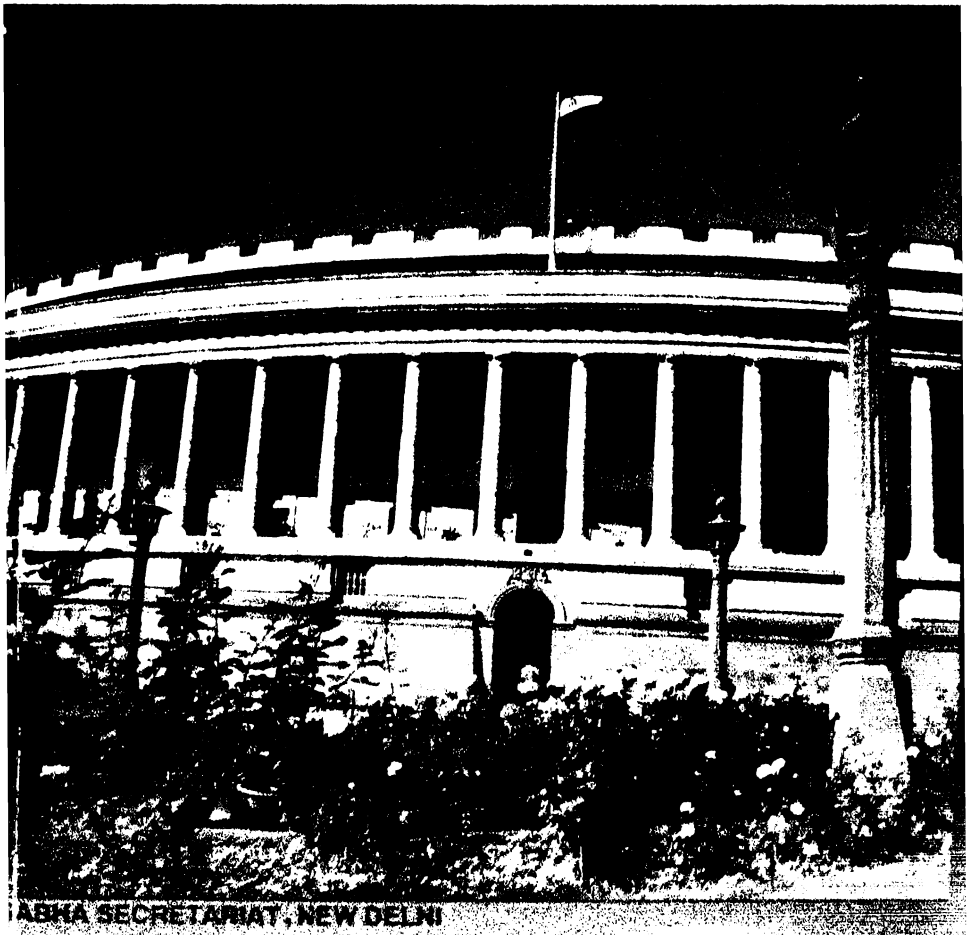


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MARCH 1997

The Journal of Parliamentary Information



THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

EDITOR : S. Gopalan

The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, aims at the dissemination of authoritative information about the practices and procedures that are continuously being evolved in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The *Journal* also purports to serve as an authentic recorder of important parliamentary events and activities and provides a useful forum to members of Parliament and State Legislatures and other experts for the expression of their views and opinions, thereby contributing to the development and strengthening of parliamentary democracy in the country.

The Editor would welcome articles on constitutional, parliamentary and legal subjects for publication in the *Journal*. A modest token honorarium is payable for articles, etc. accepted for publication in the *Journal*. The articles should be type-written on only one side of the paper.

Latest standard books are reviewed in the *Journal* by members of Parliament and scholars. Books intended for review should be sent to the Editor.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was one of the brightest stars of the national liberation movement whose perception on issues facing the country at large substantially influenced the making of modern India. A grateful nation, in the Golden Jubilee year of Independence, remembers with deep admiration and immense pride, the unremitting endeavours of Netaji to throw away the yoke of colonialism and wrest for the country its rightful place among the comity of independent nations. In the Birth Centenary Year of the *Desh Nayak*, most appropriately, a statue of Netaji was unveiled in the Parliament House Complex on 23 January 1997 by the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. Later, a function was held in the Central Hall of Parliament House which was addressed by the President; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; and the Minister-in Charge, Public Works Department, Government of West Bengal, Shri Kshiti Goswami. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

The 60th Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in New Delhi on 10-11 October 1996. The Conference held detailed discussion on various issues of topical concern as far as the Legislatures are concerned. The Conference was opened by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma on 10 October 1996. In his thought-provoking Address, he touched upon several areas of crucial interest to our parliamentary democratic system. We include in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Opening Address by Shri P.A. Sangma.

Ever since its inception in 1880, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has offered a forum for worldwide parliamentary dialogue on subjects of global interest, particularly for parliamentarians and legislators. With national Parliaments of 135 countries on its membership, the IPU is often viewed as a microcosm of the world itself. The Union ceaselessly strives to focus attention on global issues through its biannual Conferences, Specialized Conferences and Seminars and Symposia and also through its many publications. In recent times, the IPU has laid emphasis on the status of women in all walks of life, particularly on their participation in political life. The Union strongly believes that democracy will assume true significance only when political policies and legislations are jointly decided by men and women in the interests of both halves of the population - a partnership for democracy.

In its continuing efforts to promote this cause, the IPU organized an Inter-Parliamentary Specialized Conference on the subject, together with the Parliament of India, in New Delhi, from 14 to 18 February 1997. Shri John

Joseph, Director, Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS), in his article titled *Inter-Parliamentary Specialized Conference on "Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics"- An Overview*, discusses the varied activities of the Conference, while laying stress on the many ideas and suggestions which emerged during the Sessions. The deliberations at the Conference displayed a commitment on the part of the delegates to the main theme. The discussions threw light on various aspects of the subject matter which facilitated a better understanding of the core issues. As Shri Joseph concludes, the New Delhi Conference has undoubtedly contributed substantially towards promoting partnership between men and women in politics.

This issue of the *Journal* also carries a Review by Justice Guman Mal Lodha, MP of the title, *Law, Legislature and Judiciary* authored by Shri Umeshwar Prasad Varma, a former Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council.

Besides, this issue of the *Journal* includes our other regular Features, viz. Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Sessional Review 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 and others interested in the practice of parliamentary democracy.

—S. Gopalan
Editor

ADDRESSES AT THE UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

On 23 January 1997, the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was unveiled by the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma between Gate No.5 and the Central Hall, near the Prime Ministers' Office in Parliament House. The statue was sculpted by the renowned sculptor, Shri Kartick Chandra Paul. Later, a function was held in the Central Hall which was addressed by the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P. A. Sangma; and the Minister-in-Charge, Public Works Department, Government of West Bengal, Shri Kshiti Goswami.

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

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, SHRI KSHITI GOSWAMI

Respected Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, President of India, Respected Shri K.R. Narayanan, Vice-President of India, Respected Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Prime Minister of India, Shri P.A. Sangma, Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Honourable Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Honourable Union Ministers, Honourable Members of Parliament and other Respected Dignitaries:

It is a proud privilege for me to be invited to be present here on this historic occasion when the statue of our great leader Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is being unveiled in the Parliament Complex by the President of India.

The Birth Centenary day of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has a very great significance to anybody who feels proud to be an Indian. This great patriotic leader's uncompromising anti-imperialist role as a son of a country under the bondage of foreign rule will be remembered for ever by every Indian.

His strategy of organising freedom movement was based on organising the popular mass movement on the one hand and, when necessary, resorting to armed struggle on the other. He was with Mahatma Gandhi to fight the foreign rule through non-violent methods; side by side, he maintained an active connection with the organisations which wanted to achieve freedom through armed struggle.

The courageous way by which he escaped from the country and the manner in which he raised a national army by utilising the enemies of the British empire were legendary. People of all parts of this country, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, community and gender, joined his Indian National

Army (INA) which truly represented the Indian nation itself. The courage, determination, foresight and love for the country he showed in building the Indian National Army in exile, leave us to marvel if he was the one who really lived among us! We are left awestruck when we think of this great leader of the country whose proportions were of a mythical hero of an epic poem, rather than that of a mortal human being.

His perception of freedom was great: "Freedom to me means freedom for the society as also for the individual man and woman and rich and poor alike". Freedom meant for him not only liberation from the foreign rule but also equitable distribution of wealth, eradication of casteism, social injustice and rising above parochialism and dogmatism.

It is a great tragedy that we did not have the benefit of his leadership in free India. It is also a tragedy that we are yet to achieve a free society that he dreamt of. Now, as we continue to struggle for achieving a society based on the principles of equity and justice where every man is assured of a safe and honourable life, he continues to be a source of inspiration for the nation.

This day would become a memorable day for the nation as the statue of this great freedom fighter is being unveiled in the Indian Parliament precincts and I congratulate the Government of India and the Honourable Speaker of Lok Sabha, Honourable ex-Speaker, Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Jyoti Basu, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, MP, Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose for taking the initiative to install the statue of this great patriot and great leader of the Indian nation in the Parliament House Complex. I, on behalf of the Government of West Bengal, would like to place on record that the people of West Bengal are proud and happy in joining the nation in paying homage to a great son of India by participating in the installation of this statue which has been prepared by the renowned sculptor, Shri Kartick Chandra Paul of Krishnagar, Nadia, West Bengal.

Thank you all.

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

Rashtrapatiji, Upa-Rashtrapatiji, Prime Minister, Shri Kshiti Goswami, Honourable Minister for PWD, Government of West Bengal, Relatives of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Distinguished Guests:

The Colossus of India's freedom movement, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has today come to take his place in these hallowed premises of the Parliament of our country, though not in flesh and blood. He is immortal in a living sense too. He lives in the hearts of millions of our countrymen. His ideals are timeless too.

Most often, it is experience that makes a revolutionary. Netaji was born as such. He rebelled against academic establishment as a student leader,

against the British and even against the moderation and passivity of Mahatma Gandhi's non-conformism. He came to symbolise the radical and militant dimension of the freedom movement. He was an enigma for all. His ideals and vision transcended his contemporary times.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, while showering tributes on him characterising him as DESH NAYAK, said: "Subhas Chandra, I have watched the dawn that witnessed the beginning of your political SADHANA. In that uncertain twilight there had been misgivings in my heart and I had hesitated to accept you for what you are..... You have come to absorb varied experiences..... enlarging your vision so as to embrace the vast perspectives of history beyond any narrow limits of territory....."

Netaji was a human being of rare versatility. He was a philosopher. Philosophy was indeed his major in higher education. He imbibed the thoughts of Aurobindo Ghose and Swami Vivekananda. No surprise, then, that with an incredible sense of otherworldliness he denied himself the security of Civil Service and opted for the rigours of a soldier of our independence movement, suffering prison life repeatedly.

For the British rulers of India, Netaji was a fugitive from law. But for the people of India, he was the ambassador of their cause of freedom. The Provisional Government of Azad Hind established by him abroad and his effort to invade his motherland from abroad to end British rule was a moving epic. Writing to Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji said that the sole objective of the Provisional Government was liberation of India and once that mission was achieved, he and his comrades would like to retire.

His alliance with the Japanese in fighting the British stemmed from his diplomatic skill. He was quick to see that the enemy's enemy is a friend and he saw the Japanese in that mould.

Netaji professed and practised secularism. In his secular world, the Hindus, the Muslims, the Christians and the Sikhs were comrades without conflicts.

Three weeks from hence our Rashtrapatiiji will be inaugurating an International Conference of Parliamentarians from all over the world in which political participation by women will be discussed. More than half a century back, Netaji had made women's political participation a reality by organising the Rani Jhansi Regiment of the Indian National Army.

Today is the 100th birth anniversary of Netaji. Let us dedicate ourselves to live by his ideals of selflessness, patriotism, national unity and integrity, secularism and impatience for change so that in the millennia to come, we can hold our heads high and live in dignity.

My special compliments to Kartick Chandra Paul, the sculptor for his life-like recreation of the DESH NAYAK.

With these words, I welcome all the distinguished guests.

Jai Hind.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER, SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Upa-Rashtrapatiji, Shri P.A. Sangma, Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Leader of Opposition, Lok Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht, Leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, my Ministerial Colleagues, Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I feel privileged to be present here today to participate in the function for unveiling the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one of the tallest leaders of India's freedom struggle.

The year-long celebrations to commemorate the Birth Centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose begin today, and it is indeed appropriate that we pay homage to this great leader by installing his statue in Parliament House.

We are all deeply aware of the fervent patriotism of Subhas Chandra Bose. His name and the role he played in the freedom struggle is a part of our national heritage. An exceptionally gifted student, young Subhas successfully entered the Indian Civil Service in 1920. A life of luxury, untrammelled power and status awaited him. The ICS were the real rulers of India at that time. Instead, he chose a path of struggle and immersed himself in the fight for national liberation. He was destined to lead the nation towards freedom and inspire future generations. His sacrifice in the cause of national independence, his patriotism and sheer moral courage inspired millions of people across the country to join the great freedom movement.

As the President of the Congress, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose exhibited the long-term vision that he had for the future development of the nation. India should not only be politically free, but should also join the ranks of industrialised and economically developed nations of the world. This was his dream. Much before India won freedom, Netaji set up a National Planning Committee to prepare a plan for economic development of the country. The roots of planning in India lay in his belief that freedom ultimately had to have a meaning for the people of the country.

Most of us present here would remember the patriotic fervour that swept the country in the spring of 1944 when we came to know about the victorious march of the Indian National Army led by Subhas Bose to the eastern frontiers of India. That was a time when all young people dreamt of immediate liberation from the foreign yoke. It was inspiring leadership at its finest hour and imbued with deep love for the country. Not only by his words but also by his deeds, Subhas Chandra Bose made us all feel proud to be Indians at that time and gave us hope for the future.

This year, we are celebrating the Birth Centenary of Netaji as also the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. It is the right time to re-dedicate ourselves to the values and ideals for which Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

and other great leaders of our freedom movement stood and fought-values of patriotism, commitment to duty, moral courage, secularism and selfless service. The best tribute that we can pay to Netaji is to inculcate these values and dedicate ourselves to the service of the nation.

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 :

On the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, one would like to remember him as an impassioned and impetuous young man and not as one who would have been hundred years today. "There is nothing", he said once, "that lures me more than a life of adventure away from the beaten track and in search of the unknown. In this life there may be suffering, but there is joy as well; there may be darkness, but there are also hours of dawn. To this path, I call my countrymen". To the end, Netaji's voice was the voice of youth, and the call to action.

It is important for us to remember that clarion call today. The elan of the freedom struggle and the elation of the days of Independence have faded, and no new great ideas agitate our minds. We would rather seek the comforts of adjustment than the perils of adventure, rather nestle in our cosy little nests than try to storm the Heavens. The age of heroism, it seems, is dead and the age of narrowness and pettiness has set in. But let us take heart from the flaming courage of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose who once said : "... no suffering, no sacrifice is ever futile. It is through suffering and sacrifice alone that a cause can flourish and prosper, and in every age and clime, the eternal law prevails, 'the blood of the martyr is the seed of the church'." There are many a seed yet to sprout and flourish from the blood of our martyrs in the sacred soil of India.

Gandhiji, with his unerring instinct for the essential, had said : "The greatest lesson that we can draw from Netaji's life is the way in which he infused the spirit of unity amongst his men so that they could rise above all religious and provincial barriers and shed together their blood for common cause". The same sentiment was expressed by a *jawan* of the INA when he said with stark simplicity : "In India we have many religions and many Gods. But here everything is Jai Hind". That indeed is the message of Netaji's life and martyrdom to his countrymen today.

Netaji's life was not all fire and air, courage and sacrifice. Undemeath his impetuosity and the military attire of the hero, there lurked a vision of India, clear and constructive. Very early in his political career, he had realised that only by emphasising our common interests we could cut across our communal divisions and dissensions, and he declared that a policy of

live and let live in matters religious, and understanding in matters, economic and political, should be our objective. It is to his eternal credit that he gave these beliefs of his practical shape while organising the Indian National Army.

In his address as President of the Indian National Congress in 1938, Subhas Chandra Bose put forward his ideas clearly and succinctly. He outlined the policy of a future National Government of India as three-fold: first prepare the country for sacrifice, secondly to unify India and thirdly give scope for local and cultural autonomy. He stated that whatever political talent or genius we may possess as a people, would have to be used in reconciling the last two objectives of unity and autonomy. With remarkable foresight and clear grasp of the realities, he said that while unifying the country through a strong Central Government, we would have to put all minority communities as well as the Provinces at their ease by allowing them a large measure of autonomy in cultural as well as governmental affairs.

Subhas Chandra Bose was the father of planning in India. As the Congress President in 1938, it was he who set up the National Planning Committee under the Chairmanship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In order to materialise his vision, he called conferences of Congress Premiers and Industries Ministers of the Provinces and he interacted with economists and scientists. In fact, he advocated "far-reaching cooperation between science and politics". He wanted a strong India standing firmly on the strength of industrialisation, science and technology and an egalitarian society. At the same time, he said, "We want to build up a new and modern nation on the basis of our old culture and civilisation". Going to the root of India's economic problem, he held that the first problem to be tackled was that of our growing population; he stressed the need "to restrict our population until we are able to feed, clothe and educate those who already exist". And then he declared, "Our principal problem will be how to eradicate poverty from our country". As an answer, he proposed a radical reform of our land system and a comprehensive development of industry in three categories, big industries, small industries and cottage industries. He declared, "However much we may dislike modern industrialism and condemn the evils which follow in its train, we cannot go back to the pre-industrial era, even if we desire to do so". Jawaharlal Nehru believed in modern industries and like him also he tried to reconcile this belief with Gandhian economic ideas by emphasizing the importance of small and cottage industries.

Indeed with all his revolutionary ideas and known differences with Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji understood the relevance of Gandhi to India and the inevitability of reckoning with Gandhiji's personality and ideas to rouse, and move the Indian nation. That is why, on the formation of the Provisional Government of free India, Netaji ended the message he broadcast to Gandhiji as follows: "Father of our Nation! In this holy war for India's liberation, we ask for your blessings and good wishes". Netaji was the first person to call

Mahatma Gandhi, "the Father of the Nation" on 6 July 1944. Gandhiji, in his turn, wrote in the *Harijan* in 1945 : "The hypnotism of INA has cast a spell on us. Netaji's name is one to conjure with. His bravery shines above all." Today we pay homage to this great and brave son of India.

Jai Hind.

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

Vice-President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan, Prime Minister of India, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, Former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Jena, other Members of the Council of Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Freedom Fighters, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It gives me immense pleasure to unveil the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, an illustrious freedom fighter and an embodiment of courage, during his Birth Centenary year. It is fitting that the statue will find a place of pride in the precincts of Parliament House. This is a commendable decision.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's life is a saga of courage and sacrifice. He plunged into the freedom struggle in 1921, and suffered imprisonment on numerous occasions. He was repeatedly incarcerated by the imperial authorities. His health deteriorated rapidly in jail. The colonial administration always kept a close watch and scrutiny on his activities. Despite these trials and sufferings, he remained ever courageous. His activities, imbued with supreme patriotism and dynamism, continued with renewed vigour. He remained steadfast and committed to his principles on which he never compromised, even against difficult odds.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was one of the stalwarts of our freedom struggle. After returning from England in 1921, he joined our freedom movement under the leadership of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das. During the disastrous floods of 1922 in Bengal, Netaji demonstrated his organizational abilities and his spirit of service with his selfless work and activities to ameliorate the difficulties and sufferings of the people. In 1924, at the young age of 27, he was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation. During his tenure, his revolutionary activities caused annoyance to the British Government. It was during this time that he was arrested and sent to Rangoon. In 1930, when he was in prison, he was elected Mayor of Calcutta. But the British Government was determined not to allow him to remain free to participate in the struggle. He was re-arrested in 1932 and exiled from the country soon thereafter.

*Original delivered in Hindi

This exile marked the beginning of a new phase in the life of Subhas Chandra Bose. He took up the challenge of preparing public opinion abroad and obtaining international support for India's freedom. In 1938, he was elected President of the Haripura Session of the Indian National Congress by acclamation. He also chaired the Tripuri Session in 1939. I was fortunate to be present there. He was unwell at that time, but there was a strong determination in him. Later, he came there. Soon thereafter, he left the country and established the Azad Hind Fauj for the speedy liberation of our Motherland. This created a new enthusiasm and exhilaration amongst our freedom fighters.

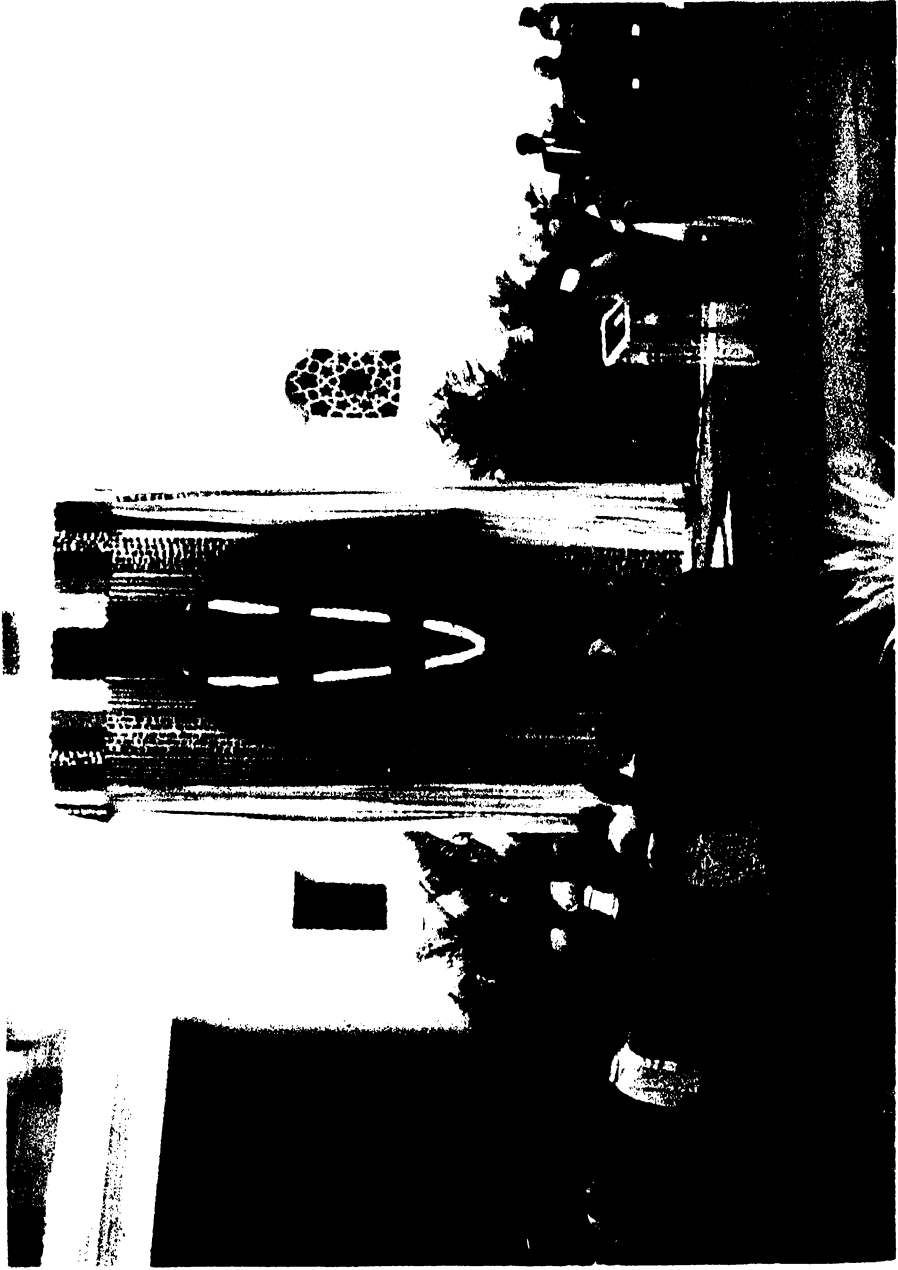
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's primary goal was the liberation of India. Even though he was unable to see for himself his dream coming true, the sacrifices which he made during this great era of the freedom movement are of immense historical importance. The extent to which he attracted our younger generation towards the freedom struggle and the manner in which he inspired and enthused them, is indeed remarkable. He deeply wished to see our country become independent so that India could herself be in control of her own destiny. In his address to the students of Tokyo University in 1944, he explained why he was striving for India's Independence and why he believed that as an independent country India had a glorious future. He said that the only reason for this belief was his deep and abiding conviction that India has an immense reservoir of inner strength and capabilities to survive and progress, both individually and collectively as a nation.

Despite the fact that the British remained here for long, I feel we must always remember that Netaji's struggle was not for India's freedom alone, but a struggle against colonialism and imperialism throughout the world. He viewed the struggle of the people of India as a struggle for humanity as a whole. In his address as President of the Haripura Congress Session on 19 February 1938, he concluded his speech with the following words, which I wish to quote:

Ours is a struggle not only against British imperialism but against world imperialism as well, of which the former is the key-stone. We are, therefore, fighting not for the cause of India alone but of humanity as well. India freed means humanity saved...

Netaji's oratory, and the self-confidence reflected in his speeches, captivated the audiences and held them spellbound. He was clear in his objectives and determined to work untiringly to achieve them. This was a unique trait of his personality. Mahatma Gandhi had praised this attribute of Netaji's personality and he wrote in the *Harijan* of 14 April 1946: "Netaji was like my son."

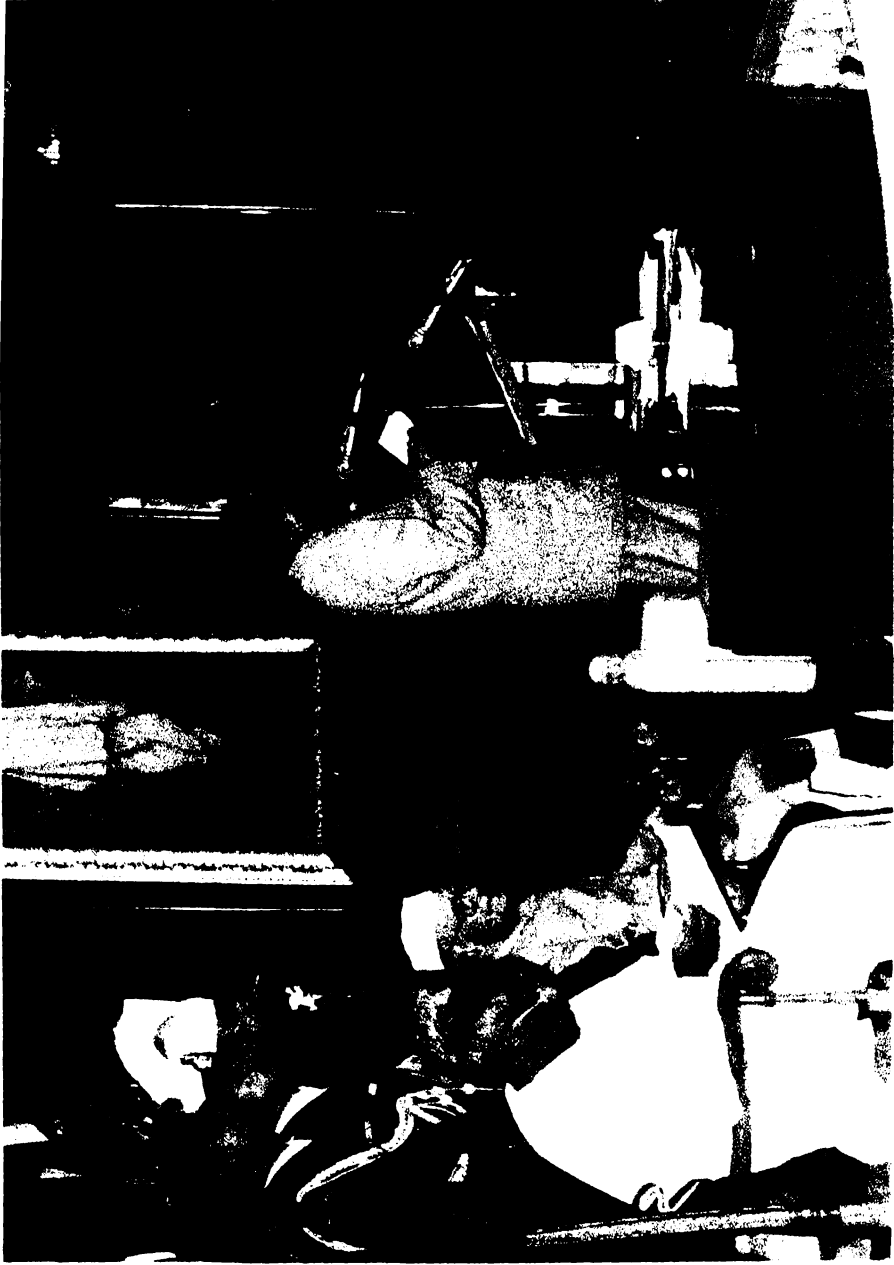
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had a clear vision of independent India. He elaborated this vision in his speech at the Haripura Session of the



The President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma unveiling the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the Parliament House complex



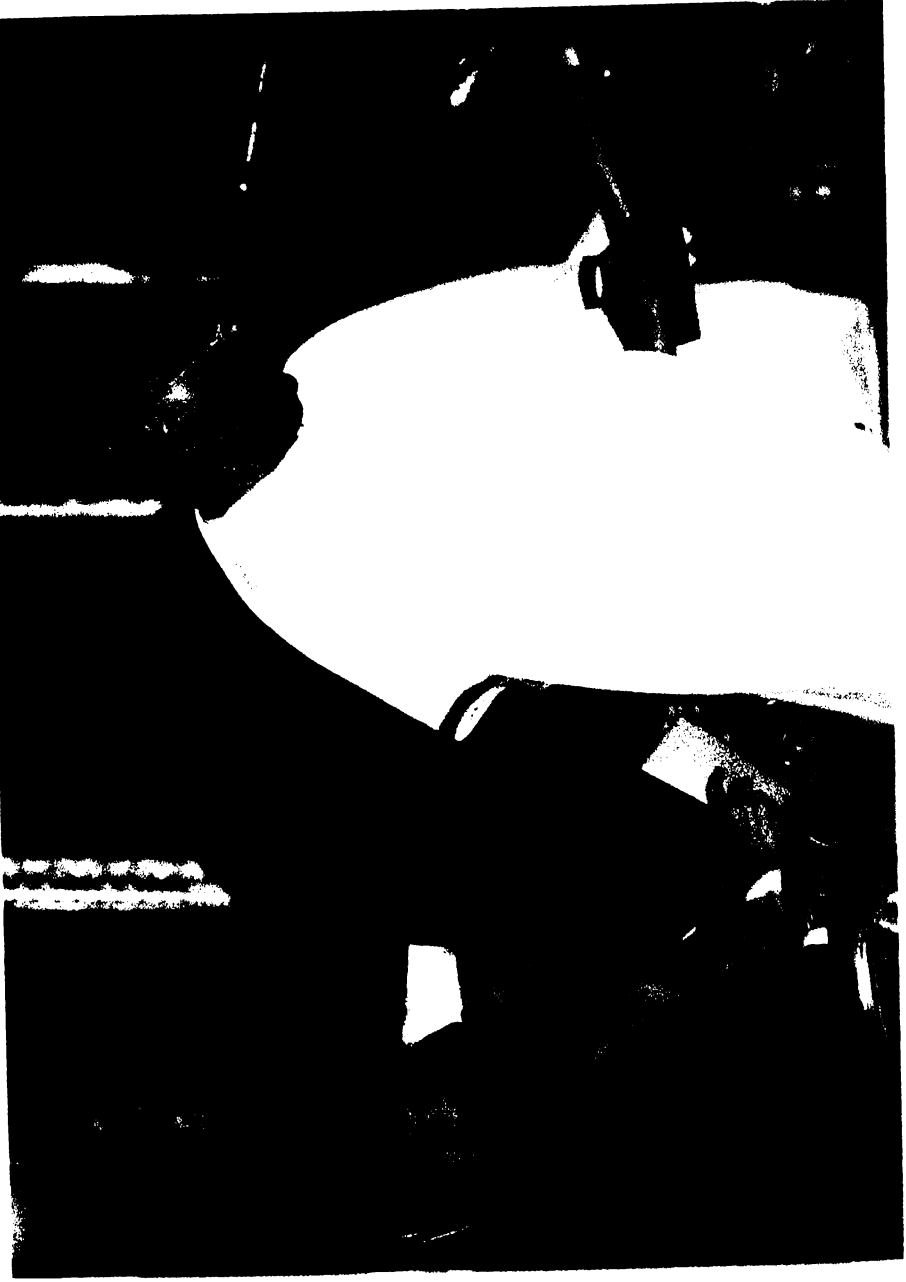
Dignitaries at the unveiling of the statue of Netaji



The Minister-in-Charge, Public Works Department, Government of West Bengal, Shri Kshiti Goswami delivering his Address



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



Address by the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda



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



Inaugural Address by the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma



A view of the distinguished gathering in the Central Hall

Congress. His deep understanding and the farsightedness of his vision never fails to impress me. As President of the Haripura Session of the Indian National Congress, he had said :

The Congress stands for the political and economic rights of the Indian people as a whole. If it succeeds in executing its programmes, the minority communities would be benefitted as much as any other section of the Indian population. Moreover, if after the capture of political power national reconstruction takes place on socialistic lines - as I have no doubt it will - it is the 'have-nots' who will be benefitted...

Our primary goal today is national reconstruction and development. Our peoples' representatives have to take lead in this task. They should be symbols of sacrifice and service and should inspire and motivate our people. Today, when we have installed the statue of Netaji - who was the embodiment of sacrifice and self-confidence - in the Parliament House complex, let us all, and particularly the peoples' representatives in our democratic institutions, pledge to take the gains of freedom to every individual. Thus will our nation become strong and resilient. Thus will our people realize the true import and meaning of freedom, as understood and expounded by our great leaders like Netaji.

On behalf of our nation and on my own behalf, I pay deep homage to Netaji.

Jai Hind.

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA,
SHRI P.A. SANGMA AT THE 60TH CONFERENCE OF
PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES
IN INDIA**

The 60th Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in New Delhi on 10-11 October 1996. The Conference held detailed discussions on various issues of topical concern as far as the Legislatures are concerned. We reproduce below the text of the Opening Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, and Chairman of the Conference, Shri P.A. Sangma on 10 October 1996.

—Editor

I have great pleasure in welcoming all the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India to this Conference.

The Standing Committee of the All India Presiding Officers Conference, has enabled me to set out for this Conference, an agenda of considerable significance in the present political context of our country. The Conference is to deliberate on orderly conduct of business of Legislature vital for the growth of democracy, parliamentary surveillance of the Executive through the Committee System, relationship with the Press and electronic media coverage of the proceedings of the Legislatures.

We, the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies, are meeting at a time when politics is becoming kaleidoscopic, parties are becoming fragile, and governance is increasingly through coalitions. In this environment, Governments of the day get driven to the razor's edge, their legitimacy coming under frequent test and the power of the Chair being temptingly invoked in the process. The Chair in the Legislative Bodies, whether occupied by the Speaker himself or by the Deputy Speaker or any other for the moment, is a highly sanctified institution. Its occupant would do well not to yield to undesirable temptations and should specially take care that the exercise of his authority does not disrupt the due processes of the Constitution and the Law.

In the statement I made in the Lok Sabha in response to felicitations on my election to the Chair, I observed that the House is a hallowed place where what should prevail is debate and dissent with dignity, compromise with courtesy and respect without rancour. The means to achieve this is orderly conduct of business in the House.

The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Houses is not a book of empty rituals. It is a Code of Conduct for decorous and orderly transaction of business. Continuous conformity to it needs to be elegantly ensured by the Presiding Officers.

What is orderly conduct conducive to the growth of democracy? The matter should not be too literally construed. It does not refer merely to the demeanour of individual members in the House. It refers to the totality of conduct of members inside and outside the House; their collective self-regulation in time management in the House; conformity to parliamentary party discipline; adherence to decisions of the Business Advisory Committee; compliance with conventions; co-operation in decentralised style of functioning; respect for private members' business; and making good governance, in its broad sense, possible.

Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution vest the Houses and the Legislatures with enormous powers, privileges and immunities. It is also the role of the Presiding Officers of the Houses to defend the liberties and privileges of the members. Particularly in view of this, the righteous conduct of the members outside the Houses assumes special significance. It is in this background that both the Houses of the U.S. Congress came to establish Ethics Committees in the early 70's in an attempt to force basic standards of probity on their members. No doubt, these Committees have not been an unqualified success. Nonetheless, it is worth examining whether in the Indian context we can form such Committees and make them work.

We, the Presiding Officers, do have a serious problem when it comes to time management in the Houses. In the Lok Sabha, for example, within a six hour working schedule, the 545 members get 40 seconds of time per capita. Matters of urgent public importance which the representatives of our multitudinous population want to raise, and very legitimately at that, are incredibly large in number, and often unquestionable in their gravity. Members, naturally, clamour for projection of their problems on the floor of the Houses taking recourse to all permissible modalities - Starred Questions, 'Zero Hour', Half-an-Hour Discussions, No Day Yet Named Motions, Short Duration Discussions, Calling Attention, Adjournment Motions, etc. The demand on, and supply of time do not simply match. Members cannot be satisfied. This is the root cause of difficulties in securing orderly conduct of business in the Houses. Members who do catch the Speaker's eye, which has been described as "the most elusive organ that nature has ever yet created", end up indulging in tedious repetitions causing breaches of order, unparliamentary expressions and disorderly conduct; the Presiding Officer rises and is not heard in silence as expected. The situation calls for enormous patience and understanding on the part of the Presiding Officers. They may have to draw on all their inner resources of conciliation and personally interact with the dissatisfied members in the lobbies every now and then.

In this context, the parliamentary parties have a significant role to play; the Presiding Officers will have to build up rapport with the party leaders to hold their rank and file on leash and bring home to them the inevitability of time management.

The Presiding Officers will have to learn the art of transacting business through consensus. The Business Advisory Committee is a device to build up consensus; it should be taken recourse to as frequently as needed. It is inherent in the role of the Opposition that it selectively attempts to delay transaction of business with implications for time management on the floor. And, it is inherent in the role of the Government too, to get its business through to the maximum extent feasible. The Presiding Officer has to secure a balance by application of his negotiating skills in the Business Advisory Committee meetings.

The Whips of the parties are essentially business managers in the Houses. The Presiding Officers will do well to take time off to liaise with them as well to facilitate smooth flow of business on the floor.

Often, stormy situations are created on the floor of the Houses for want of respect for conventions. For example, it is the convention that the members do not mention individuals who do not have the opportunity to defend themselves in the House. When this convention is breached, some members are likely to react strongly. Firm, but elegant invitation to compliance with conventions would be needed in such circumstances.

The Parliament has come to establish an elaborate Committee System. There are 35 Committees at present. Some States have also established Subject Committees. Examples are Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal, etc. The merits of the Committee System are:

- * On account of time constraint, the plenary of the Houses are not able to transact all business to the extent desired; individual Committees having as many as 45 members, function as mini-Parliaments; in essence, the Committees facilitate decentralised functioning of the Parliament.
- * Demands for Grants get mandatorily remitted to Committees for detailed scrutiny; even the Demands which would get guillotined in the House would have received detailed scrutiny in the hands of the Committees.
- * Scrutinising Annual Reports of Ministries, as they do, implementation of the developmental programmes of the Ministries gets closely monitored, often repetitively.
- * Budget scrutiny and monitoring of implementation of programmes facilitate accountability of the Executive to the Parliament being enhanced.
- * Bills as may be referred by the Presiding Officer to the Committees get scrutinised in detail; this facilitates sober examination of legislative proposals in comparatively cooler environment; and members of the Committee are able to bring to bear on the laws, their practical wisdom, flowing from their grassroots experience.
- * The Committee System is comprehensively participative and democratic in the sense that every member functions on one Committee or the other.

Of course, there is a certain degree of overlapping between the functions of Departmentally-related Committees and the traditional Finance Committees. Innovative operational styles will have to be evolved to eliminate overlapping of jurisdiction. The Committee System, of course, is quite expensive; Committees do want to undertake field visits to make their reports and recommendations; correctional tools for concurrent removal of inadequacies in administration; may be, orderly transaction of business in the Committees could be made cost effective despite expenses. And the Committees, in effect, can become powerful budgetary, legislative and evaluating engine rooms.

It should, however be urged that the Committees do not become groups that keep minutes but lose hours. Indeed, time is the essence of the business of Legislatures.

Orderly conduct of business in the Houses would suffer from a serious inadequacy if private members' business, whether in terms of Bills or Resolutions, is not taken seriously. Private members' business received considerable sanctity even during colonial days. We have had experience in the matter for nearly 9 decades. Flowing, as it does, from matters of general public interest, it is as important as any other business of the Legislatures, including Government business. The objective served through the mechanism of private members' business, in the least, is obtaining an expression of the opinion of the Legislatures. Members of the Legislatures on the Treasury side have to be particularly brought to treat private members' business as serious and not as ritualistic routine.

Article 361A of the Constitution gives constitutional validity and sanctity for the interface of the media, including electronic media, with the Legislatures. On the statutory side, the Parliament Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act, 1977 has also been enacted. The Presiding Officers should keep this in mind and facilitate the media to play an effective role as the intermediary between the Legislatures and the public. It is also common knowledge that several debates in the Parliament are influenced by what is projected by the media. Meaningful systems of access for the media, to important areas of the Legislatures - Press Galleries, Central Hall, etc. should be facilitated. I would even suggest that, in the matter of interface with the media the traditional conservative approaches of the Legislatures would need to be relaxed.

Before I conclude, in order to bring home that in the transaction of business of the Legislatures, we should keep national integrity as the foremost concern in our democratic system, particularly in the present context, I would quote Edmund Burke, who told the electors of Bristol: "Parliament is a deliberative Assembly of our nation. You choose a member indeed, but when you have chosen him, he is not the member for Bristol, but he is Member of Parliament."

Let this philosophy of Burke guide us in our actions.

Thank you. Jai Hind.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON "TOWARDS PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN POLITICS"

-AN OVERVIEW-

JOHN JOSEPH

Introduction

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), ever since its inception in 1889, has been a focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue on topical issues. The IPU's representative character is evident from the fact that as on 1 January 1997, national Parliaments of 135 countries were on its membership, besides three associate members. As part of its varied activities, the IPU brings together the representatives of national Parliaments for the objective study of political, economic and social issues of global concern. Among other things, the IPU promotes the status of women in all fields, with particular emphasis on their participation in political life. The IPU is of the belief that democracy will assume true significance only when political policies and legislations are decided jointly by men and women in the interests of both halves of the population - a partnership for democracy.

To advance the cause of a more balanced sharing of political responsibilities between men and women, the IPU organized an Inter-Parliamentary Specialized Conference, together with the Parliament of India, on "Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics". The Conference, held in New Delhi from 14 to 18 February 1997, brought together leaders from Parliaments, Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the media. This was the first worldwide political Conference to look into actions taken by Governments and political parties to further women's integration since the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995.

Inauguration of the Conference

The President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma inaugurated the Conference on 14 February 1997 at a solemn function in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

Earlier, welcoming the distinguished gathering, the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla said that even though democracy and parliamentary system are based on the principle of equality of political rights for all, it is paradoxical that women's representation in the elected bodies is far from equal. The challenge before us is to restore the true spirit of democracy. Today, the issue of gender parity is high on

the agenda of every civilized society. In India, the leaders of our freedom struggle not only recognized the necessity of equal participation of women in social progress but also encouraged it. The framers of our Constitution solemnly resolved to empower women to join the national mainstream. That resolve is reflected in the letter and spirit in each Chapter of the Constitution. Dr. (Smt.) Heptulla expressed confidence that the Conference would move humanity a step closer to translate the need for parity into a social reality.

The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, in his Message to the Conference, pointed out that power for women remained elusive, despite the widespread movement toward democratization in the past decade and despite progress in women's higher education. Parliamentarians could keep gender issues high on the public agenda; they could pass legislation and influence public spending. They could also press for women appointments. Within the political parties, they could adopt mechanisms ensuring a minimum representation of women. Besides, they could increase collaboration with NGOs which have provided an alternative path to power for many women excluded from traditional power structures. Mr. Kofi Annan's Message was read out by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms. Angela King.

In his Address, the Speaker, Lok Sabha and the President of the India Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Shri P A Sangma observed that political participation of women could not be achieved without certain underlying concerns being addressed. These are: women themselves have to be made aware of their political rights in, and political obligations to, society; men should be sensitized to the unconscionable nature of gender iniquity in politics; political commitment needs to be fully established at national and international levels; affirmative legal actions should flow from that political commitment; and the legal regime of political equity has to be practised.

Shri Sangma observed that political and electoral training is a matter of education of both men and women. Even from the formative stages, academic syllabi and curricula at various levels need to be enriched with matter on democratic systems of governance, political participation, gender equity, etc. Those who could not access formal education could be given non-formal political literacy. It is also essential that for effective political participation, public men and women are exposed to the experience of working at all echelons of political governance. Regarding financing of political campaigns, Shri Sangma felt that whatever be the modality of raising such resources, the underlying problem again is one of providing access to funds for women on an equitable basis. That necessarily is also a function of political parties themselves, he added.

Addressing the gathering, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Dr. Ahmed Fathy Sorour said that democracy is enriched by differences; it is even based on differences. Therefore, when we try to

enhance women's contribution to political life, we have to bear in mind that some differences between men and women are useful. Correcting the present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life is the only possible way to establish a new social compact whose objective is not to promote one sex at the expense of the other but to secure the common good of men, women and society as a whole. In other words, equality does not mean similarity, and the essence of partnership is to find a formula based on harmonious equilibrium.

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan, in his Address, emphasized that partnership between men and women in politics would mean the full flowering of the democratic spirit and the maturing of the democratic process in the world. The unique characteristic of the women's question is that it is not a question apart from the rest of the society; it is part and parcel of the very texture of the social fabric. Women's participation in Parliament and empowerment in Government are essential not only for the full functioning of democracy but for the overall economic, social and cultural advancement of a nation. Indeed, women in politics might help in providing good governance and in creating a good society in partnership with men of goodwill, Shri Narayanan added.

In his Inaugural Address, the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma said that partnership of women and men in politics is a subject of vital significance as women, though comprising a large section of the world's population, remained largely excluded from the domain of politics. Politics, as we know it, is very much a male bastion as is evident from the composition of most Parliaments and Legislatures. Despite numerous guarantees and safeguards, gender discrimination and prejudice remains a distressing reality. Clearly, we have to do more to promote gender as a central issue in our political advancement.

The President stressed that the concept of partnership between men and women involved a powerful message of mutual trust, equality and common endeavour towards shared objectives. The challenge facing society is to impart practical content to that concept and to operationalize it by empowering women. We must root out the prejudices against women and the negative attitude towards their participation in politics. The President expressed the confidence that the Conference would help focus public attention on such an important issue that required political will and concerted political action.

Conference Sessions

The Plenary sittings of the Conference commenced on 15 February 1997 in the Plenary Hall of the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. At the outset, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Dr. Ahmed Fathy Sorour announced that the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma would



The Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla addressing the distinguished gathering



CONFERENCE PARLEMENTAIRE SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON
"PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN POLITICS"
NEW DELHI, 14 - 18 FEBRUARY, 1997

CONFERENCE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE SPECIALISEE SUR LE THEME
"LE PARTENARIAT ENTRE HOMMES ET FEMMES EN POLITIQUE"
NEW DELHI, 14 - 18 FEVRIER 1997



Message of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, being read out by the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms. Angela King

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NEW DELHI, 14 FÉVRIER 1977



Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P. A. Sangma



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The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Dr. Ahmed Fathy Sorour addressing the distinguished gathering

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Address by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan



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NEW DELHI - 18 FEVRIER 1997



Inaugural Address by the President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma



A view of the distinguished gathering in the Central Hall at the inaugural function



Dignitaries at the opening of the Plenary sitting. Seen from left to right are: The Secretary-General of the IPU, Mr. Pierre Cornillon; the President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. Faiza Kefi; the Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Special Adviser on Gender Issues, Ms. Angela King; the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Mrs. Sheikh Hasina; the President of Namibia, H.E. Sam Nujoma; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P. A. Sangma; the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council, Dr. Ahmed Fathy Sorour; the former President of Iceland, H.E. Ms. Vigdis Finnbogadóttir; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; and the Secretary of the Conference, Ms. Christene Pintat



Special Address by the Prime Minister, Shri H D Deve Gowda



The Conference Sessions in progress in the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan



A view of the Conference Session in progress



Another view of the Conference Sessions

be the President of the Conference and the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, the Vice-President.

Address by President Nujoma

The launching of the debates commenced with a Statement by the President of Namibia, H.E. Mr. Sam Nujoma who said that the Conference accorded an opportunity to focus our attention on the future and to contemplate and visualize the kind of world in which we would like to live in the next century and beyond - a world where equality between the sexes is the norm, rather than the exception, a world where children and adults, women and men, are afforded equal access to the available social amenities to improve their quality of life.

President Nujoma said that partnership encompassed concepts such as equality, equal opportunity and democracy. As such, partnership is a pre-requisite for development. Power sharing between men and women implies the sharing of the responsibilities of decision-making as well as ideas and experiences so that society at large will benefit. A gender sensitive approach incorporates equal participation of women and men in the management of society. That approach should not imply token representation but rather is the key to achieving true partnership between men and women, and true democracy which permits full participation in decision-making by everyone, can only be achieved when decisions are taken jointly by both men and women at the levels of political parties, national Legislatures and in the Government, and when such decisions are in themselves gender-sensitive.

President Nujoma pointed out that one cannot achieve equality between women and men while neglecting the education and training of women and girls. Also, one cannot address women and poverty without considering their health, their participation in economic activities, and so on. We need to educate and socialize the girl child to take her place in society and boy child to learn that he is an equal partner with the girl child in the future development of society. The exclusion of girls from education, or rather, the lack of investment in women has been instrumental in preventing equal partnership between men and women. An educated woman is not only a better mother to her children, but is an asset to society as a whole.

President Nujoma spoke in detail about various measures taken by his Government as a follow-up to the pledges made at the Beijing World Women's Conference. He stressed that if the developing countries are to advance, they must be treated as equals in the international market. If we have to achieve development and peace, we need to recognize that this will not be possible without the full and equal participation of women. The role of parliamentarians, as law makers, is crucial in promoting gender sensitivity. Global mobilization and grass roots leadership of critical mass of women leaders are also important imperatives. Governments, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector must work together to make partnership between men and women in politics a reality. There is a need

to ensure wider dissemination of the decisions of this Conference to their target audiences. The media has a pivotal role to play in disseminating information on gender equality. Unless women become part and parcel of the development process, true development and participatory democracy cannot and will not be realized, President Nujoma added.

Address by Begum Sheikh Hasina

Addressing the Plenary, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, H.E. Begum Sheikh Hasina noted that though men and women have been equal partners in the development of civilizations, women were denied an equal status. Social and political institutions as well as the legal systems discriminated against them. Women's role in most societies was defined by household demands and largely limited to the private domain. Despite the sacrifices made by them and their contributions in building up the family as the nucleus of society and civilized life, they were relegated to an inferior position. Unequal opportunities in education and training, unequal access to health facilities, limited rights in owning wealth and assets and denial of the right to exercise political power condemned them to a subordinate status in most societies.

Begum Sheikh Hasina emphasized that women no longer want to remain peripheral actors but want to play their rightful role in all spheres of life, including economic and political life. Democratic politics has to include all the people regardless of gender and class. Local Government seemed to be an excellent starting point for fully integrating women in the social, economic and political life. The latent potential of women must be realized. The constraints that do not allow the realization of such potential must be identified and removed, she added.

Address by Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadottir

In her Address, the former President of Iceland, H.E. Mrs. Vigdis Finnbogadottir said that at the Beijing World Women's Conference, specific areas for action were identified. These covered an enormous range, including the establishment of target figures to monitor how well we move towards achieving parity; campaigns to eradicate physical, sexual and psychological violence against women; and ways to overcome stereotyping and the structural exclusion of women even when the principle of equality has been nominally acknowledged.

Mrs. Finnbogadottir said that there were several great activities around the world that were offsprings of the Beijing Conference. In the wake of Beijing, the International Women's Leadership Forum was held in Stockholm to address leadership needs for the 21st Century. This meeting of women leaders came up with the concept of a far-reaching initiative - to establish a Council of Women Leaders as an international, independent organization to mobilize the experience, network, knowledge and international visibility of women leaders. The goal of this effort is to provide a network of exchange among women leaders to encourage interaction, establish and foster dialogue

on issues, develop recommendations on practical solutions for problems confronting national leaders and reaffirm on a continuing basis the role of women as leaders, she added.

Statement by Ms. Angela King

In her Statement, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, Ms. Angela King said that drawing from the results of Beijing, we should use gender analysis and gender mainstreaming as the main tools for promoting change at all levels. We need to rethink our goals and priorities so that they reflect the hopes, aspirations and needs of both men and women - and we need to restructure our institutions. Our strategies must increasingly focus on building partnership and expanding them. We must involve male politicians, mobilize the private sector and reach out to women who have been too busy struggling for daily survival to be involved.

Ms. King stressed that the message of Beijing has to be articulated by Governments, the UN system, other inter-governmental organizations and NGOs, civil society and by women and men in their families, communities, countries and their international networks. At the national level, mechanism for the advancement of women should share their findings with other Ministries, particularly those concerned with economics, defence and foreign affairs. It is time to undertake a thorough research as to how existing government structures can be changed to accommodate the styles and working patterns of women and men and how the multiple roles of both in politics, the work place, the society and the family can be reconciled. As long as stereotyped perceptions are not eradicated, women will continue to face cultural barriers whenever they seek political power and public office. We must revise our understanding of 'social contract' to add that there can be no agreement on any major policy issue without equal representation of men and women at all stages of the process. Targets such as were set for the UN Secretariat in the wake of Beijing, *i.e.* 50 per cent women in decision-making posts by the year 2000, could be set for all decision-making bodies-national, international, municipal and local. While at the global level this is forward looking, we must recognize that in individual societies it may only be reached at different stages, Ms. King added.

Presentation by Ms. Faiza Kefi

In her Address, the President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and a Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Tunisia, Ms. Faiza Kefi stated that we should devote more attention towards equality between the two sexes. In most polities, women have not been adequately represented. The concept of equality has not made deep inroads in society thereby leading to inadequate representation of women in the political arena. There is a need to evolve a methodology to enhance women's participation. It is also imperative to educate women to promote equal partnership between the sexes.

Responses to Presentations

Responding to the Presentations, Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Abdellah (Egypt) emphasized the need for promoting education and reforms in the electoral system to enhance the participation of women in politics. Ms. Adriana Poli Bortone (Italy) said that under Italy's Constitution, men and women are treated as equal. She observed that education is a key factor for promoting women's participation in political life and also in socio-economic fields. Ms. Yvonne Ngoto Lembe (Congo) wanted that the Heads of Government should make commitments to implement the Beijing Plan of Action. Mr. Seyed Mohsen Yahyavi (Iran) said that the women in his country have equal rights as men. Hard work is necessary to bring about real transformation in terms of promoting greater participation of women.

Taking part in the discussion, Ms. Li Nie (China) pointed out that women's participation in politics is a yardstick to judge the process of democratization. The National Peoples' Congress of China ensures that there shall be an appropriate number of women Deputies in Parliament. Shri George Fernandes, MP (India) said that the struggle for women's liberation in India is in the midway to success. There is a need for mobilization of women by women themselves and the political parties must be told that they must practise what they preach. He also called upon the Conference to send a message of solidarity to Aung San Suu Kyi for her struggle for democracy in Myanmar. Ms. Zoubida Assoul (Algeria) felt that education is quite important for promoting partnership. Political parties should treat both men and women equally in their choice of candidates for elections.

Responding to the Presentations, Mr. Sarkis Assadourian (Canada) suggested that the theme of the Conference be revised from 'Towards Partnership' to 'Towards Equal Partnership'. Ms. Pregs Govender (South Africa) said that there is a need for redefining concepts like power, values and priorities. Mr. Mubarak B. Al-Khurainiji (Kuwait) pointed out that women in his country are holding high positions. However, they do not have the right to vote. A Bill has been submitted to allow women the right to vote. Ms. Paula Maria Ivanescu (Romania) emphasized the need for promoting solidarity between men and women to further women's participation in politics.

Mr. Humayun Rashid Choudhury (Bangladesh) pointed out that the question is first and foremost one of an attitudinal problem and suggested that steps be taken to change the prevailing mindset. Ms. Alevtina Aparina (Russian Federation) asserted that men should be adequately involved in dealing with women's issues and said that the Committee on Women's Problems in their Parliament has adequate male participation. Mr. Andrew Rowe (UK) observed that while the world is changing and women's perception of marriage is also changing, man has remained the same and this hiatus gives rise to problems that hinder women's involvement in all decision-making processes. Therefore, men also need education as much as women to ensure

an equitable partnership between the genders. Ms. Indradevie Djwalapersad (Suriname) also felt that men's involvement is a must to encourage women's participation.

Responding to the observations of Ms. Angela King on social contract, Mr. Mahmoud Ali El Gharráf (Libya) opined that reviewing the concept of social contract would mean reviewing Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau who have promoted the idea of democracy through their writings. Ms. Pam Rickards (European Union of Women) stressed that it is necessary to provide education of a particular kind to girls and young women that would highlight the importance of politics in human life. And it is the political parties who must undertake this exercise. Mr. Said Ibrahim Badoul (Djibouti) said that while there is legal equality in various spheres of life the world over, we have to go a long way to make it a reality.

Smt. Margaret Alva, MP (India) identified four issues that call for urgent attention. They are the mainstreaming of women's developmental issues; the need for restructuring the power relations from local level upwards; special provisions to allow entry of women to power structures; and some emphasis in the national budgets to address women's problems. Ms. Nkandu Luo (Zambia) urged educated women to reflect on themselves to see what could be done to bridge the gulf between grassroot women and elite women. Mr. Chung-Soo Park (Republic of Korea) felt that removal of male prejudices could ensure better participation of women. Ms. Guadalupe Gomez Maganda de Anaya (Mexico) said that education is the chief vehicle of progress for women and noted that political will on the part of political parties is needed to bring about changes in the prevailing political culture which is not exactly conducive to women's involvement. She wanted the national budgets to address women's issues adequately. Ms. Inria Asikin Natanegara (Indonesia) observed that women at the grassroot level need to be inspired to ensure gender parity in politics for, their recruitment is vital to the process. Ms. Agnes Ndeti (Kenya) deplored the fact that women neither own property nor have they the right of inheritance and this has contributed in large measure to the long history of the marginalization of women in various spheres of life. She strongly advocated affirmative action to empower women politically.

Mr. Raymond Lloyd (Council for Parity Democracy) said that the dual role models that most women have to play create hurdles in their progress on the road to power. The "queen bee complex" should be replaced with a more assertive role. Ms. Roselyne Bachelot (France) wanted gender parity to become an important issue in politics. Ms. Tezira Jamwa (Uganda) advocated affirmative action for all marginalized groups in society. A delegate from San Marino felt that reservation of seats in Legislatures should be the first remedial step to draw women to the political arena. A Peruvian delegate observed that women's participation stagnated in the absence of a quota system as they are profitably drawn towards the professions. Women are not in a position to accept higher responsibilities as it interferes with

the family life, particularly child rearing. Ms. Marie Madeline Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso) felt that partnership is real only if large number of women have access to education as this is instrumental in raising political consciousness. She called upon the political parties to change their attitude towards the question of women's entry. Ms. Obaida Al-Kathemi (Palestine) wanted the budget to aim at promoting women's advancement in the economic sphere.

Summing up the Session, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla observed that there is a broad consensus among the delegates on issues such as the need for attitudinal change, spread of education, promoting women's leadership at the grassroot level and emphasizing women's rights as integral part of democracy. These factors would develop confidence among women and ensuring this is the responsibility of every individual, especially the educated women. The call of the UN for 1997 as the year of equality, development and peace cannot be realized unless concrete measures are taken to empower women on the political front.

Image of Women Politicians in the Media

The afternoon Session 15 February 1997 was devoted to a Round Table with the media on *The Image of Women Politicians in the Media* where the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Ms. Brigitta Dahl, MP was the Moderator. The Panelists included Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar, MP (India); Ms. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky (USA); Mr. Miguel-Angel Martinez, MP (Spain); Ms. Kadiatou Koubourath Ossenii (Benin); Smt. Mrinal Pande (journalist, India); Mr. Ken Cooper of the *Washington Post*; and Ms. Anita Pratap of the CNN.

Initiating the discussion, Ms. Brigitta Dahl said that in Sweden, with 44 per cent share in representation in Parliament, women's participation in the political processes is accepted as very much a normal activity. Observing the fact that the South Asian region produced many Heads of State and Government in its recent history, Ms. Anita Pratap claimed that it does not really mean reflection of the increasing empowerment of women as such in the region. All these women leaders were either the widows or daughters of one or other eminent personality. The interest media shows in a leader depends on the image that she projects or of the causes with which she is identified.

Mr. Miguel-Angel Martinez called upon the media to become effective instruments in helping to overcome the defects in democracy as it is practised today. One such defect is the gender bias in the political processes. Without the active involvement of the media, we cannot win the final battle for democracy, observed Mr. Martinez.

Mr. Ken Cooper felt that there is a general tendency on the part of the media to ignore what a woman as a politician has to say. In societies where the mass media is dominant, the media makes much difference in opinion formation.

Ms. Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky was of the opinion that money and media are important factors in politics. A balanced media could make a lot of difference in the quality of democratic functioning.

Participating in the discussion, Smt. Mrinal Pande opined that the media does not give adequate attention to the idea of greater involvement of women in politics. There is a general tendency towards trivialization of crucial legislations and other issues involving women's empowerment.

Ms. Kadiatou Koubourath Osseni felt that the media often play into the hands of men to the obvious disadvantage of women leaders. It is, therefore, imperative to make available more funds and provide better facilities for training more women in the journalistic field.

Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar observed that the role of the media is rather overstated, especially in India. A majority of the people who actually vote cannot read newspapers while a majority of the those who read newspapers do not vote. That is why most media predictions about elections in India do not come true. He felt that all women in India are backward and therefore they deserve preferential treatment.

A delegate from Zambia came up with the suggestion that if there are fewer women in politics, those women who excelled in other areas can be highlighted as role models in leadership. They may even be persuaded to come to the political arena. A delegate from Indonesia said that there is always a 'love hate' relationship between politics and the Press. However, for the benefit of women in politics, special media strategy workshops can be arranged to impart skills in handling Press Conferences, preparing Press briefs, publicity handouts, etc. This can help women get a more positive coverage in the media.

Women's Political and Electoral Training

On 16 February 1997, the morning Session of the Conference was devoted to a thematic discussion on *Women's Political and Electoral Training* with the President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. Faiza Kefi, MP as the Moderator. Introducing the Keynote Speakers, Ms. Kefi said that the Session was meant to address itself to issues like the relevance of training for women in the political processes, the timing and the nature of training required, the agency for training, etc.

Delivering the first Keynote Address, Ms. Leslie Abdella of the Project Parity and co-founder of the All-Party 300 Group (UK), observed that Parliament is the forum where ultimately the principle of parity in representation should reflect. It should mean equal partnership on the floor of the Legislatures themselves. If we were to have a chance for solving all the problems of the planet, we have to necessarily have leaders from the whole pool of the planet and not of one half only. The issue at stake is not of the exclusion of men but rather a more positive one of inclusion

of women in the political activities. She felt that the desired changes can be brought about only if there is proper coordination between the different pillars of democracy. Training programmes should be devised in such a way that it is able to create a good market demand for winning candidates and to provide good products in the market. However, the chief missing element for any effective training programme is finances, Ms. Abdella observed.

The second Keynote Speaker, the Executive Director of the Centre For Asia-Pacific Women in Politics (CAPWIP), (Philippines), Dr. (Ms.) Rosa Linda Miranda observed that training and education are the key programme areas to achieve parity. Citizenship training and political socialization processes should not be confined to the electoral process alone. An innovative educational programme should include in its objectives the promotion of proper family values also. The crucial issues, however, are related to convincing women on the need to enter politics and of assisting them in the political processes. Another important aspect of training relates to the post-election training in order to become effective parliamentarians or Ministers. Corruption in politics being an important deterrent against women's entry into politics, women should strive to change the arena of politics itself into what they ideally want it to be. For this, what is required is a transformative Political Agenda - a paradigm shift in politics, stressed Dr. Rosa Miranda.

Intervening in the discussion, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla said that not only women but men also needed proper training in politics for effectively utilizing the various parliamentary devices for grievance redressal and for making themselves heard on the floor of the House. Ms. Valve Kirsippu (Estonia) was of the opinion that it is not enough to give general training in politics, but specific programmes are needed to help women politicians to meet the requirements of high-level politics and to be at the same level as men. Mr. Abdul Alim (Bangladesh) felt that though much has been achieved in the area of women's empowerment, much more remained to be done.

An Ugandan delegate was of the opinion that to ensure gender parity in the decision making process, a total transformation of the whole political process as such was required. Another delegate from Uganda expressed the need for Induction Seminars for women parliamentarians and sufficient funds for women's political training. Ms. Kering Mothoagee (South Africa) observed that the general voter education programmes should lay special emphasis on women's participation. It is also important that the electoral laws give special attention to the specific responsibilities of women. Dr. Jenny Gerlings-Simons (Suriname) felt that electoral training can have a positive effect in increasing the number of women in politics.

Joining the discussion, Ms. Paula Maria Ivanescu (Romania) said that women aspirants in politics should learn to adapt themselves quickly with the external environment. They also have to take good care of their physical

condition so as to be able to cope with the tedious pressures of politics. Mr. Athula Jayasinghe (Sri Lanka) was of the opinion that education was the crucial element that decided the extent to which women took interest in politics. Family responsibilities, high cost of campaign and crime and corruption are factors that inhibited women's participation in politics. He added that entry of more women in the political life would upgrade the quality of politics itself.

Ms. Tamar Gozansky (Israel) stated that there is under-representation of women at every level of political decision-making. The issue as such is a social one, rather than of women in particular. Ms. Yeanneth Punaes (Uruguay) was of the view that parity can be brought about only by bringing about a change in the attitude of the whole society. For this, structural reform of the education system is very crucial. Lack of transparency in the political field and the poor image of politics itself are factors that inhibit women from entering politics. Taking part in the discussion, Ms. Georgina Ashworth (CHANGE) stated that the absence of women in the economic decision-making process is an important factor adversely affecting the progress of women. Women's Budget Groups in many countries are able to guard against this today. Government's support for such groups are important for their acquiring legitimacy and better relevance. We have to ensure that women do not lose out in the constitutional and institutional rebuilding anywhere.

Mr. Philip Rotino (Kenya) stressed the need to start political training with the family. The culture of grooming girls into obedient persons should be changed and in this process the role of the mother is very crucial. Dr. (Ms.) Rosa Linda Miranda wondered whether politics can be organized in such a way as to neutralize the need for too much money. She felt that if the goal is self-empowerment, then expecting outside financial support would be rather untenable. Besides, it is not necessary that formal political institutions are the only instruments of political representation for women. Parity in this would take a long time and in the meanwhile alternative political fora can be floated to give a sense of participation. Ms. Usreyya Loza (Egypt) said that men should be trained to see the advantages of women's participation in the political arena.

Smt. Bharati Ray, MP (India) bemoaned the sexist bias in text books that project man as a 'he man' and woman as 'a sweet little thing'. Girls are socialized into domesticity and docility and this must be changed to inculcate a measure of confidence, self-respect and dignity among them as persons. For this, even legends and religion need to be reconstructed to internalize a positive image of womanhood, she emphasized. Mr. Chongxuan Chang (China) wanted that a programme of action be framed, than pass declarations of intent. Ms. Rosa Maria Albemaz (Portugal) contended that politics remains a 'no woman's land' as domestic factors hinder women. Political space belongs to all and measures must be taken to make it a reality. Ms. Toujan Faisal (Jordan) said that too much emphasis

on women would turn the cause into a farce and there would be a backward transformation of society with an exclusive view. Mr. Andrei Selivanov (Russian Federation) said that it is not enough to get elected to popular bodies. Women should be galvanized into political activity in a larger context by every woman member.

Ms. Helen D'Amate (Malta) mused that politics can be lonely like the celebrated lines: 'Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink'. So, more and more women need to be drafted to dispel this loneliness. Ms. Masako Owaki (Japan) wanted world bodies to create role models for women politicians for possible emulation. Mr. Kafui Kpegba-Dzotsi (Togo) lamented that there is little political will forthcoming from Governments to turn the resolutions of Conferences such as this into reality and wanted this apathy to be changed.

Dr. Rawwida Baksh-Sooden (Commonwealth Secretariat) felt that there should be a greater degree of transformation in economic management to afford a more positive role to women to inspire confidence in their ability to manage responsibility. While fully supporting the idea of partnership and political training of women, Mr. Roy Hughes (UK) cautioned that any neglect of family in the process would be like throwing away the baby with the bath water. That fatal folly should be avoided at all costs since family is the bed rock of society and modern civilization. Dr. Aykut Imren (Turkey) said that under-representation of women is a consequence of the lack of political training for men and women. Therefore, it is as much a man's job to focus attention on the concept of empowerment in the process of socialization and education. The traditional image of woman as mother must be changed to give a greater degree of individuality as women apart from mothers; otherwise democracy would be incomplete.

Ms. Supatra Masdit (Thailand) wanted training for both men and women and highlighted the role of NGOs as trainers. She urged the IPU to recognize this aspect. Ms. Androula Vassiliou (Cyprus) stressed that education of the political leadership is imperative in promoting parity. She wanted research to be conducted after every general election to know the voting behaviour of men and women and the basis for such behaviour. This could help to know why women fare poorly at the hustings. Ms. Daraj Alwarfly (Libya) stated that political activity in her country is not a men's prerogative. The Libyan Constitution gives equal opportunities to both men and women to participate at the local and national levels.

Mr. Crispin Uyi Sibetta (Zambia) emphasized the need to treat woman as an individual rather than a member of a political party. Ms. Hajah Ilam bt. Dato Haji Isahak (Malaysia) noted the significance of imparting comprehensive training of electoral campaigning to women. She also stated that women should be both director and manager of their campaigns. Ms. Joelle Dusseau (France) stated that there was an over-emphasis on the political training of women which gives a sense of inferiority to them. She

observed that education, culture and training are equally important for both men and women.

Ms. Sohaila Jelodarzadeh (Iran) said that political socialization occurs in the family and called for the projection of a positive image of women by the media. Ms. Kathy Sullivan (Australia) stated that women should know that what happens in politics also affects them. It is, therefore, imperative for women to participate in politics. The leader of a political party can play a significant role in the selection of women candidates. Ms. Margareta Nordenvale (Sweden) felt that women have a great deal of responsibility but they lack power. Ms. Alena Svobodova (Czech Republic) highlighted the fact that women's participation in politics in the country is very low and does not correspond to their number in the society. There is a lack of cooperation between the State bodies and women's associations.

Mr. Sarkis Assadourian (Canada) observed that education and training are imperative for women's participation. Ms. Amal Dakkak (Syria) felt that women can be trained through the means of communication. Ms. Edna Madzongwe (Zimbabwe) stated that men and women have to work together for their partnership in politics. Training of women would certainly encourage their participation in politics. Prof. Rita Verma, MP (India) pointed out that women are instinctively politicians. Women should have confidence, patience and the will to do hard work for their participation in politics. Ms. Anna Benaki (Greece) observed that partnership is a romantic concept. Politics, she said, is a field of competition between men and women for power and there should be fair rules of the game. Ms. Nieke Iswardani Kuryana (Indonesia) emphasized the need to make efforts at grassroots and national levels to mobilize women.

Summing up the Session, Ms. Faiza Kefi emphasized the fact that an environment to promote training is equally important. Training after election is different from the one given before it. Training is essential for both men and women but with different contents.

Financing Women's Electoral Campaigns

In the afternoon of 16 February 1997, there was another thematic discussion on the subject *Financing Women's Electoral Campaigns*. The Vice-President of the IPU Co-ordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. Sheila Finestone, MP (Canada) was the Moderator. She observed that in all countries women face a problem in financing their electoral campaigns. In Canada, all major political parties have created support fund for financing women candidates. This is a small step towards promoting gender equality. The aim of this discussion is to have dynamic exchange of views and find practical strategies to solve the financial problems faced by women candidates.

In her Keynote Address, Ms. Roselyne Bachelot, MP (France) said that finance is quite important as women constituting half of humanity own only

one per cent of world property. Financing of electoral campaigns by business enterprises may be an option. But it may lead to a dangerous situation of candidates being bought. It may be wise to establish a Foundation to finance women's electoral campaigns, she said.

Another Keynote Speaker, Mr. Jono Khasu, MP (South Africa) said that financing, besides the allocation of money, includes mobilization of other resources like personnel. Political parties who put up more women candidates may be given more money by the Government. Business groups supporting women candidates may be given some incentives. Financing, however, should not be seen as an isolated incident. It should be a continuous, co-ordinated and multi-pronged strategy.

In her intervention, Ms. Inria Asikin Natanegara (Indonesia) said that women in her country are demanding a share from the budget of the Ministry of Women Affairs to be spent on financing women to become politicians. Mr. Tonu Tepandi (Estonia) felt that if women are really interested in politics, nothing can stop them. Ms. Carmen Bolado Del Real (Mexico) suggested that one-third of the resources with the political parties should be made available for financing women's campaigns.

Mr. Donald Oliver (Canada) pointed out that women in general are at a financially disadvantageous position and also professionally ill-equipped to generate funds. Therefore, there is a need to limit the amount spent on nomination campaigns. Ms. Angela Guillaume (European Union of Women) said that women face financial problems even in getting nominated. Ms. Soraya Labana (Egypt) observed that unless women are fielded by parties and guaranteed of funding, they may not be successful in getting elected. Ms. Mata Sy Diallo (Senegal) called for changing the law so as to provide women access to land and property and enable them to face competition in politics. Mr. Chung-Soo Park (Republic of Korea) recommended the establishment of a special fund to help women's campaigns. Ms. Brigitta Gadiant (Switzerland) observed that the political parties should spend a part of their budget or even additional funds for financing women's electoral campaigns.

Ms. Marie Madeline Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso) pointed out that there is no special electoral campaign for women in her country. Ms. Martha Hildebrandt (Peru) said that women should have the necessary qualities to get the support of the electors. Smt. Kamla Sinha, MP (India) suggested that political parties everywhere must agree to field an adequate number of women candidates. Funds may come from the same sources as in the case of men. What is needed is the removal of the mental block, she added.

Joining the discussion, Mr. Wolf-Michael Catenhusen (Germany) said that the problem of lack of funds for electoral campaign is a general problem, though it is more pronounced in the case of women candidates. The impact of money power, often reflected in better accessibility to the electronic media,

etc., can be contained by introducing special conditions on the candidates' use of such media. Political parties themselves could provide for special funding facilities for women candidates as the Social Democratic Party in Germany has done. Ms. Indradevie Djwalapersad (Suriname) felt that the lack of appropriate funding is one of the major factors adversely affecting the entry of women into politics. Often they overcome this with hard work and better organization.

Ms. Phoebe Asiyo (Kenya) expressed the view that because of women's emphasis on clean politics, they do not go for finances from just any source. However, they thrive on their own hard work. Successful political campaigning should start on the day after the election itself by trying to identify with the people and their problems. No amount of campaigning can compensate for the hard work one does for the constituency. Ms. Alevtina Aparina (Russian Federation) was of the opinion that it is often the funds that compete and the importance of candidates is reduced considerably. It is essential to reduce the role of money by bringing in special legislation. This money can be better utilized on social issues. People should get themselves elected for their competence and the good work they do. There could be legislation to provide for equal access to the mass media to all the candidates. It is also important to discourage people holding official positions from using their positions in the electoral process.

Mr. Raymond Lloyd (Council For Parity Democracy) felt that often morality considerations deterred women from entering politics. However, their entry in politics could help in changing the image of politics itself. Ms. Ama Benyiwa-Doe (Ghana) was of the view that politics has of late become much too expensive an affair for women to venture into. Political parties should take special interest in projecting women who have proved their capabilities and fund their election. Economic disparity between the developing and the developed world also had a bearing on women's entry into politics. If the financial position of the country itself is poor, women naturally are at the receiving end.

Ms. Vuokko Rehn (Finland) pointed out that campaigning for women candidates was an expensive proposition. There is a need for developing relations with the business people for funding as the State does not provide funds. Shri Kishore Chandra S. Deo, MP (India) emphasized the need to make women financially independent. In India, it does not matter whether a candidate is male or female because the political party provides the funds for their campaigning.

Ms. Lisette Lieten-Croes (Belgium) stated that since 1989, a law has been in force to limit the electoral expenses by political parties. Political parties receive grants from the Government for campaigning and a Committee looks into the campaign expenditure. Ms. Gladys Mutukwa (Zambia) said that training and financial support are essential for preparing women to enter the electoral fray. Apart from socio-economic development, the World

Bank should look into the issue of political development. Mr. Ayed Al-Mutairi (Kuwait) pointed out that in his country women enjoy several rights except the right to vote.

Ms. Rabeya Bhuiyan (Bangladesh) pointed out that financing a woman candidate for campaigning is as complicated as imparting political training to her. There is a need to bring about reforms in the electoral and administrative systems. Ms. Maria Lydia Sanchez Valverde (Costa Rica) felt that politics is a vocation and women have it in them. She suggested that the media should be democratically shared for the purposes of campaigning. Ms. Kadiatou Koubourath Osseneni (Benin) pointed out that politicians in her country are expected to provide money to the people because they believe that politicians, after their election, would fill their pockets. She called upon women to evolve solidarity among themselves. The pressure groups and NGOs should help the women in funding their campaigns.

Dr. G. Leelavathi (Malaysia) stated that funding for campaigning is the task of the political party. As such, it is a problem for both male and female candidates. Mr. Bedouma Alain Yoda (Burkina Faso) observed that financing for the campaign is a difficult question and for women candidates funding is a great problem. Ms. Shahrbanou Amani (Iran) emphasized the need for removing the legal and bureaucratic impediments for women's participation in political structures. She called upon women to set up Women Election Funds by themselves, supported by governmental and non-governmental bodies. Ms. Nkandu Luo (Zambia) pointed out that there is an imperative for supporting women, irrespective of their party affiliations and status.

Ms. Nozizwe Routledge (South Africa) felt that the burden of funding women candidates is squarely on institutions, including Governments, and hoped that the IPU would bring some pressure to bear on Governments. She emphasized that we must create politics that would ensure mainstreaming and integration of women's issues. This is easier said but difficult to achieve. So there is a need to create special structures towards this end. Ms. Agnes Ndetei (Kenya) pleaded for a compulsory quota system for political parties. She also called for demystifying the myth of politics and advocated moneyless campaigning.

Summing up the Session, the Chairperson, Ms. Sheila Finestone gave a broad overview of the opinions expressed by a cross-section of the delegates. There was evidently a diversity of opinion on technicalities but a remarkable identity of views on the burning questions of mainstreaming women candidates and giving a thrust to their electoral campaigns.

Regional Workshops

On the penultimate day of the Conference - 17 February 1997 – Regional Workshops were convened in the morning. The theme common to all Workshops was "Practical experience and proposals in order to achieve a more balanced sharing of political responsibilities between men and women

going beyond mere recognition of the current democratic deficit and analysis of obstacles to the practice of partnership”.

Africa

The Africa Regional Workshop was chaired by the Moderator, Sir Ramesh Jeewoolall, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Mauritius.

In her Keynote Address, Ms. Mata Sy Diallo, MP (Senegal) said that 75 per cent of the people suffering from hunger, conflicts, displacement and disease are women and children. There is a need to involve women in the decision-making. Girls have to be relieved from domestic work to study and later participate in politics. Basic facilities like health, shelter, food and financial support are necessary for enabling women to participate in politics. Changes in existing laws, Penal Codes and electoral laws are essential to bring more women into politics. Quota for women may be accepted as a transitional solution, she said.

Delivering her Keynote Address, Ms. Gladys Mutukwa (Zambia) observed that the political arena at all levels and in all countries is still dominated by men. To make democracy real, what is required is the removal of social, economic, political, cultural and organizational obstacles that prevent women's participation. There is a need to have genuine political will to bring about changes. Ms. Mutukwa also called for having affirmative provisions, including quota system, training in capacity building, funding support for women candidates and equality provisions in party constitutions to promote women's political participation.

Taking part in the discussions, delegates emphasized the importance of education, training, economic independence as well as financial support in the actual participation of women in politics. There was also a convergence of opinion on the need for removing family constraints, legal and constitutional problems and institutional hurdles involving women in politics.

Several delegates highlighted the importance of awareness campaign, affirmative action, capacity building, funding support, education, training and economic independence in furthering women's participation. The need for bringing about attitudinal change in both men and women was highlighted. Some delegates suggested removing the negative traits of traditional and customary values to increase women's participation. The problem of sensitizing the whole society about women's problem was also discussed. It was widely felt that the commitment of women themselves is essential in furthering their cause. Some delegates recommended having a quota system for women both in the party and the Legislature. Opposing the system of quota for women, one delegate said that women must get ready to face challenges and shoulder responsibility. Emphasizing that politics starts at home, another delegate said that we should start by training ourselves and the children.

Arab

In her summary of the Arab Regional Workshop, Ms. Toujan Faisal, Moderator, said that women's participation in politics was equally important as in education and training. Expansion of democracy is an essential component with the participation of both men and women. Women who have been given a right to vote should participate more actively in politics. Departments dealing with women should be established and political parties should foster women's participation. Action should be taken at the governmental level to facilitate women's empowerment. Besides, there is a need to put an end to the feeling that man is superior to woman.

Asia and Pacific

The Asia and Pacific Workshop was presided over by Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, MP (India) and the Keynote Addresses were delivered by Ms. Supatra Masdit (Thailand) and Mr. Datuk Mohamed Nazri bin Abdul Aziz (Malaysia).

In her Keynote Address, Ms. Masdit identified new political paradigms that would stimulate debate on the question of removing gender disparity. She felt that politics that affords gender parity is both transformed and transformational in nature - the former because it uses power to accord priority to the disadvantaged sections such as the poor grassroots women and the latter because it is development-oriented, issue-based and gender-responsive; besides, it seeks economic, social and political equity between sexes. If pursued closely, this kind of politics would build a society that is just and humane and a way of life that is sustainable.

Mr. Nazri, in his Keynote Address, said that the challenging task we face today, is to transform politics from male domination to gender equality and called for a new social contract anchored on partnership. He asserted that such partnership entails relationships based on cooperation and collaboration to work for the common objective of creating a good society. The issue of gender inequality in politics was addressed by the feminist movement which was largely confined to the West and did not become popular because of its emphasis on a confrontational approach. The Asia-Pacific region, on the other hand, always preferred cooperation and in most of these countries, independence was gained through the joint efforts of men and women. Now, it is high time that we harnessed both genders' unique abilities, energy, enthusiasm and creativity to ensure that social justice and equity are enjoyed in the arena of political decision-making.

There was active participation by delegates in the discussion that followed. Many interesting and analytical views were expressed by the delegates, most of who tended to agree on the quota system as a necessity while some wanted it rather as an entry point only. However, one delegate contended that quota system would breed complacency and dampen the fighting spirit which is essential in politics.

There was a good degree of consensus on the need for women's presence in the organization of political parties. In the context of South Asia especially, it is the political parties who control politics and therefore parties need to change their orientation towards women by showing greater sensitivity to their political aspirations. In fact, women are inherently political and vote in greater number than men.

Some speakers highlighted the insufficiency of institutional mechanisms to create political awareness at the grassroots level and called for political training in a big way. However, this training should not alienate women from their natural habitat or else the participation may not be adequate. Some stressed the need to include legal literacy in such training programmes like raising awareness among women about their constitutional position and the various rights given to them about which oftentimes they have no knowledge.

Several delegates laid emphasis on the need to make education easily accessible to the girl child and underscored the virtues of co-educational schooling through which the values of gender equity can be easily inculcated on the impressionable minds of young girls and boys. However, one delegate disagreed with this view. Another delegate raised certain fundamental questions on the issue when he said that this question is under debate for too long, producing too little result. Unless we internalize the need for change and give the matter cultural and spiritual underpinnings, we will not be able to achieve much.

On the question of funding, there was evidently a diversity of opinion. Delegates tended to suggest different ways to raise funds. Many wanted tax relief for women's electoral funding and tax rebate to the donors of such funding.

In her concluding remarks, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury noted that there is a global apartheid of a different kind prevailing everywhere which segregates societies on the basis of sex and in this respect the economically advanced countries of the West are no more gender-friendly than the developing countries. We need a metamorphosis of the existing mindset and this calls for a cultural upheaval of our deep-rooted attitudes. We cling to old ideas and customs even when the social context that created them in the first place long disappeared, she lamented. This kind of a change has to come through an evolutionary process if it is to sustain in the long run. In this, everyone has a great role to play and more particularly the media, Smt. Chowdhury asserted.

Central and Eastern Europe

Delivering the Keynote Address, Ms. Zdravka Basic, MP (Croatia) pointed out that after the collapse of Communism, women shared an equal fate in the countries of this region. There is disparity between men and women

in politics with women being not perceived on an equal footing. Ms. Busic felt that women were the biggest losers in the process of transition. The economic hardships have limited women's participation in politics. She suggested that women should be active at all levels of a political party. A network should be developed to protect their interests.

In the second Keynote Address, Mr. Jerzy J. Wiatr, MP (Poland) stated that the Communist experience have united the countries in the region, rather than geography. Despite women being highly educated, their participation in politics is not substantial. The reason lies in the family structure and the public image regarding politics which is that it is a masculine affair. He was of the view that quota system would promote a feeling that women need an artificial support for their participation. The under-representation of women makes the political process less representative which is not good for democracy. Women's participation would make politics more civilized and humane. It is imperative that men and women should work together in partnership in politics.

After the Keynote Addresses, views were expressed on various problems that women in these countries faced. Several delegates felt that quota for women in politics would not serve much purpose. Some wanted that women should get elected on their merit and talent. Many felt that the media can play a significant role in bringing about attitudinal changes among the electorate about women. The quality of women's participation is more important than the quantity of women in politics.

Women's participation at the grassroots should be accorded greater importance before they participate at the national levels. Democracy is incomplete without the participation of women in politics. The policies made by the Government affect everybody, including women. It is, therefore, imperative that women participate in the decision-making, especially in the executive branch of the Government.

In the concluding remarks, Mr. Jerzy J. Wiatr pointed out that while women's participation at the national level is important, it is equally important at the local level. He also noted that political parties can be the major vehicle for women's participation in politics.

Latin America and the Caribbean

There was a full length debate on the subject in the workshop of the delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean. It was pointed out that it is the responsibility of both men and women to create a just society. The importance of education in correcting the mental attitude of men and women was highlighted. Many delegates called for state help in the creation of child centres to help mothers so that they are not marginalized. Politics per se is not dirty. What is essential is that the atmosphere is made congenial for women to enter politics. The importance of quota system and the role of NGOs were recognized in increasing the participation of women in politics.

The Twelve Plus

Ms. Irene Freundenschuss-Reichl, Vice-Chairperson of one of the two Committees of the Beijing Conference and Chairperson of the Drafting Group of the Vienna Preparatory Conference of the Beijing Conference and Mr. Georgios Anastassopoulos, MP, and Vice-President of the European Parliament were the Keynote Speakers at the Regional Workshop of the Twelve Plus. Ms. Leni Fischer, MP (Germany) and President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was the Moderator.

In his Keynote Address, Mr. Georgios Anastassopoulos said that women are the very foundations of a harmonious partnership, vital to the well-being of our societies and therefore to democracy. The democratic deficit is more than apparent in the absence of a balanced representation. The theme of the Conference itself is a reflection of the ongoing dilemma and the fact is that partnership does not yet exist *de facto*; even if, and when it does, *de jure* partnership does not exist in our societies, not even in our families. If we do not have partnership in the family and at work, or do not fight for partnership in sharing resources, then partnership between men and women in politics becomes an illusion. Men and women judge societies in different ways, set different priorities for their development, conduct politics in different ways, and endeavour to resolve conflicts in very distinctive methods. That is the very reason why we should strive towards a proper partnership and this has to start at the very foundation of politics, in the family, at the workplace and right at the local level. It has to be an exercise from below and not a top-down decision. The challenge of a balanced representation is one of the greatest, Mr. Anastassopoulos added.

In her Keynote Address, Ms. Irene Freundenschuss-Reichl highlighted the important proposals made at various regional and international Conferences addressing the issue of gender parity in politics. The four C's, the main practical barriers to women participating equally with men, are: culture, confidence, children and cash. In many countries, particularly those in transition, the economic recession and accompanying rise in unemployment were seen to have put pressure on women to return to their homes. Equal participation of women and men in political life must be seen as a human rights issue.

The Non-Partisan Austrian Women's Group has taken an initiative for a referendum to highlight women's issues on the premise that women work a lot, they earn little and positions of influence are usually reserved for men. The referendum aims at setting a few basic ideas into the minds of the Austrian citizens, like women have an equal right to obtain decently remunerated work as men; that they can only exercise this right if society acknowledges that children are not just women's responsibility; and that it is unjust to penalize older women financially because in their time they had been obliged to do unpaid work, she added.

Several stimulating ideas emerged during the general discussion in the Workshop. Many delegates felt that all the existing institutions and legal and administrative structures are the creations of men and they naturally addressed more to the need of men. It is, therefore, imperative that change is brought about in the young minds from the early schooling stage itself. Young school-going girls should be encouraged to participate in the political discussions and activities in the school itself. Being a politician is being a representative of an exciting profession. Like in any other profession there are good politicians and bad ones too.

The real partnership between men and women in politics require good training and education. Money and funding are extremely important. It is also important to encourage anti-discriminatory legislation. Equality goes much farther than non-discrimination. Many countries formally recognize the principle of equality but in reality women experience unequal treatment. To bring about parity, quota system may not be the right solution in the long run. But as a transitional measure we cannot think of anything better. However, if the political parties decide on a time-bound programme to correct the imbalances, any quota legislation can be done away with. If the parties fail to produce concrete results in achieving parity within a specific period, protective/affirmative legislation for a specific quota for women at every level of Government could be resorted to. In the long run, the right kind of education also plays an important role. In the ultimate analysis 'good education for daughters is the best dowry' that parents can offer. Reduction of budget on education should be opposed as it adversely affects the interests of women.

One of the main obstacles to women is the way household work is shared. There should be an effective campaign to conscientize the society as a whole about the need to share the unpaid work in the families, like household duties, care of dependent family members, etc. equally between the partners. Also a career break for women to facilitate attending to basic family matters like childcare would help them in planning careers. Men make rules keeping primarily their own interests in mind. Having more women in decision-making is a positive thing as society can get the benefit of their wisdom too.

To suit the changing times, a renegotiation of the social contract is necessary. The proponents of the old theories were not sensitive enough to the problems of women. They did not look at the problem of equality from a proper perspective. A group of academics could be constituted to study and analyze the newly emerging concepts and social situations. Today, unequal representation is not seen as an essential deficit in democracy. The concept of equality is not consolidated in our conscience. It is, therefore, imperative to suggest that Parliaments without proper feminine representation should not be allowed membership in the international bodies. Also, as a positive step, financing of elections could be linked to the number of women

candidates put up by parties. There should also be preferential funding for women. From a European perspective, it was proposed to include the principle of equality and human rights in the Maastricht Treaty.

It was felt that mass media should take more interest on the issue of gender disparity. The electronic media should project women in proper perspective by producing positive programmes on women activists, etc. Awards can be instituted for the best projections of women in the media. Also, wherever necessary, changes should be brought about in the electoral system to facilitate adequate representation of women in elected bodies.

Ultimately, however, what matters is not what is discussed in the Conferences and Seminars, but what each participant, each delegate, translates into action in their own respective countries and their different fora and work places.

On 17 February 1997, in the afternoon, the Moderators of the Regional Workshops presented Reports on the Sessions. Subsequently, some delegates expressed their views. Baronnes Shreela Flather (UK) said that the nature of politics is such that members once elected hardly give ground to someone else. It is important to bear this in mind. Each of us attending the Conference has a duty to individually commit herself or himself to something good for women after going back. Dr. Girija Vyas (India) called for taking concrete action to correct present imbalances. There should be some quota for some time, she suggested. Mr. Carlos Dos Santos (Uruguay) pledged to do something for getting women elected to Parliament. Ms. Viola Furubjelke (Sweden) thanked the Indian Parliament and the IPU for hosting the Conference.

Special Address by the Prime Minister of India

On 18 February 1997, the Prime Minister of India, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda delivered a Special Address to the Conference. In his Address, the Prime Minister said that while we all appreciate the importance of equal partnership of men and women in all walks of life, there are old mind-sets that tend to discriminate and inhibit the realization of equality and equal participation. Consequently, we have to strengthen our resolve to bring equality to all people in all spheres and design suitable strategies to achieve our aims. In the theme of this Conference, there is a strong echo for greater inclusion of women without exclusion of men in the sharing of political authority, social responsibility, and economic development.

Shri Deve Gowda said that the Constitution of India incorporates the basic principle of equal partnership between men and women. We are proud of the women of our country who fought for freedom shoulder-to-shoulder with men. The women's movement had a strong influence in the shaping of our Constitution which aims at the elimination of gender-based discrimination.

However, there still exists a wide gap between the goals enunciated in the Constitution, legislation, policies, plans and programmes on the one hand and the actual status of women in India, on the other.

The Prime Minister observed that laws alone do not lead to social transformation, unless followed up by resolute action. Within the framework of our democratic polity, our laws, development policies, plans and programmes have aimed at women's advancement in different spheres. In recent years, the empowerment of women has been recognized as the central issue in determining the status of women. The National Commission for Women was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1990 to safeguard the rights and legal entitlements of women. The 73rd and 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India have provided for reservation of seats in the local bodies of Panchayats and Municipalities for women, laying a strong foundation for their participation in decision-making at the local levels.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the Common Minimum Programme of the present Government, among other things, aimed at social justice through empowerment of under-privileged and deprived communities, which also included provision of membership to women in Parliament and the State Legislatures. We have already introduced a Bill in Parliament for this purpose which is indeed a revolutionary step in the direction of gender equality and empowerment of women.

The Prime Minister expressed the confidence that the conclusions arrived at in this Conference will lead to more harmonious development of societies the world over, and a conducive environment for the advancement of all people. He added that he stood by the consensus arrived at in the Conference and assured the delegates in his capacity as the Prime Minister of India to do all that is necessary to achieve equal partnership between men and women in society.

Concluding Session

After the Special Address by the Prime Minister, the Conference came to a close at a solemn function in the Plenary Hall of the Vigyan Bhawan.

Preliminary Observations by Speaker Sangma

In his preliminary observations at the concluding Session, the Lok Sabha Speaker and the President of the Conference, Shri P.A. Sangma complemented the IPU Council for the design of the Conference which was unique. The usual country statements were avoided. Delegates comprising 121 men and 119 women, belonging to 133 political parties of the world, apart from nine independents, went straight into business. There were 150 interventions in the Plenaries alone. Seventy-five per cent of these interventions was made by women. The quality of debate has been impressive as well. The Keynote Speakers and Moderators meaningfully guided the debate with the professionalism and enormity of their experience. The Plenaries and the Workshops truly mirrored the grassroots conditions.

Shri Sangma said that the deliberations at the Conference pointed to the fact that women themselves are halting and hesitant in entering politics and consider it an unclean domain. But politics is one of the most beautiful human activities. The legitimacy of this activity has to be carried home to women. Men need to be prepared for adjusting themselves to the new role they have to play as women get inducted into public service, particularly in the context of the sea-change overtaking the institution of family.

Shri Sangma observed that political participation is a pervasive process. Political training of women needs to be continuous and life-long, even commencing from the school stage; it should be at all levels too – local, provincial, national and international; academic, specialized and party institutions should be involved in the training process.

Establishment of quotas for women's political participation is legitimate and practical as proved by experience. Electoral reforms could be considered for eliminating the disadvantages faced by women in political participation.

There is apprehension that mobilization of finances from private sources may create dependence and obligations. The solution to the issue is transparency in mobilization of funds, expenditure and accounting for it.

The media's role has been traditionally one of reflecting some striking aspects of the *status quo* and trends. If the media is to play an active role, women themselves should devise direct and institutional mechanisms for networking with the media.

The IPU should continue to survey the status of political advancement of women, monitor it and promote it. There needs to be a Summit of Heads of Government on political participation of women. Candidly speaking, politics is power and perquisites as well, apart from public service. Men, who are in a majority in politics, could be reluctant to be deprived. If this scenario is to change, political commitment should follow from the Heads of Government, Shri Sangma stressed.

Final Declaration

The Final Declaration by the President of the Conference, which was read out by the Secretary of the Conference, Ms. Christine Pintat noted that during four days of intense debate, we pooled the diversity of our experiences, our reflections, our doubts and our suggestions. The Declaration said that as politics is deeply rooted in society and reflects dominant values, the discussions highlighted clearly that developing a partnership in politics necessarily depends on the degree of partnership as a social mode in general. This is undoubtedly why the IPU asserts that what has to be developed, in modern democratic societies, is nothing less than a new social contract in which men and women work in equality and complementarity, enriching each other mutually from their differences. To address this deficit, a major shift in the mind-set of both men and women is needed. This would generate a positive change of attitudes towards women and lead

to a new balance in society at large and in politics in particular. It goes without saying that women's political rights must be considered in the overall context of human rights and cannot be dissociated therefrom. Men and women politicians, Governments and Parliaments must pursue their efforts towards the recognition of these rights and the implementation of the international instruments which relate to them.

It was stressed that the situation would improve appreciably if the number of women in Parliament reached a certain threshold figure. This critical mass was evaluated at 30 per cent which has also been borne out by the experience in the Nordic countries. It seemed that this critical mass and, even more, parity could not be achieved in Parliaments as long as political parties fail to put forward a sufficient number of women candidates with real chances of being elected. Parties were asked to become more open to women and more receptive to their demands.

Many participants favoured the introduction of quota systems to promote women's access to the governing bodies of parties where, on an average, they account for scarcely 10 per cent. The views on quotas were divergent. Those who favoured stressed the need for quotas at all levels where decisions are actually taken, from parties to the national Parliament, Government and administration. It is clear to us all that quotas are only a necessary evil which should be applied on a temporary basis in order to redress the current dramatic imbalance between men and women and that they should be abolished once the desired effect has been achieved. A clear consensus emerged in favour of quotas targeting candidatures rather than the outcome of the election, and in favour of them being established by parties rather than by Parliament, although the law had the advantage of making them binding on all parties. It was felt that, in order to reduce the discriminatory nature of quotas, they should be gender neutral. Several delegates further stressed the need for other mechanisms such as, wherever appropriate, the reservation of a certain percentage of seats in local and national representative institutions to compensate for women's poor chances of being elected.

With regard to parliamentary elections, many delegates stated that the proportional representation system or a mixed electoral system gives women much greater chances of being elected than the first-past-the-post system. Parties were further asked to take measures to facilitate the equal participation of men and women in their activities, taking account of the family responsibilities of both sexes.

As in a *leitmotiv*, women's education was mentioned in all debates and by virtually all speakers of either sex as one of the pre-conditions for the integration of women in political life. This education should be provided for men as much as for women in order to break down patriarchal mind-sets and should start at a very early age.

In addition, a lengthy debate was devoted more particularly to women's political and electoral training. The training should target three aspects. First of all, the exercise of citizenship should begin at school age so that participation in political life is not reduced merely to depositing a vote in a ballot box at more or less regular intervals; on the contrary, it implies a lasting commitment and contribution to the building of a more just society. The ability to stand for election and to conduct an electoral campaign implies gaining the necessary self-confidence, putting together the requisite moral, material and logistical support in the political party and informal support networks and, lastly, winning the voters' trust. It is also necessary to learn the use of parliamentary procedures so as to be able to fulfil electoral commitments.

Training should be provided to both women and men and trainers should be drawn from each sex. Political parties should mobilize and appeal to women candidates and should set up training programmes suited to their needs. Universities, NGOs and similar associations also play a fundamental role, particularly women associations which rely on men and women who can transmit their wealth of experience. Parliament is another valuable factor which provides training to newly elected members in order to help them prepare for their parliamentary duties.

Training should focus on Governments, the building of democracy and problems tied to social relations between men and women, and pertain to such topics as communications, campaign organization, work with volunteers, media and NGOs, and the role of political parties. One particularly important type of training involves learning how to examine the national budget so as to understand its different components and determine the extent to which it takes into account the needs of women. Education programmes should cover positive family values and practices and the fight against stereotyped roles, and should be followed by training components comprising elements of legal and political literacy.

Much attention was devoted to the financing of women's electoral campaigns. Many calls were also made to reduce the exorbitant costs of campaigns. This would clearly level the playing field for women but would need to be closely monitored to ensure that limits are respected. Reductions could be achieved not only by placing a cap or ceiling on spending but also by shortening the time for campaigning. The introduction of reduced rates for the use of media time in campaigns was also stressed. Many delegates expressed the view that women have everything to gain from a cleaner and more transparent system of financing of both nomination and electoral campaigns and it was proposed that all countries should, if they have not already done so, introduce appropriate legislation to regulate funding from all sources, whether public, business, foundations or private.

Today, the media plays a very important role in politics. No politician, man or woman, can disregard or minimize it. The dominant feeling among

the delegates was that each side has to go some way to meet the other. Emphasis was placed on the need, in particular, to provide media training for women so that they can both understand the working and priorities of the media better and learn how to get their message across. The media in fact tends to focus on people who are identified with a cause, without paying attention to their gender. On the other hand, the media was to look into the way it portrays women in general, as well as women politicians in particular, and to adopt a new outlook. If the media is aware that integrating women in politics reinforces democracy, it should, having a crucial and increasingly important role to play in the democratic process, strive to get this message across in every possible way.

Several delegates referred to the importance of networking among women politicians, both nationally and regionally, and to the action that senior women politicians who play a model role can take in order to encourage other women to enter the political arena.

It was recommended that every state should set up a multi-disciplinary advisory board having a supervisory function to ensure that the interests and needs of women are taken into account in every field.

As regards possible action to be taken by Parliaments, it was suggested that they should create special committees in charge of monitoring national, international and regional provisions regarding the rights of women, or committees on women's affairs. Parliaments should ensure the adoption of legislation regarding the implementation of women's rights. They should also work out, together with their Governments, strategies for progress to be made towards the realization of equal partnership between men and women. It was felt that the parliamentarians should also support women's NGOs.

Strengthening the IPU's co-operation with the United Nations Division on the Status of Women was also proposed as a practical follow-up to the Agreement of Co-operation recently concluded between the IPU and the UN.

In conclusion, the Declaration pointed out that the imbalance between men and women in politics is undeniable, that a consensus between men and women has arisen on the urgent need to remedy this situation and that practical solutions have been identified. It now remains to mobilize sustained political resolve in order to advance from words to action.

Later, the Secretary-General of the IPU, Mr. Pierre Cornillon assured the delegates that the IPU will spare no efforts in extending its support to achieving the objectives of the Conference and its recommendations.

After the Declaration was read out, several delegates representing the various regions expressed their appreciation and thanks towards the President of the Conference, the Vice-President, the IPU, and the Host Secretariat for the manner in which the Conference was organized, the overwhelming participation it evoked and for its great success.

Later, the Vice-President of the Conference and the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla thanked all those who were associated with the organization of the Conference in one way or the other and all the participants for their active involvement at every stage of the Conference which, she felt, was not just a Conference, but 'one with a cause'.

At the end of the Conference, Shri P.A. Sangma addressed a joint Press Conference with Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla and Mr. Pierre Comillon and briefed the media about the highlights of the Conference.

Some Special Features

The Conference Branch of the Host Secretariat made extensive arrangements to ensure that the Conference was a successful gathering of participants from the world over. Several functions were also organized for the benefit of the delegates.

During the Conference, a panoramic display of photographs, diagrams and charts on the partnership of *Men and Women in Indian Politics* was arranged in the Exhibition Hall in the Vigyan Bhawan. The photographic exposition of eminent men and women parliamentarians, past and present, freedom fighters, Heads of Government and Officers of Parliament and diagrammatic presentation of partnership of women since 1952 in the Council of Ministers, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha was displayed in the form of easy-to-understand at-a-glance charts and graphs. The partnership of men and women in the State Legislative Assemblies, district boards/blocks and village Panchayats was also presented appropriately through diagrams, tables and charts. Information regarding men and women voters, their voting percentages, contestants in the General Elections and party-wise performance were also aptly depicted. The delegates, dignitaries and other participants who visited the Exhibition appreciated the display.

A study titled *Towards partnership between Men and Women in Politics: The Indian Scenario* by the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan was brought out during the Conference. Another booklet, *India: A Fact Sheet*, compiled by the Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat was also distributed among the delegates.

A Synopsis of the proceedings of the Conference was issued daily by the Editorial and Translation Services of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Secretariats. The Bulletin Desk of the Host Branch Secretariat issued six *Daily Bulletins* covering all activities of the Conference. A Library and Reference Counter functioned at the venue of the Conference to attend to the on-the-spot information requirements of the delegates. Registration and Information Counters, Souvenirs/Publications Sales Counter and Transport Desks were functional right through the Conference days.

The Parliament Library Computer Centre, along with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), set up a full-fledged Computer Centre at the Vigyan Bhawan to provide a variety of on-line information, E-mail and INTERNET facilities to delegates. The computer installed at the Information and Registration Desk stored information about the arrival and departure details of the delegates and accompanying persons, Conference schedule, sight-seeing programmes, etc. A *Cyber Room* was set up in the Vigyan Bhawan to provide the facility for E-mail and INTERNET connectivity. Similar facility was also provided at the Media Centre for the Indian and foreign Press.

Information pertaining to the Constitution of India, the Parliament, parliamentary proceedings and Members' bio-data were made available in the Parliament of India Home Page at the worldwide web site of INTERNET. The synopsis of the Conference proceedings in English was also made available through INTERNET the next day. In order to access data stored in various databases of the Parliament Library Information System (PARLIS), the Computer Centre at the Vigyan Bhawan was connected with the Computer Center in Parliament House. Multi-media facilities were also made available at the Registration and Information Desk.

On 15 February 1997, at the opening of the Plenary in the Vigyan Bhawan, commemorative coins in the denominations of Rs. 100/-, Rs. 50/- and Rs.5/- were released to mark the Conference. A commemorative postage stamp in the denomination of Rs.5/- was also released at the function.

Delegates were guests of honour at Receptions/Banquets, hosted by various dignitaries. The inaugural ceremony in the Central Hall on 14 February 1997 was followed by a Reception in the Parliament House lawns. Delegates and invitees were enthralled by a musical concert by Dr. Dominique Barthassat on the Piano and Key Board Synthesizer; Amaan Ali Bangash on the *Sarod*; Ustad Shajaat Ahmad Khan on the *Tabla*; and Shri Babhra on the *Tanpura*. The President on India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma hosted an 'At Home' at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 15 February 1997. Receptions/Banquets/Lunches/Dinners were also hosted by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena; the Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; and the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan. Some cultural programmes were also arranged.

After the Conference was over, the delegates were taken to Agra on 19 February 1997. Local sight-seeing programmes were arranged for accompanying persons.

The Conference was given extensive coverage by the electronic and the print media. The inaugural function on 14 February 1997, the launching of the debates on 15 February 1997, the Special Address by the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda on 18 February 1997 and the concluding Session were telecast live by the *Doordarshan*. The Round Table with the media on 15 February 1997 was recorded and later a report was telecast on the national network by the *Doordarshan* the same week. There was a daily briefing on the Conference proceedings by Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla for media persons. The *Doordarshan*, the All India Radio and the print media gave wide coverage of the proceedings daily.

Conclusion

The Inter-Parliamentary Specialized Conference has undoubtedly contributed substantially towards promoting partnership between men and women in politics. The deliberations at the Conference displayed a remarkable commitment on the part of the delegates to the main theme. The discussions threw light on various aspects of the subject matter which facilitated a better understanding of the core issues.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha and the President of the Conference, Shri P.A. Sangma, in his Address at the inaugural function on 14 February 1997, said:

Politics, in essence, is management of society, which in turn, facilitates management of governance. Women are natural managers. They can manage society and governance as well as they do the family. For, society is but an aggregate of families. Because women manage the family well, they need not be confined to it. Rather, because of this, they should be inducted into politics so that society and governance are managed better, without leaving politics to be the hunting ground for men. And we would also do well to remember that political participation, be it of men or women, is a natural human activity, a basic human right.....

This could well be the message that goes forth from the New Delhi Conference.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

60th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India : The 60th Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in New Delhi on 10 and 11 October 1996. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri P.A. Sangma presided. The Conference, hosted by Parliament, was attended by almost all the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.

The Conference discussed the following points on the Agenda :

- (i) Need to create an atmosphere and functioning of present-day Legislatures conducive to the growth of democracy and to check the deterioration in the performance and behaviour of our legislators inside the House.
- (ii) Role and introduction of the Committee System in the Legislatures for parliamentary surveillance over Executive.
- (iii) Relationship between the Legislature and the Press.
- (iv) Telecasting of the proceedings of the House.

Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India : The Fortieth Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was held in New Delhi on 9 October 1996. The Conference was presided over by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Smt. V.S. Rama Devi. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan also addressed the Conference. The Secretaries of almost all the States/Union territories' Legislatures attended the Conference which discussed subjects of parliamentary and administrative interest.

Symposium on the Relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary and their role in the present-day context : A Symposium on the "Relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary and their role in the present-day context" was held in New Delhi on 12 October 1996.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, Shri P.A. Sangma presided and delivered the opening Address. The Presiding Officers of States/Union territories' Legislatures in India and members of Parliament participated in the Symposium.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized 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 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 October to 31 December 1996.

Mahatma Gandhi : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a function was held on 2 October 1996 in the Central Hall. The Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht; the Minister of Welfare, Shri B.S. Ramoowalia; the Minister of Civil Aviation and Information and Broadcasting, Shri C.M. Ibrahim; the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra; the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Maqbool Dar; the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, Employment and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. U. Venkateswarlu; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, a function was held on 2 October 1996 in the Central Hall. The Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht; the Minister of Welfare, Shri B.S. Ramoowalia; the Minister of Civil Aviation and Information and Broadcasting, Shri C.M. Ibrahim; the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra; the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Maqbool Dar; the Minister of State for Urban Affairs, Employment and Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. U. Venkateswarlu; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a function was held on 31 October 1996 in the Central Hall. The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht; the Minister of Food, Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav; the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri S.R. Balasubramanian; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, a function was held on 5 November 1996 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Minister of Welfare, Shri B.S. Ramoowalia; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a function was held on 11 November 1996 in the Central Hall. The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Shri Sikander Bakht; the Minister of Welfare, Shri B.S. Ramoowalia; the Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Maqbool Dar; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Maulana Azad.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a function was held on 14 November 1996 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament; and Smt. Sonia Gandhi and others paid floral tributes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Smt. Indira Gandhi : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Indira Gandhi, a function was held on 19 November 1996 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta; the Election Commissioner, Shri G.V.G Krishnamurthy; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament; and Smt. Sonia Gandhi and others paid floral tributes to Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, a function was held on 3 December 1996 in the Central Hall. 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 Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

Shri C. Rajagopalachari : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri C. Rajagopalachari, a function was held on 10 December 1996 in the Central Hall. 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 Shri Rajagopalachari.

Chaudhary Charan Singh : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chaudhary Charan Singh, a function was held on 23 December 1996 in the Central Hall. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; former Union

Minister, Shri Ajit Singh; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Chaudhary Charan Singh.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya : On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya, a function was held on 25 December 1996 in the Central Hall. 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 to Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

Mauritius : On our invitation, a 10-member Mauritian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Sir Ramesh Jeewoolal visited India from 13 to 25 November 1996.

The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujral; and the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 21 November 1996. The Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a banquet in their honour the same day. They called on the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda; and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena on 22 November 1996. A meeting between the members of our Parliament and the Delegation was also held on that day.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra, Calcutta, Mumbai and Patna.

Iran : On our invitation, a 30-member Iranian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker of the Majlis (Parliament), Mr. Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri visited India from 25 to 29 November 1996.

The Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujral called on the visiting Speaker and the Delegation on 25 November 1996. The Delegation called on the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma on 26 November 1996. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena called on the Leader of the visiting Delegation the same day. Later in the evening, the Speaker, Lok Sabha hosted a banquet in their honour. The Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda hosted a lunch in honour of the visiting Leader and the Delegation on 27 November 1996. A meeting between the members of our Parliament and the visiting Delegation was also held the same day. The Delegation met the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee on that day.

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

Parliamentary Delegation of the State Duma Committee on Nationalities of the Russian Federation : A 7- member Parliamentary Delegation of the State Duma Committee on Nationalities of the Russian Federation visited India from 26 to 30 November 1996.

The Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma on 28 November 1996 and also held meetings with the Minorities Commission and the National Women's Commission. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan hosted a dinner in their honour the same day. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan on 29 November 1996 and also held meetings with the National Human Rights Commission and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra and Chandigarh.

Armenia : On our invitation, an 8-member Armenian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Chairman of the National Assembly of Armenia, Mr. Babken Ararktsian, visited India from 4 to 7 December 1996.

The Delegation called on the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma; and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena on 4 December 1996. They called on the President, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; and the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K.R. Narayanan on 5 December 1996. They held a discussion with the members of our Parliament the same day. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Suraj Bhan hosted a banquet in their honour later in the evening. Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS GOING ABROAD

Russia : On the invitation of the State Duma (Parliament) of the Russian Federation, an Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma visited Russia from 21 to 26 October 1996. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Chitta Basu; Sukhdeo Paswan; G. Swaminathan; Ranjib Biswal; Joyanta Roy; and Smt. Sushma Swaraj, all members of Parliament; and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri S. Gopalan. Shri S.C. Rastogi, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Saudi Arabia : On the invitation of the Shura Council (Parliament) of Saudi Arabia, an Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, visited Saudi Arabia from 26 to 29 October 1996. The other members of the Delegation were Sarvashri Rajendra Agnihotri; E. Ahamed; Ghulam Rasool Kar; K. Rahman Khan; and Abdussamad Samadani, all members of Parliament; and Shri J.P. Ratnesh, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat. Shri M. Rajagopalan Nair, Joint Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

United Kingdom: An Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma, visited United Kingdom from 1 to 8 November 1996. The other members of the Delegation were the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, who was also the Deputy Leader of the Delegation; and Sarvashri Manoranjan Bhakta; Ram Naik; Tarit Baran Topdar; S. Bangarappa; Ram Deo Bhandari; and V. Narayansamy, all members of Parliament; and the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Smt. V.S. Rama Devi. Shri P.D.T. Achary, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organized the following Courses /Programmes:

Orientation Programmes: An Orientation Programme for the newly elected members of the Assam Legislative Assembly was organized from 12 to 14 November 1996 at Dispur, by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat in collaboration with the BPST. The Orientation Programme was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma.

Twelfth Parliamentary Internship Programme for Foreign Parliamentary Officials: The Twelfth Parliamentary Internship Programme for Foreign Parliamentary Officials was organized from 25 September to 12 November 1996. It was attended by seventeen participants from nine Afro-Asian countries. The Programme was designed to meet the special needs of Officers of foreign Parliaments to enable them to study the working of parliamentary institutions in India and their processes and procedures. The Programme aimed at providing the foreign parliamentary officials an opportunity to exchange ideas in the context of their experiences in their Legislatures and to acquaint themselves with the environment, culture, traditions and working of parliamentary institutions in India.

Twelfth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting: The Twelfth International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting was organized from 20 November 1996 to 30 January 1997. Two participants from Indonesia, one each from Nepal, South Africa, Thailand, two Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat and one Officer each from the Karnataka Legislature Secretariat and the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Secretariat attended the Programme.

The Programme was designed to equip the parliamentary officials with the basic concepts, skills and techniques required for drafting legislation so that they could assist members of Parliament whenever required.

Appreciation Courses: The following Appreciation Courses were organized for: (i) Indian Foreign Service Probationers (4-8 November 1996); (ii) IRSME/IRSSE/IRIS/IRMS Probationers (2-6 December 1996); and (iii)

Audit/Accounts Officials of the Indian Audit and Accounts Departments (16-20 December 1996).

Attachment Programmes: The following Attachment Programmes were organized for: (i) foreign participants attending the Training Programme at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (9-10 October 1996); (ii) Officers of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly, to study the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament (28-31 October 1996); and (iii) foreign participants attending the Training Programme at the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (28-29 November 1996).

Besides, a seven-member Bangladesh Parliamentary Delegation, headed by Shri Suranjit Sen Gupta, MP and Advisor to the Bangladesh Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, attended an Attachment Programme from 9 to 12 December 1996 to have an insight into the working of our Parliamentary Committee System, including the Financial Committees and the Departmentally-related Standing Committees.

Nominations for Training Abroad: Two Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat - Smt. Sadhana Rani Gupta, Deputy Director and Shri D.R. Kalra, Under Secretary - and an Officer of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Shri Guha Roy, Under Secretary, attended the Training Programme in "Parliamentary Administration" at the Royal Institute of Public Administration, London, from 18 November to 13 December 1996.

Management in Government Programme for Middle Level Officers: Shri Hardev Singh, Assistant Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, attended a Training Programme on "Management in Government" organized by the Gopabandhu Academy of Administration, Bhubaneswar from 18 to 30 November 1996. Shri A.K. Lad, Deputy Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat attended a similar Training Programme organized by the Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration, Ahmedabad from 16 to 27 December 1996.

Study Visits: Five Study Visits were organized during this period for participants from leading training/educational institutions.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

Alleged misconduct by a member : On 26 August 1996, a notice of a motion of the same date was received from Shri Ram Naik, a member, for an inquiry into the conduct of Shri Sukh Ram, another member, in the wake of raids on the latter's residences by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and recovery of huge amount of cash, etc. as a consequence thereof.

Shri Ram Naik, in his notice, gave the following grounds for raising the matter :

- (i) During the raid, the CBI had recovered Rs. 3.66 crore in cash, besides a number of valuables and documents. The recovery of such huge amount of cash raised doubts about its sources.
- (ii) A member who desired to go abroad was required to inform the Lok Sabha Secretariat about the dates of visit, countries to be visited, addresses in the countries of visit, etc. The fact that Shri Sukh Ram did not disclose his whereabouts promptly, even after his premises were raided by the CBI, created doubts about his conduct as a member of Parliament.

On 27 August 1996, a revised notice on the subject was received from Shri Ram Naik wherein he made a further request for constituting a Special House Committee to go into the matter.

On 30 August 1996, copies of notices given by Shri Ram Naik were forwarded to Shri Sukh Ram for furnishing his comments and also to the Ministry of Home Affairs for ascertaining the factual position regarding the CBI raids at the residence of Shri Sukh Ram.

On 9 September 1996, a factual note on the CBI cases against Shri Sukh Ram and others was received from the Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India to whom the matter was transferred by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

On 12 September 1996, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma *mette inter alia* the following interim ruling :

...I have... received a factual note from the Department of Personnel and Training intimating that two criminal cases under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and the Indian Penal Code have been registered against Shri Sukh Ram and the same are under investigation.

The Department of Personnel and Training have also invited my attention to the observations of the Honourable Supreme Court in *ISRO spy case, SLP (Cr. 1) No. 942/1995* that *interference at a premature stage of investigation may derail and demoralize the investigation.*

A fax message from Shri Sukh Ram from London has also been received on 11 September 1996, confirming the receipt of our communication and intimating : "I am still not keeping well and therefore I will be sending my reply in due course of time. Please bear with me."

As regards the observation of the Supreme Court, to which the Department of Personnel and Training have invited our attention that *interference at a premature stage of investigation may derail and demoralize the investigation*, I feel that discussion in the House on any matter may not be termed as interference in investigation. Moreover, as per the well established parliamentary convention, in criminal cases, the rule of *sub judice* has application only from the time a chargesheet is filed. That stage has not yet reached in this case.

In view of the gravity of the matter and the far reaching implications it has for the member as well as for the dignity of this House, I am of the considered opinion that the principles of natural justice should be conformed to and we should not proceed hastily without considering the comments of Shri Sukh Ram. I am, therefore, inclined to keep the matter pending for the present.

On 3 November 1996, the comments of Shri Sukh Ram in the matter were received.

On 3 December 1996, the Speaker, inter alia, observed in the House as follows :

...Shri Sukh Ram has, in his comments, explained the emergent circumstances under which he had to undertake the foreign visit at a very short notice due to which a formal information could not be sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

As regards the allegation of recovery of huge amount of money from his residence during his absence, Shri Sukh Ram has stated that the matter is still under investigation by the CBI and that he may ultimately be called upon to defend himself in a Court of Law. Shri Sukh Ram feels that his defence is likely to be compromised or even frustrated if he were to comment at this juncture on the allegation of recovery of cash from his residence. He has, therefore, chosen not to offer any comment on this point.

I would dispose of the second ground of Shri Ram Naik's notice first.

Shri Sukh Ram has explained to my satisfaction the circumstances of, and the urgency behind, his sudden foreign visit. Moreover, the requirement that the members should intimate the Lok Sabha Secretariat before undertaking a foreign trip is solely for the convenience of the members themselves. It enables the Secretariat to make necessary arrangements for assistance, etc. to the members during their stay abroad. It is not obligatory on the part of the members to intimate the Lok Sabha Secretariat before proceeding on foreign visits.

I am, therefore, of the view that no misconduct is made out against Shri Sukh Ram on that score.

Reverting to the first ground of Shri Ram Naik's notice, I feel that the entire matter has to be seen in a broader perspective and a clear distinction has to be made between the allegation of conduct, unbecoming of a member of Parliament against Shri Sukh Ram and the allegation of involvement in criminal offences against him. The notice given by Shri Ram Naik states that the recovery of huge amount of money from Shri Sukh Ram's residence as the only ground for constituting a Special House Committee to enquire into the alleged misconduct of Shri Sukh Ram. A separate inquiry or the investigation arising out of the same facts is already being conducted by the CBI.

The allegation of conduct unbecoming of a member of Parliament is thus incapable of standing on its own legs. It derives sustenance from the allegation of involvement in criminal offences. If the allegation of involvement in criminal offences is ultimately proved, the allegation of misconduct will be established. If, however, the allegation of involvement in criminal offences falls through, the very foundation for the allegation of misconduct would crumble.

Under these circumstances, even if a House Committee were to be constituted, it would be called upon first to enquire into and establish the commitment of criminal offences before it could arrive at any conclusion about the misconduct of the member. With the threat of prosecution in a Court of Law hanging upon the member, I cannot perhaps fault Shri Sukh Ram in taking the stand that he has taken in offering no comments in the matter.

I am of the firm view that the investigation into offences of criminal nature is within the exclusive domain of the investigation agencies and that the Courts are the proper forum for establishing the guilt or the innocence of an accused in criminal cases. It would not be proper if Parliament were to arrogate to itself the jurisdiction of either the investigating agencies or the Courts. The founding fathers of our Constitution had, in their wisdom, clearly demarcated the jurisdictions of the three organs of the State, viz. the Legislature,

the Judiciary and the Executive. Each of these three organs should strive to strengthen the fabric of our democratic set-up by refraining from encroaching upon the domain and jurisdiction of the other organs and by having healthy respect for them.

Under these circumstances, I think that it would not be in the fitness of things to constitute a Special House Committee to enquire into the conduct of Shri Sukh Ram at this point of time.

As I cannot, perhaps, reject Shri Ram Naik's notice on merits, I am inclined to keep it pending till a final verdict is given by the Court in criminal cases against Shri Sukh Ram.

Alleged casting of reflections on the Prime Minister and some other members by a former member in a book authored by him : On 1 December 1996, a notice of question of privilege was received from Shri Lalmuni Chaubey, a member, against Prof. K. Venkatagiri Gowda, a former member, for allegedly making several derogatory remarks and casting reflections on the Prime Minister and some other members in a book authored by him. Shri Chaubey quoted certain alleged derogatory phrases from the book and stated that the remarks had been attributed to the Prime Minister with a view to maligning his character as well as the pride and prestige of Parliament. Besides, he alleged that certain derogatory remarks had also been made against the Speaker and the Minister of Home Affairs. The member, however, had not enclosed with his notice the impugned book.

On 12 December 1996, when Shri Chaubey sought to raise the matter on the floor of the House, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma observed as follows :

...I have not gone into the merits of your notice. Your notice is not in order. I cannot accept it because under rule 223, your notice has to be accompanied by the document. You have not given the document along with your notice. The notice has to be addressed to the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha and the document also has to be addressed to the Secretary-General. I have rejected your notice on this ground and not on the grounds of merit. So, the matter is closed here.

On 12 December 1996, Shri Chaubey gave another notice of question of privilege enclosing therewith the impugned book by Prof. K. Venkatagiri Gowda. In the revised notice, Shri Chaubey referred only to derogatory remarks against the Prime Minister and the Home Minister.

On 20 December 1996, Shri Chaubey raised the matter on the floor of the House with the permission of the Speaker. The Speaker, thereupon, observed *inter alia* that he had examined the matter on the basis of the well established parliamentary privileges, past precedents, facts on record and the legal position obtaining in the matter and come to the conclusion

that no question of privilege and contempt of the House was involved. The Speaker, therefore, withheld consent to the raising of the matter.

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Alleged leakage by the Government of the Report of an Inquiry Commission before laying it on the Table of the House : On 24 March 1995, Shri Lakshman Singh and Shri Madhav Singh Dewan, members, gave notice of a question of privilege and contempt of the House on the ground that the Government had deliberately leaked to the *Rajasthan Patrika*, a daily newspaper, the Report of the Tibriwal Inquiry Commission before the same was made public or laid on the Table of the House. The members contended that such leakage, especially when the House was in Session, amounted to a breach of privilege and contempt of the House.

On 5 May 1995, the Speaker, Shri Shantilal Chaplot, while disallowing the notice of question of privilege, observed that the Editor of the *Rajasthan Patrika*, clarified that the reports of open hearings before the Tibriwal Commission of Inquiry were published in their newspaper on a regular basis without any objection from any side. The Report of the Inquiry Commission was later on submitted to the Government. The Editor stated that it was their belief that no efforts should be spared to inform and educate the masses on such matters of public importance. When the publication of news items about the Report of the Inquiry Commission started in the *Rajasthan Patrika*, the House was not in Session. The newspaper had factual information about the Report, which they were obliged to place before the people. The State Government had to take a decision whether it wanted to lay the Report on the Table of the House or not. The Tibriwal Inquiry Commission was constituted by the State Government and the House was merely informed of its constitution. The Editor contended that they had not committed any breach of privilege by publishing the said news reports and that they held the members and the House in the highest esteem.

The Speaker said that the State Government informed that the Tibriwal Commission had submitted its Report to the Government on 25 February 1995 and the same was being examined at the departmental level. The State Government had neither issued any Press Release regarding the Report nor leaked it to any specific newspaper. The Press reports did not disclose that the Report of the Inquiry Commission had been officially made available to the newspaper.

The Speaker pointed out that the points for consideration were : (i) whether it was obligatory to lay the Report of the Inquiry Commission on the Table of the House; and (ii) as to what was the source of information of the *Rajasthan Patrika* and whether any breach of privilege was made out on that score against the Government or the newspaper?

The Speaker then referred to a similar notice of question of privilege raised in the Lok Sabha on 2 April 1951 by Shri H.V. Kamath regarding

the release of the Report of the Ganganath Committee to the Press before it was laid on the Table of the House. The then Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar gave the following ruling on 5 April 1951 :

...I may inform the hon. member that this was not a Committee appointed by the House and it had no obligation therefore to submit its report to the House. It is open to Government to appoint any number of Committees, whether on a statement made in this House or otherwise. But that will not mean that the Committee is appointed by this House. Therefore, I do not find that there is any breach of privilege involved in this matter. No doubt, if any Committee is appointed by Government in pursuance of any resolution or otherwise and not independently, while the House is sitting, naturally the House would expect that such Committee's proceedings should be disclosed to itself first. Subject to this observation, there is absolutely no breach of privilege in the present case.

I hope Government will bear this in mind. In this instance, it is not as if there is any question of privilege, but it is a matter of etiquette to be shown to the House.

The Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, said that it was clear from the above precedent that it was not obligatory on the part of the State Government to lay the Report of the Tibriwal Commission on the Table of the House, although if it considered it proper, it might do so. The said Commission was constituted by the Government and not in pursuance of any resolution or motion adopted by the House.

As far as the second point was concerned, the State Government had clarified that they had neither issued any Press Release regarding the Report nor leaked any facts about it to any newspaper. The Editor of the *Rajasthan Patrika* had also stated that the newspaper had been regularly publishing news reports about the open hearings before the Commission and that they had factual information about the Report. It was also worth consideration as to how the news reports published in the *Rajasthan Patrika* could be said to be authentic before the Report was officially released. The proceedings before the Commission were not *in camera* and any body could draw his own conclusions.

In the light of the above, the Speaker held that no question of privilege was involved in the matter and, therefore, disallowed the notice of question of privilege.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Consent to notices of adjournment motion withheld since the matter could be raised during discussion on Statutory Resolution and also since it was sub judice : On 27 November 1996, the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma heard Shri Jaswant Singh, a member, and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Tourism, Shri Srikanta Kumar Jena on the admissibility of the notices of Adjournment Motions given by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Shri Jaswant Singh, Shri Pramod Mahajan, Shri S. Bagarappa and Shri Ram Naik, all members, regarding the alleged unconstitutional action of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, the continuation of President's rule in that State and the political and constitutional stalemate there. The Speaker, thereafter, observed :

As the Statutory Resolution seeking approval of the President's Rule in Uttar Pradesh has already been included in the List of Business, the members would have an opportunity to raise the matter during discussion on the Statutory Resolution. Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure has to be read with Rule 58 specifically. Rule 58, sub-rule 7, says and I quote :

The motion shall not deal with any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India.

I want to inform the House that I have an official communication from the Government of Uttar Pradesh that so far as the constitutional validity of the Governor's action is concerned, the issue is already pending before the Allahabad High Court.

In view of these facts and after hearing the members concerned and the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, I withhold my consent to these notices of Adjournment Motion.

Members permitted to ask clarificatory questions on Calling Attention as a special case : On 27 November 1996, the Chairman, Shri Chitta Basu as a special case, permitted four members whose names were not included in the List of Business to ask clarificatory questions on a Calling Attention regarding the mid-air collision of two aircraft near Charkhi Dadri in Haryana on 12 November 1996.

Member other than mover of Calling Attention permitted to ask clarificatory question on request from the former : On 28 November 1996, a Calling Attention listed, among others, in the name of Shri Om Prakash Jindal regarding the situation arising out of widespread dengue fever in Delhi, Haryana and other parts of the country was included. On that day, Shri Jindal, *vide* his letter, requested the Speaker to allow Shri Surinder Singh, another member, to ask clarificatory question on the Calling Attention on his behalf since he was unable to be present in the House. The Speaker agreed to his request.

Instances when a member other than either of the Presiding Officers and member of Panel of Chairmen presided : On 29 November 1996, during further discussion on a Private Member's Resolution regarding unemployment, the Deputy Speaker, who was in the Chair, suggested that as no member of the Panel of Chairmen was available, Shri A.C. Jose, member, may preside for some time. The House agreed to the suggestion. Accordingly, Shri A.C. Jose presided till the adjournment of the House for the day.

On 19 December 1996, during consideration of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Bill, the Deputy Speaker was in the Chair. As no member of the Panel of Chairmen was available to relieve the Deputy Speaker who had an important engagement, the House agreed to the suggestion by him that Shri Syed Masudal Hossain, a member, might preside over the sitting of the House for some time. Accordingly, Shri Syed Masudal Hossain presided till the House adjourned to meet the next day.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1996)

Events covered in the 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 members of Parliament : On 10 October 1996, Shri V.P. Duraiswami, an AIADMK member, resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

On 25 October 1996, Kumari Mayawati, a Bahujan Samaj Party member, resigned from the Rajya Sabha.

On 31 December 1996, Smt. Alka Nath of the Congress (I), representing the Chindwara constituency in Madhya Pradesh, resigned from the Lok Sabha.

By-elections to the Lok Sabha : The following were declared elected to the Lok Sabha in the by-elections held on 11 October 1996 : *Cuttack* : Shri Anadi Charan Sahu (Congress-I); *Gandhinagar* : Shri Vijay Patel (BJP); and *Nandyal* : Shri Bhuma Nagireddy (TDP).

Elections to the Rajya Sabha : On 22 November 1996, the following were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha :

Gujarat : Shri Y.K. Alagh (Independent).

Jammu and Kashmir : Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz (National Conference).

Tamil Nadu : Shri V.P. Duraiswami (DMK).

Uttar Pradesh : Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia (Independent); Shri Amar Singh and Shri Mohd. Azam Khan (SP); Shri Devi Prasad Singh; Shri Narendra Mohan; Shri Manohar Kant Dhyani; Shri Rajnath Singh 'Surya'; and Shri Chunni Lal Chaudhary (BJP); Shri Gandhi Azad and Shri R.N. Arya (BSP); and Shri Akhilesh Das (Congress-I).

On 29 November 1996, the following were declared elected to the Rajya Sabha :

Jammu and Kashmir : Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad (Congress-I); and Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq and Dr. Karan Singh (National Conference).

Uttar Pradesh : Shri Wasim Ahmad (Independent); Shri Khan Gufran Zahidi (Congress-I); and Shri Dara Singh Chauhan (BSP).

Sessions of Parliament : The Third Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha and the One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 20 November 1996. Both the Houses adjourned *sine die* on 20 December 1996 and were prorogued by the President of India on 24 December 1996.

Change of party affiliation : Shri S. Bangarappa of the Karnataka Congress Party (KCP) joined the Congress(I) on 10 December 1996.

Merger of Parties : On 11 December 1996, the All India Indira Congress(T) merged with the Congress(I).

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

By-election results : The following is the result of by-elections for the 4 Legislative Assembly seats held on 11 October 1996: TDP: 8; Congress(I): 2; TDP (NTR): 1.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Expansion of Cabinet : The Chief Minister, Shri Gegong Apang expanded the State Cabinet on 6 October 1996 by inducting four Ministers of State. The Ministers and their portfolios are : Shri C. Rajingda Namshum: *Public Health*; Shri Tapi Batt : *Agriculture* ; Shri Bida Taku : *Education and Science and Technology* ; and Shri Dibang Tatak : *Irrigation and Flood Control*.

By-election results : In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly, held on 11 October 1996, the Congress(I) won one seat. Another seat was won by an Independent.

ASSAM

By-election results : In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly, held on 11 October 1996, the AGP won 3 seats while 2 seats went to the Congress(I).

BIHAR

By-election results : In the by-elections to 10 seats in the State Legislative Assembly, held on 11 October 1996, the Janata Dal won 6 seats, the Samata Party three seats and the BJP one seat.

GOA

By-election result : Shri Joaquim Alemao of the United Goan Democratic Party (UGDP) was declared elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Benaulim constituency in a by-election held on 11 October 1996.

GUJARAT

By-election results : The Congress(I) and the BJP won one seat each in the two by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly, held on 11 October 1996.

New Chief Minister : Shri Shankarsinh Vaghela was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Gujarat on 23 October 1996. Sarvashri Dilip Parikh, Atmaram Patel, Jashabhai Barad, Vithalbhai Radadia, Anil Joshiara, Kantibhai Solanki and Madhubhai Thakore were also inducted into the Ministry the same day.

The Cabinet was expanded on 1 November 1996. The Ministers and their portfolios are as under :

Cabinet Ministers : Sarvashri Dilip Parikh: *Industries and Mines*; Atmaram Patel : *Revenue*; Babubhai Meghji Shah: *Finance and Water Resources*; Vithalbhai Radadia: *Cooperation and Tourism*; Jashabhai Barad: *Food and Civil Supplies*; Ranjitsinh Zala: *Agriculture and Rural Development*; Virendrasinh Zala: *Law, Judiciary and Rural Ceiling*; Madhubhai Thakore : *Panchayats and Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes*; and Umesh Rajyaguru: *Ports*.

Ministers of State : Sarvashri Vithalbhai Shah : *Food, Civil Supplies and Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs*; Mohanlal L. Patel: *Irrigation*; Girish Parmar : *Labour and Employment*; Motilal Vasava: *Forest*; Jayendra Khatri: *Rural Development and Rural Housing*; Amrutlal K. Patel: *Agriculture and Animal Husbandry*; Vipul Chaudhury : *Home and Energy*; K.C. Patel : *Health and Family Welfare*; Papatbhai Jinjaria : *Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes*; Hargovan Upadhyay: *Prohibition and Excise, Finance and Water Resources*; Anil Joshiara : *Tribal Welfare*; Raghavji Patel: *Sports and Youth Services*; Kantibhai Solanki : *Social Welfare and Harijan Welfare*; Bhagubhai Patel : *Environment and Technical Education*; C.K. Raulji : *Road and Buildings*; Khumansinh Vansia : *Urban Development*; and Mansinh Chauhan : *Transport*.

Deputy Ministers : Sarvashri Lakshmansinh Parmar : *Irrigation, Civil Supplies, Fisheries and Water Resources*; Manibhai Patel : *Agriculture and Animal Husbandry*; Pratapsinh Hirabhai Patel : *Forests*; Bachubhai Sondarva : *Harijan Welfare and Tourism*; Jesabhai Gorla : *Social Welfare and Scarcity Relief*; Rameshbhai Parmar : *Rural Housing and Tribal Welfare*; and Kirt Patel : *Industry and Urban Development*.

Election of Speaker : Shri Ghumansinh Vaghela of the Maha Gujarat Janata Party was unanimously elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly on 29 October 1996.

HARYANA

By-election result : The Haryana Vikas Party candidate won the by-election to the State Legislative Assembly from the Jhajjar constituency held on 11 October 1996.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

By-election results : The Congress(I) won both the seats to the State Legislative Assembly for which by-elections were held on 11 October 1996.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Elections results : The elections to the 87-member State Legislative Assembly were held on 7, 8, 21 and 30 September 1996. The party position following the elections was as under : National Conference : 57; BJP : 8; Congress(I) : 7; Janata Dal : 5; BSP : 4; Awami League : 1; Panthers Party : 1; CPI(M) : 1; and Independents : 3.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah of the National Conference was sworn in as the Chief Minister on 9 October 1996.

The following is the list of Ministers and their portfolios : Dr. Farooq Abdullah : *(Chief Minister) : General Administration, Home, Planning, Power, Information, Auqaf, Science and Technology and Art and Training.*

Cabinet Ministers : Sarvashri Ghulam Mohiuddin Shah : *Public Works*; Abdul Ahad Vakil : *Revenue, Relief and Rehabilitation*; Abdul Rahim Rather : *Agriculture, Rural Development and Cooperation*; Bashir Ahmad Kitchloo : *Food Supplies and Transport*; P.L. Handoo : *Law, Parliamentary Affairs and Elections*; Mohammad Shafi : *Finance*; Bodh Raj Bali : *Industries and Commerce*; Dr. Mustafa Kamal : *Health and Medical Education*; Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan : *Forests*; Ajat Shatru Singh : *Tourism, Parks & Gardens, Youth Service and Sports*; Abdul Qayaum : *Education*; and Maulvi Iftikhar Hussain Ansari : *Housing and Urban Development.*

Minister of State : Ali Mohammad Sagar : *Home and Auqaf*; Mian Altaf Ahmad : *Social Welfare, Labour and Employment*; Aga Syed Mahmood : *Industries and Commerce*; Bashir Ahmad Nongroo : *Information*; Safdar Ali Beg : *Revenue and Rehabilitation*; Nisar Ahmad Khan : *Power*; Mohammad Sharief Tariq : *Forests*; Surjit Singh Salathia : *Agriculture and Rural Development*; K. Jagdan Rinpocho : *Ladakh Affairs and Planning*; and Qamar Ali Akhoun : *Public Works.*

Deputy Ministers : Tatal Namgyal : *Tourism, Parks and Sports*; and Sakina Akhtar : *Education.*

KARNATAKA

By-election results : In the by-elections to eight seats in the State Legislative Assembly, held on 11 October 1996, the Janata Dal won 4 seats and the BJP 2 seats. One seat was won by the Karnataka Congress Party while another seat went to an Independent.

KERALA

By-election results : The Chief Minister and CPI(M) candidate, Shri E.K. Nayanar was elected to the State Legislative Assembly from the Thalassery constituency in a by-election held on 11 October 1996. Shri P.S. Supal, also of the CPI(M), was elected from the Punalur Assembly constituency.

MADHYA PRADESH

By-election results : The following is the result of the by-elections for the ten Legislative Assembly seats, held on 11 October 1996 : Congress(I) : 5; BJP : 4; and Gondwana Ganatantra Party : 1.

MAHARASHTRA

By-election results : The following is the result of the by-elections for the seven Legislative Assembly seats, held on 11 October 1996. BJP : 2; Shiv Sena : 2; Samajwadi Party : 1; and Independents : 2.

ORISSA

By-election results : The BJP and the Congress(I) won one seat each in the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly, held on 11 October 1996.

PUNJAB

New Chief Minister : The Chief Minister, Shri Harcharan Singh Brar resigned from Office on 20 November 1996. Smt. Rajindar Kaur Bhattal was sworn in as the new Chief Minister on 21 November 1996.

Expansion of Cabinet : On 23 November 1996, the Chief Minister expanded the Cabinet. The new Ministers are : Sarvashri Hamam Dass Johar, Kewal Krishan, Tej Prakash Singh, Sajjan Kumar Jakhar, Mohinder Singh Gill, Brahm Mohinder, Joginder Singh Mann, Lakhmeer Singh Randhawa, Maninderjit Singh Bitta, Avtar Singh Brar, Raghunath Sahay Puri, Pratap Singh Bajwa, Jagmohan Singh Kang, Choudhary Santokh Singh, Jai Kishan Saini and Harbans Singh Sandhu (all Cabinet Ministers); and Sarvashri Surinder Kapoor, Ishwar Singh Jassi, Abdul Ghafar, Tripat Rajindar Singh Bajwa, Master Jagir Singh, Sher Singh Gaggowal, Gumam Singh Abulkhurana, Harbans Lal, S.S. Shabaz Puri, G.S. Panigrahi, S.S. Cheema, Jasbir Singh, Darshan Singh Brar, Malkiat Singh Dakha, Sajawar Singh and Smt. Malti Thapar (all Ministers of State).

Election of Speaker : On 23 December 1996, Shri Dilbagh Singh Dalike was unanimously elected the Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

RAJASTHAN

By-election results : The BJP and the Janata Dal won one seat each in the two by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 11 October 1996.

TAMIL NADU

Death of Governor : On 2 December 1996, the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Dr. M. Channa Reddy passed away in Hyderabad. The Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Krishna Kant was given the additional charge of the Office of the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

TRIPURA

By-election results : The CPI(M) candidates won both the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 11 October 1996.

UTTAR PRADESH

Election results : Elections to the State Legislative Assembly were held on 30 September 1996 and 3 and 7 October 1996. The party position was as under : BJP : 174; Congress(I) : 33; Bahujan Samaj Party : 67; Samajwadi Party : 110; Janata Dal : 7; Samata Party : 2; CPI : 1; CPI(M)-4; Congress(T) : 4; Bharatiya Karmgar Kisan Party (BKKP) : 8; and Independents and others : 14.

President's Rule imposed : President's Rule was imposed in Uttar Pradesh with effect from 17 October 1996.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

BANGLADESH

New President : Mr. Shahabuddin Ahmed was sworn in as the new President of Bangladesh on 9 October 1996.

FRANCE

Vote of confidence : On 3 October 1996, the Prime Minister, Mr. Alain Juppe won a vote of confidence in Parliament.

GREECE

Vote of confidence : On 13 October 1996, the Prime Minister, Mr. Costas Simitis won a vote of confidence in Parliament.

JAPAN

Prime Minister re-elected : On 7 November 1996, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto of the Liberal Democratic Party was re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan.

KUWAIT

Election results : On 8 October 1996, in the elections to the 50-member National Assembly, pro-Government candidates won 30 seats and the Islamists secured 16 seats. The remaining four seats were won by the Liberal Party.

MOLDOVA

New President : Mr. Petru Lucinschi was elected as the new President of Moldova on 2 December 1996.

NEPAL

Vote of confidence : On 24 December 1996, the Prime Minister, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba won a vote of confidence in Parliament.

QATAR

New Prime Minister : On 29 October 1996, Mr. Sheikh Abdullah-Bin-Khalifa-al-Thani was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

ROMANIA

New President : On 29 November 1996, Mr. Emil Constantinescu was sworn in as the new President of Romania.

USA

President re-elected : Mr. Bill Clinton and Mr. Al Gore of the Democratic Party were re-elected the President and the Vice-President, respectively, of USA on 5 November 1996.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992, by which a new Part IX in the Constitution was added to enshrine certain basic and essential features of the Panchayati Raj Institutions to impart certainty, continuity and strength to them, was brought into force on 24 April 1993. Art. 243 G of the Constitution provides that the Legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and implementation of such plans as may be entrusted to them, including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule to the Constitution.

The bulk of the tribal population lives in the Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas. Insofar as the Scheduled and the Tribal Areas are concerned, sub-clause (b) of Clause (4) of art. 243 M of the Constitution provides that Parliament may, by law, extend the provisions of Part IX to the Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas referred to in clause (1) of that article, subject to such exceptions and modifications as may be specified in such law, and no such law shall be deemed to be an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of art. 368.

There have been persistent demands from prominent leaders of the Scheduled Areas for extending the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to these Areas so that Panchayati Raj Institutions may be established there. Accordingly, it was proposed to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas with certain modifications providing that the State legislations that may be made shall be in consonance with the customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources; every village shall have a Gram Sabha which shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people and shall be vested with the powers to approve the programmes and projects for social and economic development as also identification of beneficiaries under such programmes; Panchayats at the appropriate levels shall be endowed with ownership of minor forest produce; the Gram Sabha or the Panchayat at the appropriate level shall be consulted for granting prospecting licenses or mining lease of minor minerals and their prior recommendation obtained for acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas for development projects or for resettlement of project-affected members of the Scheduled Tribes; Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha shall have the power to prevent alienation of tribal lands and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe, have powers to regulate money lending to the members of the Scheduled Tribes, to manage village markets and to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict sale and consumption of any intoxicant; State legislations shall endow the Panchayats at the appropriate levels with specific powers and provide safeguards to prevent Panchayats at the higher level from assuming the powers and authority of Panchayats at the lower level or of the Gram Sabha; the offices of the Chairpersons in the Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes; and the

reservation of seats at every Panchayat for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats.

The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Bill, 1996, which sought to achieve the above objects, was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 12 and 19 December 1996, respectively. It received the President's assent on 24 December 1996.

We reproduce here the text of the above Act.

—Editor

THE PROVISIONS OF THE PANCHAYATS (EXTENSION TO THE SCHEDULED AREAS) ACT, 1996

An Act to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.

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

1. *Short title.* This Act may be called the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.
2. *Definition.* In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Scheduled Areas" means the Scheduled Areas as referred to in Clause (1) of article 244 of the Constitution.
3. *Extension of Part IX of the Constitution.* The provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to Panchayats are hereby extended to the Scheduled Areas subject to such exceptions and modifications as are provided in section 4.
4. *Exceptions and modifications to Part IX of the Constitution.* Notwithstanding anything contained under Part IX of the Constitution, the Legislature of a State shall not make any law under that Part which is inconsistent with any of the following features, namely :-
 - (a) a State legislation on the Panchayats that may be made shall be in consonance with the customary law, social and religious practices and traditional management practices of community resources;
 - (b) a village shall ordinarily consist of a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets comprising a community and managing its affairs in accordance with traditions and customs.
 - (c) every village shall have a Gram Sabha consisting of persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level.
 - (d) every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution;

(e) every Gram Sabha shall-

- (i)** approve the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before such plans, programmes and projects are taken up for implementation by the Panchayat at the village level;
- (ii)** be responsible for the identification or selection of persons as beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes;

(f) every Panchayat at the village level shall be required to obtain from the Gram Sabha a certification of utilisation of funds by that Panchayat for the plans, programmes and projects referred to in clause (e);

(g) the reservation of seats in the Scheduled Areas at every Panchayat shall be in proportion to the population of the communities in that Panchayat for whom reservation is sought to be given under Part IX of the Constitution;

Provided that the reservation for the Scheduled Tribes shall not be less than one-half of the total number of seats;

Provided further that all seats of Chairpersons of Panchayats at all levels shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes;

(h) the State Government may nominate persons belonging to such Scheduled Tribes as have no representation in the Panchayat at the intermediate level or the Panchayat at the district level :

Provided that such nomination shall not exceed one-tenth of the total members to be elected in that Panchayat;

(i) the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be consulted before making the acquisition of land in the Scheduled Areas for development projects and before re-settling or rehabilitating persons affected by such projects in the Scheduled Areas; the actual planning and implementation of the projects in the Scheduled Areas shall be coordinated at the State level;

(j) planning and management of minor water bodies in the Scheduled Areas shall be entrusted to Panchayats at the appropriate level;

(k) the recommendations of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory prior to grant of prospecting licence or mining lease for minor minerals in the Scheduled Areas;

(l) the prior recommendation of the Gram Sabha or the Panchayats at the appropriate level shall be made mandatory for grant of concession for the exploitation of minor minerals by auction;

- (m) while endowing Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government, a State Legislature shall ensure that the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha are endowed specifically with—
- (i) the power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant;
 - (ii) the ownership of minor forest produce;
 - (iii) the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe;
 - (iv) the power to manage village markets by whatever name called;
 - (v) the power to exercise control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes;
 - (vi) the power to exercise control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors;
 - (vii) the power to exercise control over local plans and resources for such plans including tribal sub-plans;
- (n) the State legislations that may endow Panchayats with powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government shall contain safeguards to ensure that Panchayats at the higher level do not assume the powers and authority of any Panchayat at the lower level or of the Gram Sabha;
- (o) the State Legislature shall endeavour to follow the pattern of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution while designing the administrative arrangements in the Panchayats at district levels in the Scheduled Areas.

5. *Continuance of existing laws and Panchayats.* Notwithstanding anything in Part IX of the Constitution with exceptions and modifications made by this Act, any provision of any law relating to Panchayats in force in the Scheduled Areas immediately before the date on which this Act receives the assent of the President which is inconsistent with the provisions of Part IX with such exceptions and modifications shall continue to be in force until amended or repealed by a competent Legislature or other competent authority or until the expiration of one year from the date on which this Act receives the assent of the President :

Provided that all the Panchayats existing immediately before such date shall continue till the expiration of their duration unless sooner dissolved by a resolution passed to that effect by the Legislature Assembly of that State or, in the case of a State having Legislative Council, by each House of the Legislature of that State.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

THIRD SESSION

The Third Session of the Eleventh Lok Sabha, which commenced on 20 November 1996, was adjourned *sine die* on 20 December 1996. The House was prorogued by the President of India on 24 December 1996.

A brief resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period is given below :

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS/RESOLUTIONS

Reference by the Speaker, Lok Sabha : On 16 December 1996, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.A. Sangma made the following reference in the House :

Honourable members, today is the Twenty-fifth Liberation Day of Bangladesh. Today we are reminded of the historic event of the joint action by the Bangladesh freedom fighters and the Indian armed forces which resulted in the emergence of an independent sovereign state of Bangladesh. The services rendered by our Army, Navy, Air Force and Border Security Force during this event were truly consistent with their great traditions. The people of India will always recall with great pride and gratitude the sacrifice of those who had laid down their lives.

Respects for territorial integrity and sovereignty, peaceful co-existence and non-alignment, adherence to democratic values and human rights are the basic tenets which both countries profess and practise. It is indeed this common ground which guides the friendly and good neighbourly relations between the two countries.

I am sure, the House will join me in commemorating the event on this day of its silver jubilee and in conveying its greetings to the people, Parliament and Government of Bangladesh.

Statement by the Minister of External Affairs on the situation in Afghanistan : Making a Statement in the House on 27 November 1996, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujral said that the turning point in the latest developments in Afghanistan was the fall of Kabul to the Taliban forces on 27 September 1996. The situation in Afghanistan continued to be fluid. The opposing parties facing each other in battle were the Taliban and the forces of the Supreme Council for the Defence of Afghanistan (SCDA) which comprised the forces of General Rashid

Dostum and the Hizb-e-Wahdat leader Karim Khalili. India had maintained contact with the legitimate Afghan Government, led by President Rabbani. Though we had to withdraw our Embassy on 27 November 1996, the Afghan Embassy continued to function in Delhi. All through, we had remained in contact with countries which took an interest in Afghan affairs. There was recognition that India had vital interests in Afghanistan and therefore, a role to assist in the restoration of peace and tranquility there. The UN Secretary-General had convened a meeting of senior officials and experts from 19 countries, who had knowledge, interest and influence on developments in Afghanistan. India, which was also invited, participated in the meeting which was held on 18 November 1996.

The Minister said that the significant elements of India's position on the Afghan situation are :

- India fully supports the unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Afghanistan. These are essential for the well-being of the Afghan people and given Afghanistan's strategic location, for peace and stability of the entire region.
- A cessation of foreign interferences in Afghanistan is an essential prerequisite for the resolution of the situation.
- There could be no military solution in Afghanistan. The situation has to be resolved through peaceful discussions and negotiations between Afghan parties. A special responsibility devolves on Afghan leaders to forsake the path of confrontation and conflict and pursue peace which will lead to reconciliation, renewal and reconstruction in Afghanistan.
- India fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and those of his special representative in bringing peace to Afghanistan. The UN Special Mission on Afghanistan has pursued its task with patience and commitment. India is prepared to play its full part in supporting their efforts.
- The cessation of violence and armed hostilities and the demilitarization of Kabul would provide the right conditions for the political process. These should be actively pursued.
- A cessation of arms supply to Afghanistan is required. The effective implementation of this idea would have to be carefully worked out.
- The growth in drug trafficking and terrorism, which is a result of conflict in Afghanistan, is a matter of concern.

The Minister said that even during the uncertain conditions, India had continued humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Such assistance would be continued. We had recently seen credible reports in the international media on the Taliban handing over terrorist training facilities to the

Harkat-ul-Ansar. It was reported that at these training camps, Pakistani and other youth were being trained for terrorist activities in Kashmir. Our interaction with Afghanistan was constructive and positive. It was not directed at any country. Its purpose was to assist in bringing peace and stability to a country with which we had civilizational affinities and were bound by ties of brotherhood, friendship and cooperation, the Minister added.

Statement by the Minister of External Affairs on the visit of the President of the People's Republic of China to India : Making a Statement in the House on the subject on 5 December 1996, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujral said that the President of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency, Mr. Jiang Zemin paid a State visit to India from 28 November 1996 to 1 December 1996 at the invitation of the President of India. It was the first visit by a President of the People's Republic of China to India.

A significant outcome of the visit had been the signing of the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the military field along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas. The Agreement stipulated that neither side should use its military capability against the other side. It also laid down some important guiding principles for reduction or limitation of identified categories of military forces and armaments to mutually agreed ceiling within mutually agreed geographical zones along the LAC. The depth of the geographical zones as well as the ceilings would be decided in subsequent negotiations in the Joint Working Group and the Expert Group. The Agreement also provided for a number of important CBMs which would help in preserving peace and tranquility in the border areas. The two sides also agreed to accelerate the process of the clarification of the entire LAC, including through an exchange of maps.

During the discussions between our Prime Minister and the Chinese President, the two sides agreed to continue their efforts to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Apart from the Agreement on CBMs, three other Agreements were signed. These Agreements related to the maintenance of our consular establishment in Hong Kong after it reverted to Chinese sovereignty on 1 July 1997, cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and other major crimes, and maritime transport. The Agreements would contribute to the development of an institutionalized framework for inter-state and people-to-people contacts between India and China.

The Minister said that the two sides had a useful exchange of views on regional and international issues, including recent developments in Afghanistan and Myanmar. Prospects of cooperation in Central Asia were also discussed. We briefed the Chinese President on our efforts to improve relations with all countries of South Asia. We also exchanged views on the reform of the UN system, including the question of giving adequate representation to non-aligned and other developing countries in the UN

organs. We pointed out that any objective criteria for the restructuring of the UN Security Council would provide for India's inclusion in the expanded Security Council as a permanent member. The two sides agreed that the dialogue on regional and international issues and cooperation in international fora were mutually beneficial and must be expanded.

In our discussions, we conveyed our concerns regarding China selling missiles and other weapons to Pakistan and their assistance in Pakistan's nuclear programme. It was also conveyed to the Chinese President that Sikkim is an integral part of India and that we would expect early Chinese recognition of that reality. The importance of paying adequate attention to each other's concerns on vital issues affecting their respective unity, territorial integrity and security was underlined.

The visit of the Chinese President to India provided an opportunity to assess the present state of relationship at the highest level and also move towards a long-term basis for a cooperative and constructive relationship. While reiterating their determination to resolve the boundary question in a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable manner, the two sides agreed in the interim, on concrete measures to ensure that peace and tranquility was effectively maintained in the border areas. We also utilized the visit to convey to the Chinese side our concerns to some vital issues affecting the unity, territorial integrity and security of India, the Minister added.

Statement by the Prime Minister on the visit of the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to India and the signing of a treaty on the sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka : Making a Statement in the House on 12 December 1996, the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda said that the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency, Sheikh Hasina paid an official visit to India from 10 to 12 December 1996. The visit came as the culmination of a series of exchanges initiated shortly after the United Front Government took office. The prominent issue in our bilateral ties, over the last two decades, had been the issue of the sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka. The Prime Minister informed the House that earlier in the day, he had signed a Treaty with the visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister on the sharing of the Ganga waters. The Treaty would protect the interests of India and at the same time help Bangladesh by providing a share of the Ganga waters to that country. According to the Treaty, the sharing of the Ganga waters would be on the basis of a formula, the key merit of which was that it provided for sharing the available water on a basis which was fair and equitable. The formula also took into account the basic requirements and minimum needs of both sides.

The Prime Minister said that the signing of the Treaty between India and Bangladesh was a fitting tribute to the special quality of our relations. Indo-Bangladesh cooperation is based on a history of shared sacrifices, sanctified with the blood of martyrs who laid down their lives in 1971. It was entirely appropriate that the Treaty came on the eve of the 25th

anniversary of the liberation of Bangladesh which was a momentous landmark in the history of our Continent. With the signing of the Treaty, we expected to usher in a new era in Indo-Bangladesh relations. That new relationship should be of immense benefit to India in the long term in all areas of bilateral relations, including security, trade and other areas. With the removal of what had been a constant irritant in bilateral ties, we could look forward to an entirely new phase of cooperation. India had already taken initiatives in the commercial sphere by extending tariff concessions to Bangladesh on a range of products of export interest to them. We proposed to extend commercial credits of Rs. 100 crore to enhance trade relations further. We were working together with Bangladesh to ensure appropriate development and security in our entire eastern region. India and Bangladesh had been cooperating very extensively in regional fora such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and it would be our endeavour to take that cooperation forward so that a new and more constructive framework of relationship could be built up in our sub-continent to the mutual benefit of the people of all countries.

The situation arising out of the mid-air collision between a Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747 and a Kazakhstan Airlines IL-76 aircraft on 12 November 1996 near Charkhi Dadri in Haryana resulting in the death of 349 persons on board: On 27 November 1996, Shri George Fernandes called the attention of the Minister of Civil Aviation to the above subject and the action taken by the Government in regard thereto.

Later, making a Statement, the Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri C.M. Ibrahim informed the House that the Saudi Arabian Airlines aircraft had departed Delhi Airport at 1833 hours. There were 312 persons, including crew members, on board the aircraft. The aircraft was cleared to climb to 14,000 feet by Delhi Airport Air Traffic Control (ATC). The Kazakhstan Airlines aircraft with 37 persons on board, including crew members, was cleared to descend to 15,000 feet, thereby providing a vertical separation of 1,000 feet. The radar blips of both aircraft disappeared at about 1840 hours. All the persons on board the two aircraft died in the accident. The wreckage of the Saudi aircraft was spread over the open field near Charkhi Dadri in district Bhiwani, Haryana. The main body of the aircraft, along with the cockpit, was burnt. The wreckage of the Kazakhstan flight fell near village Barohar in Rohtak district of Haryana. There was no fatality on ground.

Immediately on receipt of the information from the ATC, the Chief Secretary, Haryana, was contacted and senior district and police officers from Bhiwani and Rohtak districts rushed to the site of the crash. The Army and Air Force were also alerted and with the help of local villagers, the fire engulfing the aircraft was extinguished and bodies extricated from the site. Senior officers of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) also rushed to the site for rescue and relief operations. A team of officers from the

Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) reached the site in the early hours of 13 November 1996 and started gathering evidence for investigation. The DGCA appointed an Inspector of Accidents under Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 for carrying out investigation.

The Minister said that he, along with the Secretary, Civil Aviation, the Chairman, AAI, and the DGCA, visited the site on 13 November 1996 to oversee rescue and relief arrangements. The Chief Minister of Haryana and civil authorities had made arrangements to help the relatives of the deceased for transporting the bodies. The Prime Minister also visited the site on 13 November. The team of officials from the DGCA, with the assistance of the local authorities, recovered the black boxes (Flight Data Recorders and the Cockpit Voice Recorders) of both the aircraft. All documents, including tapes containing conversations between the ATC, Delhi and both the aircraft, were sealed for investigation. The Government appointed a Court of Inquiry headed by Mr. Justice R.C. Lahoti of the Delhi High Court under Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 for formal investigation into the accident.

Statement by the Minister of Agriculture regarding situation arising from the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh and Discussion under Rule 193 : On 26 November 1996, making a Statement in the House, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra said that a severe cyclonic storm struck the coast of Andhra Pradesh on 6 November 1996. According to the latest available information, the death toll was 971. Nearly 925 persons were still reported to be missing. 1,77,150 persons were evacuated and taken to 742 relief camps. 6.47 lakh homes were partially or fully damaged. 935 medical teams and 245 veterinary teams were pressed into service. The assistance of the Defence services was made available to the State Government. Assistance at the rate of Rs. 50,000 per human casualty was made available from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Essential commodities like rice and kerosene were distributed to the affected people. An amount of Rs. 29.79 crore was granted for repair of homes. The State Government, on its part, paid Rs. 3.52 crore as *ex gratia* assistance to the relatives of the deceased. The Prime Minister himself made an aerial survey and visited the worst affected areas. The cyclone also severely affected life and property in Yanam in Pondicherry. The Pondicherry Administration took all necessary measures for providing relief to the affected people.

Initiating a discussion under Rule 193 on the Statement, Shri P. Upendra said that during the year, there had been six cyclones in Andhra Pradesh. The cyclone shelters built during the earlier cyclones were all in disuse and hence in a dilapidated condition. Those shelters should be strengthened immediately. The communication network in the coastal areas must be improved. There should be a comprehensive crop insurance scheme. For fishermen and weavers too, there should be a comprehensive insurance scheme. It was high time that the country had a National Institute for Disaster Management which could conduct research into national calamities

and come up with appropriate schemes for alleviating the sufferings of the people.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. M. Jagannath urged the Union Government to be generous in allocating funds for relief and rehabilitation by sanctioning additional grant from the Calamity Relief Fund. The member also suggested various other measures to bring succor to the affected people.

Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi called for the restoration of the disrupted communication network and urgent repair of the railway lines which were badly damaged.

Shri George Fernandes wanted to know as to what warning was broadcast/telecast about the cyclones and as to what concrete steps were taken by the concerned district officials after they received such warning.

Shri Ram Bahadur Singh called for more financial assistance to be extended to the victims.

Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar described the cyclone as a national calamity and called upon everyone to share the responsibility of extending help to the affected.

Replying to the debate on 27 November 1996, the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda gave details of the discussions he had with concerned officials in the State Government and leaders of political parties after the aerial survey he had conducted. He also informed the House of the submissions for assistance from the State Government and the various steps the Union Government had taken to help the affected people. The Prime Minister said that he had already given a total package of Rs. 650 crore; apart from that, it was proposed to release Rs. 335 crore. Besides, the Union Government had recommended to the World Bank for Rs. 1,000 crore for housing, he added.

Statutory Resolution re : approval of Proclamation by the President in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh : Moving the Resolution on 3 December 1996, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri, Indrajit Gupta said that the elections to the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly were held on 30 September and 3 and 7 October 1996. The BJP-Samata Party alliance got 176 seats, the United Front 134 seats and the Congress(I)-BSP combine 100 seats. Fourteen seats were held by others. As such, no party or combination of parties was able to secure a majority to form the Government.

In his report dated 15 October 1996, the Governor of Uttar Pradesh stated that he had received communications from the leaders of the United Front and the CPI to the effect that they would not support any Government that included the BJP. They did not, however, give any indication as to

* Other who took part in the discussions were Sarvasri K.S.R Murthy, B. Dhama Biksham, Jaswant Singh, Anantha Venkatarami Reddy, Hannan Mollah, Pramothes Mukherjee, Tarit Baran Topdar, Ganga Charan Rajput, M.O.H. Farook, K.S. Rayadu, G.A. Charan Reddy, Ravindra Chitturi, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Smt. Sarada Tadiparthi, Smt. Lakshmi Panabaka and Kum. Uma Bharati

whether they would be supporting the BSP-Congress(I) alliance or would themselves be seeking support from the BSP-Congress(I) alliance to form the Government. In view of the position taken by different political parties, the Governor concluded that no party or group was in a position to form a stable Government or garner support without unscrupulous means. On 16 October 1996, the President of the State unit of the BJP met the Governor and staked claim to form the Government. Besides, the representatives of the Congress(I) and the Samajwadi Party met the Governor on 16 October 1996. The Governor also contacted Kum. Mayawati the same day. The leaders of the United Front, Congress(I) and the BSP, representing altogether 234 MLAs, were all united in their opposition to giving any support to the BJP. In the light of the discussions held on 16 October 1996, the Governor was further convinced that there was no possibility of any party or combination of parties providing a stable Government in the State. The Governor felt that there was no alternative but to place the State again under President's rule under art. 356 of the Constitution and keep the Legislative Assembly under suspended animation. The Union Government decided to accept both the recommendations of the Governor and recommended to the President of India to issue two Proclamations accordingly. Both the Proclamations were issued by the President on 17 October 1996. Insofar as the constitutional aspect of revoking and imposing Proclamation on the same day was concerned, the advice made available to the Government was that the Proclamation issued by the President in October 1995 could not be continued beyond its expiry in October 1996. About the legality of issuing of the fresh Proclamation under art.356, the unequivocal legal advice given to us was that the issuance of Proclamation depended clearly on the assessment of the Governor. Under art. 163(2), the discretion of the Governor in such matters where he was expected to exercise his discretion, was absolute and depended entirely on his satisfaction which could not be questioned. In the obtaining scenario in Uttar Pradesh, the majority to form a stable Government was only possible either through understanding amongst political parties or through encouraging defections. It was with the aforesaid in view and to prevent a constitutional vacuum that it was necessary to impose President's rule in the State.

The Minister pointed out that the State Legislative Assembly had not been dissolved; it had been kept in a state of suspended animation. It was hoped that a Government with a majority might emerge through an understanding amongst various political parties and without recourse to undesirable means.

Taking part in the discussion*, Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that the people did not make their choice in favour of any single party. The Sarkaria

* Others who took part in the discussions were Sarvashri P. Kodandaramaiah, P.N. Siva, Ram Sagar, Ilyas Azmi, Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Rammurti Singh Verma, M.P. Veerendra Kumar, Pramothes Mukherjee, Sontosh Mohan Dev, Pramod Mahajan, Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra, Prof. Ompal Singh 'Nidar', Dr. Murti Manohar Joshi, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, Smt. Ratna Singh and Begum Noor Bano

Commission had strongly recommended that the electorate should not be subjected to frequent elections. All secular parties in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly should see to it that a Government came into being at the earliest.

Participating in the discussion on 4 December 1996, Shri G.M. Banatwalla said that in view of the changed circumstances in the State, the Governor ought to give a message to the House which was under suspended animation to revive it under art. 175(2) and to elect its own leader to be appointed as the Chief Minister.

Shri Jai Prakash said that it was a well established tradition that in case no political party got a clear majority in the State Legislature, the Governor should call the leader of the largest party to form the Government. However, in the case of Uttar Pradesh, that tradition was not followed.

Opposing the Resolution, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar observed that the Union Government had taken a wrong decision to influence and show that they would not, under any circumstances, allow the BJP to form a Government in Uttar Pradesh.

Taking part in the discussion on 5 December 1996, Shri George Fernandes said that the decision taken by the Governor and the Union Government under art.356 was unconstitutional.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Indrajit Gupta said that we should all confess that our parties had failed in their obligation towards the people of Uttar Pradesh. In the instant case, the opinion of the Union Government was that under the prevailing circumstances, the Governor had no other option than what he did because there was no party or group of parties which was able to claim a majority in the House.

Intervening in the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri. H.D. Deve Gowda pointed out that the Election Commission had finally declared the results of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections on 10 October 1996. Till 17 October 1996, the Governor had given sufficient opportunity to all political parties to explore possibilities of mustering sufficient strength to form a stable Government in the State. However, no party could submit any such claim. In such a situation, there was no option before the Governor than to recommend President's rule.

The Resolution was adopted.

Discussion on India's foreign policy : On 4 December 1996, initiating a discussion under Rule 193 on India's foreign policy, Smt. Geeta Mukherjee observed that on the whole, the foreign policy of the country was proceeding successfully. However, there were some points on which the Government would have to remain vigilant. India should take a consistent stand not to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), even though there

might be pressures from many quarters. In the neighbourhood, the fall of Kabul to the Taliban forces would have a potentially negative bearing on our security environment. India also had to be vigilant on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) treaty and the patent laws.

Participating in the discussion* on 17 December 1996, Shri Chitta Basu said that the Agreements signed between India and China and India and Bangladesh were significant developments.

Shri George Fernandes called for improving relations with India's neighbours. He also laid emphasis on improving ties with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), particularly the Central Asian countries.

Shri Ram Bahadur Singh expressed the view that while dealing on foreign policy matters, the sovereignty, freedom and prosperity of the country should be kept foremost in mind.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujral said that in the post-Cold War era, regional cooperation was most important. Regional cooperation could not be confined to South Asia alone; we were looking wider. In the present-day context, interest proximity was also an important factor like geographical proximity. Hence our efforts to promote cooperation at various levels, the Minister added.

Discussion on the rise in prices of essential commodities : On 11 December 1996, initiating a discussion under Rule 193 on the subject, Shri Chitta Basu said that the prices of all essential commodities had shown signs of an unparalleled increase during the past four months. Price stability depended primarily on the quantum of public investment, subsidies, administrative prices, prices of food grains and the extent of the public distribution system (PDS). Price stability could not be determined in isolation of the macro-economic situation. If the Government was really serious about bringing down the price level, there was no alternative but to desist from increasing the administrative prices of petroleum and other essential commodities.

Taking part in the discussion** on 12 December 1996, Shri Jai Prakash observed that the policies adopted by the Government had weakened the farmers economically. The Government was also trying to encourage multinational corporations and discourage small scale industries.

* Others who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri Jaswant Singh, Raghunandan Lal Bhatia, Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, Suresh Prabhu, Bijoy Krishna Handique, E. Ahmed, Shivraj V. Patil, P. Namgyal, V.V. Raghavan, Rupchand Pal, D.S.A. Sivaprakasam, N.K. Premachandran, Ghulam Rasul Kar, Hannan Mollah, Prof. G.G. Swell, Dr. Debi Prasad Pal and Lt. Gen.(Retd.) S.P.M. Tripathi.

** Others who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri Dileep Singh Bhuria, Haradhan Roy, V.V. Raghawan, Prakash Vishwanath Paranjpe, Pinaki Mishra, Shivraj V. Patil, Pramotes Mukherjee, Bhakta Charan Das, Ram Kripal Yadav, Aman Pal Singh, Subrata Mukherjee, Mohd. Ali Ashraf Fatmi, Ramashray Prasad Singh, Lakshman Singh, Chaman Lal Gupta, Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, Rajiv Pratap Rudi, Dr. Laxminarain Pandey and Smt. Sushma Swaraj

Replying to the discussion on 16 December 1996, the Minister of Food and the Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav said that the prices of wheat, rice, soft coke and kerosene sold by the Union Government under the PDS had not been increased. One of the reasons for price rise was that the Government had increased the support prices of various items. If we did not provide remunerative support prices to the farmers, that would directly affect production. The Government had been vigilant towards its duty and responsibility from the very beginning and every possible step had been taken. In fact, the Government had taken price rise as a challenge to itself, the Minister added.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

*The Maulana Azad National Urdu University Bill, 1996** : On 10 December 1996, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai said that there had been a long standing demand for the establishment of a separate Urdu University. It was absolutely necessary that there should be at least one University where Urdu was a medium in all the subjects.

Taking part in the discussion** on 11 December 1996, Shri G.M. Banatwalla said that if we really wanted to fulfil our dreams of establishing an Urdu University, and to promote Urdu language, then education should be imparted through the Urdu medium from the very beginning.

Supporting the Bill, Shri Ram Bahadur Singh said that language was not confined to any particular caste, religion or community and was not bound by any such limitations. When Urdu was the language of India, it should be given the same status as was given to other languages.

Replying to the discussion on 17 December 1996, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai said that the proposed University would have a distance education scheme too. The University would have all the faculties, including engineering, law, medical science, etc. through the Urdu medium.

The Bill was passed.

*The Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Bill, 1996**** : On 19 December 1996, moving the motion for consideration of the

* The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 28 November 1996

** Others who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri Jagmohan, M.P. Veerendra Kumar, Syed Masudul Hossain, Ramashray Prasad Singh, Ram Kripal Yadav, Qamarul Islam, Anant Gangaram Geete, Ilyas Azmi, Nakli Singh, Nitish Kumar, Kalpnath Rai, Mangat Ram Sharma, I.D. Swami, D.S.A. Sivaprakasam, Shivnand Hemappa Koujalgi, Chaman Lal Gupta, Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Satya Pal Jain, Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barg, Prof. Ompal Singh 'Nidar', Prof. Rana Singh Rawat and Kum. Mamata Banerjee

*** The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 4 December 1996

Bill, the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai said that there was a demand by the Vishwa Hindi Conference that Hindi should get the appropriate place in the international forums. There was a number of countries where Hindi was spoken and where Indians had gone and settled down. The proposed University would enable scholars from abroad to come to India and do research and enrich Hindi so that the language got its due place in the world.

Supporting the Bill*, Shri G.M. Banatwalla said that every child of India should learn Hindi since it was recognized as the national language.

Shri Ram Bahadur Singh pointed out that only that language would survive which was the medium of communication among the people. Unless we established Hindi at the national level, we would not be able to establish it at the international level.

The Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri S.R. Bommai replied to the debate.

The Bill was passed.

*The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1996***: On 19 December 1996, moving the motion to consider the Bill, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that there was a need to rewrite comprehensively the Companies Act, 1956. The proposed Bill sought to carry out some urgent amendments in the parent Act in the interests of depositors, investors and employees in the case of winding up of a company and simplification of some procedural and legal requirements in the interest of the corporate sector. Under the proposed amendments, companies would be in a position to retain capital for a longer time for deployment in the gestation projects, particularly in the infrastructure sector. The proposal to enable the Government to notify, from time to time, the ceiling on payment of wages or salary to employees for getting preferential treatment in the event of winding up of companies, would be to the advantage of the employees, as the Government would be in a position to raise the ceiling periodically keeping in view the cost of living. To permit companies to file their documents with the Registrar of Companies in computer floppies/diskettes would provide them a technologically advanced alternative mode of filing the documents and

*Others who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri Vijay Annaji Mude, Nitish Kumar, Shatrughan Prasad Singh, Shiv Raj Singh Chauhan, Nawal Kishore Rai, Samik Lahiri, Mohan Rawale, V. Dhananjaya Kumar, Kalpnath Rai, Suresh Prabhu, Manikrao Hodaya Gavit, Syed Masudal Hossain, Dileep Singh Bhuria, Jagdambi Prasad Yadav, Chaman Lal Gupta, Virendra Kumar Singh, Satya Deo Singh, Mohd. Ali Ashraf Fatmi, Nand Kumar Sai, Anil Kumar Yadav, Ram Kripal Yadav, Ramesh Chennithala, Ganga Charan Rajput, Iwar Prasanna Hazarika, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, Dr. K. P. Ramalingam, Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta, Prof. Ompal Singh 'Nidar', Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Justice Guman Mal Lodha

** The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 17 December 1996

would thereby reduce unnecessary paper work in Government as well as corporate offices.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Finance said that it was the Government's endeavour to restore the confidence of the small investor in the market. The proposed amendments sought to plug the loopholes in the parent Act.

The Bill was Passed.

*The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1996*** : On 20 December 1996, moving the motion to consider the Bill, the Minister of State of the Department of Legal Affairs, Legislative Department and Department of Justice, Shri Ramakant D. Khalap informed the House that the Law Commission, in its 97th report, had recommended an amendment to the Indian Contract Act, 1872. That was because Section 28, as it existed at present, created some sort of uncertainty about a party's right to enforce the rights under any agreement. Presently, the said section allowed parties to an agreement to substitute their own period of limitation in place of the period laid down in the general law of limitation but they were free provided that if a party did not sue within a specified period, within the rights accruing under the rights, that should be forfeited or extinguished or that party should be discharged from all liability under the contract. The proposed amendment sought to clear the anomaly.

Replying to the discussion***, Shri Khalap pointed out that the changing times required new types of legislation and the Government was fully aware of the situation.

The Bill was passed.

C. OBITUARY REFERENCES

On the opening day of the Session - 20 November 1996 — the Speaker, Shri P.A. Sangma made references to the passing away of a sitting member, Shri Basant Singh Khalsa and Sarvashri Motisinh Bahadursinh Thakore, Aurobindo Ghosal, Sunil Maitra, Kalka Das, Saeed Murtaza, Ansar Harvani and Halimuddin Ahmad, all former members. The Speaker also made reference to the death of many persons in two tragic incidents — the cyclonic havoc in Andhra Pradesh and the mid-air collision of an aircraft of the Saudi Arabian Airlines with that of the Kazhak Airlines on 12 November 1996. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, members stood in silence for a short while and thereafter, the House was adjourned for the day.

* These who took part in the discussion were Shri Sanat Mehta and Justice Guman Mal Lodha

** The Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 4 December 1996

*** These who took part in the discussion were Shri Balai Chandra Ray and Justice Guman Mal Lodha

On 2 December 1996, obituary references were made to the passing away of the Governor of Tamil Nadu and a member of the Provisional Parliament, Dr. M. Channa Reddy. As a mark of respect to the deceased, members stood in silence for a short while and thereafter, the House was adjourned for the day.

On 6 December 1996 and 19 December 1996, obituary references were made to the passing away, respectively, of Shri K.J. Abbasi and Shri Kanhayalal Bherulal Malvia, both former members. Thereafter, members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION *

The Rajya Sabha met for its One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Session (179th) on 20 November 1996 and adjourned *sine die* on 20 December 1996. A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below :

A. DISCUSSIONS

Statement on the situation arising from cyclone in Andhra Pradesh :
On 26 November 1996, the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra made a Statement on the situation arising from the severe cyclone in Andhra Pradesh on 6-7 November 1996 and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government. The cyclone had caused severe damage and destruction in four districts, particularly in East and West Godavari districts, of Andhra Pradesh, and Yanam in Pondicherry. The assistance of the Defence services was available to the State Government for rescue and relief operations. Food supplies were dropped in the inaccessible areas with the help of the Air Force. The State Government paid Rs. 3.52 crore as *ex gratia* assistance to the relatives of the deceased and assistance at the rate of Rs. 50,000 per human casualty was made available from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Essential commodities like rice and kerosene were distributed to the affected people and an amount of Rs. 29.79 crore was made available for repair of houses. The Prime Minister made an aerial survey of the worst affected areas. The Union Government released the fourth instalment of the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund in advance. The Crisis Management Group in the Union Ministry of Agriculture reviewed the situation and made arrangements for all necessary assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Replying to the points raised by members, the Minister said that the Union Government had already given Rs. 1 crore to the Pondicherry administration. The World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) had been contacted for help.

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

Supplementing the Minister's Statement, the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda said that Rs. 4.85 crore had been given to Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry out of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The Government had also released 50,000 tonnes of rice from the Public Distribution System and 10,000 litres of kerosene. The Prime Minister appealed to philanthropists, non-governmental organizations and Government employees to extend their cooperation in extending succour to the affected.

Visit of the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to India and the signing of a Treaty on the sharing of the Ganga waters at Farakka : On 12 December 1996, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujral informed the House that the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh had signed a new Treaty on the sharing of the Ganga waters. According to the Treaty, the sharing of the Ganga waters would be on the basis of a formula agreed to by India and Bangladesh which was fair and equitable. During the lean season from 1 March to 10 May, India and Bangladesh would receive a guaranteed flow of 35,000 cusecs of water in an alternating sequence of three 10- days period each. While the Treaty would be for 30 years and renewable on mutual consent, there was a provision for mandatory reviews at the end of 5 years and even earlier, after 2 years, with provisions for adjustments as required. Pending a fresh understanding after the review stage, Bangladesh would continue to receive 90 per cent of its share in accordance with the new formula. With the removal of what had been a constant irritant in bilateral ties, both countries could look forward to an entirely new phase of cooperation. In the commercial sphere, tariff concessions had already been extended to Bangladesh on a range of products of export interest to them, the Minister added.

India's stand on the Singapore Declaration of the World Trade Organization : On 16 December 1996, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Commerce, Shri Bolla Bulli Ramaiah apprised the House about the outcome of the discussions at the First Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in Singapore from 9 to 13 December 1996. The new issues discussed at the WTO Conference included core labour standards, investment and competition policy. With regard to core labour standards, India's position was that while individual countries were fully committed to the observance of labour rights and promotion of labour welfare through their domestic policies, the issue of labour standards at the international level was a subject which needed to be addressed only by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and that the question of use of trade measures to enforce labour standards had to be forthrightly rejected.

Regarding a Multilateral Agreement on investment to facilitate investment flows, the Minister said that the Indian position had consistently been that any agreement worked out among the member countries of the Organization,

for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) concerned those countries and could not have automatic relevance for all the WTO members. Secondly, while investment could have some trade linkages, the organization best suited to analyse trade as well as developmental dimensions was the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Thirdly, it was for each country to decide as to what should be its policy regime for attracting foreign direct investment. Lastly, any attempt to liberalize the flow of investment capital across countries had to be accompanied by an equally liberal policy for the movement of labour which was another major factor of production.

The Minister said that the inclusion of 'anti-competitive practices' in the Final Ministerial Declaration at the insistence of developing countries like India was made despite the strong opposition of certain developed countries. Following this, the developing countries would have an opportunity to raise the issue of restricted business practices of transnational corporations as well as trade policy measures having anti-competitive effects, like anti-dumping action initiated by the developed countries against imports from the developing countries.

With regard to the proposal to evolve a plurilateral Information Technology Agreement, India's views had been that the strengthening of global information technology infrastructure would be generally beneficial and, therefore, subject to the interest of domestic producers being adequately safeguarded, India would consider joining the programme of phased tariff reductions.

Initiating the discussion*, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that it was in the interest of the developing countries to strengthen the multilateral organizations. How to revitalize the flows of the declining world trade for the benefit of both the developed and the developing countries had to be India's concern.

Replying to the debate, the Minister said that the ILO was the competent body to set and deal with labour standards. The ILO's rejection of the use of labour standards for protectionist purposes was an important safeguard for the multilateral trading system. With regard to trade and investment relationship, the Government had ensured in the Singapore Declaration that there would be no further action in embarking on rule-making, without explicit consensus by all members. The same applied with regard to the competition policy too.

Regarding the concern about the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), the Minister said that the Ministerial Declaration reaffirmed the participating countries' commitment to full and faithful implementation of the ATC.

*Others who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri Ashok Mitra, Pranab Mukherjee, K.R. Malkani, R. Margabandu, Vayalar Ravi, Triloki Nath Chaturvedi, N. Giri Prasad, Narendra Mohan and Smt. Kamla Sinha

The Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda, making a clarification, stated that all the G-15 countries had taken a decision in Harare that under no circumstances would any new issue, not covered under the GATT Agreement, be allowed to be discussed in the Ministerial Conference in Singapore.

Proclamation issued by the President in relation to Uttar Pradesh : Moving a Statutory Resolution on 4 December 1996, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Maqbool Dar urged the members to approve the Proclamation issued by the President on 17 October 1996 under art. 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Replying to the debate* on 5 December 1996, the Prime Minister, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda said that the question of using art. 356 depended upon the circumstances prevailing at a particular time. Shri Deve Gowda recalled that on assuming office, he had made it very clear that the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections would be held as scheduled. Consequently, the people of Uttar Pradesh had given a clear mandate not to give power into the hands of communal forces. The Governor had given sufficient opportunity to all the political parties to explore the possibility of forming a Government but no political party was able to do so.

The Resolution was adopted.

Need for a review of the foreign policy of India : Initiating a discussion on the subject on 3 December 1996, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said that the present state of our foreign policy was very dismal. India had been completely marginalised in global affairs. The member pointed out that China's supply of atomic weapons to Pakistan endangered our security. We had failed to secure a seat in the UN Security Council. India had no role to play in Afghanistan affairs. With the onset of a unipolar world, it was time for reviewing and effecting changes in foreign policy in order to regain India's position and importance in world affairs.

Replying to the discussion on 5 December 1996, the Minister of External Affairs, Shri I.K. Gujral said that the foreign policy of India, in the post-Cold War period, was making an effort to co-link the present with the legacy of the freedom struggle, along with a vision for the next century. There were several new challenges emerging before the world. The nuclear weapons powers presented a unity, often at the cost of the Third World. These powers wanted to demolish all forums such as the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) which were built in the wake of the de-colonisation process. The unity of NAM had to be preserved as it was a platform of all those who had gone through colonization and suffered at the hands of ex-imperial powers. India did not sign the Nuclear non-Proliferation

*Others who took part in the discussion were Sarvashri Raj Nath Singh, Jitendra Prasad, S. Ramachandran Pillai, Wasim Ahmad, Ish Dutt Yadav, Mohd. Masud Khan, Khan Ghufuran Zahidi, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Triloki Nath Chaturvedi, Akhilesh Das, Dr. B.B. Dutta and Prof. Naunihal Singh

Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), for they were unequal treaties. Efforts had been made to see that India did not get a seat in the UN Security Council but it was decided not to withdraw from the contest so as to know who were with India. That 40 nations of the Third World backed India was itself a success. In foreign policy, the Government was trying to involve all parties in every forum. The Minister said that India had made full dialogue partnership with the member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The Government was trying to build regional cooperation, working closely with the ASEAN countries and the Asian Regional Forum. On the other side, there were 14 countries of the Indian Ocean region who would meet in March 1997 in Mauritius to give shape to a new relationship. The Government was also trying to build cooperation with Central Asian countries. With regard to Afghanistan, the Minister said that India did not want any outside intervention there.

Move to invite private firms in the insurance sector : On 11 December 1996, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta initiated a Short Duration Discussion on the subject saying that the insurance sector needed to be restructured and strengthened as it concerned a vital part of the economic policy of the Government and social welfare of the country. The insurance sector employees were eager to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government to improve the quality of service in relation to customer service and transparency. The insurance business in India was better than that of many of its counterparts in the world. It was a matter of concern that in a situation of acute financial stringency, the Government was moving towards handing over a large part of the investible funds to foreign companies and private Indian companies which had no obligation to invest the same for development and which would be free to repatriate their profits outside the country. The economic fundamentals did not justify the induction of foreign firms in the insurance sector.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the previous Government had set up in April 1993 the Malhotra Committee on reforms in the insurance sector. The Committee had been asked to assess the strengths and weaknesses of India's insurance industry. It was proposed to introduce a Bill to make the Insurance Regulatory Authority a statutory body and empower it suitably. The process of consultation had been initiated following the Malhotra Committee Report. The Government had constituted the Board of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) with eminent professionals representing various walks of life. The Board had been requested to constitute various Committees in order to supervise its work and operations. The Board of the General Insurance Corporation

* Others who took part in the discussions were Sarveshri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi, John F. Fernandes, Sompal, Surinder Kumar Singh, Ashok Mitra, Vedprakash P. Goyal, R. Margabandu, K.R. Malkani, Satish Pradhan, R.K. Kumar and Smt. Renuka Chowdhury

(GIC) was also under reconstitution. The LIC and GIC had been allowed greater flexibility in investing their funds so that they could earn better and give better bonus and return to the policy holders. The Minister added that the Government was committed to reform the financial sector.

Steep rise in the prices of essential commodities : Initiating a Short Duration Discussion on 18 December 1996, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said that the prices of almost every essential commodity had risen sharply in the recent past. The scarcity of wheat and wheat flour had affected the poor people adversely. The Government's statement that the Public Distribution System (PDS) would be provided to only those living below the poverty line gave an opportunity to hoarders and black-marketeers to create an artificial scarcity for their own benefit.

Replying to the discussion*, the Minister of Food and Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav said that the PDS was operated by the Union Government and the State Governments and both had their accountability. Factors such as increase in support prices, enhanced transportation costs, etc. had contributed to the increase in the price of wheat but allocations meant for the States had not been reduced. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) would not issue wheat to any State for sale in open market. The Centre would control and monitor the distribution of wheat and *atta* so that the State Governments could sell them at fixed rates, he added.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 1995 **: Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 4 December 1996, the Minister of Labour, Shri M. Arunachalam said that the Apprentices Act was enacted in 1961 with the objective of regulating programmes of apprenticeship in industry for imparting practical training. The Act was amended in 1973 and 1986 to bring within its purview the training of graduate engineers, diploma holders in engineering technology as graduate technician (vocational) apprentices and the training of technician (vocational) apprentices from the products of the 10+2 vocational stream of education. The Bill introduced earlier was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare.

Replying to the debate, the Minister said that in the light of new technological developments, amendments were brought about to enhance the scope of apprentice training. The Government had given clear guidelines to the Public Sector Undertakings to fill up 50 per cent of the vacancies under the direct recruitment quota with trained apprentices who had passed

*Others who took part in the discussions were Sarvashri V. Narayanasamy, Naresh Yadav, Jibon Roy, John. F. Fernandes, R. Mangabandu, Vayalar Ravi, Ish Dutt Yadav, Raghavji, Jalaluddin Ansari, Sanjay Nirupam, R.K. Kumar, Narendra Mohan, Bratin Sengupta and Dr. Ranbir Singh

** The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 25 August 1995

out. Vacancies were reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in each designated trade based on their population in the concerned State.

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

The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Bill, 1996 *: On 12 December 1996, the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment, Shri Yerrannaidu, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said that the measure sought to extend the Panchayati Raj to the Scheduled Areas, with certain exceptions and modifications. The Bill provided that the State legislation, which would follow, had to be in consonance with the customary laws, social and religious practices and customs and traditions of the tribal people. The tribal communities have been deprived, over the years, of their rightful control over their natural and economic resources as a result of the action of private parties and certain developmental projects. The Bill, therefore, proposed to empower the Gram Sabhas and the Panchayats to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and Panchayats and to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe. The proposed legislation would vest Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas with powers to manage local markets and to control and restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant. The Bill also provided that the offices of the Chairpersons at all levels in the Panchayats would be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. The reservation of seats at every Panchayat for the Scheduled Tribes would not be less than fifty per cent of the total number of seats. The Bill further aimed at strengthening grassroot institutions and safeguarding the fabric of tribal society.

Replying to the debate, the Minister said that to correct the deficiencies in relation to the Scheduled Areas regarding enforcement of prohibition, adequate powers were vested in the Gram Panchayats and the Gram Sabhas to make suitable laws. The Bill also sought to provide powers to the Gram Panchayats to control money-lending. The State Governments had been told to implement strictly the Finance Commission's recommendations regarding States' allocation of money for local self-government.

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 179th Session of the Rajya Sabha, 6727 notices of Questions (6337 starred and 390 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 439 Starred Questions and 3121 Unstarred Questions were admitted. Out of 7 notices for Short Notice Questions received, none was admitted.

*The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 11 December 1996

Daily Average of Questions : For all the days, the lists of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions except on 4 December 1996 which had 19 Questions. On an average, 3.1 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered on a particular day was 6, on 6 December 1996, 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 81 on 20 November 1996 and the maximum number was 155. Their average came to 142 per sitting.

Half-an-Hour Discussion : 16 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received, out of which only one was admitted and two were clubbed with it.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of the Governor of Tamil Nadu and a former member of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. M. Channa Reddy and Sardar Guraj Singh Dhillon and Shri Shrinivas Ganesh Sardesai, both former members.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Second Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fifth Session on 27 September 1996, was adjourned *sine die* on 28 September 1996.

Election of Deputy Speaker : On 27 September 1996, Sri Daklo Nidak was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly:

Financial business : During the Session, the Finance Minister presented the Excess Demands for Grants for the year 1980-81. He also presented the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1996-97 on 27 September 1996. The general discussion on the Budget took place on 28 September 1996. The Demands for the year 1996-97, relating to various Departments, were accepted in full. Subsequently, the related Appropriation Bills were introduced and considered and passed by the House.

GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY **

The Gujrat Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Fifth Session on 3 September 1996, was prorogued on 24 October 1996. There were only two sittings in all. The one-day Sixth Session was held on 29 October 1996.

Election of Speaker : Shri Gumansinh Vaghela was elected as the new Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly on 29 October 1996.

*Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Gujarat Legislative Assembly Secretariat

HIMACHAL PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA *

The Eleventh Session of the Eighth Vidhan Sabha which commenced on 27 November 1996, was adjourned *sine die* on 6 December 1996. There were eight sittings in all.

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

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made on the demise of a former member and Minister, Shri Daulat Ram Sankhyan.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL **

The Maharashtra Legislative Council commenced its Third Session of 1996 on 9 December 1996 and was prorogued on 20 December 1996. There were 10 sittings in all.

Legislative business : During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House : (i) The Maharashtra Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (ii) The Maharashtra Local Authority Members Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (iii) The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (iv) The Maharashtra Maritime Board Bill, 1996; (v) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1996; (vi) The Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (vii) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996; (viii) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1996; (ix) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (x) The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rents Control, Bombay Land Requisition and Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (xi) The Maharashtra Legislative Council (Chairman and Deputy Chairman) and the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Ministers' Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances and the Leader of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislature, Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1996; and (xii) The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

Beside, the following Bills were considered by the House : (i) The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1996; (ii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996; (iii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996; and (iv) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Third Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made on the demise of the former members of the House, Shri Ramdayal Ayodhyaprasad Gupta and Shri Daulatrao Marutirao Bhosale.

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY *

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly commenced its Third Session of 1996 on 9 December 1996 and was prorogued on 20 December 1996. There were 10 sittings in all.

Legislative business : During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House : (i) The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (ii) The Maharashtra Maritime Board Bill, 1996; (iii) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1996; (iv) The Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (v) The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996; (vi) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1996; (vii) The Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (viii) The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rents Control, Bombay Land Requisition and Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (ix) The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1996; (x) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996; (xi) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996; (xii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Third Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996; and (xiii) The Maharashtra Legislative Council (Chairman and Deputy Chairman) and the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Ministers's Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances and the Leaders of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislature, Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1996;

Financial business : On 9 December 1996, the Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 1996-97 which was discussed by the House on 12 and 16 December 1996 and then passed. The Excess Demands for the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 were presented to the House on 10 December 1996 and were passed on 17 December 1996.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made on the demise of former Ministers Shri Bhagavantrao Gaikwad, Dinkar Chavan and Dr. Purushottam Dekate, and nine former members of the House.

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY **

The Eleventh Orissa Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Seventh Session on 20 November 1996, was adjourned *sine die* on 7 December 1996. The House had 10 sittings in all.

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Orissa Legislature Secretariat

Legislative business : During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House : (i) The Orissa Panchayati Raj Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (ii) The Orissa Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996; and (iii) The Orissa Appropriation (No.3), Bill, 1996;

Financial business : During the Session, the first supplementary statement of expenditure for the year 1996-97 was presented to the House on 20 November 1996. The relevant Appropriation Bill was passed on 29 November 1996. The Demands for Grants in respect of the Panchayati Raj Department and the Home Department were discussed and passed on 27 and 28 November 1996. The rest of the Demands were guillotined on 28 November 1996.

Obituary references : On 20 November 1996, obituary references were made on the demise of Shri Kailash Chandra Mohapatra, a sitting member, and Shri Arun Kumar Patnaik, a former member.

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY *

The Fifth Session of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, which commenced on 12 September 1996, was adjourned *sine die* on 28 September 1996. There were seven sittings in all.

Legislative business : During the Session, the following Bills were introduced, discussed and passed : (i) The Sikkim Official Languages (Amendment) Bill, 1996; (ii) The Sikkim Appropriation Bill for Excess Demands, 1990-91; and (iii) The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 1996-97.

Financial business : During the Session, the Finance Minister presented the Budget for the year 1996-97. After passing of the Department-wise Demands, the Budget was put to vote and passed on 28 September 1996. The Finance Minister also presented the Excess Demands for Grants for the year 1990-91. Later, the Demands were put to vote and passed by the House.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made on the demise of the former President of India, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy and renowned freedom fighter, Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of the former Executive Councillor, Shri Kunzang Dorjee Bhutia and former Councillor, Shri Adhik Lal Pradhan.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY **

The Twelfth West Bengal Legislative Assembly commenced its First Session on 10 June 1996. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 24 July 1996 and was prorogued on 26 July 1996.

* Material contributed by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Address by the Governor : The Governor of West Bengal, Shri K.V. Raghunatha Reddy addressed the House on 10 June 1996. The Motion of Thanks on the Governor's Address was moved the same day by Dr. Gauri Pada Dutta and was seconded by Shri Kripa Sindhu Saha. Four days were allotted for the debate on the Motion of Thanks which was adopted by the House without any amendments on 17 June 1996.

Election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker : Shri Hashim Abdul Halim was elected the Speaker for the fourth consecutive term on 10 June 1996. Shri Anil Mukherjee was elected the Deputy Speaker the same day.

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

Financial business : On 21 June 1996, the Budget for the year 1996-97 was presented by the Finance Minister, Dr. Asim Kumar Dasgupta. The general discussion on the Budget was initiated on 24 June 1996. It was followed by discussion and voting on Demands for Grants for each Department, except 36 which were guillotined on 19 July 1996. The Appropriation Bill, 1996 was introduced and passed after discussion on 23 July 1996.

Obituary references : During the Session, obituary references were made on the demise of the former President of India, Dr. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Hiteswar Saikia, and Shri A.W. Mahmood, a noted historian. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of a few former members of the State Legislative Assembly and some other leading personalities.

BOOK REVIEW

Umeshwar Prasad Varma, *Law, Legislature and Judiciary* (New Delhi : Mittal Publications), 1996 (Pages : 171), (Price : Rs. 295/-)

Shri Umeshwar Prasad Varma's treatise on *Law, Legislature and Judiciary* is a successful attempt to blend and amalgamate the three different institutions in an extremely concise form. Each one of these subjects and institutions occupies several volumes running in thousands and lakh of pages in Libraries. Even the divisions of subjects and their various facets can occupy hundreds of pages. The precision and conciseness with which the author has articulated the three important limbs of the State, deserves all appreciation. Much more appreciation he deserves for not dealing the subjects in a skeleton or outline, or bird's eye view only, but for the successful attempt of having a comprehensive discussion on at least some vital aspects of these subjects.

The first two Chapters have been devoted to explain the connotation "Law" in which he has dealt with the constitutional highlights of the Indian Constitution and the age old concept of Law to the modern postulation. The author has quoted various jurists and political leaders like Roscoe Pound, Maitland, Montague, C.J. Mukherjee, Justice Holmes, B.K. Nehru, J.H. Wigmore, James Carter, Winfield, Dicey, Madison, Shanker Dayal Sharma, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Justice Venkatramaiah, Justice Mahajan, Justice Mukherjee, Justice Bose, Hassan, Lord Wright and others in the very first Chapter. This shows that the author has not only studied but fully digested the various theses, treatises, theories, doctrines, lectures, speeches and judgements in order to enrich his knowledge of law and then articulate and quote them precisely by having 'Samudramanthan' in the sea of law.

As quoted by the author himself, in Justice Mukherjee's proverbial definition, Law is a big jungle and an ocean. The travelling in it cannot be completed by one life of any scholar. It cannot therefore be expected from the author in such a short treatise to discuss in detail the difference between statutory laws made by Legislature and the subsidiary laws or subordinate legislation made by delegated authority and what are the limitations of delegated legislation. Shri Varma is at his best while dealing with the Constitution of India, by declaring it to be the fundamental law of the State and the supreme law. Quoting extensively the Supreme Court judgements, the author has discussed the fundamental rights and also the amending powers of the Parliament, contained in art. 368 as interpreted from Sajjan Singh's case and almost reversed in the Golaknath judgement. The landmark judgment of Keshavananda Bharati, limiting the power of the

Parliament to amend the Constitution, but not altering the basic feature of the Constitution, gets importance. He has taken notice of the historic *Minerva Mills* judgement and *Rajnarain Vs. Smt. Indira Gandhi* judgement in which the amendment taking away the power of judicial review of election disputes, and the provision amendment for declaring Smt. Gandhi's election judgement invalid were declared unconstitutional and struck down. Governor Channa Reddy's condemnation by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly and Governor Sudhakar Naik of Himachal Pradesh violating the constitutional norms have also been noted by Shri Varma. That the author should cite in detail articles of the Governor of Assam, Shri Bishmanarain Singh shows the pains which he has taken to study the subject.

Shri Varma has dealt with Governor Naik's role in threatening to offer fast outside the Yeshwantrao Chavan Pratishthan Complex and then on objection being raised declaring that he would like to return to Maharashtra and is not very keen to remain as Governor. The author then rightly puts a question that having said so, while holding the constitutional post of the Governor, should Shri Naik be allowed to blatantly violate the Constitution and the oath which he has taken. Should they be allowed to throw the Constitution in a dust gathering and white ants eaten wooden racks, he asks. He has also pointed out distortions when some Chief Ministers provide for reservation for Muslims in jobs on the basis of religion, violating the Constitution which, in his words, would be "making preparation for a violent death of a Constitution, the sacred document".

The three institutions of the State, Executive, Legislature and Judiciary, and "who controls whom" have been scholarly articulated by the learned author who, as a Professor got, D. Litt. on his research work on public regulation and control of private enterprises in India. There are imprints of his practical experience and knowledge and legislative acumen of about two and a half decades' functioning as a member of the Bihar Legislative Council, Cabinet Minister in Bihar holding the portfolio of Law and the Office of the Chairman of the Bihar Legislative Council. The enforcement of the personal attendance of the Manipur Speaker Dr. Borobabu Singh by the Supreme Court and his appearance after initial reluctance resulting in the satisfaction of the 'ego' of the Court, has been very politely pointed out by the author who has taken support of the Speaker's subsequent resolution to the same effect.

The learned author has traced out the history of privilege from the House of Commons precedence and aptly dealt with art. 105 & 194 as interpreted by Supreme Court. However, it appears that the conflict between the Press and the Legislature highlighted by various judgements like the punishment to the Editor of the *Blitz*, Shri Karanjia by the Indian Parliament and the Tamil Nadu newspaper controversies have escaped the author's notice. I feel the discussion of privileges and the conflict between the Legislature and the Judiciary is wholly incomplete in the absence of the

conscientious mention of the U.P. episode. In Keshav Singh's case, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly issued warrant against Judges and the full court at Lucknow Bench took bail of judges who had taken bail of journalist Keshav Singh who was punished by the Speaker of the Assembly early and sentenced to jail. The threat to arrest all the 57 Judges of Uttar Pradesh by sending the Serjant by the Speaker of the Assembly as demanded by all the legislators unanimously, resulted in a reference under art. 143 of the Constitution to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court Judgement is the leading and landmark case in which the right of the Judiciary to enforce fundamental rights in rare cases against Speaker's order was upheld and it was advised that the Parliament should codify the privileges of the legislators. The legislators have thrown away this advice in the white ant eaten drawers of the almirahs of the Parliament Library shamelessly to enjoy unlimited powers.

Shri Varma has taken notice of judicial activism in various matters and appreciated it rightly so far as the various judgements on human rights, etc. are concerned but has failed to even make a mention about the present controversy in which various politicians have been booked, some in Tihar Jail and some on bail. The omission of reference to the public interest litigation resulting in Hawala case, Chandraswamy case, JMM bribe case, St. Kitts forgery case, fodder scam of Bihar and dozens of other scams resulting in squandering of large amount of public money exhibits the partisan outlook of the learned author.

While dealing with the 'fight' between the Legislature and the Judiciary about primacy and supremacy, the author has rightly quoted Pandit Nehru who on the one hand defended the legislators' right to decide the people's faith and ambitions and at the same time upheld the Judiciary's right to point out to the Legislatures through limitations, if any, by interpreting the Constitution. Although Pandit Nehru said "I am jealous of the powers of this House and I should not like any one to limit those powers" as quoted by the author, he also accepted the final powers of the Judiciary.

The author has appreciation for the Judiciary and have quoted various judgements in which new legal principles on prisoners' rights, slum dwellers' equity, disabled people, poverty and women criminal procedures were involved. Though a legislator primarily and also a Professor, the learned author has taken hats off to the Judiciary for upholding human rights and social justice and as a vacuum cleaner of public lives' dirt. He has justified judicial activism because of the bankruptcy of the political parties on policy issues and their durability and credibility being judged only by the capability to capture power. He has lamented that the Congress party has also become a victim of it and there is a leadership crisis.

Shri Varma exhibits pragmatism even on the most debatable question of reservation and has devoted a full Chapter to the subject, "The Reservation Row". Extensively quoting Pandit Nehru, Dr. Ambedkar and the various judgements of the Supreme Court, the author has boldly termed

it as a populist card to solicit support in elections and merely an election card. He has observed, "unlike the broad social and organic outlook of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, V.P. Singh in his usual rugged individualistic narrow approach saw the question of reservations as a solid election plank to bounce upon his political adversaries". The author has been very candid and frank when he says, "the Left is also no less self-congratulatory about Mandal and the regional parties also want to be in the forefront in their campaign for more and more percentage of the job quota, even the BJP is eagerly seeking to be in a compromising posture with Mandal" Terming Congress leader Shri Sitaram Kesri's proposals in regard to reservations as explosive and dangerous for the country, he appreciates the warnings given by the leading dailies, *The Hindustan Times* and *The Times of India*. The author's views on reservation and alleging bankruptcy and populist outlook of all political parties who are even prepared to have a conflict with the Judiciary, is objective, detached, unbiased and bold and he minces no words in calling a spade a spade. Through this Chapter, he has put on record a rare, bold, nationalist philosophy in contrast to the populist election card of caste appeasement initiating from V.P. Singh.

According to Shri Varma, the leaders of the Congress party had negotiated the terms of Independence by accepting the partition of the country, resulting in devastation and migration of millions but now they cannot solve the political issue of Ayodhya. In such circumstances, he thinks that judicial activism becomes a part of the country's legal jurisprudence and need not be grudged as judicial usurpation of the Executive and legislative functions. It is surprising that while paying tributes to the old leaders of the Nehru era, why the author has not come down heavily on the total scandalisation and corruption of the legislators holding high Cabinet ranks positions.

The author has, in his Preface to the book, said that so far as law and Constitution are concerned, his attempt may be called audacious, but a close and thorough reading of the book dispels any such impression. It shows that although Shri Varma has not put on black robes and gown as a lawyer, nor adorned the bench as a Judge, and may not have been a student of Law in college or University, he has adomed the Presiding Officer's Chair in the Legislature after remaining a legislator for more than two decades. As a Professor in the University and Cabinet Minister he has vast knowledge of all that makes the law or which practices the law, examines the law in its implementation and by practical experience knows its both sides. A reading of the book convinces that Shri Varma as an author on the subject of law, legislation and Judiciary has shown great insight, learning, knowledge, acumen, experience and articulation which deserves all appreciation. I commend this book to all students of Law, and politics, and also to lawyers, legislators and statesmen and politicians. The book's 'get up' and 'printing' are as impressive as the matter is. I wish it all success.

—Justice Guman Mal Lodha, MP

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

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	20 November to 20 December 1996
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	22
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	124 hours and 30 minutes
4. NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	1
5. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	5
ii) Introduced	10
iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	7
iv) Reported by Joint Committee	1
v) Reported by Standing Committee	2
vi) Referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committees by the Speaker/Chairman, Rajya Sabha	2
vii) Discussed	10
viii) Passed	12
ix) Discussion postponed	1
x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	5
xi) Pending at the end of the Session	10
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	47
ii) Introduced	30
iii) Discussed	2
iv) Withdrawn	1
v) Part-discussed	1
vi) Pending at the end of the Session	76
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
i) Notices received	150
ii) Admitted	6
iii) Discussions held	5
iv) Part-discussed	1
8. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to matters of urgent public importance)	4
9. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	17
10. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	2
11. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
i) Notices received	5
ii) Admitted	2
iii) Moved	1

iv) Adopted	1
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
i) Received	5
ii) Admitted	5
iii) Discussed	3
iv) Withdrawn	2
v) Part-discussed	1
13. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
i) Notices received	138
ii) Admitted	38
14. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	10,216
15. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	993 passes on 20 December 1996
16. NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	19
i) Brought before the House	13
ii) Admitted	Nil
iii) Barred in view of Adjournment Motion admitted on the subject	Nil
iv) Consent withheld by the Speaker outside the House	6
v) Consent given by the Speaker but leave not asked for by members concerned	Nil
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
i) Starred	440
ii) Unstarred	4,439
iii) Short Notice Questions	1

18. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 October to 31 December 1996	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	4
(ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	—	1
(iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	—	3
(iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	1	1
(v)	Committee on Petitions	3	—
(vi)	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	4	4
(vii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	—	5
(viii)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
(ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	1
(x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	2
(xi)	Estimates Committee	3	2
(xii)	General Purpose Committee	1	—

(xiii)	House Committee	—	—
(a)	Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
(b)	Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
(xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	—	3
(xv)	Railway Convention Committee	3	1
(xvi)	Rules Committee	1	—

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES

(i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	2	—
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STANDING COMMITTEES

(i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	3
(ii)	Committee on Communications	7	2
(iii)	Committee on Defence	3	1
(iv)	Committee on Energy	—	—
(v)	Committee on External Affairs	1	4
(vi)	Committee on Finance	5	—
(vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	4	—
(viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	—	1
(ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	—	—
(x)	Committee on Railways	—	1
(xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	—	1

19. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 4

20. PETITIONS PRESENTED Nil

21. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATE 3, on 20 Nov. 1996

APPENDIX II

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK
TRANSACTIONED DURING THE HUNDRED AND
SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA**

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	20 November to 20 December 1996	
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD		22
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	110 hours & 28 minutes	
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD		Nil
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS		
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		27
	(ii) Introduced		2
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha		6
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment		Nil
	(v)- Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha		Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha		Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Departmentally-related Standing Committees		1
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee		Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee		1*
	(x) Reported by the Departmentally-related Standing Committees		3
	(xi) Discussed		12
	(xii) Passed		12
	(xiii) Withdrawn		Nil
	(xiv) Negatived		Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed		1
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation		4
	(xvii) Discussion postponed		1
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session		23
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS		
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session		82
	(ii) Introduced		18
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha		Nil
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table		Nil
	(v) Reported by Joint Committee		Nil
	(vi) Discussed		1

**The discussion on the Sugar Export Promotion (Repeal) Bill, 1996, which could not be concluded on 20 December 1996, was postponed.*

(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(viii)	Passed	Nil
(ix)	Negatived	Nil
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi)	Part-discussed	1
(xii)	Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv)	Lapsed due to retirement/death of member-in-charge of the Bill	Nil
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	100
7.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
(i)	Notices received	44
(ii)	Admitted	9 (on 3 subjects)
(iii)	Discussions held	3
8.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE)	
	Statements made by Ministers	3
9.	HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	1
10.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	1
(ii)	Admitted	1
(iii)	Moved	1
(iv)	Adopted	1
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
11.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
12.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i)	Received	5
(ii)	Admitted	5
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Withdrawn	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Adopted	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	1
(viii)	Discussion postponed	Nil

13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	35
(ii) Admitted	—
(iii) Moved	—
(iv) Adopted	—
(v) Part-discussed	—
(vi) Negatived	—
(vii) Withdrawn	—
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) Committee on the functioning of the Wakf Boards	29.10.1996
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	913
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	2,080
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	82 on 19.12.96
20. MAXIMUM NUMBER VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	291 on 16.12.96
21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
(i) Starred	439
(ii) Unstarred	3,121
(ii) Short Notice Questions	Nil
22. DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES	2

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 October to 31 December 1996	No. of Reports presented during the 179th Session
(i) Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
(ii) Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	Nil
(iii) Committee on Petitions	3	1
(iv) Committee on Privileges	1	Nil
(v) Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi) Committee on Government Assurances	3	1
(vii) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	Nil
(viii) Committee on Problems of Cotton Growers	5	Nil

DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES :

(ix) Commerce	Nil	Nil
(x) Home Affairs	5	1
(xi) Human Resource Development	2	4
(xii) Industry	12 plus 6 meetings of sub-committees	Nil
(xiii) Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	5	2
(xiv) Transport and Tourism	3	Nil
(xv) Sub-Committee on Export of Agriculture Products	5	Nil
(xvi) Sub-Committee to look into the problems of textile industry with particular reference to textile exports	3	Nil
(xvii) Sub-Committee to look into the development of potential for commerce in the North Eastern Region by encouraging trade with neighbouring and South East Asian Countries	2	Nil

24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2

25. PETITIONS PRESENTED

Nil

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

Sl. No.	Name of members	Party	Date on which
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri H.D. Deve Gowda	J.D.	29.9.1996
2.	Prof. Ram Kapse	B.J.P.	20.11.1996
3.	Shri Sanjay Nirupam	Shiv Sena	—do—
4.	Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia	Independent	26.11.1996
5.	R.N. Arya	Bahujan Samaj Party	—do—
6.	Shri Gandhi Azad	—do—	—do—
7.	Chaudhary Chunni Lal	B.J.P.	—do—
8.	Shri Akhilesh Das	Cong. (I)	—do—
9.	Shri Amar Singh	Samajwadi Party	—do—
10.	Shri Devi Prasad Singh	B.J.P.	—do—
11.	Shri Narendra Mohan	—do—	—do—

12.	Shri Rajnath Singh 'Surya'	—do—	—do—
13.	Shri Mohd. Azam Khan	Samajwadi Party	—do—
14.	Shri Yoginder K. Alagh	Independent	27.11.1996
15.	Prof. Saif-Ud-Din Soz	J & K National Conference	—do—
16.	Shri V.P. Duraisamy	D.M.K.	—do—
17.	Shri Manohar Kant Dhyani	B.J.P.	—do—
18.	Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad	Cong. (I)	2.12.1996
19.	Dr. Karan Singh	J & K National Conference	—do—
20.	Shri Sharief-Ud-Din Shariq	—do—	—do—
21.	Shri Wasim Ahmad	Independent	—do—
22.	Shri Dara Singh Chauhan	Bahujan Samaj Party	3.12.1996
23.	Shri Khan Gufran Zahidi	Cong. (I)	—do—

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES .

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting member/Ex-member/dignitary
1.	Sardar Guraj Singh Dhillon	Ex-member
2.	Shri Shrinivas Ganesh Sardesai	—do—
3.	Dr. M. Channa Reddy	Former member and Governor of Tamil Nadu

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1996

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	16.7.96 to 19.7.96 19.8.96 to 30.9.96	33	19(24)	2	662(141)	119 ^(a)	208(15)
Assam L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.*	11.3.96 to 23.3.96	10	6(6)	—	766(691)	224(217)	125(113)
Bihar L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.	23.10.96 to 26.10.96	3	3(2)	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.	16.12.96 to 20.12.96	4	5(5)	—	183(122)	21(71) ^(a)	3
Gujarat L.A.	29.10.96 to 29.10.96	1	—	—	—	107(60)	—
Haryana L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	4.7.96 to 27.8.96	30	10(6)	—	2696(420)	1775	8(3)
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.	11.11.96 to 19.11.96	7	3(2)	6	548	6907	4(2)
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	26.11.96 to 13.12.96	11	11(11)	1	2182(1195)	1119(1190)	11(1)
Maharashtra L.A.	9.3.96 to 20.3.96	10	22(16)	5	7349(700)	136(34)	135(4)
Maharashtra L.C.	9.3.96 to 20.3.96	10	(16)	—	3190(440)	4	58(4)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	16.7.96 to 17.7.96 12.9.96 to 1.10.96	14	6(6)	—	373(360)	154(154)	—
Nagaland L.A.	26.9.96 to 26.9.96	1	1	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	20.11.96 to 7.12.96 27.12.96 to 30.12.96 23.12.96 to 24.12.96	13	4(3)	1	1590(915)	1555(1804) ^(a)	123(6)
Punjab L.A.	—	2	3(3)	—	16(11)	5(5)	—
Rajasthan L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	—	—	—	—	(217)	(107)	—
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures
 **Information received from the State Legislatures contained NIL Report
 Notes: (a) Included as Starred Questions, admitted as Unstarred
 (b) 50 Converted from Starred into Unstarred
 (c) Including 585 transferred as Starred Questions

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Delhi L.A.	3(1)	4	1	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	2	4	1	3	1 ^o
Goa L.A.	1(1)	5	—	—	1	1	—	—	3(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	2 ^a
Haryana L.A.	—	16	—	—	—	20	17	13	14	—	14	15	25	13	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	2	11	—	—	9	7	—	36(2)	13	—	—	3(3)	—	—	—	40(12) ^a
Karnataka L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala L.A.	1	11(1)	12	7(1)	2	13	10(1)	12	13	—	7	4	15	—	—	5 ^a
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	3(3)	7(3)	2(1)	2(2)	4	9(7)	2(1)	2	6(1)	—	1	3	9(24)	3	—	9(2) ^a
Maharashtra L.A.	4(3)	13(1)	4(2)	1(1)	1	13(1)	7	13(3)	16(1)	—	3	—	12(4)	—	—	16(1) ^a
Maharashtra L.C.	2(2)	9	4	2(2)	4	13(1)	7	13(3)	16(1)	—	3	—	12(4)	—	—	19(2) ^a
Manipur L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	—	—	3	—	1	11	5	5	7	—	—	2	10	1	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	2(2)	5(2)	1	—	—	5(2)	—	—	4	—	—	—	8(5)	1	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	1	—	—	—	—	1(1)	1	—	1(1)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	4	6	5	—	1	6(2)	6	3(1)	5(1)	—	4	3	11(15)	1	—	11(1) ^a
Punjab L.A.	1(1)	12	2	—	5	13	9	9	9	—	—	4	11	—	—	7 ^a
Rajasthan L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	—	8	2	—	1	3	12	—	7	—	1	1	20	—	—	9
Tripura L.A.	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	8	2	—	2	1	5	—	—	—

	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.	—	11	9	—	5	9	9	11	8	6	—	—	16	—	—	80*
UNION TERRITORIES																
Pondicherry L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Notes :

- (a) Committee on the Welfare of Women and Children-1 sitting and 1 report
- (b) Employment Review Committee-5 sittings; Act Implementation Committee-2 sittings and 1 report; Committee on the Welfare of other Backward Classes and More other Backward Classes-2 sittings
- (c) Question and Reference Committee-1 sitting
- (d) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes-1 sitting
- (e) Subject Committee on Home and Transport-10 reports; Subject Committee on Department of Personnel Administration Reforms-10 sittings; Subject Committee on Irrigation-9 sittings and 1 report; Committee on C&I Department and SC&ST and DPAR-11 sittings
- (f) Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Communities-11 sittings; Committee on the Welfare of Women and Children-11 sittings; Papers laid on the Table-10 sittings; Committee on Environment-16 sittings; Subject Committee (I to X)-16 sittings
- (g) Women and Children Welfare Committee-3 sittings and 1 report; Question Reference Committee-4 sittings and 1 report; Committee examining Papers Laid on the Table-2 sittings
- (h) Catering Committee-4 sittings; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-6 sittings; Panchayati Raj Committee-8 sittings and 1 report
- (i) Committee on leave of absence from sittings of the House-1 sitting and 1 report; Catering Committee-4 sittings; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-6 sittings; Panchayati Raj Committee-8 sittings and 1 report
- (j) Committee on Papers laid on the Table-6 sittings; House Committee on Women's Welfare-3 sittings; House Committee on Prawn Culture-2 sittings and 1 report
- (k) Committee on Papers Laid /to be laid on the Table-7 sittings
- (l) Committee on Papers laid on the Table of the House-5 sittings

(m) Subject Committee on Health and Family Welfare-5 sittings; Subject Committee on Environment-9 sittings; Subject Committee on Panchayat-9 sittings; Subject Committee on Education, Information and Cultural Affairs-6 sittings; Subject Committee on Transport-7 sittings; Subject Committee on Irrigation and Waterways-9 sittings; Subject Committee on Welfare, Tourism and Sports and Youth Services-6 sittings; Committee on the Entitlements of the Members-1 sitting; Select Committee-4 sittings; Subject Committee on Power and Commerce and Industries-8 sittings; Subject Committee on Agriculture, Food and Supplies-9 sittings; Subject Committee on Public Works-7 sittings

APPENDIX IV**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE
PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1996**

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996	19.12.1996
2.	The Delhi Development (Amendment) Bill, 1996	21.12.1996
3.	The Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1996	24.12.1996
4.	The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1996	24.12.1996
5.	The Appropriation (Railways) No.4, Bill, 1996	24.12.1996
6.	The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Bill, 1996	24.12.1996

APPENDIX V**LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1996****ANDHRA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

1. The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Duty (Second Amendment) Bill, 1995
2. The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 1995
3. The Andhra Pradesh Urban Areas (Development) (Amendment) Bill, 1995
4. The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (Second Amendment) Bill, 1995
5. The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University (Third Amendment) Bill, 1995
6. The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996
7. The Andhra Pradesh Town Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1996
8. The Andhra Pradesh Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1996
9. The Andhra Pradesh Urban Areas (Development) (Amendment) Bill, 1996
10. The Telugu University (Amendment) Bill, 1996
11. The Andhra Pradesh Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1996
12. The Andhra Pradesh Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 1996
13. The Andhra Pradesh Rural Development Bill, 1996
14. The Andhra Pradesh Small Scale Industries (Restriction on Sales Tax Holiday) (Amendment) Bill, 1996
15. The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Third Amendment) Bill, 1996
16. The Hyderabad Municipal Corporations (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996
17. The Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Amendment) Amending Bill, 1996
18. The Andhra Pradesh Municipalities (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996
19. The Andhra Pradesh Municipalities (Third Amendment) Bill, 1996
20. The Andhra Pradesh General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1996
21. The Andhra Pradesh Tax on Luxuries in Hotels and Lodging Houses (Amendment) Bill, 1996
22. The Andhra Pradesh Tax on Professions, Trades, Calling and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 1996
23. The Andhra Pradesh Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas Bill, 1996
24. The Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1996

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Homeopathic (Amendment) Bill, 1996
2. The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Prevention of Defection) Bill, 1996

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 1996
2. The Goa Legislative Diploma (Amendment) Bill, 1996
3. The Goa Administrative Tribunal (Amendment) Bill, 1996
4. The Goa Panchayat Raj (First Amendment) Bill, 1996
5. The Goa Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Bill, 1996

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1996
2. The Karnataka Taxation Law (Third Amendment) Bill, 1996
3. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1996
4. The Roerich & Devikarani Roerich Estate (Acquisition & Transfer) Bill, 1996
5. The Karnataka Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 1996
6. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Kerala Finance Bill, 1996
2. The Kerala Board of Revenue Abolition Bill, 1996

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1996
2. The Maharashtra Local Authority Member's Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 1996
3. The Bombay Village Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 1996
4. The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1996
5. The Maharashtra Maritime Board Bill, 1996
6. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1996
7. The Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) (Amendment) Bill, 1996
8. The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996
9. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1996
10. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 1996
11. The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1996
12. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996
13. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996
14. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Third Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996
15. The Maharashtra Legislative Council (Chairman and Deputy Chairman) and the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Ministers' Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances and the Leaders of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislature Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1996

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1996
2. The Maharashtra Local Authority Members' Disqualification (Amendment) Bill, 1996
3. The Bombay Village Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 1996
4. The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 1996
5. The Maharashtra Maritime Board Bill, 1996
6. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Second Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1996
7. The Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) (Amendment) Bill, 1996
8. The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996
9. The Maharashtra Municipal Corporation (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1996
10. The Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 1996
11. The Maharashtra (Third Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 1996
12. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996
13. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Second Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996
14. The Maharashtra Appropriation (Third Excess Expenditure) Bill, 1996
15. The Maharashtra Legislative Council (Chairman and Deputy Chairman) and the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly (Speaker and Deputy Speaker) Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Ministers' Salaries and Allowances, the Maharashtra Legislature Members' Salaries and Allowances and the Leaders of Opposition in Maharashtra Legislature Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1996

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1996
2. The Orissa Panchayat Raj Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 1996
3. The Orissa Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 1996

PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Punjab Technical University Bill, 1996
2. The Punjab Lokpal (Repeal) Bill, 1996
3. The Punjab Lokpal Bill, 1996

APPENDIX VI
ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD
1 OCTOBER TO 31 DECEMBER 1996

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of promulgation	Date(s) on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
UNION GOVERNMENT					
1.	The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	14.11.96	21.11.96	—	Replaced by legislation
2.	The Income Tax (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	31.12.96	—	—	—
ANDHRA PRADESH					
1.	The A.P. General Sales Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	1.08.96	20.8.96	—	—
2.	The A.P. Tax on Luxuries in Hotels & Lodging Houses (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	1.08.96	—	—	—
3.	The A.P. Tax on Professions, Trades, Calling and Employments (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	1.08.96	—	—	—
4.	The A.P. Tax on Entry of Motor Vehicles into Local Areas Ordinance, 1996	1.08.96	—	—	—
5.	The A.P. Municipal Laws (Amendment) Amending Ordinance, 1996	9.08.96	—	—	—

6.	Gujarat Contingency Fund (Temporary Increase) Ordinance, 1996	22.10.96	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat Tax on Luxuries (Hotels and Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996	16.11.96	—	—	—
8.	Gujarat Secondary Education (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996	16.11.96	—	—	—
9.	Gujarat Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualifications) Ordinance, 1996	16.11.96	—	—	—
10.	Gujarat Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualifications) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	23.10.96	—	—	—
11.	Gujarat Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996	29.11.96	—	—	—
12.	Gujarat Contingency Fund (Temporary Increase) (Second) Ordinance, 1996	2.12.96	—	—	—
13.	Gujarat Secondary Education (Amendment) Third Amending Ordinance, 1996	13.12.96	—	—	—
14.	Gujarat Legislative Assembly Members (Removal of Disqualifications) (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	20.12.96	—	—	—
15.	Bombay Land Revenue Code (Gujarat Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1996	24.12.96	—	—	—
16.	Gujarat Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Laws (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 1996	24.12.96	—	—	—
17.	Gujarat Sales Tax (Validation) Ordinance, 1997	11.1.97	—	—	—

MADHYA PRADESH				
1.	The Mahatma Gandhi Gramodaya Vishwa Vidyalaya (Sanstodhan) Act, 1996	26.11.96	—	—
MAHARASHTRA				
1.	The Maharashtra Maritime Board Ordinance, 1996	1.10.96	9.12.96	19.1.97
2.	The Bombay 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 Validation) Ordinance, 1996	10.10.96	—	—
3.	The Maharashtra Krishna Valley Development Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	29.10.96	—	—
4.	The Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayats Samitis (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	14.11.96	—	—
5.	The Mumbai Municipal Corporation and the Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	26.11.96	—	—
6.	The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Temporary Provisions) Ordinance, 1996	27.11.96	—	—
7.	The Maharashtra Contingency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1996	2.12.96	—	—
8.	The Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control Act, 1947, The Bombay Land Requisition Act, 1948 and the Bombay Government Premises (Eviction) Act, Ordinance, 1996	7.12.96	—	—

Replaced by legislation

Replaced by legislation

Replaced by legislation

APPENDIX VII
A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA
AS ON 1 JANUARY 1997

Sl. States	Seats	BJP	INC	JD	CPM	TMC	DMK	SP	TDP	S. SENA	BSP	CPI	SAD	SMP	AGP	ORS	IND	TOT- TAL	VAC- ANCIES		
STATES																					
1. Andhra Pradesh	42	—	21	—	1	—	—	—	17	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(a)	—	42	
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
3. Assam	14	1	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1(b)	1	—	—	14	
4. Bihar	54	18	2	22	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	5	—	2(c)	1	—	—	54	
5. Goa	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	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)	20	
12. Madhya Pradesh	40	27	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(g)	39	
13. Maharashtra	48	18	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	
14. Manipur	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
15. Meghalaya	2	—	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	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	
20. Rajasthan	25	12	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(i)	24	

**B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA
AS ON 16 JANUARY 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	10(e)	—	18	—
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	—	—	3	—
	Pondichery	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Nominated	12	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	8
TOTAL		245	88	45	23	15	56	10	237	8

(a) T.D. (Naidu Group)-9; T.D.-1; C.P.I.-1

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

(c) C.P.I. - 3

(d) N.C.-3

(e) M.L.-2; Kerala Congress (M)-1

(f) Shiv Sena - 4

(g) Nagaland People's Council - 1

(h) Sikkim Sangram Parishad - 1

(i) AIADMK - 14; 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	Ind. Parties	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A. (1.10.96)	295	24	—	3	15	18	219 ^(a)	5	284	11
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A. (1.1.97)	126	36	—	4	2	3	70 ^(a)	11	126	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A. (1.1.97)	70	16	1	49	—	—	1 ^(a)	3	70	—
Goa L.A. (1.10.96)	40	23	—	4	—	—	10 ^(a)	3	39	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A. (1.1.97)	90	9	—	11	—	—	56 ^(a)	10	88*	1
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka L.A. (20.12.96)	225	41	113	40	1	—	10 ^(a)	17	222*	2
Karnataka L.C. (5.12.96)	75	18	12	8	—	—	6 ^(a)	4	48*	26

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Kerala L.A. (22.10.96)		141	37	4	—	40	18	36 ^M	5	140 [*]	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (17.12.96)		321	175	4	112	1	2	16 ^N	8	316 [*]	2
Maharashtra L.A. (1.1.97)		289	80	10	65	3	—	84 ^N	45	287	2
Maharashtra L.C. (1.1.97)		78	36	1	14	—	—	15 ^M	12	78	—
Manipur L.A.**		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A. (1.10.96)		60	—	—	—	—	—	55 ^N	3	58 [*]	1
Mizoram L.A. (1.10.96)		40	21	—	—	—	—	9 ^M	10	40	—
Nagaland L.A. (1.4.96)		60	42	—	—	—	—	10 ^M	7	59 [*]	—
Orissa L.A. (1.10.96)		147	76	46	—	9	1	5 ^N	7	144 [*]	2
Punjab L.A. (2.12.96)		117	85	1	4	1	4	13 ^N	5	113	4
Rajasthan L.A. (20.9.96)		200	73	3	99	1	—	—	21	197	3
Sikkim L.A.		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (1.10.96)		235	—	1	1	1	8	221 ^M	1	233 [*]	1
Tripura L.A. (1.1.97)		60	10	1	—	43	—	5 ^N	1	60	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (24.10.96)		425	33	7	173	4	1	189 ^M	13	420	5

Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.1.97)	108	2	1	17	—	—	11*	13	44	64
West Bengal L.A. (1.6.96)	294	82	—	—	150	6	42**	2	294	—
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Pondicherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Excluding Speaker

** Information not received from State/Union territory Legislatures

- (a) Telugu Desam Party-208; Majlis Baitchao Tehreek-2; AIMIM-1; Democratic Peoples Front-7; Nominated-1
- (b) Assam Gana Parishad-62; Autonomous State Demand Committee-5; U.M.F.-2; AICC (T)-1
- (c) Unattached-1
- (d) Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-8; United Goan Democratic Party-2
- (e) Haryana Vikas Party-31; Samata Party-24; AICC (I)-3
- (f) Karnataka Congress Legislature Party-4; Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha Party-1; Kannada Chaluwali Vatal Paksha-1; AIADMK-1; Bharatiya Republican Paksha-1; Bahujan Samaj Party-1; Nominated-1
- (g) Separate Legislature Group of Janata Dal-6
- (h) Muslim League-13; Kerala Congress (J)-6; Kerala Congress (M)-5; Revolutionary Socialist Party-5; Indian Congress (Socialist)-3; Kerala Congress (Jacob)-2; Kerala Congress (B)-1; J.S.S.-1
- (i) Bahujan Samaj Party-11; Krantikari Samajwadi Manch-1; Chattisgarh Mukti Morcha-1; Bharatiya Republican Party-1; Gond Vana Republican Party-1; Nominated-1
- (j) Shiv Sena-72; Peasants and Worker's Party-6; Samajwadi Party-4; Maharashtra Vikas Congress-1; Nagvidarbha Andolan Congress-1
- (k) Peasants and Workers Party-1; Shiv Sena-12; Republican Party of India-1; Akhil Bharatiya Maratha Mahasangh-1
- (l) United Meghalaya Parliamentary Group-40; Opposition Group-15
- (m) M.N.F.-9
- (n) Nagaland Peoples Council-10
- (o) J.M.M.-4; JPP-1
- (p) Bahujan Samaj Party-9; Shiromani Akali Dal-4
- (q) DMK-165; TMC (Moopanan)-39; Indian National League-5; AIADMK-4; Pattali Makkal Katchi-4; All India Forward Bloc-2; Devendrar Sangam-1; Nominated-1
- (r) RSP-2; AIFB-1; THPP-1; TUJS-1
- (s) Samajwadi Party-108; Bahujan Samaj Party-66; Bharatiya Kisan Kamgar Party-8; Samata Party-2; Samajwadi Janata Party-1; AICC (T)-4

- (t) Samajwadi Party-4; Bahujan Samaj Party-1; Pragatisheel Dal-2; Shikshak Dal (non-political)-3; Birha Samajwadi Dal-1
- (u) All India Forward Bloc-21; Revolutionary Socialist Party-18; Gorkha National Liberation Front-3; Jharkhand Party (N)-1; Forward Bloc (S)-1; 3 members of the Socialist Party, 2 members of the Democratic Socialist Party and 2 members of the Marxist Forward Bloc contested with the symbol of the CPI(M); 1 member of the Biplabi Bangla Congress and 2 members of the Socialist Unity Centre of India contested as independent candidates

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