commission for Women Act, 1990. It came into effect in 1992. For the first time, a statutory body has been vested with wide-ranging powers, which include examination of laws, investigation of complaints, participation in the planning process of the Government, etc. The Commission is a high-powered body and can summon witnesses and call for documents while investigating an offence. Its reports, along with action taken thereon, are to be placed before Parliament. It has also been made compulsory for the Government to consult the Commission on all matters concerning women.

Global recognition to protect women's rights became international law, with the adoption of a Convention of the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by the UN General Assembly. The Convention is the only legally binding international instrument, dealing with the rights of women, though States have the right to incorporate any law or all the 30 Articles of the Convention in keeping with their culture and practice. On 25 June 1993, India ratified CEDAW with a declaration in respect of Article 16 (1 & 2) and a reservation in respect of Article 29 (1). These pertain to India's policy of non-interference in the personal affairs of any community without its initiative and consent, difficulty in registration of such marriages and the binding clause of compulsory arbitration or adjudication by the International Court of Justice.

Within the framework of a democratic polity our laws, development

policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. From the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-78) onwards, there has been a marked shift in the approach to women's issues from welfare to development. The Union Government created the Department of Social Welfare in 1976. This was followed by the establishment of the Department of Women and Child Development under the Ministry of Human Resource Development at the Union Government in 1985. In the 1970s and 1980s, the Departments of Education, Health and Employment were used as agents to bring about change in the status of women. In 1992, the National Commission for Women was set up under an Act of Parliament to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India made in 1993 have provided for reservation of 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent seats in the local self governing institution at the rural and urban level, namely the Panchayats and Municipalities, for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision-making at the local levels.

The Mexico Plan of Action (1975), the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies (1985), the Beijing Declaration as well as the Platform for Action (1995) have been unreservedly endorsed by India for appropriate follow-up. The Draft National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, presently being finalised seeks to ensure the *de jure* and *de facto* enjoyment of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms by women on a equal basis with men in letter and in spirit and eliminate all factors which impede the realization of such rights and freedom.

However, there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans, programmes and related mechanisms on the one hand and the situational reality of status of women and their participation in politics in India, on the other. This has been analysed extensively in the Report of the Committee on the Status of Women in India, "Towards Equality" (1974) and highlighted in the National Perspective Plan for Women (1988-2000).

Political Participation of Women

Gender disparity is manifested in various forms and in many areas of human activity. Gender discrimination is also responsible for women's lack of access to and equal participation in politics. No doubt, the Constitution of India provides for equal political right to men and women. The founding fathers of our Constitution opted for adult franchise as opposed to other forms of representation. The adoption of adult franchise led overnight to the increase of the number of electorate from 35 million to over 170 million. The size of the electorate now stands at a massive 592 million, the largest in any democratic polity in the world.

The Indian women were fortunate to have been given the political right along with Independence. In the USA, the women were given the right

to vote only in 1920 after decades of struggle. In the United Kingdom, the women were given the right to vote although at the deferred and discriminatory age of 30 years under the Representation of the People Act, 1918. Parity between the sexes was finally attained by the Representation of the People Act, 1928 which reduced the female voting age to 21 years.

The zeal for voting among women has been as strong as among men, and in a large number of constituencies, even stronger. This is apparent from the figures pertaining to various general elections as given in the following. (Table 1) :

TABLE 1
Percentage of Women Vote Polled—1952-1996

Year	Total electorate	Total votes polled	Percentage of women who voted	Percentage of men who voted	Total voting percentage
1	2	3	4	5	6
1952	173213635	105944495*	-	-	61.7
1957	193652069	123461815*	-	-	63.7
1962	216372215	119904315	46.6	62.0	55.0
1967	249003334	152724611	55.5	66.7	61.3
1971	274094493	151536802*	-	-	55.3
1977	321174327	194263915	54.9	66.6	60.5
1980	355590700	202405413	51.2	62.2	56.9
1984	399816294	249585334	59.2	68.4	64.0
1989	498906429	309050509	56.9	66.1	62.0
1991	514126380**	275205803	51.4	66.1	61.0
1996	592572288	343308035	53.41	-	57.94

* Break-up of electors is not available for First, Second and Fifth General Elections.

** Excluding Jammu and Kashmir.

It is not only in the participation in the voting process that the commitment of India's women to democracy is reflected, but also in the growing enthusiasm and interest among them to secure representation in the country's legislatures and other representatives bodies. Partly, this rising fervour is due to the benefits of education reaching females in all parts of India. (Table 2) :

TABLE 2
Percentage of Literates to Estimated Population
Aged 7 year and above—1981 and 1991

State/Union Territories	1981 Literacy Rates			1991 Literacy Rates		
	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	35.66	46.83	24.16	44.09	55.13	32.72
Arunachal Pradesh	25.55	35.12	14.02	41.59	51.45	29.69
Assam	0.00*	0.00	0.00	52.89	61.87	43.03
Bihar	32.05	46.60	16.52	38.48	52.49	22.89
Goa	65.71	76.01	55.17	75.51	83.64	67.09
Gujarat	52.21	65.14	38.46	61.29	73.13	48.64
Haryana	43.88	58.51	26.93	55.85	69.10	40.47
Himachal Pradesh	51.18	64.27	37.72	63.86	75.36	52.13
Jammu & Kashmir	32.68	44.18	19.55	0.00*	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	46.21	58.73	33.17	56.04	67.26	44.34
Kerala	81.56	87.73	75.65	89.81	93.62	86.17
Madhya Pradesh	34.23	48.42	19.00	44.20	58.42	28.85
Maharashtra	55.83	69.65	41.01	64.87	76.56	52.32
Manipur	49.66	64.15	34.67	59.89	71.63	47.60
Meghalaya	42.05	46.65	37.17	49.10	53.12	44.85
Mizoram	74.26	79.36	68.61	82.27	85.61	78.60
Nagaland	50.28	58.58	40.39	61.65	67.62	54.75
Orissa	40.97	56.45	25.14	49.09	63.09	34.68
Punjab	48.17	55.56	39.70	58.51	65.66	50.41
Rajasthan	30.11	44.77	14.00	38.55	54.99	20.44
Sikkim	41.59	53.00	27.38	56.94	65.74	46.69
Tamil Nadu	54.39	68.05	40.43	62.66	73.75	51.33
Tripura	50.11	61.49	38.01	60.44	70.58	49.65
Uttar Pradesh	33.35	47.45	17.19	41.60	55.73	25.31
West Bengal	48.65	59.93	36.07	57.70	67.81	48.56
A & N Islands	63.19	70.29	53.19	73.02	78.99	65.46
Chandigarh	74.81	78.89	69.31	77.81	82.04	72.34
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	32.70	44.64	20.37	40.71	53.56	26.98
Daman & Diu	59.91	74.47	46.50	71.20	82.66	59.40
Delhi	71.94	79.28	62.60	75.29	82.01	66.99
Lakshadweep	68.42	81.24	55.32	81.78	90.18	72.89
Pondicherry	65.14	77.09	53.03	74.74	83.68	65.63
India	43.67	56.50	29.85	52.21	64.13	32.29

* Census operations were not conducted in Assam in 1981 and J & K in 1991.

Source: Annual Report: Part I, 1995-96, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Partly, it is due to the heightened sense of self-confidence among women in their capacity to contribute on par with men to nation-building. In the 1996 general elections, for instance, as many as 599 women candidates contested, of whom 39 were elected to the Lok Sabha. The number of women contestants is also rising progressively. The figure was under 50 in the first two general elections and was 325 in the tenth.

However, the number of women contestants has unfortunately not been commensurate with the large female population in India. The total number of women members which was 22 in the general elections to First Lok Sabha and 27 in the general elections to Second Lok Sabha has increased to only 39 in 1996 which hardly speaks of their representation as compared to strength of the popular House, i.e. Lok Sabha. Table 3 below indicates details of women contested and elected in various general elections:

TABLE 3
Lok Sabha Elections—1952 to 1996

Year	Electorate (million)	Total No. of seats.	Seats contested	Poll percentage	Poll percentage of women	No. of women elected
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1952	173.21	489	479	61.7	-	22
1957	193.65	494	482	63.7	-	27
1962	217.68	494	491	55.4	46.6	34
1967	250.60	520	515	61.3	55.5	31
1971	274.09	519	518	55.3	-	22
1977	321.17	542	540	60.5	54.9	19
1980	363.94	527	526	56.9	51.2	28
1984	400.10	542	507	64	59.2	44
1989	499	543	523	62	56.9	27
1991	514	543	543	61	51.4	39
1996	592.57	543	543	57.94	53.4	39

Source: Reference Handbook, Vol. II, General Election 1996, PIB and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting; Report of the Election Commission.

The total number of women electors was 102, 427,981 in 1962 as compared to 113,944,234 men. In 1996, the size of women electorate has risen to 282,756,512 as compared to 309,815,776 men. Yet, at the apex of the representational hierarchy both at the Centre and the State levels, women are highly under-represented. Their representation stands at mere 39 in Lok Sabha and 18 in Rajya Sabha as in December 1996. In the General Elections to the Eleventh Lok Sabha held in 1996, there was only 599 women out of the total number of 13, 952 candidates. Even

in many States where the women outnumber the men electors, their representation in terms of elected women members in Lok Sabha is quite less. (Table 4) :

TABLE 4
Size of Women Electorate and the Performance of Women Candidates in the General Election, 1996

State/UT	No. of Seats	No. of Electors		No. of Women	
		Men	Women	Candi- dates	Elected
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	42	24735268	24766006	90	3
Arunachal Pradesh	2	288673	255767	-	-
Assam	14	6670161	5917498	9	-
Bihar	54	31012536	27425781	41	3
Goa	2	437202	431891	-	-
Gujarat	26	14666698	13862396	18	2
Haryana	10	6005913	5146943	9	1
Himachal Pradesh	4	1776034	1760483	2	-
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2378717	2076992	8	-
Karnataka	28	16147681	15662388	71	1
Kerala	20	10042379	10631488	10	-
Madhya Pradesh	40	22711323	21215929	75	5
Maharashtra	48	28669222	26585192	42	2
Manipur	2	641232	649758	3	-
Meghalaya	2	550148	542605	1	-
Mizoram	1	203746	204348	-	-
Nagaland	1	457901	416617	-	-
Orissa	21	11764783	10654335	8	2
Punjab	13	7634481	6855344	17	1
Rajasthan	25	16036429	14351928	25	4
Sikkim	1	119757	109403	1	-
Tamil Nadu	29	21397687	21090335	15	-
Tripura	2	844205	803703	2	-
Uttar Pradesh	85	55226430	45599875	107	9
West Bengal	42	23998543	21584511	21	4
Andman & Nicobar Islands	1	120578	90648	-	-
Chandigarh	1	255580	195019	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	49806	45103	-	-
Daman & Diu	1	36527	33675	-	-
Delhi	7	4597944	3460997	24	2
Lakshadweep	1	17690	16421	-	-
Pondicherry	1	320502	313133	1	-
Total	543	309815776	282756512	599	39

Source : Statistical Report on General Elections, 1996, Vol. I, Election Commission of India, 1996.

In Kerala, where the women voters are more than the men, out of the 20 members representing the State in Lok Sabha, not even a single member is woman. The situation is no better in States like Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram and Manipur, where the size of the women electorate is bigger than that of men (Table 4). Out of a total of 42 members from Andhra Pradesh, only 3 are women members. So far the Eighth Lok Sabha had a maximum of 44 members representing 8.1 per cent of the membership of the House. The Sixth Lok Sabha had the lowest number of women members with only 19 members. They represented 3.4 per cent of the strength of the House. The number of 39 women members in the present Lok Sabha which constitute even less than 8 per cent of the total strength of the House is quite low as compared to the strength of women members in 1996 in countries like Sweden (40.4), Norway (39.4), Finland (33.5) and Denmark (33.0). Even in China, women constitute 11 per cent of the national legislators.

The situation is not better in the case of State Legislative Assemblies. In West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the number of women members in 1991 was 21 of a total strength of 294 and in Uttar Pradesh it was only 14 out of a total of 422 (1993). Tamil Nadu had 32 out of 234 (1991), Rajasthan 9 out of 199 (1993), Punjab 6 out of 117 (1992), Orissa 8 out of 147 (1995), Maharashtra 11 out of 288 (1995), Madhya Pradesh 11 out of 320 (1993), Kerala 13 out of 140 (1996), Delhi 3 out of 70 (1993), Bihar 11 out of 324 (1995), Assam 6 out of 122 (1996) and Andhra Pradesh 8 out of 294 (1994). (Table 5):

TABLE 5
Women Electors/Women Candidates/Women Members in State Legislative Assemblies

State/UT	Year	Total Seats	Total Electors	Male Electors	Female Electors	Total Candidates	No. of women Candidates	No. of women elected
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	1994	294	44725091	22407008	22318083	3233	127	8
Arunachal Pradesh	1995 *	53	534001	283862	250139	173	4	2
Assam	1996 *	122	12587659	6670161	5917498	1228	45	6
Bihar	1995 *	324	57767948	30530696	27237252	8422	264	11
Delhi	1993	70	5850545	3237048	2613497	1316	59	3
Goa	1994	40	822631	416519	406112	311	10	4
Gujarat	1995 *	182	29022184	14888037	14134147	2545	94	2
Haryana	1996 *	90	11152856	6005913	5146943	2608	93	4
Himachal Pradesh	1993	68	3267725	1643296	1624429	416	17	3
Jammu & Kashmir	1987 1996 **	76	3555549	1937104	1618445	528	13	1

Kerala	1996 *	140	20673867	10042379	10631488	1201	55	13
Madhya Pradesh	1993	320	41231409	20727736	20503673	3729	167	11
Maharashtra	1995 *	288	55094090	28552120	26541970	4727	247	11
Manipur	1995 *	60	1269746	631368	638378	347	11	Nil
Meghalaya	1993	60	1047354	527895	519459	290	7	1
Mizoram	1993	40	401669	201986	199683	121	3	Nil
Nagaland	1993	60	802901	421240	381661	178	1	Nil
Orissa	1995 *	147	22075775	11588070	10487705	1384	74	8
Pondicherry	1991	30	593318	306632	286686	208	6	1
	1996 **							
Punjab	1992	117	13171851	7115404	6056447	579	22	6
Rajasthan	1993	199	28342937	14958881	13384056	2437	96	9
Sikkim	1994	32	217743	114315	103428	186	9	1
Tamil Nadu	1991	234	39918787	20219587	19699201	2843	102	32
	1996 **							
Tripura	1993	60	1673028	855052	817976	407	15	1
Uttar Pradesh	1993	422	89531738	49053353	40478385	9716	260	14
	1996 **							
West Bengal	1991	294	41382625	22124253	19258572	1903	74	21
	1996 **							

* The figures are provisional

** Data under compilation

Source : Various reports of Election Commission of India.

Even in the Councils of Ministers both at the national and state levels, they are under-represented. India has never had more than one female Cabinet Minister at one time. Nor have women been given Cabinet charge of important Ministries like Defence, Home, External Affairs or Finance except when Smt. Indira Gandhi held some portfolios as Prime Minister. Generally, they have been given Ministers like Education, Culture, Social Welfare, Information & Broadcasting, Tourism, etc.

Unfortunately, there is also very little women representation in the party organisations which to a great extent contribute to the lack of their participation in the process of policy making. Thus, there is a need for gender equality at the level of the party organisation also. In India, political parties tend to give few tickets to women for the parliamentary elections. Details of women nominees of various political parties are given in Table 6 :

TABLE 6
Performance of Women Candidates fielded by the
Major Political Parties in the 1996 General Elections

Parties	Total No. of candidates	Total No. of women candidates	Total No. of candidates elected	Total No. of women candidates elected
1	2	3	4	5
National Parties				
All India Indira Congress (Tiwari)	321	22	4	Nil
Bharatiya Janata Party	471	27	161	14
Communist Party of India	43	3	12	1
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	75	5	32	1
Indian National Congress	529	49	140	16
Janata Dal	196	11	46	4
Janata Party	102	4	Nil	Nil
Samata Party	81	3	8	Nil
Some other Parties				
Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)	20	Nil	20	Nil
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	19	Nil	17	Nil
Samajwadi Party	112	8	17	2
Telugu Desam	36	3	16	1
Asom Gana Parishad	11	Nil	5	Nil
Bahujan Samaj Party	117	5	11	Nil

Source : **Statistical Report on General Election, 1996, Vol. I, Election Commission of India, 1996.**

The Committee on the Status of Women in India which submitted its report 'Towards Equality' in 1974 had recommended that political parties should sponsor to start with 15 per cent women candidates for election to Parliament and State Assemblies. The reality is yet to match this recommendation.

The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India are landmarks as far as the issue of women's participation is concerned. Both these amendments provided for reservation for women in the representative bodies at the village, block and district levels. This has led to a greater involvement of women in politics. As a result, there are vast avenues for an estimated one million women in the representative bodies at the village, block and district levels. This itself is a milestone as far as the association of women in politics is concerned. Table 7 depicts the profile of Panchayat membership including the representation of women in these bodies: -

TABLE 7
Profile of Panchayat Membership

Gram Panchayats	
Total number of Panchayats	2,25,000
Total number of members of Panchayats (with approx. 10 persons per Panchayat)	22,50,000
Total number of women members (1/3 of the total)	7,50,000
Total number of the SC/ST members	1,50,000
Total number of 1/3 of SC/ST women members	50,000
Total number of Chairpersons	2,25,000
Total number of women Chairpersons (1/3 of total Chairpersons)	75,000
Intermediary Level	
Total number of Block Samitis	5,100
Total number of members of Block Samitis (with approx. 10 members each)	51,000
Total number of women members of Samitis (1/3 of the total members)	17,000
Total number of Chairperson of Samiti	5,100
Total number of women Chairperson at Samiti Level (1/3 of the total Chairpersons)	1,700
District Level	
Total number of Zilla Parishads	475
Total number of members of Zilla Parishads (approx. 10 members per Zilla Parishad)	4,750
Total number of women members of Zilla Parishads (1/3 of total members)	1,538
Total number of Zilla Parishad Chairpersons	475
Total number of women Zilla Parishad Chairpersons	158

Source : **Country Paper on India prepared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Women and Child Development) on the occasion of the 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995.**

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act extends similar provisions as in the 73rd Amendment to the urban Local Bodies, Municipalities and Notified Area Authorities. It is therefore, equally significant in the political empowerment process of women of the country.

Economic and Social Empowerment of Women

Needless to say political equality is meaningless in a society suffering from poverty, hunger, illiteracy, ill health and inequality in terms of status. And women suffer more than men in such a society. Therefore, political status of women cannot be delinked from their economic and social status. All are closely interlinked. Each one of them can act as a catalyst for the promotion of others. Looked from this angle, the political rights of women are instruments for achieving general equality of status and opportunities and social, economic and political justice. As such, it is impossible to refer to women's political participation in isolation.

The issues of equality and the integration of women into the mainstream of political, economic and social life have been on the national agenda for the last 50 years. Yet, the chasm between the objectives of our Constitution and the present realities as far as women's rights are concerned has not disappeared. The right to political equality has not enabled women to play their roles as partners and constituents in the political process. Instead, these rights have helped in building an illusion of equality and power which is frequently used by some quarters as an argument to resist special protective and acceleratory measures to enable women to achieve their just and equal position in society.

The Government of India as well as the State Governments are taking various steps to empower the women. The setting up of the National Commission for Women by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women, is one such step. Besides reviewing legislations affecting women, the Commission has raised awareness about women's issues and taken up evaluation of development of women in selected areas. There is now a proposal to appoint a Commissioner of Women's Rights. A significant event for the cause of Indian women was the launching of the Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) to integrate various sectoral programmes for women's welfare. This is intended to make the delivery system more effective and streamline utilisation of funds. The Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) has enabled millions of poor rural women to open their accounts. The Rastriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), set up to provide loans to poor women in unorganised sector has also made its mark by sanctioning credit assistance to women. Another measure taken by the Government is the enhancement of standard deduction for calculating income tax in the case of working women.

Gender disparity still exists in our country. Discrimination against girl children; adolescent girls and women still persists. Consequently, the access of women, majority of whom are in the rural areas and in the informal, unorganised sector, to education, health and productive resources, among others, is inadequate.

Women constitute a significant part of the work-force in India. However, they lag significantly behind males in terms of work participation,

employment etc., as is reflected in Table 8 below :

TABLE 8
Profile of Women (Relative to Men) in the Work-Force of India*

	Male	Female
Total Population (excluding J&K) (millions)	435	403
Total work-force (millions)	224	90
Work participation rate	51.56%	22.73%
Unemployment rate (1987-88)	5.50%	7.60%
Employment in urban areas (1987-88)	24.70%	13.50%
Employment in rural areas (1987-88)	75.30%	86.50%
Self-employment (1987-88)	53.80%	53.10%
Regular salaried employment	18.00%	8.30%
Casual wage employment (1987-88)	28.20%	38.60%
Annual rate of growth of employment (1977-78 to 1987-88)	1.90%	1.95%
Annual rate of growth of employment of the educated (1977-78 to 1987-88)	6.07%	8.58%

* Population and work force figures are based on 1991 census, other data are based on the figures of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

Source : *Annual Report, 1995-96*, Ministry of Labour.

Nonetheless, there are some positive trends. While there has been marginal improvement in annual rate of growth of female employment (0.05 per cent higher than for males), the annual rate of growth of employment of educated women is substantially higher. However, the workers participation rate (Table 9) continues to be substantially less for females than for males :

TABLE 9
Work participation rate in India, 1971-91

Year	Total Rural Urban	Persons	Males	Females
1971	Total	34.17	52.75	14.22
	Rural	35.33	53.78	15.92
	Urban	29.61	48.88	7.18
1981	Total	36.70	52.62	19.67
	Rural	38.79	53.77	23.06
	Urban	29.99	49.06	8.31
1991	Total	37.68	51.56	22.73

Rural	40.24	52.50	27.20
Urban	30.44	48.95	9.74

Note 1 Excludes Assam where the 1981 Census could not be held and Jammu & Kashmir where the 1991 Census has not been held.

Note 2 The 1971 Census figures include workers and non-workers with secondary work. The 1981 and 1991 Census figures include main workers and marginal workers.

Source: Annual Report, 1995-96, Ministry of Labour.

While there has been some improvement in the work participation rate of females since 1971, the improvement is not substantial, especially in urban areas. Work participation rate for women which was 7.18 per cent in urban areas in 1971 went up to only 9.74 per cent in 1991. As against this, in the rural areas, the female work participation rate has shown steady improvement since 1971. It has risen from 15.92 per cent in 1971 to 27.20 per cent in 1991. However, the female work participation rate continues to lag behind that of males. In 1991, it was little over half of the male work participation rate. Women's work participation rate widely differs from State to State. Moreover, majority of women workers are employed in the rural areas. Amongst rural women workers, 87 per cent are employed in agriculture—as labourers and cultivators. Amongst the women workers in urban areas about 80 per cent are employed in unorganised sectors like household industries, petty trades and services, building construction, etc.

The employment of women in the organised sector (both public and private sectors) as on 31 March 1995, was about 4.23 million. This constitutes 15.44 per cent to the total organised sector employment in the country. Within the organised sector, public sector accounts for more employment of women than the private sector. About 57.01 per cent of the women in the organised sector are employed in community, personal and social services, 17.4 per cent in manufacturing, 11.74 per cent in agriculture and allied occupations.

Women's access to employment is to a great extent, related to their access to education and skills. Women lag behind men in access to education as reflected by the sex-wise enrolment figures for different stages of education (Table 10):

TABLE 10
Sex-wise enrolment by stages/classes since 1951 School Level

Year	Primary			Upper Primary			High/Hr. Sec.		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1950-51	13.8	5.4	19.2	2.6	0.5	3.1	1.3	0.2	1.5
1955-56	17.1	7.5	24.6	3.8	1.0	4.8	2.2	0.4	2.6
1960-61	23.6	11.4	35.0	5.1	1.6	6.7	2.7	0.7	3.4

1965-66	32.2	18.3	50.5	7.7	2.8	10.5	4.4	1.3	5.7
1970-71	35.7	21.3	57.0	9.4	3.9	13.3	5.7	1.9	7.6
1975-76	40.6	25.0	65.6	11.0	5.0	16.0	6.5	2.4	8.9
1980-81	45.3	28.5	73.8	13.9	6.8	20.7	7.6	3.4	11.0
1985-86	52.2	35.2	87.4	17.7	9.6	27.3	11.5	5.0	16.5
1990-91	57.0	40.4	97.4	21.5	12.5	34.0	12.8	6.3	19.1
1991-92	59.6	42.3	100.9	22.0	13.6	35.6	13.5	6.9	20.4
1992-93*	60.5	44.9	105.4	23.7	15.0	38.7	15.0	7.7	22.7
1993-94*	58.2	43.3	101.5	21.8	14.0	35.8	15.3	8.0	23.3
1994-95*	61.7	46.3	108.0	24.0	15.3	39.3	16.0	8.4	24.4

* Provisional

Source : **Annual Report, 1995-96, Part I, Ministry of Human Resource Development.**

The participation of girls at all stages of education is still not satisfactory. The Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) has brought under implementation several programmes for providing special access to education at all levels for women. Objectives of these programmes are universalisation of elementary education, vocationalisation of post-secondary education and modernisation of polytechnic and higher technical education.

It is indeed a matter of satisfaction that the growth in literacy rate of the females outstripped the growth in literacy rate of the males in the 1980s. The impact of Central and State initiatives was reflected in the decennial literacy growth rates : more than 7.5 per cent for men and 9.6 per cent for women. Nonetheless, it is a matter of concern that the rural urban differential in literacy increased from 34.6 per cent in 1981 to 35 per cent in 1991. There are also wide regional variations, between States as far as female literacy is concerned. As with other educational indicators, regional and gender disparities are conspicuous in regard to enrolment and retention. Girls enrolment has grown at the primary stage from 5.4 million in 1950-51 to 46.3 million in 1994-95 (provisional) and at the upper primary stage from 0.5 million to 15.3 million in 1994-95 (provisional) (Table 10). The drop-out rate of girls at the primary and upper primary stage is higher than that of boys.

The National Policy on Education (NPE) of 1986, updated in 1992 is a landmark in Indian education. The policy proposes a dual track approach designed to promote simultaneous adult literacy and primary education with focus on girls and other disadvantaged groups. It postulates integration of gender perspectives in all aspects of planning. There is a pronounced policy shift from an equalisation of education opportunity to education for women's equality. It enjoins that the education system should play a positive interventionist role in the empowerment of women, foster the development of new values through revised curricula and text books,

systematic training and orientation of teachers, decision-makers and administrators—all through the active involvement of education institution. The removal of women's illiteracy and obstacles inhibiting their access to and retention in education, has been given an overriding priority.

Several innovative measures have been taken to enhance girls and women's involvement in literacy and education. Among the most successful is "Mahila Samakhya" which literally means the equality of men and women through education. It is conceived as a women's empowerment process which does not aim to deliver services, but seeks to bring about changes in women's perspectives about themselves and that of the society in regard to women's traditional roles. It endeavours to create an environment for women to seek knowledge and information in order to make informed choices and create circumstances in which women can learn at their own pace and rhythm.

The Government of India has also set up a National Literacy Mission. The Literacy campaigns organised under the Mission are area specific, time-bound, volunteer based, cost effective, and outcome oriented. One major strength of the Mission has been the impressive participation of women in large numbers than men.

India has a huge network of higher education. According to the available data, there are 196 university level institutions serving 4.3 million students. The enrolment of women students at the beginning of the year 1993-94 was 16.64 lakh as against 15.94 lakh in the previous year. At the post-graduate level, the enrolment of women was 35.1 per cent of the total enrolment. The performance levels of women have also been satisfactory. The participation of women in technical and professional streams has shown marked increase from a little over 6,000 in 1950-51 to 1.46 lakh in 1986-87, an increase of 23 times. There has also been a noticeable growth in the number of women students in the Engineering and Technology streams in the Indian Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics. As against 40 women students in 1950-51 (0.3%) the number rose to 16.67 thousand in 1986-87 (7.7%) and 78.3 thousand in 1993-94 (13.1 per cent). There are also a large number of exclusive women's colleges and universities which seek to play a definite and distinct gender sensitive role, very critical in a traditional society such as ours. There are also women's study centres and cells in selected universities and colleges to further gender equity and justice.

Societal Reorientation and Gender Sensitization

Law alone cannot bring about change in a society. Legislations are not completely successful, as the law-enforcing agencies and institutions remain predominantly gender biased. It would be simplistic to assume that the problem of low status of women is primarily attitudinal. Patriarchal values are constantly reinforced through tradition, religion, customs and

other socio-political institutions. These sometime tend to endorse many practices and beliefs which are derogatory to the dignity of women and perpetuate stereotypical images which individuals find hard to resist, fearing loss of identity. Further, new practices and beliefs are found to be constantly introduced with a view to curbing the spaces that women manage to gain through long and difficult struggles. Media also has an extremely critical role in the construction and promotion of gender stereotypes and negative images of women which reflect and deepen iniquitous gender relations effectively limiting prospects of freedom and dignity for women.

A societal reorientation is required to create a gender just society leading to transformation of all existing structures and institutions. Since the biases that exist and the inequality that prevails are not natural or biologically given, but are socially and politically constructed, sustained and perpetuated to maintain relationships of subordination, there is an urgent need for planning and implementation of a process to restructure the gender relations. This calls for creating an awareness about the connection between gender and control of power and building a commitment to redress the persistent and glaring inequality. It is necessary to acknowledge that empowerment means moving from a position of enforced powerlessness to a position of power. This would promote women's inherent strength and a positive self-image.

In the context of Indian society the role of the family is very crucial. It is here that the deep-rooted discrimination against women finds its expression. It is important, therefore, that attitudes of both men and women within the family are changed in order that the gender bias is removed. The sensitization of males is essential not only to elicit their cooperation but also to reduce any friction or conflicts in the family which are likely to arise as a result of attempting changes in long-accepted perceptions and traditions often regarded as sacrosanct.

Several initiatives have been taken by the Government and non-Governmental sectors as part of this endeavour. Multi-media campaigns have been mounted to sensitize people to gender issues, using in addition to print and electronic media, songs, slogans, posters, and street plays, with a local appeal and flavour. The National Literacy Mission, through the Total Literacy Campaign has played a key role in raising awareness on issues of gender equality as have the women's Development Programme, "Mahila Samakhya" and several other innovative programmes of the Government. The basic objective of these and other similar endeavours has been to enable women to become creators and producers of facets of social transformation and not remain mere passive recipients and consumers of images, ideologies, practices and norms, however, repressive they may be. Besides, one of the core mandates of the national machinery has been to advocate change of attitudes and values of the

entire Governmental machinery from within. The Draft National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 1996 provides for conducting specially planned and well funded sensitization programmes on a regular basis for all sections of society. There will be special focus on functionaries of the State in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Wings and in all developmental agencies, governmental and non-governmental. These programmes will, in a phased manner, be integrated as part of all on-going training programmes, both in the public and private sectors.

Conclusion

There has been a perceptible change in the status of women in India in the last few decades. Child mortality rate has declined. Girls' enrolment have improved greatly at all levels in educational institutions, despite high drop-out-rates. Literacy levels for women have shown an improved trend too. Although most women are employed in agriculture, casual employment and the informal sector, the work participation rates of women have been rising steadily.

Gender equality is basic to the structure of Indian polity and is enshrined in the Constitution. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments stipulating compulsory and minimum 1/3rd reservation for women in elected seats and in posts of chairpersons of all local bodies in the country is a landmark attempt to make women's political participation a reality. As a result of these amendments, hundreds of thousands of women have entered into public offices in the rural and urban areas. Now there is a new sense of involvement as well as commitment among the women on the issues related to them.

However, the participation of women at the decision-making process has been very low. They are not adequately represented in the Parliament and the State Legislatures. Women representation in the Lok Sabha has hardly crossed 8 per cent of the total membership. There have not been sufficient number of women in the Council of Ministers. Generally speaking, women have not been holding portfolios like Defence, External Affairs or Finance at senior levels and as a regular practice. Political parties have failed to give adequate number of party tickets for election to women. Even in party organisation, they are always in a lesser strength. All these prove that the Indian women constituting half of the population have never been equal to the men in terms of their representation in Legislatures, Council of Ministers, party organisations or in other Committees and Commissions in spite of various constitutional provisions granting equality between men and women.

The Constitution (Eighty-First Amendment) Bill, 1996 which has been introduced in Parliament seeks to reserve 1/3rd of seats for women in Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies. This Bill when passed, seeks to enable women to participate more effectively in the decision-

making political process. The large scale participation of women in local representative bodies has demonstrated the eagerness with which they utilise the opportunity to effectively participate in politics.

It is impossible to refer to political participation of women on an equal footing in isolation. Other consideration, in terms of civil, economic, social and cultural rights must also be taken into consideration. Besides breaking the old values and societal attitudes which inhibit women's participation in politics, there is also an effort to empower the women economically. Efforts are on to increase female literacy and their access to good health services so as to make them equal partners *vis-a-vis* men in the process of development. The Draft National Policy for the Empowerment of Women, 1996 seeks to establish policies, programmes and systems to ensure mainstreaming of women's perspectives in all developmental processes as catalysts, participants, and recipients. It also makes provision for devising coordinating and monitoring mechanisms to assess from time to time the progress of such mainstreaming. The Policy, besides providing for meeting the basic needs of women seeks to encourage international, regional and sub-regional cooperation towards the empowerment of women through sharing of experiences, exchange of ideas and technology, networking with institutions and organisations and through bilateral and multilateral partnership.

The New Delhi Conference on 'Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics' is part of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's activities to promote representative democracy. The Conference seeks to focus on the democratic deficit resulting from the low representation of women in the Parliaments of most countries and find the means and ways to further a new contract for politics based on partnership between men and women. It will be quite useful for countries like India which have low women representation in National and State Legislatures.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Eighth Conference of the Chairmen of Committees on Public Accounts of Parliament and State Legislatures: The Eighth Conference of the Chairmen of Committees on Public Accounts of Parliament and State Legislatures was held in New Delhi on 15 and 16 March 1997. The Conference was inaugurated 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.*

Besides the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts of Parliament, 16 Chairmen of the Committees of Public Accounts of State/ Union territory Legislatures attended the Conference.

The Conference discussed the following points pertaining to various aspects of the Committee on Public Accounts :

I. Scope of Examination

- (i) How the Public Accounts committee (PAC) can become more effective in bringing better control over expenditure?
- (ii) How to check the diversion of funds from the budgeted plan heads under the Consolidated Fund to Public Accounts in violation of provisions of the Constitution of India;
- (iii) How to control massive swindling of State Exchequer through delayed book adjustment;
- (iv) Role of the PAC in the execution of big projects/schemes;
- (v) Need for the fixation of monetary limits for determining expenditure of State Government as guarantor for the statutory bodies;
- (vi) Recovery and write-off of the loans and advanced by the State Government;
- (vii) Desirability of empowering the PAC to examine the grant of concession/assistance through announcements made in contravention of financial provisions by various Departments;

* For the texts of the Addresses delivered at the inaugural function, see the *Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLIII, No.2, June 1997, pp.166-74.

- (viii) Powers of the PAC to review the budget manuals and various financial rules in relation to audit objections;
- (ix) Role of the PAC within and outside the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

II. Working of the Committee/Procedural Matters

- (x) Need for restricting the presentation of action taken reports so that the Committee can concentrate more on the latest Audit Reports;
- (xi) Need for streamlining the work of the PAC so as to avoid accumulation of arrears;
- (xii) Need for evolving effective procedure for eliciting facts and obtaining records during examination;
- (xiii) Desirability of constitution of sub-committees for examination of different Audit Reports;
- (xiv) Need for briefing by Audit prior to evidence;
- (xv) Accountability of government advocates to the PAC.

III. Regularisation of Excess Expenditure

- (xvi) Delay in disposal of audit objections with regard to excess expenditure;
- (xvii) Need for expeditious regularisation of excess expenditure.
- (xviii) Delay in submission of explanatory note in respect of excess expenditure, etc.

IV. Audit of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Autonomous Bodies

- (xix) Need for entrusting audit of Panchayati Raj Institutions, local bodies, autonomous institutions, etc. to the Comptroller and Auditor General.

V. Implementation of P.A.C.'S Recommendations

- (xx) Steps to be taken to avoid delay in submission of action taken notes and also delay in implementation of recommendations of the Committee;
- (xxi) Action taken on the recommendations of the High Level Enquiry Committees constituted in pursuance of the recommendations of the PAC;
- (xxii) Need for the constitution of a permanent committee for monitoring action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the PAC and to periodically review the non-implementation of the recommendations;

- (xxiii) Whether consistent failure on the part of the Government to furnish replies to audit paragraphs or recommendations of the PAC could be the subject matter for raising privilege issues.

VI. Response to Audit and Follow up on Audit Reports

- (xxiv) Delay in sending clarification to audit objections and maintenance of audit objection file in the Departments;
- (xxv) Need for remedial measures to be adopted by the PAC for expediting clarifications to audit objections/explanatory notes on audit paras by the Departments of Government;
- (xxvi) Follow up on Audit Reports, particularly on non-selected paragraphs.

VII. Tenure of Committee

- (xxvii) Need for longer tenure for the PAC.

VIII. Press Coverage

- (xxviii) Proceedings of the PAC should be open to the Public and Press.

IX. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG)

- (xxix) Appointment and independence of C&AG.

X. Orientation Programmes For Members/Secretarial Assistance

- (xxx) Need for organising suitable Orientation Programmes for members of the Committee by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training and also necessary training to the staff;
- (xxxi) How PAC can act as an agency to check corruption in the Government Departments?
- (xxxii) It is not unusual that the officers responsible for huge loss to the exchequer are let off scotfree by the Government on the ground that they had already retired from service. What are the steps to be taken in such cases for bringing them to book?

Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: The mid-year meetings of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) were held in British Virgin Islands from 14 to 18 April 1997. The Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly and the Regional Representative for Asia Region, Shri Neiba Ndong attended the meetings.

First Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference for the North Eastern Region of India: The First Regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference for the North Eastern Region of India was organised by the Nagaland CPA Branch at Kohima from 27 to 30 April 1997.

Delegates from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura state CPA Branches attended the Conference. The Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim attended the Conference as a Special invitee. The Director of Administration, CPA Secretariat, London, Mr. Raja Gomez represented the CPA at the Conference. In all, 35 Delegates attended the Conference.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma inaugurated the Conference on 27 April 1997.* The Chief Minister of Nagaland, Shri S.C. Jamir also addressed the Delegates on the occasion.

The Conferences discussed the following subjects on the Agenda:

- (i) CPA and the Commonwealth;
- (ii) Ethnic explosion in the North Eastern India- its socio-economic and political implications;
- (iii) How to be an Hon'ble Member in the estimation of the Public;
- (iv) Committee System - its importance in a welfare-oriented State; and
- (v) Legislature, Executive and Judiciary: Whether Legislature or Judiciary can be *primus inter pares*.

The Valedictory Address of the Conference was delivered by the Governor of Nagaland, Shri O.P. Sharma and the Vote of Thanks was given by the Deputy Speaker, Nagaland Legislative Assembly, Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak.

Ninth Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar : The Ninth Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar was held in Accra, Ghana from 10 to 18 May 1997. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan attended the Seminar as a Delegate from India (Main) Branch. Apart from him, the Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, Shri Ganesh Kutum; the Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Kaul Singh Thakur; the Deputy Speaker, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Shri C.A. Kurian; the Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly, Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal; and the Government Chief Whip and member, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Shri Rabindra Nath attended the Seminar.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose statues were unveiled in the Parliament House Complex and also of those 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 the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and

* For the text of the Address, see pp 251-55.

Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are also brought out on the occasion.

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

Babu Jagjivan Ram : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram, a function was held on 5 April 1997 in the Parliament House. The then Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena; the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra; the Minister of Welfare, Shri B.S. Ramoowalia; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes at the statue of Babu Jagjivan Ram.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a function was held on 14 April 1997 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the Minister of State in the Ministries of Science and Technology and Power, Shri Y.K. Alagh; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar.

Pandit Motilal Nehru : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Motilal Nehru, a function was held on 6 May 1997 in the Central Hall. The Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Pandit Motilal Nehru.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a function was held on 8 May 1997 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to the Gurudev.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS GOING ABROAD

Belgium : An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan, visited Belgium from 25 to 31 May 1997. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Manikrao H. Gavit; Iliyas Azmi; R. Devadass; Harivansh Sahai; Naresh Yadav; and Dr. A.K. Patel, all members of Parliament. Shri V.N. Gaur, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Norway : An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma visited Norway from 1 to 6 June 1997. The other members of the Delegation were the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht; and Sarvashri G.M. Banatwalla; Rupchand Pal; Anand Ratna Maurya; K.H. Muniyappa; Jibon Roy; and Smt. T. Sarada, all members of Parliament. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Sweden : An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, visited Sweden from 6 to 12 June 1997. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Jaswant Singh; G. Swaminathan; Tara Chand Bhagora; T. Nagaratnam; Yerra Narayanaswamy; and Dr. Jayanta Rongpi, all members of Parliament; and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan. Smt. Roli Srivastava, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Finland : An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; visited Finland from 12 to 16 June 1997. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Bheru Lal Meena; Lalit Oraon; Ish Dutt Yadav; B.R. Patil; Bhim Prasad Dahal; Keshab Mahanta and Mohd. Masud Khan, all members of Parliament. Shri N.K.R. Kalingan, Deputy Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Australia : An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma visited Australia from 21 to 28 June 1997. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Manabendra Shah; N.K. Premachandran; J. Chitharanjan; and Kumari Saroj Khaparde, all members of Parliament. Shri D.R. Kalra, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

An Indian Parliamentarians team, led by Shri P. Upendra, MP also visited Australia from 15 to 20 June 1997 to study the issues and systems concerning standards and ethics in public life and privilege- related matters. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri P. Kodanda Ramaiah; Sat Mahajan; Madhukar Raghunath Sarpotdar; Syed Masudal Hossain; 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 April to 30 June 1997, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following Courses/Programmes :

Computer Training Programmes : A series of Computer Training Programmes were organised by the BPST for the members of the Lok Sabha and for the Officers and Staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. Three Computer Training Programmes for the members of the Lok Sabha were

organised during the period 5-9 May 1997; 12-16 May 1997; and 19-23 May 1997. These were attended by 42 members, besides their spouses, children, and PSs/PAs.

Four Computer Training Programmes on 'Unix and Uniplex' for the officials of the Secretariat working on the multi-user system and three Training Programmes on "Windows and Related Software Packages" for the officials working on independent PCs having DOS environment were also conducted.

Further, three Computer Training Programmes covering "Introduction to Unix and Uniplex" along with special software packages for the officials working in the Question Branch, LARRDIS and Financial Branches were also organised during June 1997.

Appreciation Courses: The following Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organised for the probationers of (i) Indian Civil Accounts Service; Indian Railways Accounts Service; Indian P&T Finance and Accounts Service; Indian Defence Accounts Service; Indian Costs Account Service; and Indian Railways Stores Service (21-25 April 1997); (ii) Indian postal Service (30 June-4 July 1997); and (iii) for Professors/Lecturers of Universities/Colleges (23-27 June 1997)

Attachment Programmes: The following Attachment Programmes were organised: (i) for Fellows of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi (17-21 April 1997); and (ii) for the Secretary, Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Ajay Bhandari (12-16 May 1997).

Orientation Programme in Video Production: Ten Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat attended an Orientation Programme on Video Production at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad from 14 to 25 April 1997. The Programme was especially designed to meet the requirements of the Lok Sabha Secretariat in videography technology.

Training Programme on "Management in Government": Two Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat - Shri Brahm Dutt, Under Secretary and Shri R.N. Das, Assistant Director-were nominated to attend a Training Programme on "Management in Government" at the Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration, Shimla from 19 to 31 May 1997. Shri Deepak Mahna, Under Secretary was nominated to attend a similar Programme at the UP Academy of Administration, Nanital, from 25 May to 7 June 1997.

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

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Members not to refer to the conduct of members of the other House :

On 11 April 1997, during the discussion on the Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers moved by the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, the Minister of Environment and Forests, Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz referred to the members of the Rajya Sabha. Thereupon, the Chairman, Shri Basudeb Acharia observed:

"You cannot refer to the members of the other House. You cannot refer to the conduct of the members of the other House. This will not go on record".

Accordingly, the remarks of Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz on the members of the Rajya Sabha were not recorded.

All the constituents of the Government cannot be given time separately : On 11 April 1997, during the discussion on the Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers moved by the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, a member of Kerala congress (M), which was supporting Government from outside, Shri P.C. Thomas requested the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma to allow him to speak. Thereupon, the Speaker observed :

"You are a part of the ruling group. You are a part of the United Front. I cannot give time to all the constituents of the Government separately".

State subjects are not to be admitted : On 5 May 1997, after hearing members and the Minister of Home Affairs on the admissibility of notices of adjournment motion given by members, Sarvashri Jaswant Singh and George Fernandes, regarding the law and order situation in Bihar, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma withheld his consent to the notices on the ground that matters relating to law and order was a State subject.

Matter of sub-judice not to be discussed in the House : On 8 May 1997, a member, Shri George Fernandes, intimated that during the discussion on the Finance Bill 1997, he would raise matters relating to the Indian Bank scam and the Enforcement Directorate's efforts to apprehend Shri A.K. Jain of the *Times of India* Group and desired that the same may be sent to the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram.

Copies of the notice were sent to the Minister of Finance with endorsement to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena.

On the same day, while participating in the discussion on the Finance Bill, Shri George Fernandes referred to the above matter without making any allegations against anybody. However, he was not allowed to quote from any document relating to the matter which was *sub-judice*.

Instances when members were permitted to seek clarifications from Ministers: On 9 May 1997, on a Statement made by the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra regarding the introduction of the Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme, some members sought clarifications and the Minister replied thereto.

On 13 May 1997, on a Statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta regarding incidents during the Bihar *bandh* on 3 May 1997, a member, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, sought some clarifications with the prior permission of the Speaker and the Minister replied thereto.

On 15 May 1997, on a Statement made by the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta regarding the kidnapping of relatives of a Lok Sabha member, Shri Prabhu Dayal Katheria, the Chairman, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee allowed Shri Katheria to ask clarifications and the Minister replied thereto.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 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

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Resignation of Prime Minister : On 11 April 1997, the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda submitted his resignation to the President after losing the Vote of Confidence in the Lok Sabha.

New Cabinet sworn in : An 18-member Council of Ministers, headed by Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, was sworn in on 21 April 1997. The Ministers and their portfolios are as under :

Shri I.K. Gujral : *(Prime Minister) Ministries/ Departments of Atomic Energy; Personnel; Public Grievances and Pensions; Urban Affairs and Employment; Civil Supplies; Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution; Electronics; External Affairs; Finance; Food; Jammu and Kashmir Affairs; Labour; Ocean Development; Petroleum and Natural Gas; Power; and Space.*

Cabinet Ministers : Sarvashri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia : *Welfare* ; Beni Prasad Varma : *Communications*; Birendra Prasad Baishya : *Steel and Mines*; C.M. Ibrahim : *Civil Aviation and Information and Broadcasting*; Chaturanan Mishra : *Agriculture*; Indrajit Gupta : *Home*; Janeshwar Mishra : *Water Resources*; Mulayam Singh Yadav : *Defence*; Murasoli Maran : *Industry*; Ram Vilas Paswan : *Railways*; S.R. Bommai : *Human Resource Development*; Srikanta Kumar Jena : *Parliamentary Affairs and Department of Tourism*; T.G. Venkatraman : *Surface Transport*; K. Yerranna : *Rural Areas and Employment*; R.L. Jalappa : *Textiles*; and Prof. Saif-Ud-Din-Soz : *Environment and Forests.*

Ministers of State (Independent Charge): Sarvashri Bolla Bulli Ramaiah : *Commerce*; Dilip Kumar Ray : *Food Processing Industries*; Raghuvansh Prasad Singh : *Animal Husbandry and Dairying*; Ramakant D. Khalap : *Law, Justice and Company Affairs*; Saleem Iqbal Shervani : *Health and Family Welfare*; Sis Ram Ola : *Chemicals and Fertilizers*;

Yogendra K. Alagh : *Planning and Programme Implementation and Science and Technology*; Dr. S. Venugopalachari : *Power*; and Smt. Kanti Singh : *Coal*.

Ministers of State : Sarvashri Chandradev Prasad Verma : *Rural Areas and Employment*; M.P. Veerendra Kumar : *Finance*; Muhi Ram Saikia : *Human Resource Development and Education*; N.V.N. Somu : *Defence*; Satpal Maharaj : *Railways*; T.R. Balu : *Petroleum and Natural Gas*; Dr. V. Venkateswarlu : *Urban Affairs, Employment and Parliamentary Affairs*; and Capt. Jai Narayan Prasad Nishad : *Environment and Forests*.

Expansion of the Union Cabinet : On 1 May 1997, the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral expanded the Union Council of Ministers by inducting three Cabinet Ministers and one Ministers of State. The Ministers and their portfolios are :

Cabinet Ministers : Sarvashri P. Chidambaram : *Finance*; M. Arunachalam : *Labour*; and S. Jaipal Reddy : *Information and Broadcasting*.

Ministers of State : Sarvashri Dhanushkodi Athithan : *Sports and Youth Affairs*; S.R. Balasubramoniyam : *Personnel and Parliamentary Affairs*; and Maqbool Dar : *Home*.

On 3 June 1997, the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral expanded the Union Council of Ministers by inducting four more Ministers of State. They are : Smt. Kamla Sinha, Smt. Renuka Chowdhary, Smt. Jayanti Natarajan and Smt. Ratnamala D. Savanoor.

On 9 June 1997, the Prime Minister also effected a minor reshuffle of portfolios. The Ministers and their portfolios following the induction of the new Ministers and the reshuffle is as under :

Cabinet Ministers : Sarvashri Janeshwar Mishra : *Petroleum and Natural Gas* ; and M. Arunachalam : *Chemicals and Fertilizers*.

Ministers of State (Independent Charge) : Sarvashri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ; *Food and Consumer Affairs*; Sis Ram Ola : *Water Resources* ; Yogendra K. Alagh : *Power* ; M.P. Veerendra Kumar : *Labour*.

Ministers of State : Sarvashri Satpal Maharaj : *Finance*; S. Venugopalachari : *Agriculture*; Saleem Iqbal Shervani : *External Affairs*; Smt. Kamla Sinha : *External Affairs*; Smt. Jayanti Natarajan : *Civil Aviation and Parliamentary Affairs*; Smt. Renuka Chowdhary : *Health and Family Welfare*; and Smt. Ratnamala D. Savanoor : *Planning and Programme Implementation*.

Death of members : The Janata Dal member of the Lok Sabha, representing the Aska constituency in Orissa, Shri Biju Patnaik, passed away on 17 April 1997.

The CPI member of the Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Giri Prasad and a nominated member, Dr. M. Aram passed away on 24 May 1997.

Elections to the Rajya Sabha : On 10 April 1997, the following were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala : Shri K. Karunakaran (Congress-I); Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai (CPI-M); and Shri J. Chittaranjan (CPI).

By-elections to the Lok Sabha : The following were declared elected to the Lok Sabha in the by-elections held on 29 May 1997 : *East Delhi* : Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari (BJP); *Aska* : Shri Naveen Patnaik (JD); and *Ernakulam* : Shri Sabastian Paul (Independent).

Resignation of Minister : The Minister of State for Rural Areas and Employment, Shri Chandradev Prasad Varma resigned from the Union Cabinet on 20 June 1997.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Resignation of Minister : On 11 April 1997, the Minister of Higher Education, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi resigned from the Council of Ministers.

BIHAR

By-election result : Smt. Saba Zafar, an Independent, was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Amaur constituency in a by-election held on 5 April 1997.

Resignation of Ministers : On 23 May 1997, the Minister of Revenue, Land Reforms and Transport, Shri Inder Singh Namdhari resigned from the Council of Ministers.

The Minister for Jails, Shri Pashupati Kumar Paras resigned from the State Cabinet on 7 June 1997.

Ministers dismissed : On 6 June 1997, the State Governor, on the advice of Chief Minister, Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav, dismissed four Cabinet Ministers. The Ministers and their portfolios are : Sarvashri Ramai Ram : *Rural Development*; Ramjivan Singh : *Agriculture*; Magau Lal Mandal : *Minor Irrigation*; and Brijendra Prasad Yadav : *Urban Development*.

GUJARAT

By-election result : The Chief Minister, Shri Shankersinh Vaghela of the Maha Gujarat Janata Party, was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Radhanpur constituency in a by-election held on 5 April 1997.

HARYANA

Death of Minister : The Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Shri Harminder Singh passed away on 14 May 1997.

KARNATAKA

By-election-result : Shri N.Y. Gopalakrishna of the Congress (I) was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Molakalmuru constituency in a by-election held on 29 May 1997.

MADHYA PRADESH

Death of MLA : Shri Purnamal Sharma, MLA, belonging to the BJP, passed away on 6 April 1997.

By-election results : The BJP won both the seats in the State Legislative Assembly, for which by-elections were held on 29 May 1997.

MEGHALAYA

Induction of Minister : On 18 April 1997, Shri J.D. Rymbai was inducted as the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies.

MIZORAM

Resignation of Ministers : On 4 April 1997, three Ministers resigned from the Council of Ministers. They are : Sarvashri Hrangthanga Colney, C. Velluaia and Francis Lawmkima.

ORISSA

By-election result : Shri Jagannath Patnaik of the Congress (I) was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Navapada constituency in a by-election held on 29 May 1997.

PUNJAB

By-election result : Shri Jagdish Singh Garcha of the Akali Dal (Badal) was declared elected from the Quila-Raipur constituency in a by-election held on 29 May 1997.

Election of Deputy Speaker : Shri Swarna Ram of the BJP was unanimously elected the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly on 18 June 1997.

SIKKIM

Expansion of Cabinet : The Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Kumar Chamling expanded the State Cabinet on 9 May 1997 by inducting four Ministers. They are : Sarvashri Ram Lepeha, Chatan Tashi Bhutia, Rinzing Ongumu and Karna Bahadur Chamling.

UTTAR PRADESH

By-election result : Smt. Prabha Dwivedi of the BJP was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Farrukhabad constituency in a by-election held on 29 May 1997.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD**AFGHANISTAN**

New coalition : On 15 June 1997, the Anti-Taliban Alliance announced the formation of a new coalition of forces supporting former President Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani and ethnic Uzbek Leader General Abdul Malik and also consisting of a faction of the Shiite Hezb-E-Wahadat.

ANGOLA

New Government : A Government of National Unity comprising the ruling Angolan People's Liberation Movement and the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) was declared on 12 April 1997.

CANADA

Prime Minister re-elected : The Prime Minister, Mr. Jean Chretien's Government was re-elected with a majority in the federal election held on 3 June 1997. Mr. Chretien's Liberal Party won 155 seats in Parliament.

CHINA

Transfer of Hong Kong : On 1 July 1997, Hong Kong was transferred to China after remaining a British colony for 156 years. A China appointed lawmaking body was sworn in replacing the territory's elected Legislature which is scheduled to last for one year before being replaced by an elected body.

CONGO

New Government : On 23 May 1997, Mr. Laurent Kabila announced the formation of a 12-member Government. He abolished the post of the Prime Minister and established a Presidential form of Government.

FRANCE

Resignation of Prime Minister : The Prime Minister, Mr. Alain Juppe resigned from Office on 27 May 1997. Mr. Lionel Jospin was appointed the new Prime Minister on 2 June 1997.

HAITI

Resignation of Prime Minister : The Prime Minister, Mr. Rosny Smarth resigned from Office on 10 June 1997.

IRAN

New President : Mr. Mohammad Khatami was elected as the new President of Iran on 24 May 1997.

IRELAND

New Prime Minister : On 26 June 1997, Mr. Bertie Ahern was elected as the new Prime Minister.

ISRAEL

Resignation of Minister: On 22 June 1997, the communications Minister, Mr. Limor Livnat resigned from Office.

Vote of Confidence: On 25 June 1997, the Prime Minister, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu won a Vote of confidence in the Knesset.

MONGOLIA

New President: On 20 June 1997, Mr. Nashaggn Bagabandi was sworn in as the new President of Mongolia.

NEPAL

Resignation of Minister: On 11 June 1997, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Prakash Chandra Lohani resigned from Office.

POLAND

New Constitution: On 26 May 1997, a new Constitution was adopted replacing the 1952 Constitution.

TURKEY

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 18 June 1997, the Prime Minister, Mr. Necmettin Erbakan resigned from Office. He was succeeded by Mr. Mesut Yilmaz on 30 June 1997.

UK

Election results: On 1 May 1997, elections were held for the 659-member House of Commons. The Labour Party won 419 seats and the Conservative Party secured 166 seats. The Liberal Democratic Party got 45 seats, the Nationalist Party won 10 seats and others got the rest.

New Prime Minister: Mr. Tony Blair was sworn in as the new Prime Minister on 2 May 1997.

ZAIRE

New Prime Minister: On 12 April 1997, General Likulia Bolongo was appointed the new Prime Minister.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The salary and allowances and other facilities admissible to the Vice-President of India, being also the Chairman of the Council of States, are governed by the Salary and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953. The said Act does not contain any provision for payment of pension to a retired Vice-President.

Like the President, who is the Head of State, the Vice-President also holds a high Office and is a high dignitary. It was, therefore, felt that when a retired President is allowed a pension and other privileges, it would be just and proper that a retired Vice-President also gets suitable pension and other privileges, so that after demitting the Office he is able to maintain a reasonable standard of life befitting the high Office held by him. Accordingly, the Vice-President's Pension Bill, 1997 sought to provide for: (a) payment of pension; (b) use of a furnished residence (including its maintenance) without payment of rent as admissible to a Union Deputy Minister; (c) use of a telephone facility at the residence, as admissible to a member of Parliament; (d) secretarial staff and office expenses not exceeding Rs. 6,000/- per annum; (e) free medical attendance and treatment on the same conditions as admissible to a retired President; (f) free medical attendance and treatment to the spouse and minor children on the same conditions as is admissible to the spouse and children of a retired President; and (g) travelling facilities anywhere in India for himself and his spouse by the executive class by air and the highest class by rail.

The Vice- President's Pension Bill, 1997 was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 14 and 16 May 1997, respectively. It received the President's assent on 28 May 1997.

We reproduce here the text of the above Act

—Editor

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S PENSION ACT, 1997

An Act to provide for the payment of pension and other facilities to retiring Vice-Presidents.

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

1. *Short title.* This Act may be called the Vice-President's Pension Act, 1997.

2. *Pension to retiring Vice-Presidents.* (1) There shall be paid to every person who ceases to hold office as Vice-President, either by the expiration of his term of office or by resignation of his office, a pension of six thousand two hundred and fifty rupees per month, for the remainder of

his life :

Provided that such person shall not be entitled to receive any pension during the period he holds the office of the Prime Minister, a Minister or any other office or becomes a Member of Parliament and is in receipt of salary and allowances which are defrayed out of the Consolidated fund of India or the Consolidated Fund of a State.

(2) Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, every such person shall, for the remainder of his life, be entitled—

- (a) to the use of such furnished residence (including its maintenance), without payment of rent, as a Union Deputy Minister is entitled to during his tenure of office under the provisions of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952;
- (b) to the use of similar telephone facilities at his residence, as a member of Parliament is entitled to under the provisions of the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954;
- (c) to secretarial staff; and office expenses not exceeding rupees six thousand per annum;
- (d) to the same facilities for himself as respects medical attendance and treatment and on the same conditions as a retired President is entitled to under the provisions of the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951;
- (e) to the same facilities for his spouse and minor children as respects medical attendance and treatment and on the same conditions as the spouse of a retired President is entitled to under the provisions of the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951; and
- (f) to travel anywhere in India, accompanied by his spouse, by the executive class by air, and the highest class by rail.

3. *Medical facilities to the family of deceased Vice-President.* Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, the spouse of a person who dies while holding the office of Vice-President shall, for the remainder of life, be entitled to medical attendance and treatment, free of charge.

4. *Pension to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.* Any sum payable under this Act shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

5. *Power to make rules.* (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made by the Central Government under this Act shall

be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA FOURTH SESSION

The Fourth Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, which commenced on 20 February 1997, was adjourned on 21 March 1997* till 21 April 1997. The House met for one day on 11 April 1997 to be reconvened on 21 April 1997 for two days. The Lok Sabha again reassembled on 30 April 1997 and was adjourned *sine die* on 16 May 1997. The House was prorogued by the President of India on 21 May 1997.

A brief resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 11 April 1997 to 16 May 1997 is given below:

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers: Moving the motion on 11 April 1997, Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda said that during the previous ten months, all the steps that were taken had clearly proved that the national parties as well as the regional parties together had run the Government better than the previous regimes. The first decision that was taken by the United Front Government was to revive some of the institutions which were very much essential for cooperation between the States and the Centre while running the administration. The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) was adopted. A meeting of the National Development Council was called in which a decision was taken about the Ninth Five Year Plan. The Lokpal Bill was introduced. The Budget for the year 1997-98 was appreciated by almost all sections of the society. A number of steps were enumerated in the Budget to help the farming community and the weaker sections of the society.

Opposing the motion**, Shri Jaswant Singh criticised the United Front Government for deliberately and repeatedly misusing article 356 of the Constitution. The misuse of the Office of Governor, as evidenced by the incidents and developments in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, was the direct responsibility of the United Front Government.

*For Sessional Review of the Fourth Session covering the period 20 February 1997 to 21 March 1997, see, *Journal of Parliamentary Information*, (Vol. XLIII, No. 2, June 1997), pp.191-206

**Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarveshri P.R. Dashmunshi, Pramod Mahajan, Nitish Kumar, Rajesh Pilot, Tiruchi Siva, N.K. Premachandran, Shivraj V. Patil and Km. Uma Bharati

Supporting the motion, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujaral said that the Government of India had not yielded to any pressure from any side. The first major decision taken by the United Front Government pertained to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Broadly speaking, there had been a national consensus under all Governments on various issues of foreign policy.

Supporting the motion, Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that India is still a poor country and Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 600 crore of the tax-payers' money could not be spent on elections. The United Front was set up to save secularism and to protect the country from communal divide and the consequential feelings of hatred and insecurity.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Chandra Shekhar said that the time had come when all members, irrespective of their political affiliations, sat together and thought about the challenges and the problems before the nation. Consensus on national issues should be evolved and programmes should be formulated for solving the problems.

Speaking during the discussion, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar said that the country is facing enormous problems. We have been spending crores of rupees for the last several years, but the benefit did not reach the people. In politics, we should not indulge in casteism. We should do everything that would do good to the poor.

The Minister of Railways, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that frequent elections would result in the wastage of poor people's money. The national interest was paramount to the United Front Government but a country could never progress if personal and parochial interests took precedence over the national interest.

The Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the UF Government had left its imprint on the political and economic history of India. Historians would record that the Government gave an impetus to growth, to reforms and to social justice programmes which would make us the fourth largest economy in the world by the year 2020. It was unfortunate that a promising experiment should come to an end, he added.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Kanshi Ram criticised the Congress (I) for withdrawing the support to the Deve Gowda Government.

Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala appealed that parliamentarians should sit together and think as to what best can be done for the country. In the present political milieu, there should be a national Government in the country.

Supporting the motion, Shri Chitta Basu said that the idea of the United Front (UF) was conceived as an alternative both to the Congress and the BJP. The UF constituents were not merely parties; rather, the UF was a political and social force which could smoothen the way to prosperity, peace, tranquility and further development of the country.

Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma said that no political party in future would be in a position to govern the country without having coalition partners.

Supporting the motion, Shri Jai Prakash said that the people would have to support such a party which was capable of running the country.

Shri G.M. Banatwalla observed that the United Front, along with the parties which were supporting from outside, represented more than two-thirds or even three-fourths of the total popular votes. It was tragic that such a Coalition Government was required to seek a vote of confidence within 10-11 months of its assuming office.

The Minister of Environment and Forests, Prof. Saif-Ud-din Soz said that the Prime Minister created a situation of hope in Jammu and Kashmir, by visiting Jammu and Kashmir four times. During the last six years, nobody went to Kashmir. The Prime Minister also created a situation of hope in the North-East. Dr. Farooq Abdullah performed a miracle in Jammu and Kashmir in the Assembly elections.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi felt that if elections were to be held, it would put an unnecessary burden on the exchequer and the investment in the industrial sector would be adversely affected. History would never forgive us for creating such a state of affairs in the country, he observed.

The Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that political instability would have very many adverse effects on our nation's life. Political instability was again being precipitated. All the troubles which were taking place in the North-Eastern region and in one or two other places due to the actions of the armed insurgent groups would get further fillip because of political insecurity.

Participating in the discussion, Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that it was true that no party got a majority in the elections but it was also not a mandate to sideline the largest party in the Lok Sabha. Untouchability was vanishing from public life but it was growing in politics. This country was secular, is secular and would remain secular. No one could change it. The need of the hour was to develop the art of working cohesively. If Coalition Governments could be successful in other countries, why could it not be successful in India? But, for that, mutual trust and transparency were very essential. As such, an atmosphere of mutual trust was a prerequisite for the successful functioning of any Coalition Government. As for the crisis facing the UF Government, it was basically because of lack of faith among the constituents. A lesson must be learnt from the experience so as to obviate such crises in future, he concluded.

Replying to the debate, Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda said that for the first time, the Government had taken care of those people who had been totally neglected in the tribal areas. The rate of literacy

was below 2 or 2½ per cent there. The Finance Minister was requested to allocate funds for at least 250 residential schools. Not a single case of CBI enquiry was ordered against any political leader during the previous ten months. As the Judiciary had directed that the investigating agency should directly report to the Courts, there was no question of any interference in the cases which were being enquired by the CBI.

The motion was negatived.

Motion of Confidence in the Council of Ministers: Moving the motion on 22 April 1997, Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral said that India is a country of diverse religions, languages, etc. Yet, there is unity across the whole social fabric and that it must be preserved. Every endeavour would be made to uphold all the traditions and conventions of secularism. A scientific temper and approach of thinking should be developed. Nobody can truly claim that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes had been given their due rights. Therefore, justice to these oppressed classes should be delivered.

The country's population was rapidly increasing and attempts at checking the trend had met with little success. The Family Planning Programme could not be a success unless woman were given their rights and the social malaise of female illiteracy remedied. The Prime Minister observed that the country had entered an era of Coalition Governments. It was easy to form a Coalition Government but it would take time to imbibe a coalition culture.

Opposing the motion*, Smt. Sushma Swaraj said that the Gujral Government was a mixture of diverse elements which would, therefore, find it difficult to pull on. The sole basis of the UF unity was to contain the BJP from coming to power while the election results amply indicated that the public wanted to put the BJP in power.

Shri Sharad Pawar said that his party supported the Government on the basis of principles like the Common Minimum Programme. During the last ten months, the United Front Government had to its credit some good achievements. However, some actions and statements on the part of the ruling coalition had increased the gulf between the Congress (I) and the United Front.

Supporting the motion, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, observed that there should be a Government which believed in the constitutional mandate, in the secular fabric of the country and which would cooperate in the implementation of the Common Minimum Programme. The Government should totally commit itself to the maintenance of the true ethos of the country and its culture.

*Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri G. Venkat Swamy, Sukh Lal Kushwaha, Brahmanand Mandal, Pramotes Mukherjee, Surender Singh, E. Ahamed, Sontosh Mohan Dev, Col. Rao Ram Singh, Dr. Arvind Sharma, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra and Prof. G.G. Swell

The Minister of Defence, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav said that the United Front's prime objective was to preserve the unity and integrity of the country. When no single party had got absolute majority in the Lok Sabha, then there was no choice but to run a Coalition Government.

Participating in the discussion, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar said that it was perhaps the fourth time in the last ten months that a Motion of Confidence had been moved in Lok Sabha. It was a unique record. While looking at the turn of events during the last three weeks, people fail to understand as to why it happened, who was responsible for it and who lost or gained. Those who were responsible for this were playing havoc with the country and democracy.

Supporting the motion, Shri P. Chidambaram said that it was important that men and women who held high offices should conduct themselves with great dignity. If the nation had to confront anything and vanquish anything, it was poverty, disease and pestilence. There should be no place for mistrust, suspicion, hidden agendas and witch hunting; instead, there must be place only for conciliation, civil discourse, courtesy and mutual respect.

Taking part in the discussion, Shri Chandra Shekhar said that the country's future would not be decided merely by identifying who was secular and who was communal. Today, crores of helpless people had no role or participation in the country's economic development. It was very natural for such people to associate themselves with castes and religions in order to alleviate their sufferings. Casteist forces and forces playing the politics of religion would be on the increase till such time as there was illiteracy, helplessness and exploitation.

Supporting the motion, Shri Chitta Basu urged the Prime Minister that along with the Bill providing for reservation in the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies for women, other measures like the Agricultural Workers' Bill, the Lokpal Bill and legislation aimed at comprehensive electoral reforms should also be taken up. It should also include strong measures to combat corruption in the country. The economic policies should be so shaped as to relieve the sufferings and the burden of the working class, the peasantry and the toiling masses.

Participating in the discussion, Shri P.C. Thomas pointed out that up our own infrastructure needs to be built up as India has to go a long way. People have to be optimistic, so that India can be made strong. There should be more federalism, as a strong India and a strong Centre should be ensured only by satisfying the States.

Supporting the motion, Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi said that the Muslims in the Government service constituted 30 per cent at the time of Independence. But, today, their number had been reduced to only one per cent. He enquired about the reasons behind the decline and also why

were they being discriminated. He called upon the Prime Minister to consider and solve all genuine problems of the Muslim community.

Shri Shibu Soren was of the view that though every body talked about Adivasis, minorities and the down-trodden people, nothing concrete was being done for their welfare. Atrocities were being committed on them from all sides. Till the time people have faith and peace of mind, our development could not take place.

Participating in the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee observed that the Congress (I), the Tamil Manila Congress and the CPI(M), constituting an aggregate of 215 members, were not sharing power. The BJP and its allies had 204 members. That meant that 419 members out of a total strength of 545 members were not sharing power. Our experience revealed that power sharing was a necessary ingredient of stability.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral said that the Constitution of India spelt out those very promises which the freedom struggle had made. One such promise was democracy and the other was the unity of India. The State was supreme and it did not belong to a single party, to a single ideology, to a single religion or to a single caste. The India belonged to all the citizens and it would survive if faith was placed on it. The State spoke through the people; if the State got damaged, our future also would get damaged. The State would also get damaged when many people lose faith in it. We have to guard against such pit falls, the Prime Minister added.

The motion was adopted.

Problems of Textile Industry: On 14 May 1997, initiating the discussion under rule 193 of the Rules of Procedure, Shri Sanat Mehta said that the sickness in the textile industry had been visible since 1982. All the textile mills in Ahmedabad had been closed down. The National Renewal Fund was requested to provide the dues to the workers which was promised by the Finance Minister. The scheme was supported by the Ministries of Industry and Labour. A scheme which could regenerate the whole economy of Ahmedabad, which could provide jobs to 60,000 workers, was not being implemented. The scheme still needed the approval of the Cabinet sub-Committee to sanction the area regeneration scheme.

Shri Chitta Basu pointed out that the recommendations of the high-powered committee set up to go into the problems of the jute industry and particularly the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) had been kept on shelf and the authorities should look into the matter.

*Others who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri Virendra Kumar Singh, Harin Pathak, Basu Deb Acharia, C. Narayana Swamy, Sandipan Thorat, Ram Nalk, Anadi Charan Sahu, Pramothes Mukherjee, Rambahadur Singh, Jagat Vir Singh Drona, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan and Smt. Geeta Mukherjee

Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar pointed out that it is a universal truth that the employees not only in the country but throughout the world, are exploited by the employers. So long as the employees get anything out of that employee, they go on exploiting him. The moment the employer feels that the chances are very remote to get anything more out of a particular employee, he is thrown out.

Replying to the discussion on 15 May 1997, the Minister of Textiles, Shri R.L. Jalappa observed that the number of closed mills was 207 out of which 38 mills were closed down under liquidation. The other mills were temporarily closed on account of financial difficulties or lack of trade, etc. To describe the entire textiles industry as sick was not correct. The spinning sector in particular had shown vibrancy and growth over the years. The annual investment in textiles machinery had increased from Rs. 2,100 crore in 1993-94 to Rs. 3400 crore in 1995-96. The total production of cloth had shown an increase from 22,588 million sq. meters in 1991-92 to 28,631 million sq. meters in 1995-96.

The Discussion was concluded.

Ninth SAARC Summit: Making a Statement on 16 May 1997 on his visit to Male to participate in the Ninth SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Summit from 12 to 14 May 1997, Prime Minister Shri I.K. Gujral informed the members that cooperation amongst the seven Member States of SAARC had been increasing in recent years. Summarising the principal developments at the Summit, the Prime Minister stated that it had been agreed that the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) should be realised by the year 2001, thus advancing the final target year by four years; a group of eminent persons, in order to develop a long range vision for SAARC, should be set up; and an agenda should be developed to strengthen activity in core economic sectors in SAARC countries. Regarding the question of sub-regional cooperation in South Asia, it was agreed that specific projects would be developed and processed through the SAARC Secretariat and endorsed inter-governmentally through established processes prior to their implementation. It was decided at the Summit that the decade 2000-2010 would be designated as the 'SAARC Decade of the Rights of the Child'. The facilities of Open University and Distance Education institutions would be expanded across the SAARC region with the possibility of the formation of a Consortium of Open Universities.

Important initiatives were taken in the field of environment which included such aspects as developing common minimum standards for air and water pollution, trans-boundary bio-diversity conservation and evolving a SAARC Convention on Prevention of Illegal Trafficking in Flora and Fauna.

The process of progressive relaxation of visa requirements for intra-SAARC travel continued. All Cabinet Ministers of SAARC countries, heads

of apex bodies of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and a number of others would henceforth be exempted from visa requirements. It was agreed to create a new category of 'SAARC recognised bodies' which would enable professional organisations and voluntary groups to come together for coordinated action, with the SAARC Secretariat playing a supportive and encouraging role.

In the current year, specific attention would be placed on the participation of target groups in the formulation and implementation of poverty eradication programmes, and the year 1997 had been designated as the "SAARC Year of Participatory Governance"

During the bilateral talks, a number of useful measures such as installation of a hotline, the release of fishermen held by the two sides and the need to ease travel restrictions was agreed to between India and Pakistan.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Vice-President's Pension Bill, 1996; On 14 May 1997, moving the motion to consider the Bill, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mohammad Maqbool Dar said that the salary and allowances and other facilities admissible to the Vice-President, being also the Chairman of the Council of States, were governed by the Salary and Allowances of the Officers of Parliament Act, 1953. The said Act did not contain any provision for payment of any pension to a retired Vice-President. The Vice-President also held a high office and was a high dignitary like the President. It was, therefore, felt that when a retired President was allowed a pension and other privileges, it would be just and proper that a retired Vice-President also get suitable pension and other privileges, so that after demitting the Office, he was able to maintain a reasonable standard of life.

Those who participated in the discussions were Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot and Shri Satya Pal Jain.

The Bill was passed.

C. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on 20 February 1997 and 21 April 1997 to the passing away of two sitting members—Shri Xavier Arakal and Shri Biju Patnaik, respectively. After references to the passing away of Shri Biju Patnaik, the House adjourned for the day. References were also made to the passing away of Sarvashri Manibhai J. Patel, Sushil Bhattacharya, D.L. Baitha, Shyamlal Dhurve, B. Gopala Reddi, Veerendra Patil, Vishveshvar Rao Raje, G. Yallamanda Reddy, B. Bhagvati and Dr. Datta Samant, all former members.

On 21 February 1997, a reference was made to the passing away of the renowned Chinese leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoping.

*The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20 December 1996

On 23 February 1997, references were made to the loss of several lives in a devastating fire at a religious congregation in Baripada (Orissa).

On 12 May 1997, the Speaker made reference to the untimely death of many people in a devastating earthquake that struck the North-eastern Iranian town of Qaen.

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

RAJYA SABHA

HUNDRED AND EIGHTIETH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Eightieth Session on 20 February 1997, was adjourned on 21 March 1997. It was reconvened on 21 April 1997 and was adjourned again on 22 April 1997 to meet on 30 April 1997. The House was adjourned *Sine die* on 16 May 1997. The House was then prorogued by the President on 21 May 1997. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 21 April to 16 May 1997 is given below**

A. DISCUSSIONS

Statement by the Prime Minister on the Ninth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit : On 16 May 1997, the Prime Minister, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral made a *suo motu* statement on the Ninth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held in Male from 12 to 14 May 1997. He informed the House that the Summit had agreed to have a South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) by the year 2001, which reflected the growing sentiments among the member countries to consolidate economic interaction speedily. A decision had been made to set up a Group of Eminent Persons to develop a long range vision for SAARC. With regard to the question of sub-regional cooperation in South Asia, all parties had agreed that specific projects for such cooperation would be developed and processed through the SAARC Secretariat and endorsed inter-governmentally through established processes prior to their implementation. Particular emphasis had been given to the problems faced by women and the girl-child in the society. It had been decided to observe the decade 2000-2010 as the 'SAARC Decade of the Rights of Child'.

The Prime Minister said that in the area of education, SAARC activities would be expanded across the region to cover Distance Education with the aim of forming a consortium of Open Universities. In the field of environment, important initiatives had been taken, such as developing common minimum standards for air and water pollution, trans-boundary

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

** For the Sessional Review covering the period 20 February 1997 to 21 March 1997, see the *Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLIII, No. 2, June 1997, pp. 206-210.

bio-diversity conservation and evolving a SAARC Convention on Prevention of Illegal Trafficking in flora and fauna. Referring to some other important measures, the Prime Minister said that the process of progressive relaxation of visa requirements for intra-SAARC travel would be continued. A new category of 'SAARC recognised bodies' would be created to promote cooperation among professional organisations and voluntary groups across the SAARC region. The year 1997 had also been designated as the "SAARC Year of Participatory Governance". The Summit offered an opportunity to the Heads of States or Governments and Foreign Ministers to have exchanges towards strengthening relations amongst the member countries, the Prime Minister added.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation: Initiating the discussion on 5 May 1997, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the Eighth Plan had been formulated in an extremely difficult situation when the Government had to resort to structural adjustment programmes and also introduce economic reforms. Serious efforts had to be made for resource mobilisation, particularly when the infrastructure area required substantial investment. Interest payment, which had substantially increased, was another area of concern for the Ninth Plan. In order to achieve a sustainable growth of 7 per cent, there would have to be massive investment in infrastructure and mobilisation of resources in the real sense of the term; the States would also need to have adequate resources for their own developmental planning. If the Government was to depend on borrowings, there had to be some soft window for borrowings where Government's interest liability would be a little less, he added.

Replying to the discussion* on 6 May 1997, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation and Minister of State of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Shri Yogender K. Alagh said that the Ninth Five Year Plan would concentrate on the failures in the past Five Year Plan periods. The Government had put in Rs. 2,400 crore and Rs. 900 crore for the Basic Minimum Service Programme and for the Advance Irrigation Benefit Programme, respectively. The outlay for the State's Plan had gone up by about 21 per cent. The Government wanted a reduction in its revenue deficit and give support to the small-scale industries and to the exporters. Priority would be given to very important sectors like basic minimum services, agriculture, water, science and technology and infrastructure which would help in resolving the problem of unemployment and poverty. The Planning Commission and the Central Government were working in cooperation with the States to strengthen local level institutions also.

* Others who took part in the discussions were: Sarvashri Som Pal, S.B.Chavan, G. Swaminathan, Bangaru Laxman, Ish Dutt Yadav, J. Chitharanjan, Sanatan Bisi, Gopalsinh G. Solanki, Mohd. Masud Khan, Dr. Biplab Dasgupta, Dr. B.B. Dutta, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Smt. Renuka Chowdhury

Concluding the debate, the Minister said that there had been substantial achievements in different sectors and expressed his confidence that the country would achieve the 7 per cent growth rate soon.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Welfare : Initiating the discussion on 8 May 1997, Shri Sunder Singh Bhandari inquired about the steps taken by the Government to improve the staff position which was regarded as one of the constraints in proper implementation of schemes of the Ministry and if there was any monitoring mechanism to ensure that money was spent properly by the non-governmental organisations. He emphasised the need for implementation of the scheme for the welfare of street children in all major cities and for opening of primary schools for girls in the villages. The member called upon the Government to launch a social awareness programme on the evil effects of liquor and to provide rehabilitation programmes. He also stressed the imperative of better utilisation of funds earmarked for opening more schools for the handicapped. Rules, resolutions, statutory bodies and by-laws had to be made at the earliest under the persons with Disability (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, he added.

Replying to the discussion* on 14 May 1997, the Minister of Welfare, Shri Balwant Sing Ramoowalia referred to a number of measures taken by the Government for ameliorating the conditions of the scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. As regards the Tribal Sub-Plan, the Government had taken steps to give ownership rights to tribals for farm produce. About 2,500 to 3,000 forest villages had been identified for conversion into revenue villages.

The Minister stated that the Government had taken steps to help NGOs working for the welfare of handicapped children. It had also enacted laws for reservation of 3 per cent seats for handicapped persons in Government jobs as well as in the Public Sector Undertakings. As regards providing grants to the minority institutions, the Government was ready to make a case-to-case study and give sympathetic consideration to some very special cases, he added.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of External Affairs : Initiating the discussion on 15 May 1997, Shri Nilotpal Basu said that in the post-Cold War situation, India had faced the global community with a new sense of reassurance, dignity and pride. There were strong tendencies of multilateralism, emerging trade blocs and regional formations. A new meaning to India's role had been set by redefining and restoring the relevance of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) The member observed that the South-South concept had to be developed in a new way where India

* Others who took part in the discussions were : Sarvashri Ajit P.K. Jogi, Sanatan Bisi, Ramnath Kovind, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Brahma Kumar Bhatt, Maurice Kujur, Govindram Miri and Mohd. Salim.

could act with reassurances. He also pointed out the need to develop good relations with own neighbours so that scarce resources could be diverted from defence spending and concentrated for the well-being of the people.

Replying to the discussion* , the Prime Minister, Shri I.K. Gujral stated that the recent SAARC Summit had set a vision of the next half century. New relationships had been made with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Central Asian Republics, Iran and Turkmenistan, the Prime Minister added.

Increasing Insurgency in the North-Eastern States : On 14 May 1997, Shri Narendra Mohan called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the increasing insurgency in the North-Eastern States.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that out of the seven North-Eastern States, Assam, Tripura, Nagaland and Manipur were currently affected by the secessionist, subversive and violent activities of insurgent groups, whereas the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram were, by and large, peaceful. The Central Government had inducted units of the Central paramilitary forces and the Army in the affected regions. The Government had also extended financial assistance to the States, both under Central schemes and by way of special assistance.

The Minister observed that a sense of frustration, feeling of neglect, lack of gainful employment and industry, etc. had contributed to the growth of insurgency in the North-East over the years. It was essential for the Government to learn and study more about the area if the mind and mood of the people had to be understood. He added that a lasting settlement to the region's problem was certainly not by means of guns but by talks and negotiations with the people.

Appointment of Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts : On 8 May 1997, Shri Satish Agarwal, raising a discussion on the points arising out of the answer given in the Rajya Sabha on 6 May 1997 to Starred Question No. 423, said that during the last four-five years, the Judiciary had done a commendable job. There was, however, a need for reform in the judicial system.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Shri Ramakant D. Khalap said that for the last 45 years, the Constitution had followed a particular procedure whereby the judges were appointed by the President on the advice of the Council of Ministers who were accountable to the Parliament and therefore to the people. So far as the question of judicial appointments was concerned, it had been

* Others who took part in the discussions were : Sarvashri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi, Bhuvnesh Chaturvedi, N. Thalavai Sundaram, John F., Fernandes, Ish Dutt Yadav, Pranab Mukherjee, Dr. Gopalrao Vithalrao Patil, Dr. B.B. Dutta and Smt. Kamla Sinha.

done in proper consultation with the Judiciary. And once appointed, the independence of the judge was total. The Minister urged the leaders of various political parties and eminent jurists to frame their final opinion and advise the Executive about the methodology of amending the Constitution in regard to the appointment of judges.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The National Environment Appellate Authority Bill, 1997** : Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 19 March 1997, the Minister of Environment and Forests, Prof. Saif-Ud-din Soz said that the Bill sought to fulfill an urgent need to have a National Environment Appellate Authority as a mechanism for an effective and expeditious disposal of appeals against the decisions of competent authorities giving environmental clearance to developmental projects under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The National Environment Appellate Authority would comprise of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three members. The Authority would not be bound by the procedure laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure, but would be guided by the principles of natural justice.

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

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the 180th Session of the Rajya Sabha, 11,507 notices of questions (11,140 Starred and 367 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 600 Starred Questions and 4,578 Unstarred Questions were admitted. Out of 3 notices for short Notice Questions received, none was admitted.

Daily Average of Questions : For all the days, the lists of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions. On an average, 3.9 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered on a particular day was 6 on 14 March 1997 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered on any day was 3.

The minimum number of Questions admitted in the lists of Unstarred Questions was 112 on 21 February 1997 and the maximum number was 155. The average number of question answered during the Session came to 153 per sitting.

Half-an-Hour Discussion : Fourteen notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received out of which only two were admitted and four were clubbed therewith.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the Chinese leader. Deng Xiaoping and Sarvashri D.K. Jadhav, Veerendra Patil, Biju Patnaik, B.C. Bhagawati, Dr. Bezwada Gopala Reddy and Prof. Saurin Bhattacharya, all former members.

The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 17 March 1997

STATE LEGISLATURES**ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY***

The Second Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, in its Seventh Session (Budget Session), met for a day on 6 March 1997. The House reconvened on 26 March 1997 and was adjourned *sine die* on 31 March 1997.

Legislative business : During the Session, the Arunachal Pradesh Panchayat Raj Bill, 1997 was passed by the House.

Financial business : During the Session, the Finance Minister presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1997-98 on 26 March 1997. The Demands for Grants for the year 1996-97 relating to various Departments were moved by the concerned Ministers, including the Chief Minister, and were accepted in full on 27 March 1997. The Budget discussion also took place on that day. Thereafter, the Demands for Grants for the year 1997-98 relating to various Departments were moved by the concerned Ministers including the Chief Minister, which were accepted in full. Thereafter, the necessary Appropriation Bills were introduced, considered and passed.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Budget Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly, which commenced on 7 March 1997, was adjourned *sine die* on 8 April 1997.

Address by the Governor : The Governor of Assam addressed the House on 7 March 1997. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was adopted on 14 March 1997.

Financial business : The general discussion on the Budget for the year 1997-98 followed the debate on the Address by the Governor. The voting on the supplementary Demands for Grants was held on 13 March 1997 and subsequently, the Budget for the year 1997-98 and the necessary Appropriation Bill were passed.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of some of the renowned personalities on 7, 14 and 17 March 1997 and 2 and 3 April 1997.

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY***

The Seventh Session of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly commenced on 19 February 1997. The House was prorogued by the Governor on 31 March 1997. There were 29 sittings in all.

* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

*** Material contributed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

Address by the Governor : The Governor of Gujarat, Shri Krishnapal Singh, addressed the House on 19 February 1997. Subsequently, the Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved and adopted by the House.

Legislative business : During the Session, seventeen Bills were introduced, out of which sixteen were passed by the House.

Financial business : On 21 February 1997, the Finance Minister presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1997-98. The general discussion on the Budget was held for three days. The necessary Appropriation Bill was passed by the House on 21 March 1997. The statement of Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1996-97 was presented to the House on 19 February 1997. The Supplementary Demands were discussed for two days and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill was passed on 20 March 1997.

Obituary references : On 19 February 1997 and 10 and 21 March 1997, obituary references were made to the passing away of twelve former members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly and one member of the Bombay Legislative Assembly.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The First Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly for the year 1997 commenced on 17 March 1997. The House was prorogued on 27 April 1997.

Address by the Governor : The Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. P.C. Alexander addressed both the Houses of the State Legislature on 17 March 1997. The entire proceedings of the Governor's Address were covered by the Doordarshan and the All India Radio. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved and adopted by the House without any amendments.

Legislative business : During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House : (i) The Maharashtra Pre-School Centres (Regulation of Admission) Bill, 1996; (ii) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Extension to the Scheduled Areas and Amendment) Bill, 1997; (iii) The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1997; (iv) The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Specified Commodities Markets (Regulation of Location) (Enactment of Bye-Laws with retrospective effect to provide for levy and collection of the Registration fee and Market fee and Validation and Continuance) Bill, 1997; (v) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (vi) The Bombay Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (vii) The Bombay Landing and Wharfage Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (viii) The

*Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat.

Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Amendment, Enactment of rules with retrospective effect and Validation) Bill, 1997; (ix) The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control (Extension of Duration) Bill, 1997; (x) The Bombay Sales Tax and the Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xi) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1997; (xii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997; (xiii) The Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation Bill, 1997; (xiv) The Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit Vishvavidyalaya (University) Bill, 1997; (xv) The Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) (Retrospective Extension of Duration) Bill, 1997; (xvi) The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (xvii) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 1997; and (xviii) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1997.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of former Ministers, Sarvashri Shankarrao Vithalrao Sonawane, Bhanushankar Manchharam Yagnik, Uttamrao Baliram Rathod and Vilas Vishnu Sawant. Obituary references were also made to the passing away of former members of the Assembly, Sarvashri Yeshwantrao Baburao Patil (Parlekar), Tarachand Hirachan Vadgaonkar, Genuji Govind Kadam, Govind Dattatray Sane, Navsheravan Navarozji Sattha, Bhaguji Nivrutti Satpute, Balvant Shivling Kore, Ahmed Shabaji Mulla, Santram Sakharam Patil, Nanasahab Savlaram Jedhe, Vishveshvarrao Dharmrao Atram, Col. C.L. Proudftut, Dr. Dattatray Narayan Samant and Smt. Ashatai Anandrao Waghmare. The House also took note of the tragedy that had befallen the pilgrims from Maharashtra who had gone on Haj when a fire broke out near Mecca on 15 April 1997.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL*

The First Session of the Maharashtra Legislative Council for the year 1997 commenced on 17 March 1997. The House was prorogued by the Governor on 27 April 1997. The House sat for 24 days in all.

Address by the Governor : The Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. P.C. Alexander addressed members of both Houses of the legislature assembled together on 17 March 1997.

Legislative business : During the Session, the following four Money Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly, were considered by the House: (i) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1997; (ii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997; (iii) The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1997; and (iv) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 1997. In addition, the following thirteen Bills as passed by the Legislative Assembly were considered and passed by

*Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat.

the Houses; (i) The Maharashtra Pre-School Centres (Regulation of Admission) Bill, 1996; (ii) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Extension to the Scheduled Areas and Amendment) Bill, 1997; (iii) The Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1997; (iv) The Mumbai metropolitan Region Specified Commodities markets (Regulation of Location) (Enactment of Bye-laws with retrospective effect to provide for levy and collection of Registration fee and market fee and Validation and Continuance) Bill, 1997; (v) The Bombay court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (vi) The Bombay Landing and Wharfage Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (vii) The Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Board (Amendment, Enactment of rules with retrospective effect and Validation) Bill, 1997; (viii) The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control (Extension of Duration) Bill, 1997; (ix) The Bombay Sales Tax and Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) (Amendment) Bill, 1997; (x) The Kavi Kulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit Vishva-vidyalaya (University) Bill, 1997; (xi) The Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) (Retrospective Extension of Duration) Bill, 1997; (xii) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1997; and (xiii) The Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation Bill, 1997.

Financial business : On 17 March 1997, the Minister of State for Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1996-97. The Budget for the year 1997-98 was presented on 18 March 1997. The discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants was held on 25 and 26 March 1997 and the general discussion on the Budget was held on 27 and 28 March 1997.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of two former Ministers, Sarvashri Shankarrao Vithalrao Sonawane and Uttamarao Baliram Rathod; and former members of the House, Sarvashri Digamber Hari Sahastrabuddhe, Nanasahab Salvalram Jedhe and Smt. Dhirajben Popatlal Sanghavi.

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

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	20 February to 16 May 1997
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	37
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	258 hours and 40 minutes
4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	1
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	10
ii) Introduced	24
iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	6
iv) Referred to Joint Committee	1
v) Reported by Standing Committee	3
vi) Referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committees by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Chairman, Rajya Sabha	2
vii) Discussed	27
viii) Passed	25
ix) Withdrawn	1
x) Part-discussed	12
xi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	13
xii) Pending at the end of the Session	14
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	76
ii) Introduced	46
iii) Discussed	3
iv) Withdrawn	1
v) Part-discussed	2
vi) Discussion postponed	1
vii) Pending at the end of the Session	121
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
i) Notices received	87
ii) Admitted	1
iii) Discussion held	1
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	1
9. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	31
10. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	2
11. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
i) Notices received	166
ii) Admitted	14

iii) Moved	11
iv) Adopted	1
v) Negatived	4
vi) Withdrawn	6
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
i) Received	6
ii) Admitted	6
iii) Discussed	1
iv) Part-discussed	1
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
i) Notices received	3
ii) Admitted	3
iii) Discussed	3*
iv) Adopted	1
v) Negatived	1
vi) Part-discussed	1
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
i) Notices received	179
ii) Admitted	30
15. MOTION REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULES	
i) Received	1
ii) Admitted	1
16. NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES CREATED, DURING THE SESSION	2
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	22,282
18. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	2,325 passes on 11 April 1997
19. NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
i) Brought before the House	5
ii) Consent withheld by the Speaker outside the House	—
20. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
i) Starred	600
ii) Unstarred	6,099

*Including two Confidence Motions

21 WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 January to 30 June 1997	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	5	4
(ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	2	2
(iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	8	6
(iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	—
(v)	Committee on Petitions	6	3
(vi)	Committee on Private Members	5	5
(vii)	Bills and Resolutions Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	5	—
(viii)	Committee on Privileges	2	—
(ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
(x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	6	8
(xi)	Estimates Committee	9	2
(xii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
(xiii)	House Committee	—	—
(a)	Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
(b)	Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
(xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	13	7
(xv)	Railway Convention Committee	1	1
(xvi)	Rules Committee	1	2

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES

(i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	2	—
-----	--------------------------------------	---	---

STANDING COMMITTEES

(i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
(ii)	Committee on Communications	8	3
(iii)	Committee on Defence	4	3
(iv)	Committee on Energy	6	9
(v)	Committee on External Affairs	3	3
(vi)	Committee on Finance	7	3
(vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	2	2
(viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	—	—
(ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	—	—
(x)	Committee on Railways	—	—
(xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	9	7

22. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 15

23. PETITIONS PRESENTED 1

24. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATE

4 (elected) on
20 February 1997
2 (nominated) on
25 February 1997

APPENDIX II
STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK
TRANSACTIONED DURING THE HUNDRED AND
EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	20 February to 16 May 1997
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	36
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	190 hours
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	NII
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	23
	(ii) Introduced	6
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	21*
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	1
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	NII
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	1
	(vii) Referred to the Departmentally-related Standing Committees	2
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	NII
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	NII
	(x) Reported by the Departmentally-related Standing Committees	3
	(xi) Discussed	27*
	(xii) Passed	27*
	(xiii) Withdrawn	NII
	(xiv) Negatived	NII
	(xv) Part-discussed	NII
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	13
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	NII
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	23
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	100
	(ii) Introduced	24
	(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
	(v) Reported by Joint Committee	NII

**Including the Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1997 on which amendments made by the Lok Sabha were agreed to by the Rajya Sabha*

(vi) Discussed	1
(vii) Withdrawn	1
(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	NII
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	123
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i) Notices received	17
(ii) Admitted	4*
(iii) Discussions held	1
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
Statements made by Ministers	1
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	2
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	30
(ii) Admitted	30
(iii) Moved	8
(iv) Adopted	NII
(v) Negatived	1
(vi) Withdrawn	7
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	NII
(ii) Admitted	NII
(iii) Moved	NII
(iv) Adopted	NII
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	8
(ii) Admitted	8
(iii) Discussed	NII
(iv) Withdrawn	1
(v) Negatived	NII
(vi) Adopted	NII
(vii) Part-discussed	1
(viii) Discussion postponed	NII

**Notices on identical subjects were clubbed together*

13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	NII
(ii) Admitted	NII
(iii) Moved	NII
(iv) Adopted	NII
(v) Part-discussed	NII
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	3
(ii) Admitted	NII
(iii) Moved	NII
(iv) Adopted	NII
(v) Part-discussed	NII
(vi) Negatived	NII
(vii) Withdrawn	NII
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	—
(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.	
(i) Ethics Committee on	4.3.1997
(ii) Committee on the Provision of Computers to the Members of the Rajya Sabha on	18.3.1997
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	1931
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	3,807
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	99 on 19.3.97
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	247 on 5.3.97
21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	600
(ii) Unstarred	4,578
(ii) Short Notice Questions	NII
22. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES	3
i) Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation	
ii) Ministry of Welfare	
iii) Ministry of External Affairs	

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 January to 30 June 1997	No. of Reports presented during the 180th Session
(i) Business Advisory Committee	7	Nil
(ii) Committee on Subordinate Legislation	6	1
(iii) Committee on Petitions	7	Nil
(iv) Committee on Privileges	1	3
(v) Committee on Rules	1	Nil
(vi) Committee on Government Assurances	11	Nil
(vii) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	5	2
DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES ON :		
(viii) Commerce	4	3
(ix) Home Affairs	20	5
(x) Human Resource Development	9	10
(xi) Industry	8	2
(xii) Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	18	13
(xiii) Transport and Tourism	8	3
OTHER COMMITTEES		
(xiv) Ethics Committee	4	Nil
(xv) Committee on Provision of Computer to the Members of the Rajya Sabha	2	Nil
(xvi) Committee on Problems of Cotton Growers	5	Nil
24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE		2
25. PETITIONS PRESENTED		4
26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES		

Sl. No.	Name of members	Party	Date
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri J. Chitharanjan	C.P.I.	22.4.97
2.	Shri K. Karunakaran	Cong. (I)	—do—
3.	Shri S. Ramachandran Pillai	C.P.I. (M)	—do—

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting member/Ex-member/dignitary
1.	Deng Xiaoping	Chinese leader
2.	Shri D.K. Jadhav	Ex-member
3.	Dr. Bezwada Gopala Reddi	—do—
4.	Shri Veerendra Patil	—do—
5.	Shri Biju Patnaik	—do—
6.	Prof. Saurin Bhattacharya	—do—
7.	Shri B.C. Bhagawati	—do—

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD
1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 1997

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	420(112)	130(239)*	—
Assam L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.	7.3.97 to 8.4.97	20	15(15)	—	1138(358)	237(736)	58(47)
Chhatisgarh L.A.	24.2.97 to 6.3.97	9	2(2)	—	1534(0892)	15(559)	646(79)
Delhi L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	348(236)	—
Haryana L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	18.3.97 to 2.5.97	13	1(1)	—	325(295)	253(46)	26(4)
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kolkata L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	7.2.97 to 21.3.97	—	17	5804(3452)	2759(2942)	—	6
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	22.7.97 to 23.7.97	2	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	15.3.97 to 27.3.97	9	3(3)	—	72(71)	24(23)	—
Orissa L.A.	21.2.97 to 5.4.97	31	2(4)	7	3393(2182)	3003(3693) ^(b)	87(6)
Punjab L.A.	10.6.97 to 14.7.97	12	3(3)	—	376(296)	106(92)	—
Rajasthan L.A.	22.1.97 to 31.1.97 5.3.97 to 30.4.97	38	49(48) ^(c)	—	5093(1770)	(662)	13(12)
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
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) 3,698 notices were converted into Starred Questions

(c) 1 Bill was referred to select committee

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

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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																
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.		19	24		8	20	8	34	15			3	22	1		21 ^a
Assam L.A.	1	2(1)	2(1)		7	1		6(1)	2		1	2	6			5(2) ^b
Bihar L.A.	1	68	48			39	87	55	56	2	53	59	86			362(3) ^c
Bihar L.C. ^{**}																

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Delhi L.A.	—	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	1	3	—	—	24
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2 ^d
Gujarat L.A.	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	3	3	—	1	1	3	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.	—	14	1	—	3	16	11	9	12	—	5	12	21	13	—	8 ^e
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C. 1(1)	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	—	—	5	—	4	7(2)	7(1)	1(3)	6	—	—	2	9	—	—	—
Karnataka L.C.	—	—	—	—	3	7(2)	7(1)	10(3)	6	—	—	2	9	—	—	14 ^f
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14 ^g
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	3(3)	6(2)	3(1)	7(5)	14(8)	4(27)	3(1)	3	4(1)	—	4	1(1)	6(21)	1	—	—
Maharashtra L.A.	2(2)	12(1)	3	—	6	13(1)	9(1)	17(2)	19(1)	—	—	1	16(2)	1	2	9(2) ^h
Maharashtra L.C.	1	11(1)	—	—	—	13(1)	9(1)	17(2)	19(1)	—	—	1	16(2)	—	2	35(1) ⁱ
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35(1) ^j
Meghalaya L.A.	1	12	2	—	1	3	2	6	7	—	1	—	4	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	1	1(1)	—	—	—	1	1(2)	—	1	—	—	—	1(3)	1(1)	—	—
Orissa L.A.**	—	8	6	—	—	8	10	8	10	—	8	—	11	—	4	—
Punjab L.A.	2(2)	2	3	—	—	3	3	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	23 ^k
Rajasthan L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ^l
Sikkim L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	5	9(3)	5(6)	—	3(2)	12(33)	—	—	19(8)	—	13	—	5(27)	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12(12) ^m

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
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) Amenities Committee-1 sitting; Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes-10 sittings; and Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-10 sittings
- (b) Employment Review Committee-1 sitting and 1 report; Act Implementation Committee-2 sittings; and Committee on the Welfare of other Backward Classes and more other Backward Classes-2 sittings and 7 reports
- (c) Zila Parishad/Zila Panchayati Raj Committee-53 sittings; Bunker Welfare Committee-55 sittings; Nivedan Committee-56 sittings and 2 reports; Joint Committee on Aketra-55 sittings; special Committee on Land Scandal-35 sittings; and Special Committee on Demolition of Lakshman Swamkar MLA's House by District Administration, Giridih-8 sittings and 1 report
- (d) Papers Laid on, the Table-1 sitting; and Committee on Cremation Grounds (Sharnshan Ghats)-1 sitting
- (e) Members Allowances Committee-1 sitting; Committee on Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes-3 sittings; and An Ad hoc Committee appointed by the House to inquire into the malpractices and corruption in exemption of land during the year 1995 and 1996 under section 20 & 21 of Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulations) Act, 1976-2 sittings
- (f) Committee on the Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities-5 sittings; Committee on Papers laid-7 sittings; and Committee on women and Child Welfare-2 sittings
- (g) Committee on the Welfare of Backward Classes and Minorities-5 sittings; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-7 sittings; and Committee on Women and Child Welfare-2 sittings
- (h) Women and Children's Welfare Committee-7 sittings and 1 report; and Committee Examining the Papers Laid on the Table-2 sittings and 1 report

- (i) Panchayati Raj Committee-10 sittings; Catering Committee-4 sittings; Joint Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances-1 sitting; V.J.N.T.-9 sittings and 1 report; and Employment Guarantee Scheme-11 sittings
- (j) Panchayati Raj Committee-10 sittings; Catering Committee-4 sittings; Joint Committee on Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances-1 sitting; V.J.N.T.-9 sittings and 1 report; and Employment Guarantee Scheme-11 sittings
- (k) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-5 sittings; House Committee on Prawn Culture-1 sitting; House Committee on Environment-2 sittings; House Committee on Linguistic Minorities-2 sittings; House Committee on Women and Child Welfare-4 sittings; House Committee on Lord Shri Jaganath Temple Administration and its resources mobilization-3 sittings; and House Committee on Drought-6 sittings
- (l) Committee on papers Laid to be Laid on the Table-1 sitting
- (m) Committee on papers Laid on the Table-12 sittings and 12 reports

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

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1997	12.5.1997
2.	The Finance Bill, 1997	14.5.1997
3.	The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1997	14.5.1997
4.	The Rice-Milling Industry (Regulation) Repeal Bill, 1997	28.5.1997
5.	The Seamen's Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1997	28.5.1997
6.	The Vice-President's Pension Bill, 1997	28.5.1997

APPENDIX V

SO BILLS ENIT
THE HOUSES OF
THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING
THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 1997

BIHAR VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Bihar Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997
2. The Bihar Appropriation Bill, 1997

MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Mahatma Gandhi Gram ya Pradesh) Sanshodhan Bill, 1997
4. The Madhya Pradesh Krishi Upaj Mandi (Amendment) Bill, 1997
5. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog Bill, 1997
6. The Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha MLA Vetan, Bhatta Tatha Pension (Amendment) (No. 17) Bill, 1997
7. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (No. 2) Bill, 1997
8. The Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 1997
9. The Bharatiya Stamp (Madhya Pradesh) Second (Amendment) Bill, 1997
10. The Madhya Pradesh Commercial Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
11. The Madhya Pradesh Moteryan Karadhan (Amendment) Bill, 1997
12. The Madhya Pradesh Nagar Palika Vidhi (Amendment) Bill, 1997
13. The Judicial Fees (Madhya Pradesh) (Amendment) Bill, 1997
14. The Madhya Pradesh Local Area Main Maal Ke Pravesh Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
15. The Madhya Pradesh Speaker & Deputy Speaker Leader of the Opposition Vetan Tatha Bhatta (Vidhi Amendment) Bill, 1997
16. The Madhya Praddesh Minister Vetan, Bhatta (Amendment) Bill, 1997

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Nagaland Health Care Establishment Bill, 1997
2. The Nagaland Appropriation Bill (No. 1), 1997
3. The Nagaland Appropriation Bill (No. 2), 1997

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

- * 1. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Orissa Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The Orissa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1997

*Awaiting assent

3. The Orissa Electric Supply Line Material (Unlawful Possession) Amendment Bill, 1997
4. The Orissa Legislative Assembly Members' Salary, Allowances and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 1997

PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA

1. The Punjab Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1997
2. The Punjab General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
3. The Punjab Land Revenue (Abolition) Bill, 1997

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries (Amendment) Bill, 1997
2. The Tamil Nadu Private Clinical Establishments (Regulation) Bill, 1997
3. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1997
4. The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1997
5. The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1997
6. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Amendment Bill, 1997
7. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Amendment (No. 7) Bill, 1997
8. The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Ragging Bill, 1997
9. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1997
10. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Subsistence Allowance (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *11. The Chennai City Civil Court (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *12. The Tamil Nadu Protection of Interests of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Bill, 1997
13. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
14. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
15. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 1997
16. The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *17. The Tamil Nadu Cultivating Tenants (Protection from Eviction) Bill, 1997
18. The Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (Amendment) Bill, 1997
19. The Registration (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *20. The Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 1997
21. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1997
22. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation Bill, 1997
- *23. The Tamil University (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *24. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Township Area Development Authority Bill, 1997
- *25. The Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *26. The Tamil Nadu Right to Information Bill, 1997

*Awaiting assent

- *27. The Tamil Nadu Cinemas (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1997
- *28. The Tamil Nadu District Development Councils (Repeal) Bill, 1997
- *29. The Chennai Metropolitan Area Groundwater (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 1997
- *30. The Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *31. The Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies (Appointment of Special Officers) Second Amendment Bill, 1997
- *32. The Criminal Law (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *33. The Tamil Nadu Payment of Salaries (Amendment) Repeal Bill, 1997
- *34. The Tamil Nadu Siddha System of Medicine (Development and Registration of Practitioners) Bill, 1997
- *35. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *36. The Tamil Nadu Acquisition of Land for Industrial Purposes Bill, 1997
- *37. The Tamil Nadu Animals and Birds in Urban Areas (Control and Regulation) Bill, 1997
- *38. The Tamil Nadu Urban Land Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *39. The Tamil Nadu Special Courts Bill, 1997
- 40. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1997
- *41. The Tamil Nadu Lifts Bill, 1997
- 42. The Tamil Nadu Urban Local Bodies Bill, 1997
- *43. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 1997
- *44. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 1997
- *45. The Tamil Nadu Compulsory Elementary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *46. The Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *47. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *48. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 1997
- *49. The Periyar University Bill, 1997

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 1997

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date(s) on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	5.6.1997	—	4.9.1997	—
2.	The Out of turn Allotment of Government Residences (Validation) Ordinance, 1997	21.6.1997	—	4.9.1997	—
STATE GOVERNMENTS					
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	The A.P. Public Examinations (Prevention of Malpractices and Unfair Means) Ordinance, 1997	28.4.97	22.7.97	—	Replaced by legislation
2.	The A.P. Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	2.5.97	22.7.97	—	-do-
3.	The Hyderabad Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	9.5.97	22.7.97	—	-do-
BIHAR					
1.	The Patna University (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	24.1.97	—	—	—

2.	The Bihar State University (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	24.1.97	—	—	—
3.	The Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council Amendment Ordinance, 1997	5.2.97	—	—	—
GUJARAT					
1.	The Gujarat Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	30.5.97	—	—	—
KARNATAKA					
1.	The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	17.5.97	—	—	—
2.	The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	21.5.97	—	—	—
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	28.5.97	7.7.97	17.8.97	—
MHARASHTRA					
1.	The Nagaland Prohibition (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	20.5.97	22.3.97	—	—

	ORISSA			
1. The Orissa Municipal (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	15.5.97	—	—	—
TAMIL NADU				
1. The Tamil Nadu Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997	—	4.1.97	24.1.97	Replaced by legislation
2. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Amendment Ordinance, 1997	—	17.1.97	—	-do-

APPENDIX VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA
(AS ON 16 JUNE 1997)

Sl. No.	States	Seats	BJP	INC	JD	CPM	TMC	DMK	SP	TDP	SHIV SENA	BSP	CPI	SAD	SMP	ORS	IND	TOT- TAL	VAC- ANCIES
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	—	21	—	1	—	—	—	17	—	—	2	—	—	1(a)	—	42	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—
3.	Assam	14	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6(b)	1	14	—
4.	Bihar	54	18	2	22	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	5	2(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	—

2. Tamil Nadu	39	—	—	—	20	17	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	
3. Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
4. Uttar Pradesh	85	52	4	2	—	16	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	85	
5. West Bengal	42	—	9	—	23	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	
UNION TERRITORIES																					
16. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
17. Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
18. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
19. 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	163	139	45	32	20	17	17	17	15	11	12	8	5	5	33	9	9	545		

a) All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen-1

b) Autonomous State Demand Committee-1; and Asom Gana Parishad-5

c) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-1; Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)-1

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) Shikim 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-3; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-4

**B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA
(AS ON 3 JULY 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	9 (a)	—	17	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
3.	Assam	7	4	—	—	—	2 (b)	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	22	4	3	12	—	3 (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	6	—	—	—	1	10	—
21.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	1 (h)	—	1	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	18	3	—	—	—	15 (i)	—	18	—
23.	Tripura	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	34	4	15	1	—	10 (j)	4	34	—
25.	West Bengal	16	1	—	—	11	4 (k)	—	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES										
	Delhi	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
	Pondicherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Nominated	12	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	9
TOTAL		245	87	45	23	15	55	10	235	10

- (a) T.D.P.-8; T.D.-1 - 1
 (b) Asom Gana Parishad - 1; Autonomous State Demand Committee-1
 (c) C.P.I. - 3
 (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
 (k) R.S.P. - 1; C.P.I. - 1; F.B. - 2

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. (1.7.97)	295	26	—	3	15	18	222 ^(a)	11	295	—
Assam L.A. (1.7.97)	126	37	—	4	2	3	69 ^(a)	11	126	—
Bihar L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A. (1.7.97)	70	17	1	48	—	—	—	3	69	1
Goa L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A. (30.6.97)	182	45	—	69	—	—	53 ^(a)	15	182	—
Haryana L.A. (30.6.97)	90	12	—	11	—	—	55 ^(a)	10	88 ^(a)	1
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C. (30.6.97)	30	—	1	1	—	1	26 ^(a)	1	30	—
Karnataka L.A. (1.6.97)	225	42	112	39	1	—	10 ^(b)	18	222 ^(a)	2
Karnataka L.C. (1.7.97)	75	18	12	9	—	—	6 ^(b)	4	49 ^(a)	25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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● 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-217; Majlis Batchao Tehreek-2; All India Majlis-Ittehad-Ul-Muslimeen-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) Maha Gujarat Janata Party-52; and Rashtriya Janata Party (Gujarat)-1
- (d) Haryana Vikas Party-31; Samata Party-22; and Unattached-2
- (e) National Conference-26
- (f) Karnataka Congress Legislature Party (Pragathi) -4; Kamataka Rajya Raitha Sangha Party-1; Kannada Chaluvali Vatal Paksha-1; AIADMK-1; Bharathiya Republican Paksha-1; Bahujan Samaj Party-1; and Nominated-1
- (g) Separate Legislature Group of JD-6
- (h) Bahujan Samaj Party-11; Samata Party-1; Chattisgarh Muktimorcha-1; Bharatiya Republican Party-1; Gondwana Republican Party-1; and Nominated-1
- (i) U.M.P.F.-42; and Opposition-15
- (j) Nagaland People Council-10
- (k) J.M.M.-4; and J.P.P.-1
- (l) Shiromani Akali Dal-75; Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann)-1; and Bahujan Samaj Party-1
- (m) D.M.K.-166; Tamil Manila Congress (Moopanar)-39; Indian National League-5; AIADMK-4; Pattali Makkal Katchi-4; All India Forward Bloc-2; Devindrar Sangam-1; and Nominated-1

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